

News from Oleg

and the Moldova New Hope Team

August 2009



My Dear Friend,

What I am going to share with you in this newsletter comes from my heart. It is not just some data, or a report, but a short story of something that hardly can be expressed in words; it needs to be experienced.

This idea is a burden on my heart: Children from the Orphanages of Moldova are the most unreached group of people in the country. For more than 70 years, churches have had no vision to reach these children and did not have a real chance to. I am so sorry for those who did not get an opportunity to know that God is their Father. As for you and me, we have this great task of building awareness and mobilizing churches in reaching these lost generations for Christ. So, join me in this journey.

We were praying much for the orphans' camps to take place. The first was planned for April, but the revolt and political changes in Moldova stopped us from doing it.

It seems to me that this year our timing was changed by God's, and I am so glad for it. Finally in July with much effort, 90 teenagers, ages 14-17, from seven orphanages were transported to our camp. These are the teenagers that are the graduates of the Orphanages; the target for human trafficking and the criminal world. Just recently, a testimony of one of these former orphans said that more than 85% of boys end up in the criminal world and more than 65% of girls end up being trafficked. Our heart is to stop the cycle of fatherlessness, impact their lives for eternity, see them changed, and build hope and a purpose for their lives. The first two days of the camp were so hard because of adjustment to the camp facility, rules, and leaders. As one of the girls said, "It



is hard to believe you all, that you really love us, after much hate and abuse that we've experienced among those four walls (she meant the orphanage)." We've accepted and share loved with those girls who, under fear of being beaten up, were sexually abused by the boys in the orphanage, have had abortions, and desire to commit suicide (and the teachers from the orphanages hide all this). My heart is totally broken to see all these desperate and hopeless faces. Even more, one of these girls was saved from cutting her veins. "O Lord Jesus be merciful to this children, help me and my team understand better how can we reach this generation of the abused children, whose Father you call yourself." This has been my cry to God. By day three we could see some of these kids starting to open up and share their terrible stories. We saw many of them smiling and enjoying the camp; that was so precious. Games, sports, swimming pool, songs, fun, message, good food, great relationships, lavished in love and acceptance, making great connections for the future, and new friends; this and many other things happened during this camp. God is Good!

I believe these camps are a great opportunity and have an eternal investment in the lives of these kids. Friday was the day when I had to preach; I thought, "Lord, what should I say? How should I speak?" The message that lay on my heart was: *God's Children*. The Spirit of the Lord was upon me; my words were not coming from my

Oleg Reutski



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mind. The words touched their hearts; kids started to cry. The greatest moment came when I invited them to come and receive the right to be the sons and daughters of God. Over 64 of them came forward. I could feel these children being born again, and the honor of being children of God was filling them up! The light in their eyes was so special, announcing joy and gratefulness. God is their Father, no doubt!!!

It was Sunday when every teenager departed with much crying and a lack of desire to separate, but the buses returned back to the camp full. We saw the small faces of children, age 5-6, looking through the windows wondering where they were, what is this camp which was waiting for them. When the bus stopped, after eight hours of driving, I saw these little feet with no shoes on, and little bodies having almost no clothes! I said, *“Oh! Lord, these are the poorest children I have ever seen in my life!”* They were many, dirty, and needy, in great need of love and care. Our leaders were shocked too, as we did not expect to have them all so little, but I think this was the great hand of God, too. The owner of the camp, who is not a believer, was deeply touched as well. He said, *“I have seen poor kids, but never as poor as these”*.

When we saw how hungry they were, we realized such children need this great investment. By God’s grace and additional support from World Orphans we could provide the camp, food, clothes, and shoes for all the kids. The first days we did not know how to treat them; they were fighting over the food (you could see them stealing bread from the kitchen, some would put so much bread in their mouths I thought they might die, but their idea was to save something to eat later on). They were also stealing clothes and other things until the Lord has touched their hearts. With the relationship with the



leaders / volunteers, a lot of prayer and love shown to them, all these fights were getting less. They fell in love with everything that was happening during the day, the big games, drama, songs, and the U.S people leading group and camp activities. You could see the atmosphere changing again. Thursday night, most of these children, in a very creative way, were given the chance to ask God to forgive them, and ask Him to adopt them as His own kids; it was great to see most of them doing that. God is good!!! Praised be His name! Both of the camps were as important for us as for the kids. They changed our perspectives on the ministry we do for them, on the need and issues they have. I hope to say that we can do more, and we can do better.



I would like to thank you, all of you that were supporting these camps in prayer and financially. I would like also to encourage you to not stop here, but walk the walk with them, see them grow in Christ, connected with local

churches and enjoy seeing them become what God intended them to be. Keep praying for them, keep supporting New Hope Moldova ministry, and keep connected with us!

With deep thanks!!! In Christ’s Service!!!

Oleg , Marina and the Team. New Hope Moldova.

For more information or ways to help, e-mail me at: reutki@yahoo.com