

✓ Ukraine, Priazovje *Orphanage Update*

The Priazovje Orphanage was started by the local Baptist church who saw a need. After prayerful consideration they were given a vision to open an orphanage. In 1998 renovations began on the first building after capital funds were received from the MCC. Four years later, the Priazovje Orphanage opened its doors and began caring for 25 orphans who were placed there by the state.

Since the opening, Priazovje has not received any government assistance; rather the state requires taxes, dictates the amount of orphans sent to the orphanage, and expects specific items to be purchased in order to maintain their government status. The orphanage is currently home to 12 girls and 25 boys in addition to 26 workers.

The cost of heating the orphanage was becoming too much for the orphanage to cover. Since the windows were ineffective at keeping the cold out, the heater could not keep up. The classrooms and the bedrooms were so cold, the children had a hard time focusing on their school work and were falling asleep in the winter months.

The first team to contribute toward replacing the windows was the team from Bethel Mennonite Church in Aldergrove. The project continued when the team from Greendale Mennonite Church took this on as a part of their project costs. Altogether 34 windows have been replaced, and the children can now study and go to sleep in warm rooms. What a blessing to be able to provide for some of the basic needs of these beautiful kids. The staff and children at the orphanage are so thankful for this provision for their needs!

