

Widow & Orphan Care Ukraine – Spring 2006



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 fields 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. The communist system promised their workers that they would be able to retire with a pension, but now that the government is gone so is their 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:

A team of 11 from Eden Mennonite Church left April 17th – May 2nd, 2006 to assist widows and orphans located in the Dnipropetrovs'k Ukraine. Most of the Eden Mennonite team's heritage is from the eastern part of the Ukraine in which they were able to visit the villages where they personally or their families lived, and provide compassion & relief to the local people.

\$33,202 CAD was raised for the Eden Mennonite Orphan & Widow Care Project

- Provided 725 food hampers to widows and poor families
- Provided 725 hygiene hampers to widows and poor families
- Distributed 400 kid packs (toothpaste, toothbrushes, candy, apples, and toys)
- Held 6 banquets for over 530 people
- Purchased and distributed prescription drugs for 50 people
- Provided finances for a bed-ridden widow who needed house renovations
- Provided finances to purchase a house for a widow who is caring for her Down-syndrome daughter
- Improved a church's heating system
- Provided financial assistance towards hydro bills of 40 widows
- Financial assistance for home renovation for a family who adopted 3 orphans
- Visited and provided blankets, clothing, and diapers to local orphanages
- Shipped and distributed nearly 2 tones of clothing
- Set up a funeral fund for 25 families unable to cover the costs
- Hired 2 widows for 1 year to provide weekly care for 30 disabled widows
- Provided funds for 200 children to attend summer camp
- Visited bedridden widows

The Eden Mennonite team of 11 demonstrate and communicate the love of the Father to the orphaned and widowed by providing for their basic needs. The team improved the health and general wellbeing of the neglected widows, and children by providing them with food, clothing, and compassionate care. As well, to encouraging local Christians in the area by sharing Christ's love for them through the simple but affective act of fellowship.

29 people gave their life to Christ as a result of the work that was done.

It has "freed" me to be more open about my faith & sharing it with people I've always known, and to be concerned about my fellow man in general. " - Eden Team Member

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 through the local Church.

New potential projects would include:

Expanding bed ridden widow care
Micro financing projects for capable working widows

Persons Responsible for the Project:

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

For more information contact:

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