

Greetings from Kursk!

Reflecting on the last months when we were in The States, and on the work going on here in Kursk, I'm filled with gratitude both to God and to all who partner with us on both sides of the ocean. God tells us over and over again that what we sow, we will also reap. Many good things are happening, not yet a full harvest but shoots, buds and leaves are springing up all over, showing that in time we can expect a harvest.

First, I'm grateful for new donors (and old donors) in North America whom God has called to partner with us.

Financially we made a big step forward over the summer. The Harbor is not yet fully funded but by God's power and grace we are *much* closer.

Last year I wrote about the difficulties we had in getting girls into the program. The girls we know showed that they were much more interested in boys and what they call "freedom" than they are in making something of themselves in the long term. With the absence of girls in the program last year we sowed our time and resources by developing relationships with many different girls in several dormitories and orphanages. Now we are reaping the harvest by finally having a start in the girls program! Praise God for that! More about this in another letter.



*New funding has allowed us to take on a much-needed mentor for the boys. Valeri, left, has a great deal of experience with orphans. God has gifted him with a great ability to connect with kids in spite of a significant age difference. Valeri has been a great addition to our team, bringing both maturity and humor. We are grateful to God for him and to those who have supplied the finances to make it possible!*

A word from Ilia, director of the boys' house:

**By God's mercy our team has the inspiration and ability to develop our ministry to orphanage graduates in Kursk and the region. After the summer break, our participants are returning to their usual routines. Serge, Edward and Roma are continuing to live and work on the farm. The boys house is big enough for three people but we were thrilled last winter when God opened up the opportunity to have Alexei, a fourth person live there. Alexei has since found some relatives who have started supporting him, allowing him to live on his own, for which we are grateful to God. It turned out, however, that God had plans for that fourth place. At the end of the summer we met another Alexei. He is an orphanage graduate, though a little older than the other boys**



**at the house. In recent years because of lack of housing and a non-contagious disease that causes sores to break out all over his body, Alexei was forced to live in subhuman conditions, often in the forest, where he gathered berries for food. Now he is a participant in The Harbor where we are helping him with medical treatments and also helping him restore lost documents.**

**I earnestly request that you pray for our boys, for their internal world, that their spiritual searching would bring them to Christ!**

Ilia's dream and vision has been to use the property at the boys' house as a farm. One of the more significant needs orphans have is learning the value of work. The farm will give the boys responsibilities and opportunities to earn money. The barn Ilia is building already has walls and a roof and houses a sheep and a horse. Ilia's goal is to have chickens, lots of them, by the spring, so that the boys can have daily responsibilities and regular income from the eggs.

Thank you for your prayer and support in this ministry! May the joy of Jesus be yours in full!!!

*Ken*



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