

The Gazette

OF MUSIC MISSION KYIV

Music/Widows/Orphans and Children/Church/Victims of War

A SAFE PLACE: Beyond Trauma and Tears

Camp for American children can be a nice summer vacation, but for the Ukrainian kids who have been living in a war zone, it can be a place of rescue.

Music Mission Kiev sponsored five camps this summer for orphans and other youth in need. Not only did the camp provide fun activities, but the children had a safe place with loving Christian leaders and an opportunity to hear the Good News of the Gospel. A majority of the children received Christ.

"We didn't know how many would come. How many boys? How many girls?" says Irina Donchenko, camp organizer and MMK staff member. *"Boys and girls are so different, and we wanted to plan to best sports activities for them."*

Actually, 130 children attended the first two camps in Poltava, Ukraine. When asked what they liked about the camps, the children said, *"There is no screaming or yelling here. There is love everywhere."*

Georgie came to camp with no friends. In school, he was a loner. But when he heard that there would be a talent contest, he opened up. *"I'll do my style of dancing,"* he said. He felt



accepted and loved. On Sunday morning, he gave Irina a big hug. Yes, he had learned to give hugs and smiles.

After the camp the children went home. One mother was not at home to greet her child. Another child's father is an alcoholic. Many of the kids enter the world of tears again. But the camp has brought them hope: Jesus

loves them, He is always with them, and even if their world is not changed, hopefully they are changed.



Praying, Hugging, Weeping as young people receive Christ their Savior

KSOC and the Ukrainian Reformation Celebration

October 31, 2017 is Reformation Day in Ukraine. By Presidential decree 2017 has been the year of R500 - and the official R500 Committee which includes members of parliament and top Protestant national leaders has invited Wes Janzen and the KSOC to provide the music for the Reformation Day Celebration, October 31, at the

National Opera and Ballet Theater. Pray that our Christian witness through glorious Reformation music will be bold and clear. The Ukraine Parliament has proclaimed 2018 to be the Year of the Bible. External invitations to share the gospel through our KSOC friendship-evangelism concerts have never been greater.

Evangelism and the Church



Roger baptizes Victor, a new believer



Diane presents membership certificates

At a worship service in Gorenichi in August, we received 32 new members. Eighteen received the sacrament of baptism. Diane McMurrin with Lena Sagun as translator, had interviewed each new member to confirm their faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

One man had been attending a cult which believed that all roads lead to God. When he heard the Gospel, he believed and received Christ with joy. After we prayed together, he said, "I could almost cry!"

Several who came to the interview as believers had interesting stories. "I didn't believe in God," a lady said. "I was 30 years old. My husband and I were going to have a baby, but the doctors said factors in our blood types would bring an abnormal child. After the baby was born, the doctor told me it would die. Then the patient next to me in the ward found out that her baby was dead. The nurse said to me, 'Your baby will die next.' I went to the corridor; weeping. I prayed, 'If you are God, my baby will not die. Keep him alive.' My baby lived, and had no abnormalities, and I knew that God was real."

Another lady shared that in 1980, as a leader in a Communist club, she



"I baptize you..."



"Congratulations!"

was assigned to visit several churches and make a report to her supervisor. She discovered that she especially enjoyed the Protestant church, and after giving her factual report, she secretly started to attend. She accepted Christ as her Savior, and became a Baptist. Now, years later, when she was invited to St. Paul's, she liked how we teach the Word of God, and she wanted to become a member. She loves to share her faith with others.

Here are the faces of the dear souls who are now believers in Christ and members of St. Paul's Evangelical Church.



Sailing into September

Experiencing God

An extraordinary opportunity awaits our widows as Kim begins a course on “Experiencing God” every Friday in the office apartment. To enter the class, the women will be expected to do weekly homework. More than 25 people filled out applications for this class, and wrote why they want to attend.

“I want to study God’s word and make right decisions in my life.”

“I want to know God better and to share this knowledge with people.”

“I want to study the Bible thoroughly and live according to God’s commandments.”

“I want to learn more about Jesus Christ.”

“I would like to study so that I can share my knowledge of Christ with other people, so that they can be saved.”

“I want to know God.”

“I feel the need for wisdom to do the right thing. I want to understand what God is trying to tell me.”

Kim says, “As I begin this lesson series on “Experiencing God,” my hope



and prayer is that those who attend will deepen their walk with Christ, and that they will come to know Him in a more intimate, practical, and personal way. I delight in seeing our widows grow in their faith and in their relationship with God. I love seeing their enthusiasm as they dig deeply into God’s Word. I am praying for God to reveal Himself to our widows in a very special way over the next 14 weeks.”

Prayer Group

On Thursdays, Kim will begin a new prayer group in the office. Our widows and pensioners love to pray. For some, praying in their own words is a new experience. They are eager to come into the presence of the Lord and bring their praises and their petitions. Also, praying together is bonding together, as they agree in prayer and pray for each other, as well as for people in our church. They see into each other’s hearts as they bring their gratitude and their struggles to the Lord.

From this group of 20 people, we hope to develop a prayer chain with those who are at home. Some people cannot come to a weekly meeting, but they want to be active in prayer. We hope that prayer penetrates our church, as more and more people participate in the privilege of prayer.



Membership in Widows program reaches 507

With 387 possible attendees at the Saturday Bible study classes, and 120 homebound persons, MMK now provides food packets for 507 people. One hundred and five people deliver food to the homebound weekly. Using a colored ticket system, we have an orderly distribution process from a tiny room on the first floor, where two of our ladies service the long line of people after each class. “I don’t know what I would do without this food,” said one widow. “It helps me to survive.”

Our Growing Men’s Group Continues

The Men’s Bible Study will continue to meet even though Roger will be gone for awhile. Roger is having back surgery in America and will be recovering there for several months. Diane will be taking care of him. We hope that this operation will end the many months of pain which has limited Roger’s activity.



Changes in Food Packets

Our food packets for widows and pensioners are bigger and better than ever. We have improved the nutrition of the packet by regularly providing fresh fruit and vegetables, more whole grains, legumes, fish, and even olive oil from time to time.



Summer Memories



Worship in Gorenichi



Musicians on the back balcony



Lining up for lunch after worship

The McMurrins hosted 30 picnics this summer for our widows and pensioners. It was a great time of fellowship and sharing testimonies. The men's group met weekly for Bible study. Stevens deliverers were able to share their experiences and the needs of their home-bound persons. Seven worship services were held in the gardens on Sunday mornings.



Stevens ministers discuss their work with Kim



Some of our men discuss Bible over lunch



Lunch in the garden



"Thank you, America!"

ATTENTION! The next Helping Hands trip to Kiev will be May 10-21, 2018. Come and share the joy! Call Ronnie Santeusano at the Orlando office for details. 407-699-7172 or 800-467-5051.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!

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