

hartbeat

Humanitarian Aid Response Teams (HART)

First Quarter 2005



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“Changing the world—one heart at a time.”

Making a Difference

Dear Friends,
In Matthew 25, Jesus' scathing rebuke of those who ignore the needy tells us something critically important about the heart of God; God is concerned about the poor and oppressed.

So, as Christians, it shouldn't take an earthquake to open our hearts. In the wake of the Boxing Day tsunamis, the tidal wave of public outpouring has been phenomenal, and I suspect the same is occurring in the Christian community as well. Thousands of ordinary people have opened their hearts and their checkbooks.

And yet as devastating as this crisis is, its numbers are relatively low compared with other ongoing tragedies that occur each and every day of the year.

Between 20-25,000 children die EACH DAY from starvation, cholera and dysentery associated with unclean water. AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are happening in epidemic proportions.

The images we see of orphaned Sri Lankan and Indonesian children left in the wake of the tsunamis are multiplied a dozen times over in nations such as South Africa and Botswana because of the AIDS crisis there.

There are hundreds of thousands of abandoned children all over Eastern Europe, and the number is rising.

Unfortunately, most of the children

dying or orphaned come from obscure places, so they get little attention.

We in North America have essentially become "shock-aholics". Short of a catastrophic event and the ensuing media blitz, we've become indifferent to the death and destruction that is common in many parts of the world.

But we shouldn't need something dramatic to happen in order to get our attention and kick-start us into action.

None of us can do everything. But each of us can do something.

The death of a African child from AIDS is as painful for a family as the death of a child in a tsunamis, or a child dying from tuberculosis in Ukraine.

We Christians in North America, living in the most blessed countries in the world, should use this moment of collective grief and reflection, to become conscious of all the disasters happening every day in our global village.

The effectiveness of our Christian witness in the world rises and falls with our willingness to make care for the poor a foundational element of our Christian walk.

When we consider the massive needs of billions of impoverished people, the task can seem overwhelming - even depressing. We may be tempted to ask, "Can I REALLY make a difference?"

Please remember this. None of us can do *everything*. But each of us can do *something*. You CAN make a difference.

Many organizations like HART that are committed to assisting and empowering the poor and could use your support.

The West's generous response to the tsunamis proved that geography needn't be a barrier to our collective compassion.

And as Christians, we must not allow apathy and indifference to prevent us from being our brother's keeper during times of need - for in some parts of the world, the time of need lasts 365 days per year.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Cenaiko, President HART



Ukraine Election - a nation is born

The road from Soviet-style authoritarianism to real democracy has been neither straight nor easy for the Ukrainian people.

The latest story fits the definition of international intrigue. A national election in a former Soviet Republic is marred by voter fraud accusations. The opposition candidate is apparently poisoned, and the sitting, pro-Russian prime minister and corrupt President are accused of being involved in the plot.

Meanwhile, Moscow and the Kremlin are working feverishly behind the scenes to keep this country in its orbit.

Thousands take to the street in sub-zero weather to protest and eventually force new elections to take place, to be eventually won by the Western-leaning reform candidate.

It's the kind of story that gives birth to spy novels or made-for-TV movies. However, all of the above events actually transpired recently in Ukraine.

Although achieving independence in 1991, independence did not mean democracy for Ukraine.

The economy and political system was hijacked and the institutions of the state were harnessed or under-

mined to benefit a self-serving economic elite, the so-called oligarchs, who worked in tandem with the corrupt political bosses.

Thus Viktor Yushchenko's recent victory is a triumph for democracy and for the Ukrainians' desire to live in a normal country, free of corruption and cronyism. As one observer from the West put it, "It was just amazingly exciting being on the ground when a nation is essentially born."

Please keep Ukraine and its new President Victor Yushchenko in your prayers.

From Despair to Hope

Halyna (Helen) lives with her four children in the Carpathian Mountain region of Ukraine. It is one of the most destitute, poverty stricken areas of Ukraine. Her son Petro (Peter) is in HART's Child Sponsor Project.

Helen's story is quite typical in these parts of Ukraine. Her father had died fifteen years earlier and her mother was forced to raise six children by herself, all living in a one room house.

So poverty and hardship were nothing new for Helen. But then it got worse. Her husband went to Moscow to look for better work. He found work all right— but he also found another woman; and although he comes back to the village from time to time he refuses to help Helen and the kids financially.

Tragically the cycle repeats itself, as Helen is forced to raise her four children alone, just like her mother.

And as if things couldn't get any worse, several weeks ago a fire destroyed her house in the middle of the night.

Many of the homes in these regions like Helen's, are shared with farm animals with hay stored in the attic. An electrical problem caused a spark and the house was soon engulfed in flames.

Fortunately, Helen had woken up, realized what was happening and immediately rushed the children out of the house to safety, but was unable to retrieve anything from the house.

With no option except to move in with her mother, there were now 10 people living in a house consisting of a kitchen and a bedroom. The children slept on the floor.

Everything was lost in the fire, including their winter supply of potatoes.

And her primary food source for the children—milk, stopped because their cow is pregnant.

The situation couldn't be a bleaker one especially with the onset of the long winter months ahead of her.

In her desperation Helen planned to move with the children to a city on the opposite side of Ukraine, hoping to find work.

It was at this point God allowed HART to intervene. Nadia Remisova (Child Sponsor Regional Director for the Carpathian Mountains) heard about the fire and went to the village to check out the situation. She met Helen with her bags packed, children in tow, literally 10 minutes away from boarding a bus to travel into an uncertain and most likely disastrous future.

"It was God's purpose for me to run into Halyna that day", Nadia said, "She

was under such pressure and stress that she was desperate and not thinking properly. Helen's mother later confided to me that Helen had become depressed and suicidal."

Nadia's quick thinking and HART'S resources quickly stabilized the situation. We were able to provide Helen with \$500 to buy another old house.

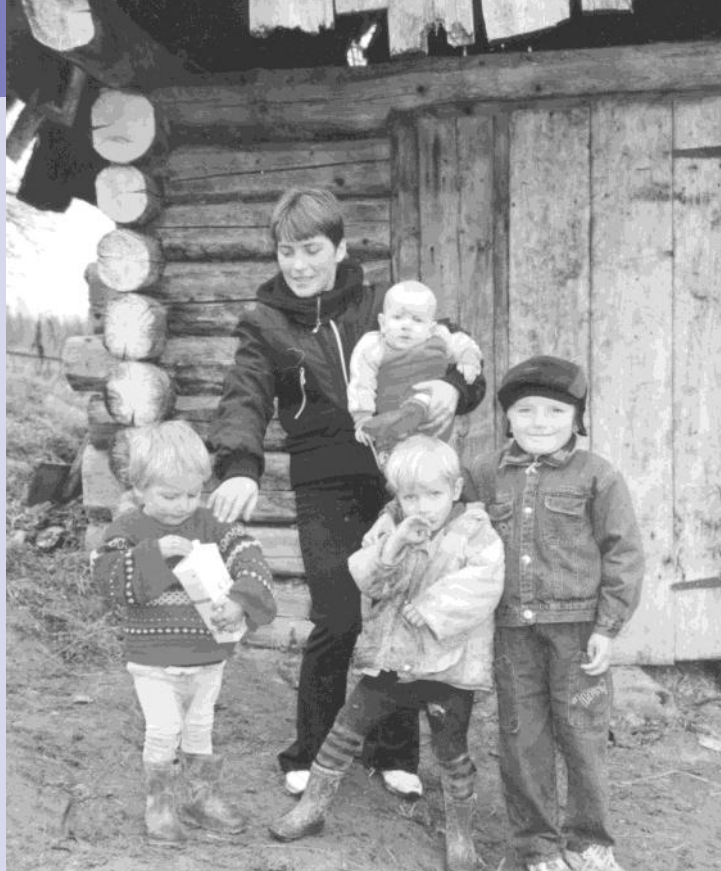
HART's office has been able to supply the family with clothing, sheets, blankets and winter boots.

Helen is extremely grateful. She can now stay in her village where extended family is able to help, and HART can monitor the situation and provide whatever else she may need.

An interesting side note; while scouring through the rubble of her home she found a gift that Peter's sponsor from Canada had given Helen last summer while visiting them. She has told us how much she treasures this gift.

Their sponsor in Calgary, Alberta has raised additional funds for Helen, however the need is so great. She must buy or build a barn; and she will also need to purchase a milking cow and a goat. Her son Peter is asthmatic and is sick a great deal of the time requiring meds.

Please keep Helen and her children in your prayers.



Helen and her four children; Peter is on the right



Helen's house after the fire

Tsiko family

"We are very thankful to You. It's a great help for my family. It's extremely difficult time for my family and everything what You do for us is very important. Let God bless You and give You health, strength and wealth. "Yura, Petro, and Natalia Tsiko.

8th of July I received water baptism. Now I am the child of God because I received Him in my heart." Petro Tsiko

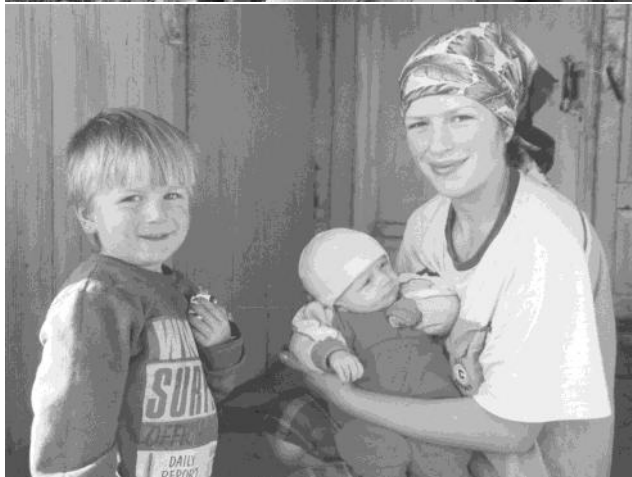


Budz family

"Thank You very much for Your help. Our family consists of twelve people. We have ten children. We live very poor and don't get any help. Our old house felt apart. Now we live in the house of our aunt but this house is very old too. We thank God very much for there are such people as You are. You help us very much." With love, Budz family

Tovtyn family

"Our family consists of ten people. There are eight children in family. We are very thankful for Your help. This help is a great gift for us. And we are very thankful." Larysa, Katia, Natalia and, Mariana



Brianchyk family

"My name is Maria Brianchyk. I have very big family. I am very thankful to You for Your help. My children rejoice in Your presents. We will never forget You and always will pray for You and ask God's blessings. Thank You very much for everything." From my children Dmytro, Ivan, Maria, Yura

Sponsored boy

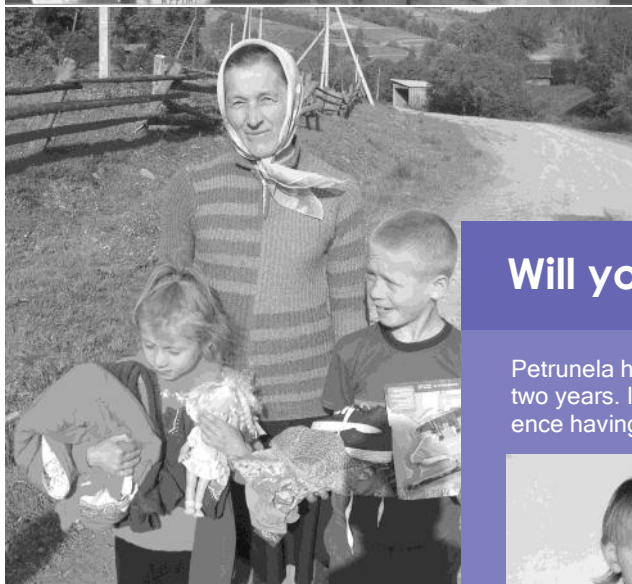
"My name is Ivan. My mom died many years ago. I live with grandmother. I thank God for there are such people as You are. You share Your love with me and for me it's a real family. I love You and pray to God for God always keep You and protect You. Your son Ivan."

Sponsored boy

"My name is Dima. I live with grandmother. I am very glad that now I have such a family as You are. I can feel Your love to me. I always feel it. I always thank God for You and pray and ask God for You can come to visit me. Also I would like to share great news with You. I received water baptism 8th of July. Now I am God's child." With Love, Dima Gusak

Myhailechko family

"Dear sponsor! Me and my mom are very thankful to You for You love our Myhailechko family. Your help gives us opportunity to survive."



3 orphaned children

"We live with our grandmother and grandfather. Our mom and dad died. We sincerely thank You for the help You give to us. This is a difficult time for our grandmother and grandfather. Let God bless You and Your children." Natalia, Ivanka, Marian Kozlovski

Sponsored girl

"My name is Natalia. I am sincerely thankful to You for the help. My parents don't work and food parcels we get is a big thing for us. Most of the people from our village can't find work. Let God bless You for Your sincere heart." Nadych family.



Will you make a difference?

Petrunela has been in the Child Sponsor Project for two years. It is evident from these pictures the difference having a sponsor has made in her life.



If you would like to impact a child's life by becoming a Child Sponsor, please contact our office for details.

Ukraine Revisited by Ann Korownyk

Twenty-three years have past since the last time I visited the land of my ancestors, Ukraine.

It did not occur to me that I would one day return and be involved in ministry with my daughter Ruth and my granddaughter. The Lord granted me this marvelous opportunity last June through HART, to spend 33 days with some of the most gifted people and committed Christian women I have ever met.

It was a memorable, life changing experience! What a thrill to see that the older women not only kept their faith through the dreadful communist era, but they also passed it on to the younger generation.

The first week I attended a retreat for leaders of Women's ministries from 23 provinces of Ukraine. The week was filled with Bible study, prayer, crafts and workshops in preparation for the upcoming summer season of children and women's camps.

"The genesis of the Christian Women's camp movement in Ukraine was HART"

What a challenge! My Ukrainian was put to the test, but it was amazing how God provided the necessary words. "The will of God will not take you where His sustaining grace cannot keep you."

The second stage of my journey began with a 26 hour train ride across the country to the city of Sedovo, on the Asov Sea in South Eastern Ukraine.

Approximately 100 women (ages 18-66) gathered for their first camp in that province. There definitely was an air of apprehension and anticipation as they registered and were designated into groups.

However, during the week the apprehension turned into joy and fellowship. The transformation was amazing! We prayed (6:00 am), did calisthenics, crafts, sang, laughed,

shared testimonies and enjoyed wonderful fellowship.

The week ended far too quickly. One lady came to the Lord, as these camps always include the unsaved. The depth of their commitment, their every day faith and their prayer life is very real.

The next camp was in Kirovograd (central Ukraine), another first for that province. Again, 100 women and some of their children gathered with similar anticipation and apprehension. The children also shared in daily activities and heard the gospel presented.

Once again, the apprehension turned into joy as the week progressed and when it was time to leave there was sadness and tears.

At both of these retreats, my primary responsibilities included leading Bible studies and the craft session as well as visit with as many of the women as time allowed.

Many of them shared their daily struggles and also expressed their appreciation to HART for sponsoring such an event. [The genesis of the Christian Women's camp movement in Ukraine was HART].

"I have never been to such an event in all my life and may never have the opportunity again. Please thank the people in Canada and USA for us." - a sweet lady probably in her early sixties.

"You have returned my childhood, as I never had the opportunity to do such things when I was a child." - women's leader commenting on the craft sessions.

"Praise be to God and thanks to all of you who organized and funded such a retreat for the first time in our province, all the women are pleased; this retreat has brought them much joy. We ask you to please come again next year." -

Senior Pastor, State of Kirovograd.

"We would love to have such a women's retreat in our province, but we do not have a sponsor" - women's leader from neighboring state.

Another opportunity God gave me was to spend several days with a ministry in the city of Lviv, called New Life. It was truly a highlight of the trip.

This is a ministry that reaches out to orphans, the homeless, recovering addicts, those released from prison etc, lives recycled from "the garbage heap



Ann (right) shown here with several ladies from the New Life Church in Lviv, Ukraine

of the world" gloriously transformed to a new life in Christ. God bless Pastor Misha Kinyo and his wife Halya as they provide leadership for this outstanding and fruitful ministry.

To say that my thirty-three days in Ukraine was an emotional roller coaster would be a gross understatement... joy, fear, sadness, insecurity, humility; but ultimately blessed to the core of my being.

[Ann is from Edmonton, Alberta, and is planning to again teach and train Ukrainian women at their summer camps this year]

You too can have a part in these Ministries. Please pray for:

- Olya Volochyn, President of the Christian Women's Camp Association of Ukraine.
- Financial support for these summer camps
- Fruitfulness of the camps in 2005
- New Life Church Ministries in Lviv
- Pastor Misha and Halya Kinyo

[from a National Pastor]

I want sincerely thank You for such cooperation on God's vineyard. Thank You for You support me and my family materially what gives us good opportunity to work spiritually. This year we are very thankful to the Lord for he has blessed us with twenty souls who received water baptism.

During the week we regularly have missionary work in two villages – Zolotiv and Liubomyrka. We have more than 20 people who come. This is kind of spiritual activity I do.

Also I would like to share news with You. One more girl was born in my family. We called her Ruta. Now I have six children – four girls and two boys. I thank God for them. My older son and daughter already work at missionary field. Younger children attend Church and participate in services.

One more time I want to thank You for the material support and for Your sincere prayers and work. Let God bless You and send You even bigger success in Your important work.

With love to You Your brother in Christ.

Volodymyr Nesteruk

[This letter was sent from an inmate in a Russian prison to one of HART's partners, a Bible Correspondence Course Ministry. This is an example of the effective National ministries HART partners with. HART subsidizes the cost of these courses so that hundreds of people can study the Bible who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford the materials and postage costs.]



From Eugene, Uglich, Russia.

"I want to share my joy you. I got your reply, that means due to God's will I can continue the courses. My brothers (fellow prisoners) and I study according to your program with admiration. As to the changes in them, that looks like a miracle.

Brother Igor changed so much that he became unrecognizable for those who knew him before. He left the prison on the 2nd of March. Believe me, he left like absolutely new person. That seed, you sowed in him with the help of our Lord, brought rich fruit.

We will re-send you his letters about his ministry to Our Lord as soon as he send them to us. He found many lost souls and directed them to God. Let God be with him and bless him richly! Igor is a wonderful example for us, what God is able to do in a person's life!

Now there are only two of us left, but we try to stand strong due to your lessons. We are thankful to Our Lord for your wonderful care for us. We will respond to it by our diligent study of the Scripture.

With respect, Your brother in the Lord. Eugene.

[from a National Pastor]

"For Love of Christ unites us..." With deep thankfulness to God we have received your financial gift. It is now for over one year that HART is supporting my ministry. This cooperation enabled me to serve Lord much more effective, many of my dreams now can be fulfilled.

We give praise to God for that and we sincerely thank HART for making it possible to serve Lord better.

And together with Apostle Paul we say: The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." (1Cor 3:8-9)

With love and deep respect, Slavic Pasichnyk and my family

Annual Summer Camp Auction

For those of you living in Alberta, Canada, please be aware that HART will be holding two AUCTIONS to raise funds to send underprivileged children in Ukraine to camps this summer.

Edmonton - March 19
Calgary - April 15

Please contact our office for details



HUMANITARIAN AID RESPONSE TEAMS

HART is a registered non-profit charity in both Canada and the USA
Canada: Suite 2, 317-37 Ave. N.E. Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6P6,
 Tel: 403.230.8263, Registration #89431-3998-RR0001
USA: 3047 Owens Dr., Anthem, Arizona, 85086, Tel:
 602.906.0099, Registration #86-0908190
E-mail: hart2hart@telus.net

WHAT WE DO:

- **HART serves the poor in Eastern Europe:**

HART provides critically needed aid such as food, clothing and medical care to orphanages, street children, invalids, hospitals, the elderly, those in prisons and the desperately poor

- **HART serves and equips National Christian leaders and ministries:**

HART facilitates the education, training, equipping of and financial support for indigenous Christian leaders and ministries

HART provides support and resources for dynamic church planting, discipleship, children, youth, camping, prison and women's ministries

- **HART serves the church in North America:**

By challenging and providing opportunities for people in the West of all ages to participate in world relief and missions projects

WHERE WE SERVE:

- **Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Romania**

OUR STRATEGY:

- **Research:**
Our goal is to seek out the most fruitful National ministries we can find; involved in Relief Aid work and Evangelism in Eastern Europe
- **Relationships (Partnerships):**
HART then pours its resources into these ministries where God is already at work, and bless what He is blessing
- **Recommendations (Building 'Bridges'):**
Our objective is then to "link" these ministries with Churches, Bible Study groups, and individuals in the West, and have them supported prayerfully and financially