

# Widow & Orphan Care Ukraine – Summer 2005



**Present Realities:** The Dnipropetrovs'k (region/state) of Ukraine has a population of 3.5 million people. The region is located east of the Ukrainian capital of Kiev in the central part of the country.

This region was especially hard hit by the collapse of the Soviet Union. Many of the heavy industries and factories found themselves ill equipped to compete in a world economy. The huge state run farms and factories have failed to produce as equipment and technology have fallen into serious disrepair.

Crops go unharvested and yields continue to decline due to poor soil management and lack of equipment, in affect causing many Ukrainian people to plunge into poverty.

Ukrainians have been greatly affected since gaining their freedom in 1991. Under the communist system workers were provided a pension when retired but now that the communism collapsed so did the people's pension. This has caused children whose families are unable to provide for them to be abandoned, and forced the elderly into the streets to beg for food and money.

## **Project Results:**

HFL facilitated a team of 5 women primarily from Northview Community Church to build upon the groundwork made by last year's team. Assisting widows, poor families, and orphans by providing medical supplies, clothing, and food to over 460 people in the Dnipropetrovs'k region. The team visited small villages and orphanages to invest some hope into their lives by providing them with some of the essentials for life.

### **Over \$21,500 was raised towards the Widow & Orphan Care Project**

- Provided school supplies for 130 students
- Distributed 460 food hampers which will feed 1 person for 1 month
- Purchased 10 pigs for 5 families
- Purchased 3 cows for 3 families
- Paid hydro bills for 75 families
- Repaired pastors van
- Provided medication for 60 people
- Held 7 banquets for 500 people in various small villages
- Shipped and distributed 350 lbs of clothing
- Provided home renovations for family with 6 children
- Sent 45 kids to camp for 1 week
- Provided 420 pairs of underwear for children living in a state orphanage
- Visited 2 Christian orphanages and distributed clothing & hygiene supplies to 55 children
- Provided Financial assistance for documents for 1 widow
- Purchased tables for church
- Purchased church building in a small village that did not have a church building

The team from Northview not only provided for a variety of humanitarian needs but also had a large impact on people's lives with 15 people making decisions to follow Christ as well as 20 re dedications.

**Potential Future Projects:** Due to the inability of Orphans & Widows to provide for themselves HFL is working towards facilitating two church teams a year to the Dnipropetrovs'k region in which teams would be involved in similar orphan & widow care projects. One of the results from these trips would be the potential of establishing new projects to further reach out to people of the Ukraine.

## **Persons Responsible for the Project:**

The staff of Hungry for Life, under the leadership of the Board of Directors, are responsible for the project.

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For more information contact:  
**Hungry For Life International**  
projects@hungryforlife.org  
Ph. 604.703.0223 / Fax. 1.866.255.8498