

Lanny Partain

From: Jay Don and Mary Lee [jaydon@rogers.donbass.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 3:00 PM
To: Brent Albrecht; Bonnie Miller; Dale & Noretta Johnson; Dale Johnson; Kristi Webber; Gene & Geneva Parkinson; Lanny Partain; Yvonne Beckett
Subject: Greetings from Ukraine

Greetings from Ukraine,

We pray this finds each of you doing well. We are doing awesome and it is soooooo great to be together again. After 5 1/2 great months and the birth of a beautiful grand daughter and handsome grand son I am at last back with my husband in Ukraine. I have been home for just about one month and it has just been a total whirlwind!

Our flight home was delayed so we ended up spending Mother's Day in Munich. We were exhausted from the flight so we were not upset at all for the delay. We were taken to a hotel not far away and after checking in, slept the afternoon away. When we got up we went for a walk around the area and found a delightful Italian restaurant where we celebrated Mothers's Day. I was even presented a beautiful yellow rose since I was a Mom! It was as nice as it could be considering I was away from all of my children but I had had so much wonderful time with them all, I wouldn't even think of complaining!

The following day we finally arrived back to Donetsk. NOTHING had changed!!! We left the beauty of Germany and returned to the bleakness of Ukraine but my, oh my, it was great just to be "HOME" and get out of a suitcase!!!

With the flight being delayed we had only THREE days to prepare for graduation, but God is good and all the decorations I had brought from the states arrived in one piece and we were able to put it together very smoothly. Jay Don and I decorated for over 8 hours on Friday the 19th and on Saturday, June 20th we celebrated our 5th graduation. Our theme was "Growing in Christ". We had 10 graduates, 8 men and 2 women. Tim Burrow, missionary from Mariupole gave the main speech. We had over 100 present so it was standing room only. Our most special event of the year is now another wonderful memory.





Our original plans five years ago were to leave Ukraine in the Summer of 2006 but that time has come so quickly and there is just so much going on, we have not even had time to think of moving back so we have extended and agreed to stay a sixth year. We strongly feel this is what God is calling us to do.

The first two Sundays we were back we went to church at Tetralnic. It is a congregation of about 60+ that was meeting in an old run down auditorium close to the river. Vladimir, the man who owns the real estate company and helped us with the Shabonov purchase, agreed to let this group meet in one of his office buildings at NO charge. In the room where we met, there were several pictures of Vladimir and his partner, Sergei, with the President of Ukraine, the Prime Minister and many other high officials. Right smack in the middle of all these pictures is a picture of Vladimir, Sergei and Jay Don Rogers!!! I was quite impressed!

Vladimir continues to still be very kind toward us and will be a key figure in us purchasing the rest of the UBI building.



During the week after graduation Vladimir invited us to his main office to meet with him. We went one night at 5:30 and were still waiting to see him at 7:00. When we got there, we could tell Vladimir was extremely busy and stressed. He was kind enough to keep coming in and apologizing for the delay and finally asked us if we could come back the next evening. Evidently he was in the middle of a very stressful deal and really needed to put it together. We said we would be glad to come back the next evening. We arrived at 7:00 the next evening and had his "undivided" attention until 9:30. He had prepared snacks and tea for us and just wanted to share a lot of his long term goals and dreams for Ukraine. One of his BIG dreams is to remove a lot of the corruption from the government so that the needy can actually be helped. He wants to make lots of money so he can help the run down conditions of Ukraine. He is a very unique individual and you can tell he genuinely appreciates us because of the help we have donated to the needy. This has been one of the most influential ways your donations have helped us in our work in Ukraine. We have a very good reputation in the community for helping the hurting and it is not going unnoticed. If we are able to accomplish anything through all our efforts, it is because of your generous giving and God's unfailing help. THANK YOU!

After our time of visiting he drove us to two of his newest projects where new office buildings are being built. His is very excited about the possibility of helping us purchase the rest of the second floor of UBI. He believes he can really help us and we would ask your prayers for this. It would be just a great benefit for UBI to own all the first and second floors. Again we continually thank God for your funds that you so generously have given and we believe we now have the funds for the purchase IF we can negotiate a reasonable price. This will be one of our main goals as soon as we return in mid July. Jay Don had an excellent meeting with the woman, Masha, who owns four of the rooms and she has told him that she wants to come to an agreement.

Last Sunday we went out to a little congregation in Makeevka that has really been struggling,. It had gone down to about three people because of many problems. Jay Don has just placed one of our graduates there in hopes of "starting over and rebuilding". So far he has been doing a great job and there were 16 there this past Sunday. It was an exciting day. This little group is where Artom, one of our graduates was baptized and then just a few weeks later baptized his grandmother. Artom's mother is also one of our graduates and has converted her sister also. We feel very positive about this situation now and ask for your prayers that this little group may grow and blossom for the Lord.



This month we tried our best to see several of the orphanages we work with. The first one we visited was "Street Kids". We took them some much needed clothes. We had just received 16 boxes of clothes from the Calgary Church so this was perfect timing. God is Good!

Part of their ceiling had caved in during the Winter and they were badly needing money to repair the roof. Due to your generosity money has been given to make these roof repairs. They hope to start on the repairs soon, now that the weather has warmed up. We have also purchased new benches for the children to use outside and had new paint put on their "play ground equipment" plus adding a couple of sand boxes for the little ones. This is the orphanage where they literally get kids off the street, de-lice them, medically test them and then find them a permanent orphanage so they will at least have food and a roof over their heads. They have 40 children at this time ages 3 to 18. When Gene and Marilee Cash and Don and Kay Koontz were here last May they were allowed to teach the children here Bible stories because of the good relationship we have with them. Just another amazing door God has opened because of your help. Both of these families took their Christmas money to help this orphanage and others.







On June 1st, "Children's Day" we were invited to a program at the Cardiac Sanatorium. After watching their program the director had us for tea and then showed us how the repairs were coming along that we have paid for with your donations. They are so very pleased with all the repairs. They just glow with excitement to have this help coming their way. We have had several of the rooms painted or wall papered and new lino put down. We have bought new bed coverings and are now having a "bath room" re done for them. They are really excited about this. It was just awful and something you or I would never dream of using!!! Ron and Patti Fox have been very instrumental in raising funds for this work as well. We really appreciate their efforts.

We have also been out to the Children's Cardiac Hospital where there has been a new washing machine installed. What a difference from the old to the new. (See photo.) They asked us this time if we would think about buying them a dryer. (You can tell by the picture they really need a dryer!!) We told them many Christians from American and Canada had especially wanted to buy washing machines for the hospitals but we were sure they wouldn't mind if we bought a dryer or two!!! They were thrilled. It is just hard to imagine a hospital in the States or Canada not having a washing machine or dryer!!!





The Cardiac Children's Hospital is also very proud of a new EKG halter which has been purchased. With your help we have been able to get this EKG halter which will be used by children and it will be free to them. Many of these families could not begin to pay for the cost of using this kind of equipment. The cost for this halter was \$3500 but it will be a blessing to many children.



Today we went out to one of the hospitals where we placed another one of the new washing machines. They are just thrilled. They had been doing their washing by hand. You can tell by the picture the laundry has piled up and they can hardly wait to start using it! This hospital also needs new mattresses for regular beds and baby beds. The mattresses are just filthy and the beds all broken down though the doctor we were with told us this was one of the **better** hospitals!!! The needs are never ending but we are so very thankful we are able to help any way we can.





One very wonderful project that is going on right now is a result of many boxes of brand-new baby clothes and baby items donated by some wonderful ladies in Mesa, Arizona. Some of the clothes have already been donated to the "Street Kids Orphanage" and to the "Children's Hospital". Right now, one of our translators, Svyeta Kolbzev, is contacting local churches to find out about needy families in the church and community. She is putting the baby clothes in packages to be given out to these families, in the name of the Lord and His church. These gifts will say we love you and may open more doors of opportunity to spread the gospel and Christ's love. We all will never know how far reaching these acts of kindness will go. Thank you ladies so much for these new clothes and what they are doing for the cause of Christ.

We will be leaving this Sunday to fly to Vancouver, Wa. to see our children and let Jay Don have a peek at his new grandson. Later we will go up to Vancouver, Canada to let Jay Don see his new grand daughter and of course Hannah and our children. Then somewhere on or around the 4th of July our daughter will present us with grandchild number four so we are in for more exciting times. Our family is definitely in the expanding mode!!

We will be on your side of the world for about a month and look forward to seeing as many of you as we possibly can.

Again Jay Don and I both thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do for us and for our work in Ukraine. May God bless you each abundantly.

Much Love in Him,

Jay Don and Mary Lee

PS: Just wanted to add one more thing!! June 6th was our 39th anniversary. Of course Jay Don had a very special day planned. We celebrated at our usual favorite place, the Titanic Restaurant and he had arranged for the piano man to come in. It was a lovely day but more than that it had been a great blessing from God to have had 39 years with a wonderful Christian man who loves the Lord.

