

ECL Door of Hope

Bringing Hope to the hopeless and Help to the helpless

“Thoughts from Prison”

January/February 2011

Hello dear ones,

Over the past five or six years, many of you have graciously assisted Door of Hope in our practical and spiritual help to the Ukrainian ‘children’ in Prison. With your help we have been able to supply bedclothes, mattresses, games, sweets, toys, toothpaste and articles of hygiene, shoes, pens, pencils and paper, needlework cottons, musical instruments, not forgetting individual Bibles for the boys. Simple things that you and I would take for granted but which are received with pleasure and appreciation by the inmates of this Youth Penitentiary.

Opposite picture is of the Ukrainian prisoner boys proudly showing their needlecraft that you have helped to make possible by your donations. Through their embroidery, the boys gain patience, endurance and love for beautiful designs.

We have received a letter from Pastor Misha, a godly man who co-ordinates our humanitarian and spiritual projects in the Ukraine. It is written to each of you who have kindly donated over the years. Translated from Ukrainian into English.



Dear Door of Hope friends in the UK,

Many thanks for all the support that you have given to us here in the Ukraine. I thought you would like to know that the Gorodok Prison is where underage boys (11 to 14 years) who have committed crimes are taken. What kind of lives have these boys lived? They have experienced an absence of love, care and attention from their parents and consequently, a rough existence on the streets.

Every fourth boy didn't go to school and many cannot read or write. They have begged, smoked, sniffed glue and hung around computer club, later to experience theft, robbery and sometimes murder. When arrested by men in military uniforms who put them in handcuffs, they are first placed in a Detention Center & afterwards behind locked gates of a Prison Institution. The prison walls are 6ft 5inches high and escape rarely occurs. The boys are watched by security.

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In the Ukraine there are 10 types of jails for these offenders. 1,432 young people including 98 girls. Every person is there for simple theft, burglary and robbery. 14% are imprisoned for murder and at this moment, 1000 are awaiting final decisions from judges. These boys have to serve between 3 and 5 years in prison.

Sadly, few Ukrainian people give thought and interest to orphans and street children apart from thinking them a nuisance. Thankfully, we have permission to visit these boys (also girls), to take in the many practical objects that you have supplied, and best of all, to show them love and give them spiritual guidance. We see great sadness in their eyes but also open hearts to what we say. They are not as bad as they are made out to be and we do all we can to build trust in order to open the doors of their young hearts to God's love as well as our own.

God bless and thank you.

Pastor Misha.



Two pictures: The outer Prison yard that Door of Hope helped to create. Also, a battered 1953 horn tied with wire and tape. Part of the boy's Prison orchestra that Door of Hope helped fund.

We continue to assist Pastor Misha in his Prison ministry to drop-out boys. At the beginning of this year, 2011, can we ask you to make a donation to this worthwhile ministry? I shall be visiting Pastor Misha in early May and whatever money you donate to this needy project, I will see that it reaches him before I go. Please help the boys if you are able. We thank you in anticipation.

Love and God bless, always.

Diane Streeter.
(DOOR OF HOPE UKRAINIAN CO-ORDINATOR)



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