

SMETHURST MINISTRIES



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Our Dear Friends,

We trust you are well and safe at this time – kept by the power of God. bless you for your wonderful friendship and longstanding partnership in the Gospel. Thank you for your kindness and generosity to the needy children of the Odessa Province in Ukraine over the last 10 months.

A Happy & Joyful Christmas to you from Odessa, Ukraine

After all the trauma and loss, they have experienced in 2020, it's so precious to see these children full of joy at the thought that their needs are being met by your kind gifts. As Christmas fast approaches, there is a joy in the eyes of the orphans, because they have realised that the Lord who has kept them alive and well over the last 10 months, will continue to meet their needs now and in the future.



Earlier this year with this pandemic began to isolate people, and loneliness of separation from their friends amongst the other orphans, began to grow, no one was thinking of Christmas.



We want to make sure that the needs of the 7,500 displaced orphans whom we have reached, will be met over the Christmas season, even for the Brain Damaged Babies in the Baby Orphanage. This is what we trust our 3rd Rescue Mission to the remote villages in the Odessa Province will achieve. Please pray and stand with us during

the crucial months ahead into 2021.

We've just purchased another 3,000 kilograms of food products and hygiene products, to continue the Rescue Mission through December through the Christmas season into the new year. It's got really cold there are present, so we are looking to keeping all these needy children warm and safe.



We've acquired 1,000 more picture Bibles in Russian to ensure they'll get the meaning of Christmas in the right perspective by making Jesus Lord of their lives at this time. Over 9,000 children and destitute people have been brought to Jesus, by our local teams of workers, over the last 10 months. Christmas will have a different meaning for them from this year onwards.

It's been an incredibly busy 10 months and extremely fruitful with our Rescue Missions in the Odessa province. These are our current statistics - over the last 10 months our local Rescue Teams in Odessa have visited **330 country villages** in the



Odessa Province and reached over **7,500 needy orphans** who were evicted from their Orphanage Boarding Schools at the beginning of the COVID-19 quarantine lockdown. Our local teams have given out **5,000 Survival Packs** of non-perishable food and hygiene products, to many hundreds of needy families and **3,000 picture Bibles** to poor children and families who have just received Jesus and are reading the Word for the first time. What a great start for them, and what a time of harvesting into the Kingdom of God the last ten months has been!

Training Young “Shepherds” to bring people to Jesus

It's been such a blessing to train and equip many people in personal evangelism, in the Odessa region over the last 3 years. This has paid off with these humble local people leading so many effectively to Christ over the past 10 months.

We recorded a Christmas video with an encouraging Christmas message based on how God chooses to use people in His service



those who are weak, lonely, broken and discarded, like the youngsters and leaders at the House of Hope.

It's to these valiant young people, **and to you as well**, that we dedicate this blessing. Please enjoy some of the kids and staff of the House of Hope singing a well-known Christmas hymn, and thanking you for meeting their needs. Not all of them could be there – some were working, some were ill, builders and labourers were busy with building work to get the extensions to the House of Hope finished. We'd like to bless these builders with financial gifts for their families in Western Ukraine, while they are working to finish the roof and the extensions to the House of Hope.

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AtnZJIRPR0KOipZmopLfUnbNq8xkvA?e=RdCPiu>

Please excuse some of them singing off key. Many have come to the Lord this year and have never done this before. Enjoy their joyfulness and gratitude to God and to you, for your gifts that allowed them to “rescued” and brought into a relationship with Jesus and into the House of Hope. There are so many more waiting to come and live in this wonderful haven, when the building of the extensions is complete.



New Van needed for transporting Children and conducting Rescue Missions

For many years our mission teams and local rescue teams have used very old vans that are more than 35 years old. They are breaking down at vital times, needing frequent repairs, and old safety airbags are exploding when the vans hit a big pothole in rough country roads.



Click on the link below, and watch the video clip of Peter, our Odessa manager, talking about the Survival Packs, Bibles and other essential medicines and hygiene products that need to be delivered to displaced Orphans and destitute Families.

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AtnZJIRPR0KOipZyWm0PLKJciGPmXA?e=BCFQOW>

The old motor vehicles at the House of Hope are fading, and we are proposing to buy a 4 year-old Mercedes Sprinter Van that has 18 seats that can be removed, to carry



survival goods as well as children - to schools, hospital, outings and rescue missions. This van will cost \$30,000. An elderly widowed lady has donated \$18,000 and a friend of hers donated \$4,000 to buy a trailer.

These Rescue Missions our teams conduct are not haphazardly chosen but guided by the **Child Protection Services** who have information as to where the needy children and families are situated. A strong Christian young lady heads up this government department and asked us to help find the displaced orphans in this province, and help destitute families with needy children, who desperately need help. The local government doesn't have the funds or resources to meet this tragic need. What a privilege to be in the right place at the right time, to rescue the needy orphans and poor families.



The Governor of the Odessa province met Peter at a recent medical conference. Peter was attending the conference at the invitation of the directors of the **Brain-damaged Baby Orphanage** and the **Children's Cancer Hospital** that we support. Peter has become the local chaplain of these wonderful havens for sick and needy children. The Governor was astounded at the fact that a local Orphans & Homeless Kids Centre was doing this mercy work funded by committed overseas donors. Peter and I will meet with this man when the lockdown lifts. I want the opportunity to bring him to Jesus.

A Happy and Blessed Christmas to you

We pray that you'll have a very peaceful and safe Christmas, and that 2021 will be a wonderful year with breakthroughs and victories from our heavenly Father's gracious hand.



We love and appreciate you,

Dave & Margurita Smethurst