

NEWSLETTER #3

September – November, 2019

Inspiration Centre



Thank you for your interest in our ministry for orphans, Roma and families in need in Ukraine! We are excited to share what God is doing here using ordinary people to bring the hope of the Gospel to the most neglected but precious groups of people in our country. We pray as you read through this Fall Newsletter, you will grow to understand more of what we could accomplish together with you.

Contact Person:

Nina Ognivchuk

Email: inspirationcentrea@gmail.com

WhatsApp / Viber: +38 097 960 37 07

Servants for God's glory in His Kingdom

There are three magic words that drive the ministry at the Inspiration Centre:

1. **To Love** – Unconditionally – “And above all things have fervent love for one another...” (1 Peter 4:8)

2. **To Pray** – Earnestly – “For I hope in You, O LORD; You will answer.” (Psalm 38:15)

3. **To Serve** – Willingly - “I will very gladly spend and be spent for you...” (2 Cor. 12:15)

These aren't just words! They are VERBS! People are tired to hear a lot from TV, or politicians, or even at church. Today people need to see our WORK and that's what faith is about. “...Faith without works is dead...” (James 2:26)

There are two groups of people who help us to reach lost people:

1. servants – team, volunteers, missionaries

2. donors – people who donate money, cloth, shoes, food, etc

These two groups can't do #3 – TO SERVE – if they don't LOVE people and can't PRAY for them!

Our team consists of 7 people now. We have four brothers and three sisters.

Sasha Ognivchuk & his family
(Bible Study Coordinator)



Anna Pustovit
(Orphans' Ministry Coordinator)



Oleg Stanislavov & his family
(Preacher, Roma Ministry Coordinator)



Rossana Afanasiade
(Cook & Cleaner)



Nazar Ognivchuk & his family
(Driver, Working Hands Project Coordinator)



Nina Ognivchuk
(Program Coordinator, Accountant)



Nazar Martynov
(Craft Coordinator, Working Hands Project Coordinator)



Join us TODAY!



The harvest

is truly plentiful, but the labourers are few;
Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest,
that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

MATTHEW 9:37-38

Please, pray for the team unity and every one of us could spend more time in our War Room – “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you” (John 17:20-21a).

Please, thank God for all donors who supported the IC during this year by obeying God's voice. To be honest with you, often we had “only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug...” (1 Kings 17:12) but we prayed hard and God has answered our prayers through donors! We want to say ‘thank you’ to each and every one of you who went to the pocket to make a contribution into the building of God's Kingdom! God is faithful to our ministry in Ukraine and He is faithful to bless you much more for your obedience to His will! Unfortunately, this Newsletter will not have enough space to hold the picture of ever donor but there is a Book in heaven that is recording your deeds made in faith! One day we'll get there and we'll rejoice together with people who came to Christ thanks to your donations!

European Roma Mission Conference

“I’ve met Janne Harjukoski at the Roma Conference in Belarus (August 2019). He is a project coordinator of FIDA organization. Fida is a Finnish missions and development organization, currently working in almost 50 countries. Their aim is to bring hope and a future to the poorest of the poor. In particular, they are working to improve the rights of vulnerable children, including Roma people. I was impressed by the testimony of brother Janne who isn’t Roma but God has given him such a caring heart for Roma people all over the world. At the conference in Belarus we had a short time to talk and inspire each other.

Later I’ve got the invitation to The 3rd European Roma Mission Conference that was held on October 9-12 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was organized by team of “fantastic six” at Roma Networks. There were Roma people from 31 countries gathered together in Sarajevo to praise God and get renewed in our strength to keep the ministry on fire for His glory!

The program of the conference was very inspiring. We had worship services where everyone could enjoy the message from the Bible and testimonies of Roma people from different countries. There were also Roma musicians who glorified God playing different instruments and singing wonderful songs! Every day we had regional meeting – it was the time when we could discuss in small groups how to improve the ministry and reach Roma people today. During coffee breaks we could build the connections and see different presentation tables that gave us extra opportunities for the future.

Janne Harjukoski mentioned in his message, Fish are caught from deep water, not from shore! (Luke 5:1-10)! Friends, lets launch out into the deep!” – *shared Nina Ognivchuk*



Janne Harjukoski, Finland



Ukraine & Belarus & China

Orphans' Ministry



Orphans' Ministry is one of the mission fields where the Inspiration Centre is working hard! What we do?

- **International Prayer Day for Orphans** (November 11) – we have joined all world and spent all 24HR chain prayer for orphans. On that special day orphans from Berezdiv sang their favorite song “Jesus is my best Friend” at Shepetivka Church. There was a meeting for volunteers who sacrifice their time and money to do that ministry in our region.
- **Weekly Visits** – every Wednesday we go to visit orphans at Berezdiv and Yamlip orphanages.
- **Summer / Winter Camps** – experience the life of orphans staying with them 24 HR – eating, sleeping, playing, praying, studying the Bible... and doing that all together with them in the orphanage!
- **Week-ends with Orphans** – we are so blessed to have 2 sleeping rooms that give us an opportunity to host 4-5 orphans every week-ends. It is a unique opportunity to show orphans how to make pizza, to make your bed, to have dinner with one of the Christian families, to go to church on Sunday, to watch Christian movie and eat pop-corn, to go for a walk in the park, and so on. They really enjoy their time at the IC and there is a long list of kids who are waiting on their turn to go to the IC.
- **Family Visit** – there are more social orphans (those whose parents are alcohol or drug addicted). So, we have positive experience working with one family whose stop drinking and the government let them to take their two kids back from the orphanage!
- **Humanitarian Aid** – thanks to the De Ruyter (<https://www.werkgroepderuyter.nl/>), the donation of local people and packages from American churches, we can help orphans with cloth, shoes, mattresses, beds, tables, chairs, etc.
- **Adoption** – there are 2 people who are praying and thinking for the adoption. May God make the way for it to happen in His timing!

Dutch Inspiration Family



“The Inspiration Centre: A heavenly place on earth!

It is an absolute privilege to be involved with the Inspiration Centre from the beginning!

If I think back in time and I see the situation now, it is astonishing! First the dream: Helping and supporting gipsy children and adults and homeless children by practical help and of course telling behaving the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Savior! Visiting families in very simple houses opened our eyes more for the need to help where we can. It is an endless blessing to experience Gods road with our lives.

We have received so much, not to keep for ourselves but to share with them who need it is much. Also in this way we can be, no we have to be an example of Christian Charity. Always from the starting point of equalness. If you see the children, all pearls in the hands of God, in the Inspiration Centre with beaming eyes, for me signs of hope. Hope means having a future. A future here and in eternity! God’s love is so overwhelming and we have the order to share it.

The Inspiration Centre is for me an so called, second home. With the inspired team, for me they are all heavenly gifts. I thank God that He brought the Inspiration Centre on my path! Pray for them and bless them! Another part of work is visiting the orphanages. And give the children there also hope! I pray to God that He will protect the Inspiration Centre team and bless them in all ways! See you soon!” – *shared Jaap de Mooij*



“My wife Maaïke and I have visited the Inspiration Centre in October. For me it was the third time that I was in the IC; for my wife it was the first time. But she had the same experience as me when I came there for the first time. She was overwhelmed by the love that is shown in the IC through the team members and volunteers towards the children and the Gypsy (grand-) parents. We were also touched by the great hospitality of the Gypsies and their enthusiasm when we visited them. It is so great to see that they feel Gods tremendous love by the way Nina, Oleg, Anna and Nazar are treating them. The Light of Christ, our Lord is shining in the Inspiration Centre!!

But we also saw that it is sometimes hard work in the IC and that they have to face many challenges and disappointments. We admire them that they keep going firm and let themselves been driven by the love of Jesus.

We feel it as a privilege that we may be involved in this work. Although we live far away and don’t speak Ukrainian, we can pray for them and support them in other ways and experience great joy to visit them now and then.” – *shared Niek van Gemeren*



Caring for others



Every day we meet people who have different needs... What would you do if you would hear something like that...?

"I'm not stupid... I'm not handicap... I have got two hands and two legs but I have nothing to give for my kids to eat..." (Aliona, mom of 3 kids)

"Do you have extra gloves that you can give me, please. My hands are so cold..." (Solomiia, 14 years)

"I didn't believe in God. When I began to come to the Bible Study at the Inspiration Centre, I still didn't believe... one I was driving with my dad and our car was broken... it was already dark and he tried to fix it but it didn't work... I've decided to pray like you've told me.. and God helped my dad! He's real! Our car was fixed." (David, 12 years)

"Can you give me leftovers of those cookies please? My niece is having the birthday in two days and I have nothing to give her. She would like such cookies." (Natasha)

"Milan, what did you buy for the money you've won last Saturday? - I have bought bread, tea bags, spaghetti for my family" - he answered and kids began to laugh... he began to cry... he's just 10 years and he won \$4 for passing Bible test for "A"... and he could feed his family for it...

"God has answered my prayers! I went to work to Kyiv and had enough money to pay for the room at the hostel. I had no money for food... I've worked till 10 pm at the food store... no money, no food... on my way home I was praying and asking God to help me somehow... I went to my room and my roommate was eating there... the smell of her food made me sick... few minutes later she put a huge bowl of mashed potatoes in front of me and made me to eat!" (Raia, 35 years)

"What is Easter? - it's such time when we can collect all sweets from the graveyards, - said David, 6 years (Ukrainians have such stupid tradition- to bring food to feed dead people)

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:8-9

Radio with Christian messages and audio Bible for people who can't read



Walnuts for Roma families to make some income



He is 95 years old but he keeps making God smiling! Today he brought a sack of the potatoes from his garden



Every month we give away 25 food bags and there are more families who need food



Christian children magazines from the Noah's Ark Ministry



Wardrobe from the Netherlands to family in needs



God has blessed kids with warm gloves and socks



Starting garden project with two Roma families



Thanksgiving Celebration



Oleg Stanislavov is giving the illustration how much God has blessed us



115 lunch boxes weren't enough...

On November 7, 2019 the Inspiration Centre was full of more than 115 Roma people who came from Shepetivka to thank God for all His blessings received this year! Everyone was excited!

Our Roma choir "Bahtale Roma" was nervous as they had papered Thanksgiving songs and poems. They did such a great job!

We had special Thanksgiving Prayer –four brothers, who are serving God, went in front and each of them hold four precious gifts from God – water, bread, Bible and Roma people! They prayed and thanked God for them!

"I was very concerned about Thanksgiving Dinner. First of all we didn't have enough money to prepare it and secondly it was already cold and we don't have enough room for so many people to eat inside... God made a miracle – He gave enough money a week before the celebration, so we made lunch boxes and every one could enjoy delicious meal and fellowship!" – shared Oleg Stanislavov



Inspirational Testimony

My name is Sasha Ognivchuk. I'm 31 years old. I'm one of the founders of the IC ministry. God has blessed us to purchase the building for our ministry three years ago and I helped to work on its renovation... it was a lot of work as much as fun! I still remember how we were putting new roof and it became to snow... so we shoveled snow and tried to do all our best to finish it as soon as possible because there was no place where we could do the church with Roma. When it was warm, I did it outside in the forest but, when it got cold, we couldn't even find a building to rent because nobody wanted to have Roma in their building... even our church was closed to them...

One year later I had a stroke and was diagnosed with MS...it was a challenge for me personally, for my sweet wife, and for the ministry too... due to my health I left the ministry... I've missed it a lot and I praise God for answered prayers – few months ago God showed me the need to explain the Bible for Roma people. So, we have Bible Club 5 days a week at 11 am at the IC. I am impressed how Roma desire to learn the Gospel, they ask a lot of simple and practical questions... We started from book of John. As far as I've lost my sight and can't read now, so my wife would read and I'd explain, we have tea and prayer! Through that ministry God has already changed a lot of hearts.

I am thankful for my wife. I can't drive, so she does that. She loves to cook delicious meal and invite orphans or missionaries for dinner. We together visit families and share our testimony to strengthen their marriage. We also help them to clean in their houses and take better care for their kids, so the social department won't take kids to the orphanage. Moreover, she takes care for me and our two precious kids.

I've lost a lot of health but I've gained a lot of faith! I need your prayers. I wish I could do more for God. I am glad to be a part of the IC and do God's will!



Children Ministry



"It's such a great honor for me to teach my friends in my group. I don't call them kids because I do all my best to build the friendship relationship with them. I see that more and more Ukrainian kids are joining our Bible study and it makes me so excited! As far our room is too small for so many kids, so we usually sit on the tables. I don't make rules for them as far as I can see their excitement and joy. That's all what life is about. I pray every friend would open their heart for Jesus and live another lifestyle than their parents did." – shared Nazar Martynov



"God just gave me heart for kids and I enjoy every activity we are doing with them at the IC. Once I had to do some craft with them... Unfortunately, it's not my gift)) so, I came up with an idea to make sandwiches with them and I don't regret! Everyone has enjoyed it so much. When we made the sandwiches and were ready to sit down and eat them, I've noticed how two kids took the sandwiches and gave to their younger siblings. What a great lesson! I see that modern generation of kids is so different and sometimes I have to adopt my lesson to them. I thank God for every heart." – shared Oleg Stanislavov

"I teach the oldest group. Recently, we've decided to divide boys and girls, so now I have only girls. I had up to 27 girls once, so my group was divided again into two and I thank God for Oksana Pushkaruk who took the responsibility to teach our girls. Once I took my girls to the Women Conference in Polonne. Believe me or not, but they had answered all the questions about the Bible story that the speaker has asked. It was so encouraging! It means that they listen and they remember the lessons taught at the IC." – shared Anna Pustovit



"I teach the youngest group (4-6 years old). We usually have 15-17 kids. I am just amazed that God has trusted me such precious 17 hearts who need Jesus most of all! Their simple questions keep me gridlocked and I often want to laugh... they are so sweet and even at this age, their mind is like a sponge, soaking up huge amounts of information. It often makes me so sad to see how they can't wait to eat hot meal and how much anger they have inside to fight with each other... It just shows their family life. It's so good that we have the IC in our town, so these kids can learn a lot and have good food here." – shared Olya Pasichnyk



American Inspiration Family

"The trip to Ukraine was really good. We went to orphanage and I was sad to find out some children were there because their parents are on drugs and alcohol. We had 4 or 5 stations where our team did thing like craft, games, etc. I did the Gospel with my painted book about Jesus. They responded really good. Then we picked up a lady and her children from school. We visited her children at school. They couldn't eat at school because they had no money. Her husband was in prison. She would not except Jesus Christ into her heart. We visited War World II battle field where they killed the Jews and gypsies. We had BD Party for children in the forest. Nina took us to the market to buy sausages (100) to cook over fire. They had potatoes, salad, water melon, etc. It was sad to know they don't make enough money to feed themselves. I pray now because it is so cold over there. We rode a train to Kyiv to see Nina translate for a American Preacher there. They gave away Bibles (Russian and Ukrainians). There were teams that were telling the Gospel like from South Carolina and KY. We also ate with Nina's family members and had great time also with gypsy families." – shared Arlene Lewis from Friendship Baptist Church



One of my favorite moments was when we went to a Friday night youth gathering at Borys's church. One of the ladies was a Jehovah's witness, but she came up at the end of the service and got saved. After the youth gathering, we were on our way home when Borys said that he just felt like the Holy Spirit was leading him to drive up to that couple's house and pray for the husband and their child. We were on our way there when we actually met the couple walking on the sidewalk back to their house. So we stopped the car and prayed for them right there on the street. The husband promised Borys that he would come up next Sunday morning and accept Jesus as his Lord. He actually kept his word and got saved that Sunday morning. That story just reminded me that the Spirit won't always work in our timing or planning. He sometimes will take us out of normal routine just to work in someone's life. When we feel the Spirit's leading, we should obey and trust that He is in control." – shared Emily Terszakowec from Bethlehem Baptist Church



The First Roma Bible Institute in Ukraine



“In November I found myself once again in Ukraine. It is always a joy to be with Nina and the staff of the Inspiration Centre. I thoroughly enjoy the ministry that God has given us in Shepetivka. It is such a blessing to visit the precious Roma people in their homes; encouraging them, sharing the scriptures with them, comforting them, weeping with them and rejoicing with them. As usual, I was able to preach in the Thursday afternoon service. This time we took some time to share in a giving of thanks to God for His many blessings. What a blessed time of ministry!

I appreciate Brother Sasha inviting me to teach his morning Bible Study while I was in the area. To me it is always a blessing and delight to teach the Word of God. Casting light upon the Scriptures and helping growing Christians to include Bible principles into their daily living is what we are called to do.

That is what I find to be a great encouragement when working together with the precious saint at the Inspiration Centre; everything is focused around the Word of God and prayer.

In June when I was working with Pastor Edik in Mukachevo, I was asked to hold an institute, teaching Bible and practical courses to the Roma pastors and deacons in the area. I spent some time with Nina, Oleg and others discussing the possibility and logistics of such an endeavor. We came to an agreement on the particulars of such an institute.

In November the combined efforts of Roma Outreach Missions Association and The Inspiration Centre realized the first session of Ukraine Roma Bible Institute. The institute was held in Mukachevo. We had seven students, coming from the Mukachevo area, Shepetivka and Belarus. The desire is to teach the Bible and practical church work. The first session was Old Testament Survey, a series of lessons focusing on an overview of the Old Testament. The next session planned for late February will be an overview of the New Testament. We plan to hold three sessions a year for the next four years.

Of course, each time that I come to teach in the Institute, I will also spend at least a week in Shepetivka at the Inspiration Centre. I look forward to a continued presence and ministry in Ukraine.” – *shared Tim Clark, Executive Director of Roma Outreach Missions Association*



Our War Room

Prayer Warriors and Donors. Team and volunteers. Praise God for the hardest work of prayer warriors who dedicated the most precious gift – their time to pray for us! Pray for each team member and the volunteers who are working hard in order to fulfill our mission words (love, pray, serve). Let everyone of us have **first of all** the productive quiet time with God. Let everyone be refreshed by His Spirit and inspired to keep serving willingly. (2 Cor. 12:15) Thank God for all people who support us financially every month that gives us an opportunity to keep the ministry flourish for God! Pray for God to send more workers as far as the field is so big!

Roma Employment. We've been reaching Roma during almost 3 years. We see people who left drug business, or stealing, or being fortune tellers and came to Christ. They are doing the best they can to grow in faith and overcome sinful desires... but a lot of them have 3-6 kids who needs food, cloth, education, medicine, etc... We are afraid to pronounce it with our mouth but with God's help we want to start our own business. There are few options like a bakery, dumpling factory, greenhouses / agriculture, cleaning graveyard service. Pray that God would send people who can be in charge of it as well as have knowledge and some income to start.



Social needs. It is already cold here. So many families are staying in cold houses as far as they don't have the opportunity to buy the firewood... because of that there are many kids sick and some even in the hospital. Unfortunately, we meet families who dream about bread while it's something in our home that we don't notice even. It's a challenge to preach the Gospel for those people who are hungry for bread today! There is a big demand in winter shoes and warm jackets too. There are homeless Roma who don't have place to live and Ukrainians don't want to let them rent their houses.

Home for Orphans. In 2020 Ukrainian government will be focused on applying the law of adoption. The idea is to close all the orphanages in Ukraine in 5 years. It's great idea and I hope it won't be just on the papers. We are doing orphans' ministry for 11 years already. There are 2 people who are praying about the adoption. There is one family who are willing to donate their two floors house in our town for establishing the home for orphans. This house needs to be finished (it has windows, entrance door, walls only). Pray for God's will in this very important and responsible field.



Heating System. As far as you may know we started to install the water heating pump system. It didn't work out because there isn't enough pressure of water. So, we started to use the old system now that gives heat only for the ground floor (it's gas boiler). The price for gas is getting higher, so it's quite expensive but we didn't have choice for this winter. We had an appointment with the director of EcoAlt company (www.ekoalt.com) and he advised to install air heat pump + gas boiler + automation work. They order the heat pump in Italy and provide service and guarantee. The price is much higher than we've expected but we believe in God who has all treasures in this world and He will take care of it in His timing. He has already given about 35% of total budget and if His willing, we'll be able to have warm rooms for our children.



**“Why would we want fame, when God promises us glory?
Why would we be seeking the wealth of the world when the wealth of heaven is ours?
Why would we run for a crown that will perish with time, when we're called to win a crown that is imperishable?” – Paul Washer**