



Ukraine Orphanage Missions 2008/2009

Dear Friends:

As you may know, my brother and I have been living in Ukraine for the past year working with the orphans in a city called Krivoy Rog on a full-time mission project. This last year has been full of new changes as Luba and I were married on June 21, and have now decided to set up home here in Ukraine permanently. I will be applying for my permanent residence status to make living in Ukraine hopefully a bit easier. Luba will be finishing her Degree in Financing this year while I will be working in the orphanages.

We have been working with kids from three local orphanages befriending them and showing them the love of Jesus. Our goal is to assist them in their decisions in life and to teach them that only Jesus can truly set them free of their loneliness and feelings of neglect; that nobody cares for them. Each week we visit each of the three orphanages twice, bringing Bible stories and lessons, organized games, and crafts for the kids to take part in. Aside from our organized activities, we converse with the kids, get to know them personally, and possibly more important than anything, we give them plenty of hugs.

The country of Ukraine has about 450,000 neglected and orphaned children. Krivoy

Rog is a 120 kilometer long mining town with a population of 736,000 people. The three orphanages we work with have about 200 children each, ranging from ages 3-17. Most of the kids come from broken homes plagued with alcoholism and drug abuse, both of which lead to child neglect and/or abuse. This can be a very dangerous situation for children as they are often only infants when the government has to intervene and put them into the orphanage system.

Our contact with the orphans in Krivoy Rog was developed through short-term mission teams from Broadview Evangelical Free Church (BEFC) in Salmon Arm, who have gone to Ukraine for the last 10 years to work with the orphans there. Throughout the years we have seen these kids grow and change as time wears on. Every summer we would return to see them change very rapidly. We started to see that the kids seem to fall off the face of the planet once they age out of the orphanage. This is what sparked a desperate interest in working full-time long term in Ukraine. We want to be able to keep in contact with the kids and offer them hope in a very tough and testing world where they are meant to fend for themselves as young as 15 years old. Through our full-time ministry, we are able to maintain relationships with many of these kids and gain their trust so that we can help them to make the right choices in life, and most importantly, to point them to Jesus. During the year, teams from Canada bring supplies and money for the orphanages as well. The money we raise during the year to bring to Ukraine is used to buy supplies, books, appliances, etc. — things specific to the needs of each orphanage.

Our goals will be to:

- To continue working in these orphanages, ministering to the kids to open up their hearts so that we can plant seeds of the Truth of Jesus in their hearts.
- To show the population of Ukrainians that we are involved with that we all can make a difference through Christ, and that orphans are so special, and deserve more than anything to be loved.
- To create lasting friendships with these kids and make an impression on them and their lives.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. God bless you.

Adam & Luba Nikkel