



Dear friends! Greetings in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. We praise God and express gratitude to all who responded to our last letter! As you know, Word to Russia has been broadcasting Gospel radio programs for 38 years. We also have served the people of the former Soviet Union through other means as the Lord opened doors of opportunity; orphanages, hospices, children summer camps and audio product distribution.

We are very grateful to God and to all of you who take part in God's work, you who are not indifferent but compassionate to the needs of abandoned children. As we observe our times, we see great progress in conveniences through improvements in infrastructure, technology, entertainment and other privileges of civilization. But we also see increase of divorces, troubled families, violence and abuse of children. The family seems to have taken a back seat to what is considered a successful society. We see morality and family values sliding down a steep incline. We as Christians are called to bring the light of the Gospel into a world of darkness. Praise God that through His mercy and through your help we are able to deliver some humanitarian assistance and the Gospel to the most needy segments of our population such as orphans, the disabled and the families with many children. In this way we respond to the call to worship the God of orphans and widows. Praise God with us for the work of ministry teams of Donetsk region described below.

## New Opportunities

During this past Christmas our brothers and sisters were able to visit the abandoned children in a clinic of Dobropolye. There were three new children, but by New Year's many more were brought, including a 7 month girl, another girl of 15 months and a boy 3 years old. Our brothers themselves have many children; they could not look at these abandoned children without tears. The administrator, Victoria requested pampers, small chairs, children's necessities, dishes, clothing, shampoo, soap, and night lights which our brothers delivered. It is the calling of our ministry to serve such children.

By the mercy of God we have also begun a new work in Staromichailovka Village. It is great to know that God has no borders. He has the ability to hear and receive people's prayers and appeals from all parts of the globe. We rejoice that you have the compassion to take part in ministering to the needs of people in Donetsk region. Although we are geographically distant we are of one heart. The donation that you sent enabled us to do much. In the past it seemed impossible but praise God, today it became possible for us to share the joy and blessing of God with the children. Our meetings occurred in the Village Community Center. We purchased the necessary materials for a children's camp, such as prizes, gifts and toys that many of the children never held in their hands before. Our program included time for Bible stories as well as crafts projects. All participants were provided a meal and drinks. Praise God, that your financial gift come at the right time for us to organize this winter camp.

Our next strategic outreach in ministry of the proclamation of the Gospel will require much prayer and material preparation. It is to penetrate into a village where the situation can be compared to life after a war, no work, no lighting, no roads, nothing but hungry apathetic faces of children and adults. We just cannot pass by such catastrophic conditions of people whom the government has forsaken.



We have an agreement with the leadership of the settlement that we will hold worship services in their dilapidated clubhouse where every person will receive packages with gifts and New Testaments. We intend to bring with us a group of believers, including youth who have made a commitment as a team to reach out to villages and settlements around the Donetsk region. We have also been invited to an orphanage for teenagers at the city of Dobropolye rehabilitation center for children with special needs. We have already prepared some gifts including Word to Russia CD's with programs for the children and their teachers.

### A summer camp and a Christmas Service in Lidievka

Last summer in a settlement outside the city of Lidievka, in Donetsk region, the Lord led us to effectively share the God News. We were able to put on a play for children and teenagers in a tent and again we presented the lessons concerning rules for living through the familiar rules for traffic, emphasizing the laws of God. In the high School we also had an exceptional reception to our Christmas program. We prepared about 150 gifts using funds that you, our dear friends sent. The teachers where as pleased as the students. The history of Christmas, songs, skits and contests had an impact on the hearts and minds of the "least of this world." We are especially grateful to God that we have the opportunity to share the Gospel message in many places. The doors seem to be open, although there are those who oppose us. There is so much to be done in the region. Pray earnestly.

### A Service in Orphanage #3, Petrovsk District

In this school for orphans we had a wonderful opportunity to share Christ during the winter break with the children who remained in school because they had nowhere to go for the holidays. We prepared gifts and invited a special performance group to present a Christmas puppet show. All the children expressed genuine interest in the spiritual meaning of Christmas. The children, unlike adults, are more receptive and understanding of the message that Christmas is not just a Christmas tree. It is the coming of Jesus Christ and expression of God's love for mankind. As always there were some Bible quizzes, singing and a short message. Our hope and faith is that the seeds that were sown will impact the youthful hearts and bear fruit for Christ.

### A youth Service in the Light of the Gospel Church at the Christian Center

On Saturdays there are gatherings of youth from many surrounding areas in the Christian Center, including youth from public school #22 where a group of young orphans reside. We were able to share gifts, but more important, we shared Christ through songs, poetry and message.

We are grateful to God for everything, as we continue to pray for the Gospel outreach in our region. May God protect you and bless you abundantly.

With much respect, the ministry team of the Light of the Gospel Church:

Igor Bondar, Igor Gutnik, Konstantin Kazakov, Leonid Shatokhin and Sergey Gordienko.

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### Attention

Dear friends! Our next two Newsletters will be mailed only to our donors. If you cannot contribute financially but would like to receive the information as a subject for prayers, please let us know. May God bless you!

You can let us know by phone (916) 372-4610, or by sending your request in the envelope provided,

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes I would like to continue receiving Word to Russia Newsletter

\_\_\_\_\_ Please do not send your Newsletters

Your name \_\_\_\_\_