

With all the sorrows and the problems of orphans and street children, one quickly forgets how beautiful



the country of Ukraine is. Our bicycle tour 2005 showed us the whole beauty of this country. Ancient deciduous forests, glowing fields, rivers and lakes that rise in spring and with dangerous rustling noises race downstream under the bridges we crossed... The goal of our journey was the same as a year ago: the lake of Kiev – a reservoir on the Dniepr, we hadn't reached then. We planed a new route, which turned out to be full of surprises. As soon as we cycled into the forest, we discovered a well-paved street, with absolutely no traffic.

After a few kilometres of a ride in the beautiful forest, we came across a board (photo) that said that we were in the midst of a road for tanks ☺. Thank God we had no encounters with military vehicles, but only saw a tank and pair of mysterious eyes on the board. As we

reached the reservoir, one could see that this unusual experience soothed the pain we had in our bottoms ☺.

Whoever of you rides a bike knows of what we are speaking... What pleased us especially was that the children developed the feeling of belonging together and that they showed mutual consideration to the slowest bikers in our group, a trait we had missed last year. Our next adventure-pedagogical action will begin in two weeks. Our plan is to walk to the Black See. Because we don't have enough time to start in Kiev, (we have to set up for the summer camps afterwards), our bus will bring us more than half way to where our trip will begin.



Katja missed the bicycle tour. As we drove through the landscape, she waited to be taken to SUNSHINE.



As I saw her photos from the street, I felt sorry that we hadn't taken her earlier. Well, we had then hoped that Valja and Angela would move to the new house and the two beds would be free in Sunshine. As the rooms in the new house are not ready yet, Katja sleeps on an extra bed and enjoys it as if it were a 5 star hotel. No wonder, the last two years she spent on the street and slept on a huge pipe. We just had our first serious conversation. Actually, a standard story: The mother is dependent on alcohol, the father unknown. When she was six years old, she already had to take care for her baby brother Andrey. Because of

these circumstances, she learned how to beg,

and a little later how to cook, which she tells us with great pride. At that time she realized, that she was different than kids of her age. First of all, no children wanted to play with her. She felt like a leper: poorly dressed, often dirty and hungry. Second, she had to constantly watch out, that she was not, as her mother, stabbed or beaten by the boyfriend of her mother.

Katja's older sister Natasha walks in the footsteps of her



mother – alcohol and „friends“ direct the daily routine and purpose of her life, Katja's six year older sister. When Katja was only 12 years



old, one of the „friends“ threw Natasha out of the window – they lived on the third floor. Natasha broke her hands and legs. This was the day when Katja ran to the streets and stayed there for two long years, surrounded by glue, begging and all the things

belonging to the career of a street child. Two months ago, she decided to come off the street. Now she is with us. We hope to help her. Much depends, as always, on her... For us it is very important that Katja is by law the sister of the severely abused girl we show in our presentation.



(Photo on the right). From this point of view, one could say that Katja was lucky...

The 1st of June is a 'Day for Children' in Ukraine. The official name is "Day of Child Protection Legislation". It is THE day, when all the officials remember all the underprivileged children, so that they can forget them with a good conscience for the next 355 days of the year. At least that's how it was until now. For a few weeks now, some legislations concerning streetchildren are moving though – but we'll write about that later. In any case, all our children were invited to a football game by the Minister for Youth and Sport. We sat with him in the VIP lodge and were presented each with a T-shirts and a football with autographs from the Ukrainian football stars and Minister Pavlenko (on the photo with our kids).

On the 9th of June, we were invited to a meeting with President Viktor Yuschenko, and Marek was asked to give a speech. If it continues like this, we'll have to get an expert for public relations for SUNSHINE ☺.

What concerns the political development, Marek was chosen to be a consultant for Minister Pavlenko (the one from the football game).



Apart from Marek, there are three other people in this committee, which in cooperation with the Department for Children, can consult the “National Program to Solve the Problem of Street Children”. At least three members of the committee are Christians!!! Now we have the possibility to participate in the decision making process, indicating several solutions, and speaking from our experience. Well, let’s see how the first meeting of the committee will go...



We have more good news to tell you: In great competition we won a grant of 13'500 US Dollars. 45 (forty five) Non Profit Organisations made great efforts to win the 7 (seven) grants the International Women’s Club of Kiev distributed. On the picture we are signing the contract. The money was given to furnish the first floor of our new house. Four girls will live there, girls that grew up without a family, and should start living independently. They will live with us for a year, complete an intensive course “Teach me to live” and

receive help with finding apartments and work or further education. We are confident that from September onwards two of our girls, Angela and Valja, as well as two girls from a state-run orphanage will receive practical help on their way to independent living. They will as well be able to see into the life of the foster family. The foster family is still one of our greatest needs. We have to complete construction, furnish the house and... find good family parents. The latter task seems to be harder than the first ones, therefore we need your help in prayer!

From May 23rd to June 6th we had very practical visitors in SUNSHINE. Six students from Colorado Christian University accompanied by a couple from “The Least of These...” helped us to get house and garden to look pretty. They painted gates and walls (both inside and outside), helped on the construction site, and played and did arts & crafts with our kids. They were open-minded, happy and the kids liked them a lot. After a substantial farewell dinner, we brought them to the airport on June 7th. Thank you for your great support!!!

Since June 1,st Joshi and Lina are working with us again. Joshi is busy digging the fundament for his workshop (Lopata is the Russian word for a shovel) and Lina is following her vocation as teacher in our home school. We are glad that they serve SUNSHINE together.

On July 4th our summer camps begin. We have the approval of the government officials and are very glad that the president of Litotshki, where the camp will be, engaged himself as well. Judith Grimm from Frutigen, Switzerland, put together a group of 14 people(!). They will be responsible for the program on the camp. We especially are glad that our family will support the camps this year with personal commitment. François, Nathalie’s father, is



already coming to set up the camp site and Piotr, Marek's brother, will guard the beach, as he is a swimming instructor and life-guard.

Personally, we have an intensive time behind us, with many conferences, training courses and meetings. Michelle tore a ligament in her left elbow and had her arm in plaster for almost three weeks – she coped with this very well. Chopsticks are by the way very practical for “scratching-under-the-plaster.” Pascal makes great progress in speaking and loves to make jokes, we even laugh about them. He is now convinced that the best toys to play with are the ones Michelle is playing with. Sharing and making compromises are parts of diplomacy – our kids prove that diplomatic solutions sometimes are not enough and we need to show them who is in charge. Mama and Papa have to interfere as peace-keeping forces. ☺



Our special prayer requests are:

- Success for Katja's new way of life in SUNSHINE
- Wisdom for being involved politically
- Summer camps: protection, good weather (sunny and dry) and good atmosphere
- Finding parents for the foster family
- Building site: House for the foster family and Joschi's workshop
- Continued Sasha's emotional problems
- Finances

We thank you for your friendship and greet you warmly from Kiev.

*Nathalie and Marek Wnuk
With Michelle and Pascal
And All Kids and Staff from
SUNSHINE Children Centre*