

BEHIND THE WALLS

"An Outreach to the Orphan Children and Children at Risk in the Former Soviet Union"

Dear Friends,

I had written to you some time ago and had asked for prayer about becoming an official organization in Russia to work with orphan children and children at risk in Russia. The first time (many months ago) that we had applied for this license, it was rejected. The lawyer said that it will be of no use to resubmit the paper work because she was sure that it will only get rejected again. We strongly believed that this was part of God's plan and we immediately resubmitted all of the paper work. We committed it to God that if it was his will, then everything would be approved. The lawyer recently called me and told me that everything had been approved! It was a miracle and direct answer to prayer. My partner brought the documents to me just yesterday. We are now an official non profit organization under the Russian law to officially be able to:

- 1) become a post orphan transition center to help children who face many problems after they leave the protection of the orphanage. To have a center where we can bring children in to live and to receive training in life skills (survival skills) along with christian education as well as help with personal problems.

(having this type of center is a big step in our ministry. It will require us to have a physician, psychologist, and teachers as full time staff).

- 2) To legally be able to enter into and to remove children from abusive home situations and bring them into our own christian rehab center.
- 3) To minister to children through sports, music, drama programs.
- 4) To organize our own christian childrens camps (usually done in the summer months)
- 5) to be involved in sex, AIDS, drug and alcohol education. There are now many members on this team who are qualified and eager to get started in this. This will be done in orphanages as well as in public schools.
- 6) A continuous weekly ministry to the orphanages and possibly the youth prisons in the region.

This is just a few of the ministries that we will be able to carry out through this organization. One example is two young ladies, Katya and Sasha, who are both from different churches have together begun a christian based "Life Skills" training in one of the local boarding schools here in Kaluga. This teaching is designed to teach these kids the skills needed to survive after the orphanage. They had gone to a special seminar in Kiev, Ukraine sponsored by CBN International to become qualified for this training.

One of my interpreters told me the other day that she had met a young man who had left the orphanage years ago and was living on his own. He told her that 20 boys left the orphanage around the same time and that only "2 of us are still alive". The others had died from drugs, alcohol, suicide and some had become involved in organized crime.

Our team is now presently made up of 6 Christians from different churches as our board of directors. There are also others involved that help us. In the near future we will add more. As we pray about how God is going to lead this ministry, this verse comes to my mind: Matthew 9:37

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

With the new doors that God has opened, the laborers here are now few, with the growing number of orphan children in Russia. On the other hand we are believing that God will provide ALL of our needs. Finances, as well as strong christians with a heart to help us to carry out this mission.

I have again began to host students from local universities on a weekly basis into my home. A new group of students came for the first time yesterday. Olga (one of my previous interpreters) and I invited the students to come to a play/drama show at her church the following day. Five of them came and four of them repented to receive Christ. When i witness how God is working here it helps me to realize why he has allowed me to be here. He uses me as his tool in spite of all my shortcomings and weaknesses. He has blessed me with so many divine appointments, protection and help from other people. He is teaching me to give up on my own selfish ambitions, and to allow him to have total control in all that i do.

I know as a result of all of your prayers that God is really moving here. The approval of this new organization is of no doubt a direct answer to prayer. We have named it "Ruki Pomoch" which when translated into english means "Hands of Hope" This is the name of my home church in Binghamton, New York.

A few other projects I am involved in is helping a group of Christian musicians clean and remodel an old building in plans to turn it into a Christian coffee/music house. There is very little here to offer to the young teens in this city. There is so much drug and alcohol abuse, physical abuse and neglect in this city. Suicide rate is very high amongst teens. I believe these are the first steps in reaching out to the young people of this region.

One of my helpers Katya, and I, will soon begin a home group that will minister to kids who have left the orphanage and are now out on their own. Many of them are facing difficult times.

I would like to ask a request for someone who may be able to help. I know that there are many grants available out there especially first time grants for new ministries. Is it possible that someone could look into how to apply for some of these grants? This mission will be in need of much funding in order for us to accomplish all that we have planned to do.

Again I want to thank you all for your financial support and all of your prayers. I could not possibly be here without your help! I pray that God prospers and blesses everyone of you!

In Christ www.russianorphanoutreach.org

David



Katya and Orphan Girl



Kondrova Orphanage

