



New Beginnings

Safe Homes for Children

Registered Charity No: 1087263

Dear friends and supporters

I am sorry this year's Newsletter is a little late but I could only make a visit to Ukraine earlier this month. This visit has allowed me to give you up to the minute news on Genesis House, so I hope you will forgive me. Ukraine is still in a state of conflict but Kiev was peaceful at the time of my visit. The City is currently busy with local elections so there will once again be many changes in local government officials, including the Mayor. This makes it difficult for us as we have to establish new relationships with the newly appointed appropriate departments.

1 Chronicles 19 Verse 13

"Be strong and courageous, lets fight hard for our people and the cities of our God and may the Lords work be done

Fortunately, we have a good history and working relationships with most of the officials so that makes things a lot easier.

Genesis House, Ukraine

Unfortunately our family from Crimea (mentioned in our last newsletter) were not suitable as our New Foster Parents. Our aims and expectations were completely different regarding the care of children we are responsible for. They are now happily settled in the village they were born in, are safe, and well with the children healthy again after their stay at Genesis House. We all prayed very hard that the Lord would send the right couple to take over from Sasha and Olena. Our prayers were answered a few months ago when a wonderful Christian couple from our church in Kiev came forward wanting to be part of our ministry. Our new Foster Parents are Oleg and Natasha Wovk; they have two grown up children and a son Bohdan who is

eleven. They started their training with Social Services and moved into Genesis House two months ago when their training was completed. How wonderful is that? Sasha and Olena were there to help them get to know the house and help with all the paperwork for our new children. Two days before my visit our new children arrived and we have a boy, Alosha aged 12, a girl, Anya aged eight, a boy Timor aged four and a half, Twin boys, Stas and Vlad aged two and a half.



Our five new children (front row) with their new foster parents meeting some of the older Genesis House children

They are from one family but they had been split up and lived in different shelters for the last six months which was very traumatic especially for the little ones. Our new parents have worked hard to bring this family back together again and I saw for myself how happy and confident they were now they have all been re-united.

Jeremiah 31 Verse 10

The Lord Says, "Nations listen to me, and proclaim my words on the far off shores. I scattered my people, but I will gather them and guard them as a Shepard guards his flock"



Patrons: General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL,
Rt Rev James Newcome Lord Bishop of Carlisle
Mark Turner QC, Martin Bell OBE, Gareth McKeever

Trustees: Pat Harrison MBE, Paul Smith, Margaret Smith, Andrey Donsky, Ivan Bepalov, Alexander Donskoy



Our five new children all have different Fathers and lived in an apartment with their Mother and five others. The apartment comprised of one bedroom, a kitchen and a bathroom. The conditions were terrible and the children had to fend for themselves. The Social Services stepped in and the HIV positive Mother is now being stripped of her parental rights. No other Foster home was prepared to take in five children from one family. The children have all been HIV tested and are virus free and now they are safe will grow healthy and well-adjusted like all the other children who have spent time at Genesis House.

To co-incide with my visit the Social Services arranged an official re-opening of Genesis House to welcome our new Foster Parents and the new children. New Beginnings was given a special award for our work with "Children in Crisis" and commended on the example we had set within the Kiev area.



They now have 10 new Foster Homes following the example we set some 12 years ago. Many officials attended the opening from the current Deputy Mayor to the Chief Fire Officer. They along with a trio of local business men supporters brought gifts and sports equipment for the new children. This was a good example to me that we are still working in partnership with the local authorities and hopefully our relationship will grow from strength to strength. Social Services pay a small amount for each child and New Beginnings pays the wages and upkeep of the house along with the Gas bills. We have arranged for Natasha to get help from Anya, a previous employee, whilst the children are so young. Our other big expense is the

keeping running of our seventeen year old mini bus which we use to ferry the children about in. We hope to raise some funds to find a replacement.



We had our own gathering at Genesis House at the weekend during my visit and it was attended by our Foster Parents (new and retired), and our grown up young people including Yan and his adoptive parents. It was wonderful for me to see these handsome, healthy youngsters enjoying themselves and taking time to mix with the new children. It brought back memories of them arriving at Genesis House as little children from horrific backgrounds. We know that provided they work hard at their College and jobs they will have a bright future and our immediate concern is that they will be called up into the army and we worry for their safety.

Hebrews 10, Verse 23-25

Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise. Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer.

Great News

The local Mayor and Council have taken over responsibility for the Borispol Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children and Youths. They have appointed a new head in place of Valentina, Katerina

Ivanivna is doing a fine job and when we visited all the children and one member of staff put on a concert for us.



As usual it was brilliant and we all laughed and had fun. Unfortunately the powers that be will not pay for transport for parents who have no transport but who's children desperately need the physio etc. that the centre supplies. New Beginnings have elected to fund the fuel for their minibus to transport the children and also continue to pay for the Masseur which they need especially in winter.

Genesis Hostel, Malawi

The hostel is now virtually completed and I understand is nearly at full capacity. They still need a few more beds to complete the venture. Called Genesis Hostel at our request, it now stands on Genesis Way. The new Kitchen and dining rooms are fully functional and the hostel is able to be used out of school term time by a third party at holiday time to generate a small income to help with its upkeep.



The hostel has created five new jobs with additional staff needed. Two Ladies used to walk to the old kitchen with fruit and veg carried in baskets on their heads. Now that the Hostel is up and running, they have made enough income to be able to purchase a bicycle each and buy mattresses for their families at home to

sleep on. How fantastic is that? It has created its own little success story in being able to give a new start in life to not only the girls going to school but an income for needy families. New Beginnings has also offered for the neediest girls to fund their education by way of a bursary and scholarship.

We are so happy that for so small an outlay so many people will benefit for generations to come.

Malachi 2 Chapter 3 Verse 10-13

Bring the full amount of your tithes to the temple, so that there will be plenty of food there. Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of Heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things.

Pat Writes

We at New Beginnings own a never ending debt to Sasha and Olena for the twelve years they were our Foster Parents. They, through their talents and deep faith created a wonderful loving home for all our children. They opened up a world of music, ballet and concerts besides getting the best out of each child regarding their education. Sasha is almost irreplaceable for his dedication to making our resources cover twice what they should and Olena for her talent at being our interpreter, finding a way through the complex rules and regulations of Social Services and both of them for their joint organising skills always making my visits go so smoothly.



We must also mention the hard work they have put into our garden along with help from Lydia and of course the way they have managed to keep Genesis House in pristine condition. We will never lose touch as they are part of the "New Beginning" family but we wish

them good health and happiness in the next step of their lives.

With Sasha and Olena now retired our team in Ukraine is Trustee and Director, Pastor Ivan Bepalov and Oleg and Natasha Wovk as Foster Parents at Genesis House. Anatoli our retired Local Government Friend has volunteered to act as Liaison Officer between the Disabled Centre activities and Ivan.

BOHDAN SWERYDA aged 86 years recently passed away in Carlisle. He was a faithful Ukrainian & a great supporter of New Beginnings. He was an inspiration to me and many people he came in contact with. Bohdan was one of life's true Gentlemen and I will sadly miss him. His intelligence and insight has helped me through the years especially when we started the charity. His beautiful Wife Molly of 53 years has all our love and support at this sad time. Pat.

This only leaves me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and Healthy New Year. Without your support none of this work would be possible.

Thank You and God bless.

Patricia Harrison MBE Founder, Trustee & Chairman

One in a Thousand

As you know our on-going projects in Ukraine and Malawi are up-and-running now. However, our work is not done yet. There are always more children in crisis we can help and with your help we will. We only need 1000 people to donate £10 a year to carry on saving lives.

Would you like to become One in a Thousand?

Your donation for one or more consecutive years would provide for the children and ensure their future. In return for your gift each year you will receive regular updates on the lives of the children we support and the work of New Beginnings Charity.

If you would like to make a donation, set up a standing order or become "1 in 1000", please fill in the form and send it to us with the cheque made out to **New Beginnings**. **If you do not pay tax, please tick "NO GIFT AID" on the form.** The donations made through Gift Aid mean that your gift could be worth more without any further cost to you simply by completing the form. This will help us to recover the cost of the postage. Only a small proportion of money donated to New Beginnings goes towards running expenses of the charity! All

members of our committee are dedicated volunteers. Therefore, when you make a donation you can be sure that the majority of it will go straight to the children and **not** to cover various administration expenses.

Donation Form / Gift Aid Declaration

I would like to become 1 in a 1000

I would like to make a donation

Title _____ Initial _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Amount _____

(Please make cheques payable to New Beginnings)

Date _____

Phone (optional) _____

I am a UK taxpayer and would like New Beginnings to reclaim tax on the enclosed gift.

NO GIFT AID

Note: You must pay an amount of income tax and / or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give). Otherwise, tick "NO GIFT AID"

New Beginnings will not pass your details on to any other organisation.

If you would like to set up a standing order, please contact us for bank details.

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