

ALONE NO MORE

"BEING JESUS TO ORPHANS"

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Dear fellow workers, our fellow workers in God's field!

I am eager to share with you about our "Alone No More" Ministry to Kursk orphans. I am grateful to God for your dedication and for your care about those who are considered to be outcast and misfit. Again God reminds us that there are no such people as each one created by Him cannot be "trash"!

In spite of our frosts, slippery roads and the flu epidemic, we manage to embody all our projects the goal of which is to share the Gospel with orphans (orphanage grads included) and to help them.

Praise the Lord for all!



More than 70 children from 3 orphanages of Kursk and Kursk region are involved in our Project of the social adaptation of orphans "The Flight School of Life".

Since September 2012 the teens have studied the rudiments of the biblical knowledge, were trained in gaining some household skills, attended some divine



services and got acquainted with some Christians with whom they are still in touch. Three spring months are left before they graduate and in May finishing this Course they will have a kind of exams and get some special gifts and diplomas.



We are working much with the orphanage grads. It's the continuation of our orphanage ministry. The amount of work turned out to be much bigger than we had expected. From year to year we get more and more grads; that means there appear more and more problems that we their mentors need to help them to solve. The most common problems (and not the easiest ones!) are the problems of their temporary place for living and finding a job for them. There are very few firms that are ready to hire young people, especially orphanage grads...

Besides, we try to help them in solving some juridical problems: here we consult some specialists. We are happy to see some spiritual growth in most of the grads we are working with. They are becoming more and more independent and spiritually mature.

By God's mercy the boys in Training Farm of Kursk, our project for spiritual/social adaptation for orphanage graduates, are doing very well. A month ago, a fourth boy, Andre, was added to the three, Slava, Elnur and Ruslan already in the program. Andre is adjusting well to the new life situation in the house. He's taking his responsibilities seriously both in his secular studies and in our project.



Ruslan recently discovered he's part of a big family. It turns out that far in the east, in the city of Blagoveshensk, Ruslan has half-brothers. They are eagerly waiting for him to come visit. The only problem is the distance; it will take quite a bit of time and money for him to get all the



way there. I'd like to say a few words about Ruslan... From early childhood he lived in Ivanovskii orphanage. Outwardly he's very calm – but in fact he's very active and was always a leader among his peers. But what's interesting, is that his energy never took him outside the boundaries of orphanage rules. This is something rare among orphans. I think that much of this is thanks to his friendships and close relationships with Christians, which he has had for a very long time. His participation in The Harbor is allowing him to strengthen these relationships and deepen his exposure to the teachings of Christ and examples of real Christian life in the modern world.

We are now considering adding another mentor to our boys program. Uri is someone who went through lots of hard things in his life before Christ. He now has rich spiritual experience which we hope will give him an opening into the hearts of our boys.

Two other newsworthy points: First, we have finally finished the wood frame for the roof of our barn which means we are one-third finished! That's good news for all of us because without God's blessings and miracles, without ordinary people being open to the needs of orphans such a project would be too big for us to tackle!



Another happy event was installing new windows in the boys house.

Even though the calendar says spring is all but here this means nothing in Russia where freezing temperatures can continue to the end of April. The old wooden-framed windows had rotted to the extent that you could break a hole through to the outside with just your finger. During deep frosts the guys were really cold and we wound up paying huge utility bills for heat. Our meager budget didn't allow us to even dream of buying new windows. There was a moment when we were on the verge of closing the project for the winter and finding other places for the boys to live. All that was left to do was to pray! During our meetings I called on the boys to pray about this problem. They prayed, but I could tell they prayed in doubt. Slava even allowed a snide grin to cross his face. How could we get windows if we didn't even have enough funds to finish the roof of the barn? But if you could have seen the eyes of these boys when God answered our prayer and we replaced *all* the old windows! This was an important and surprising lesson in trusting God! With the new windows the house is now warm and cozy for the boys. Praise to God and thanks to those donated money for this!



These events have sown optimism in the Training Farm. This is a pilot work and if it succeeds fully, as planned, there is hope that we can attract the attention of the government which could allow for the development of other similar projects. And this in turn would give orphans the opportunity to gain necessary work skills and more importantly, to understand the purpose of life revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ.



We, as far as possible, are trying to visit the orphanages where we for some reason cannot put our Programs into practice. Recently our volunteers have organized a theatrical ministry for the children of the Peny orphanage. More than a hundred of children and teens took an active part in it: they studied some places from the Bible; they played games and answered the questions asked by their mentors. We are praying for the possibility to do "The Flight School of Life" there; but at the moment the orphanage authorities are protracting the solving of this issue.



Our sisters in Christ started the cooking classes for the girls (the grads) of the Lachinovsky orphanage. Many times we had faced the fact when orphanage grads did not have any cooking skills! So we try to help them gain these skills. And of course these classes are a good opportunity to share with the girls about salvation in Jesus Christ and to demonstrate Christian relationships to them.

But still in spite of all of our activities in the winter season all the volunteers are looking forward to summer! Summer is the time of Christian canoe trips and camps, the time of outdoors fellowship with the children. We are praying to the Lord to let us get thoroughly prepared for these things beforehand. I am grateful to God for your dedication and prayers! Thanks to our partnership our ministry to orphans has been functioning for 15 years already! This time is very special: the Holy Spirit is touching thousands of orphans; the Holy Spirit is inspiring them, convicting them and changing their lives!

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