

DEAR FRIENDS, after almost twelve years of ministry in Eastern Europe, still the most heart-wrenching moments I experience are visiting run-down state orphanages for abandoned children.

I thought over time I'd become desensitized to this, but it just hasn't happened. Having my own children (three in the past four years) has only heightened my sensitivity to their situation. I now understand clearly how critical it is for children to have loving parents and a home.

It's hard for me to imagine my son Mark (almost 4 years old) living on the streets, frightened and all alone. Or living in a facility with 60 or 100 other kids, without a mom or dad to snuggle with him at night before he goes to sleep. And yet tens of thousands of children in Ukraine are doing just that.

And inside each of those little orphans or street children is a hunger to belong to someone - to be part of a real family.

This becomes apparent when visiting an orphanage. There's a palpable heightened

Ihor, Bohdana and Angelina



Nevolko's new Foster Home



level of expectation the moment you enter the front doors.

Though I can't speak Ukrainian, through the language of their eagerness to be touched or held; the pleading look in their eyes, I can clearly hear the deepest yearning of their hearts, to be chosen by me - rescued.

My heart still aches as I recall one little orphan girl of about 4, who after picking her up, wrapped her little arms tight around my neck and pleaded with me, repeating over and over: "I want home, I want home!"

Most children have become separated from their fathers and mothers by alcoholism, imprisonment, or simply abandonment; and live, for years, with an aching expectation that their father or mother will remember them and eventually come back for them.

I imagine it must be this hopeful expectation that sustains many children through the painful reality of growing up alone without love.

Well, thankfully the "winds of change" are blowing through the orphanage system of Ukraine. The country is finally making changes with respect to its orphanage dilemma. Their plan is to do away with state-run facilities in favor of a Foster Home system.

It's similar to the course the country of Romania has been on for the past 10 years.

Bottom-line, what will this mean for Ukraine's orphans? Good news. A 'home' setting is a much better environment than an institution; and many orphans may now have an opportunity to be raised by loving parents in a Christian environment.

What does this mean for us in the West? Equally good news. It's going to provide us with numerous opportunities to get involved supporting Christian Foster homes and "rescuing" hundreds of orphans.

Let me give you one example. A year ago we introduced you to the Nevolko family. It's a heart-warming story of Ihor and Bohdana, with 4 girls of their own, deciding to adopt a blind girl named Ulyana (renamed Angelina).

Subsequently, God laid upon their hearts a desire and vision to care for more orphans. But how could a poor family living in a small



Lloyd Cenaiko with son Mark

two room apartment open up a Foster home for orphaned kids?

Nevolko's prayers and expectations of a miracle happened this spring. A Ukrainian businessman, who'd recently begun attending a Baptist church in Lviv, heard about their dream. God obviously touched his heart with their story, because he promptly purchased them a beautiful home, large enough to house ten to twelve children.

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HART was happy to provide the Nevolkos with a van and some volunteers to help them move in. We've already installed a Play-Center for the kids too.

Although the government will provide some support, according to the Nevolkos, their greatest needs are 1) prayer support 2) finances to complete construction on the second floor of the house, which will be the bedrooms for the kids and 3) a passenger van for transportation.

HART is already partnered with three Christian foster homes in Ukraine, and we're currently looking into potential partnerships with several others.

What a great opportunity to help orphans finally satisfy that hunger to "belong to someone—to be part of a real family," by supporting a Christian Foster home. We'd ask you to prayerfully consider getting involved in this exciting new project.

Our sincere, grateful thanks to you for your faithful support of HART's ministry.

Lloyd Cenaiko, President