

Christos Voskres The Christ has risen! This is the Ukrainian Easter Greeting. This year the Orthodox,



Catholics and Protestants celebrated the resurrection of Jesus on the same day. Just in time for Ukraine, a time of political unrest and divisions. The places that two years ago were full of orange flags (pro Yushenko) are now coloured blue and white (pro Yanukovitsh). The tents that are put up in front of the presidential palace

are now inhabited by his opponents. The pictures (Reuters) show President Yushenko and Prime Minister Yanukovitsh celebrating „Pasha“– the Easter feast. The ordinary people though are fed up with these power struggles. They would like to live in peace – at last.



So: Christos Voskres! We wish the Ukrainian People political and economical stability. To all of you we wish that the power of the living God would daily accompany, inspire and always freshly motivate you to be the Light of the World and the Salt of the Earth!!!

For us Easter was a beautiful experience! We seldom have the chance to see all Sunshine Kids together



at the same time, but we celebrated Easter with all our “small and big” kids. We were invited to the dacha of a friend, beautifully situated in the midst of a forest by a small lake. We played, drove pedal boot, ate shashlik (skewer) made on the fire, drank tea from a genuine hundred year old Samovar and had much fun together. Of course we had a water-landing from Katja and grass green Jeans from Wanja... ☺ It was good to see all the former street children, how they fooled about with each

other and shortly afterwards had serious conversations walking through the forests. We enjoyed watching them doing what other kids their age would be doing. In such moments we feel how much we love those kids, how special they are for us and how important it is to support them in their growing.





With every day that kids spend on the street, much in their life is broken. Katja is an example. Last year, in June, she ran away from us. In the middle of March, nine months later, she stood in front of our door again. She looked terrible – unkempt, untidy, tired, and very old... much too old for a sixteen-years-old. She came miserably – she did not even have the usual plastic bag with clothes, street kids carry around with them. Really, according to all our rules and concept, we were not allowed to take her in – she had run away several times and she was already 16 years old. But we did



not have the heart to send her away from our doorstep. After three weeks that she was back, some life came back to her, though we realise that the way to normality will be very long, assuming that she will stay this time. Not long ago she said, “Imagine I was in the 9th grade, that I could soon finish school and could go to vocational school. Why did I run away then?” Here on the picture she already looks much better... only her eyes are still sad and empty... A few days after writing these lines, Katja again packed her few belongings, yearning to see her friends on the street. Is there still hope for her? Please keep praying for her.

On one of the first sunny spring days we drove to a small village called Kozhenka, 80 km from Sunshine. The “small” Sergey was absolutely determined to visit his babushka – grandmother. He extremely looked forward to this visit, and in the car remembered many experiences from his childhood. The way led us around holes bigger than the street itself, and I asked myself why we don’t own a tractor instead of the car. Finally there, we



found the door of the old house locked. A neighbour who saw us on the property came towards us, recognized Sergey and brought us the keys. “The babushka is in a hospital in Kiev” - she told us. While Sergey entered the modest little house, the neighbour told me how the small boy had been tormented and beaten by his father. She showed me the basement, where the little boy had been locked in for hours. No wonder Sergey had taken to his heels.



Later Sergey showed me the picture of his father (an old picture hanging on the wall), who died a few weeks ago, as a result of alcohol abuse.

Now to the good news! The „International Women Club Kyiv“ supported us this year with a grant of



10,100 USD. The money is to be used for a school, we soon want to build. We decided to build a small building with four classrooms, enabling us to have better conditions for the education of the kids. At the moment classes are held in one class room, in the kid’s bed rooms, in the living room and in the corridor. For kids like Ruslan, who never attended school, or Denis (picture ☺), who is hyperactive, the present rooms are unfavourable to learn. They are distracted by every little matter, not talking of the every day business of Sunshine, visitors, and smells of the

kitchen. We expect that the children will be better prepared in „real“ class-rooms for future public schools. We hope to build the school until September. Joschi has already drawn up plans and the whole building will be carved in his carpenter workshop. Wanja, who serves an apprenticeship as carpenter, will complete his period of



practical training in Joshi’s workshop, exactly in the time of building the school. We all think this to be quite special, that our previous main problem child and our “great hooligan” will now help to build the



school of Sunshine. He seems to have positively changed in his development and we really hope that his present manners and opinions about life are not only for a short time! On the picture above you see him with his colleagues of a welding course (!), and on the left one he is with his brother Sasha, celebrating their 16th

birthday together in Sunshine. Sasha is a former Sunshine boy, who now lives with a foster family in Kiev. In September he will start studying at the School of Engineering.

Since April 1st we have a new volunteer in Sunshine. Her name is Joanna and she is from Poland. She’s an educationalist for small children, she speaks some Russian and is slowly settling down. She will mainly help in the foster family and do different creative workshops with the kids. On her first day



of work she could learn the word „Subbotnik“ by heart. „Subbotnik“ comes from Saturday and means a voluntary commitment by all the workers of a company. Subbotnik was a big tradition in the whole Soviet Union. So we made use of this historical matter to bring some order to the property of Sunshine ☺. We moved the dogs to the back part of the property, we levelled our plot, painted our gates (here you see Ira on the picture), etc. Even the small ones, Pascal and Inga, the daughter of Igor, helped!!! We brightened up the entrance area and hung up the flags – now we are ready for all guests!

Spring is also the beginning of the season for driving bicycles and paragliding. Thanks to financial support by our friends in Frutigen, who themselves are paragliding pilots, we were able to buy some new stuff for our small paragliding school! Marek got the paragliding teachers licence and now all are waiting for good weather and the right wind. Michelle and Pascal are doing well, their big passion is drawing and painting and we are amazed of how patiently and exactly they are doing it. Schmid's are doing fine as well. New is, that from middle of April Lina is in charge of all care givers in Sunshine.



At last we'd like to ask you to pray for these needs:

- For political and economical stability in the country.
- For the foster family and the rehabilitation centre – wisdom, strength, patience and finances!
- For all the kids in Sunshine.
- For the financial resources to build the school.
- For enrolments for the summer camps.

We warmly greet you from Ukraine,

*Nathalie and Marek Wnuk with Michelle and Pascal
All Kids and worker of Sunshine Children's Centre*

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For donations please see:

<http://sunshine-kiev.org/html/make.html>