Good News from Ministry Team in Ukraine
Youth Respond to Gospel at Orphanage and Juvenile Colony

When we made our first trip to Ukraine in 1995, we had no way of knowing the plans God had for us and for the people we met there. It was during that trip that we met Viktor, who was put into a dumpster as a baby by his mother, grew up in orphanages and juvenile jails and landed in adult prison as a young man. It was there that he found Christ. Since then, Viktor has been ministering in adult prisons in Ukraine, but is now following God’s leading to focus on youth there, and has asked us to help him.

John Kinsley, our international coordinator, is in Ukraine now to work with Viktor and many others that he has met over the years of ministering in that country. John sends good reports of all that God is doing during this trip:

The youth camp was almost cancelled because of a schedule conflict at the orphanage. The team called for prayer and God intervened. Many new boys, recently displaced and transferred from a larger orphanage attended for the first time. Another concern was entering the juvenile prison colony, but officials finally granted permission. When Sergei (local pastor) and I arrived at the colony we were met by the director, who welcomed us warmly and asked us to speak to all of the young men in the colony. Many heard the Gospel for the first time, and two responded by praying to accept Christ, even though they could face violent opposition.

Fifteen other young men who attend the weekly Bible study spent hours asking questions about forgiveness, prayer, life and faith. Lydia, an 85-year-old retired nurse, leads the Bible study and visits the prison 2-3 times a week to care for the boys, often buying them food and clothing from her limited pension. Recent cutbacks have created even more urgent needs in the colony, and the director has asked for help providing food for the boys. (Read more about Lydia and her irrepressible faith on our blog.)
Registration is open for **Juvenile Justice Institutional Ministry Models**, our next juvenile justice ministry course. The course will be held on May 17-21, at the Gordon College campus in Lynn, MA.

To be effective in juvenile ministry, chaplains and ministers must fully understand the environment in which they labor. Juvenile facilities are a cross-cultural environment with multi-complex and competing interests. Participants in **Juvenile Justice Institutional Ministry Models** will learn to be systems sensitive in dealing with the divergence of mental health issues, staff concerns of safety and security, and an environment that is often skeptical of the influence of religion on young lives.

Participants are eligible to receive graduate degree credit, ministry certification or continuing education credits. Housing is available on the Gordon College campus in Wenham, MA. For registration and information go to [here](#) on our website.

Please help us spread the word and raise the necessary funds for a much-needed new building for our ministry in Lynn, MA.

A generous foundation is matching each gift we receive for the new building that will house our Lynn programs and House of Hope Church, up to a maximum of $125,000. Each week gang-involved youth meet together for Bible studies, recovery groups, job training and support through our programs. They also worship together and help feed and clothe homeless through the House of Hope Church, which was started by our staff and meets in our Lynn location. If you would like to contribute toward this fund, simply indicate “Lynn Building Fund” on your check or [donate online](#) by
designating “Lynn Building Fund”.

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