

Dear Friends and Family

This letter is being written at an unusual place – on the summer camp in Litotshki on the notebook and



it will be only as long as the batteries last. Exactly today, Monday morning, our yearly summercamp started – 80 children from poor and underprivileged families and about 30 adults will sleep for the first night in tents. At the moment they are getting acquainted in their groups and

the fastest are already jumping into the water. The shouts and cheers of the kids promise a good atmosphere and lots of fun...

10 Days later...

When I wrote these lines 10 days ago, I had no way of knowing how rich in experiences this first camp would be. The first three days were unusually hot. As always the leaders had prepared an excellent program: in the morning workshops (making wooden boomerangs, ships, candle holders, jewellery, cards, ribbons, and much more), then swimming and sport and in the afternoon competitions and games. The evenings were reserved for the christian program and the kids had the opportunity to hear the Good News of God. We had a team from Switzerland (Christine, Sabrina, Simon and Fred from the Frutigal and Sibylle from the Emmental) - so all was perfectly organized and performed.



Extending of our team by youth from the Hillsong Church in Kiev helped that not only social weak and hesitant kids but also open-minded, communicative and happy youth contributed to the atmosphere of the camp.

On the fourth day of the camp a strong wind started to blow... Some rain-showers were at first a welcome change. In the following night the fun ended. Gusts of wind and masses of water, soaking the tents in no time, turned our camp site into a quite terrible scenario. Some

tents tore some tent poles gave away and broke. Younger kids were afraid of the thunders and lightnings. As the cold and wet weather continued on the following two days, we decided to end the camp two days earlier as planned. Although the decision was the only right one, the kids were unhappy

to have to go home earlier. Two days later the weather improved and after we had repaired and dried the tents the second camp started with 68 children.

Unfortunately, the storm had also bad consequences for Sunshine. A worker of Joschi, who at the time of the storm was in the Children's Centre, tells his version of the event as follows:

“I am sitting in the employee's room on the first floor and am hearing the howling of the wind... I have an eerie feeling... Suddenly I hear something like a thunder and something trembles over the roof... I decide to open the attic to look if everything is ok... I climb up the ladder, open the door to the attic and see... the open sky!!!”



The wind blew a part of the roof off the Sunshine house and threw the roof-tiles on the workshop and the newly put up school building, which is still under construction! Thank God nobody was injured. The damages of the workshop and the school building could quickly be repaired, but the roof of Sunshine has to be replaced completely. The repair costs of the roof will be as high as 8000\$ and we all hope for not strong rains for the rest of the summer. The hole in the roof is temporary covered with a plastic “blanket” until we have the money to isolate the house from the sky a bit more. Both chimneys and the Internet and Telephone antennas are gone as well. ☹



Nevertheless we are very proud about some people and things happening this summer. Especially, we are proud of Valia, who completed her education with best marks and now is a trained hairdresser and make-up maker. Five years ago we took her from the street – rather not tidy or lovely smelling teenager, without a home and chance for a normal life, weighed down by life on the street. She hardly knew all the letters, never mind arithmetic or writing. It was a hard piece of work for her, visiting one school after the other until she completed her education. She didn't fight only with the subjects at school, but also with her low self esteem. She had to change her whole life style and habits. In the last two years she participated in our Life Skills Training and learned living independently in the big world, cooking, cleaning, spending money correctly and paying bills. This week she found a job in a hairdresser's shop in Kiev and now she is searching for an apartment outside of Sunshine. We'll miss her.

Imagine the following: After seven years in Ukraine, over five years of Sunshine in operation, we were invited to work as experts in a team which propose how to reform state-run children's homes. At first a small children's home for "only" 40 kids, approximately 100km from Sunshine, has been chosen to



be remodeled. In the team there were employees of the Ministry of Children, Family and Sport, regional governmental employees and some Charity Institutions. The general plan was to place the children, now living in the

children's home, into foster families and family-type children's homes. Children, who for various reasons are not suitable for living in a family were supposed be placed in a small home for rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The main goal of the group was to come up with a model of a modern home for difficult children and youth, a model that later could be used in whole country. After a three-day conference in July dedicated to this topic all participants agreed that Children Centre SUNSHINE presents the model they searched for!!! It looks like our concept will be "nationalized" and we are getting the task of training the new workers of this "New Type Children Centre" (as it is called). We never dreamed of such development, although in matter dreams we are professionals! ☺

Katja and Sergei (we wrote about them in our previous newsletter) are both gone. They ran away again, were caught on the streets by the police and brought to a state-run crisis centre. We recognized once again that if a child can not attach emotionally to adults, nothing can hold him/her in a place, especially in the one like ours, where there ist some discipline, schedule and different duties. We feel really sad and sorry for them. They could be with us on the bank of this beautiful river just now, like other Kids on the camp – but they decided to leave and are now isolated in rooms with barred windows....



Our both refugees missed another wonderful experience. Some of our kids had the possibility to make a short flight with a hot-air balloon. The Belgium Embassy together with the Balloon Club of Belgium and Kiev Ballon Club organised an event for children. Due to strong winds not all children could climb into the basket, but those who made it were very impressed. Thank you!!!

One of the large Ukrainian Daily Newspapers „Ukraina Moloda“ (The Young Ukraine), published a report about Sunshine on June 1st (Children's Day). What impressed them mostly, was that the finances of Sunshine mainly come from the "corrupt" West and that the "Bread and Salt" bearing Ukraine is hardly contributing to the support of the Centre. Otherwise they reported good and positive things about us. We know and admit: It is by the grace of God and your faithful friendship in supporting us, that we can today rejoice in this positive report.

Some word from Joschi, our coworker:

For my 25th birthday I got a T-shirt with the inscription: To be old and wise, you must first be young and stupid. That's how I feel sometimes in the building bussines in Ukraine. Experience that I get



during ordering, organizing, carrying out and building are surely a good investment for the future. At the moment they are rather wearing on the nerves. Everything works much different than in Switzerland. Deadlines - as a rule - are not kept, prices of material change according to the mood and temper of the suppliers. Nevertheless we are going forward and are fighting on different fronts. The School building was already covered (photo) and is waiting for the frontage. The large project, building a house in the neighbourhood is up and running too.

In our family all is going well. Marina successfully passed her final exams of the 9th grade. Now we enjoy our time on the summer camp together with the kids and the Swiss team. Fred Josi is staying with us until the mid of August when Beat Specht will take his place.

Thank you for everything and with kind regards,

Lina, Joschi and Marina

We, Nathalie, Marek, Michelle and Pascal would like to thank all of you for everything you do for us, the children in the Ukraine and God's Kingdom. We do appreciate your financial support, incl. the support for the school project. If all goes well, the school will be opened on September 1st. We are confident that Sunshine will continue to be a blessing for Ukraine and our combined involvement is not in vain. Please pray for the following requests:

- We are thankful for the summer camps and the possibility that the kids could hear about Jesus.
- We are thankful for the donations for the School building – and believe for the rest finances.
- Pray for a good start for Valia into independent life outside of Sunshine.
- Healing for Nathalie (back pain)
- Finances of the new roof (before autumn) and for the monthly expenses of the Centre.
- Good beginning for new employees, starting from August.
- New children in Sunshine – Vlad and Yana

We love you and send you warm greetings from Kiev

*Nathalie and Marek Wnuk
with Michelle and Pascal*