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EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS, WORLD MISSION

Where in the world are we going?

A Little Child Shall Lead Them

from Bianca Leonard (St. John's, New Braunfels)

Madison, Brooke, and Rachel Brotze (below) and MeKenzie Hardaway (right) heard about the needs in East Africa and decided to do something. They held a bake sale which netted a tidy little sum and also set out to solicit donations “to make a difference.”

The girls approached Bianca Leonard, Chair of St. John's Global Outreach, to



determine how best their gifts should be allocated. They were told about the school in Bunyoro-Kitara, Uganda, that recently lost its roof during a storm, and the Outreach Committee, inspired by the young parishioners,

voted to send additional funds with the girls' offerings.

Soon, we expect to hear of students in that Ugandan village returning to school, thanks to four caring young ladies.

Mula's* Story (*Name changed)

Mula is 29 years old with two children, aged 10 and 4. She was infected with AIDS by her husband who died leaving her and the children without money even for rent. When Mula told her family about her HIV status, they stopped visiting, and she was ostracized.

That's when Mula turned to HAPCSO, an HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and support organization in Ethiopia supported by DWTX. She was provided with antiretroviral (ART) drugs, food, and emotional support. Mula began attending group meetings and was taught coping skills and work training. She is now working for a hospital as a salaried consultant with HIV/AIDS patients, and she tracks patients who have defaulted on their ART treatments.

Even Mula's relatives have changed their attitudes toward her, thanks to all the changes and help she has received through the ministry.

Russia: Alumni from the Transitional Homes from Greg Sethness (Christ Church, San Antonio)

To say that life for an orphan in the former Soviet Union can be difficult is a gross understatement. Often, children who are placed in the orphanages are “social” orphans who have parents who, for numerous reasons, are incapable of making a home for their children. The State assumes this responsibility and provides minimal care: housing, food, education. Nurturing, life skills, emotional or moral or spiritual development is not included.* At age sixteen children “graduate” from their assigned orphanages and are given a small stipend and government housing. Approximately 10% are able to transition to a “normal” lifestyle, 10% commit suicide, and the balance fall into prostitution, drugs, and crime. For most, the prospects are grim.

But, thanks to the commitment of DWTX mission-minded people like Greg Sethness, Steve Denney, Tom Hardin, and others, the ministry of the Transitional Homes, which provide Christian family life for orphan graduates, is changing lives. Greg reports on the current status of just a few:

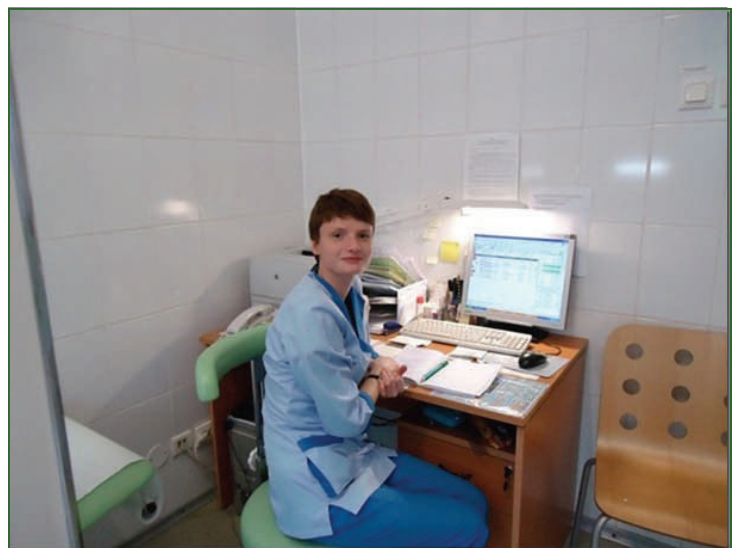
- Misha and Pasha both have jobs. Pasha “talks and acts different” and is saving money to marry Nadya next summer.
- Nelly continues her work at the British Consulate.
- Liza has a job as a baby sitter.
- Tall Anya is in her second year at Teacher’s College.
- Little Anya works at the cancer hospital.
- Leasha is working for his future father-in-law.
- Ira Alekseeva has married, has a baby, and is studying at Teacher’s College.
- Katya is studying at Teacher’s College.
- Anya Shadrina has just graduated from medical studies at the university.

*Faith goes up the stairs that love
has built and looks out the
window which hope has opened.*

Spurgeon

Like the starfish story, one life at a time is being saved by the ministry of the Transitional Homes. This work is being financed to a great extent by allocations from the apportionment funds.

Anya Shadrina



* To read more about the plight of orphans in the former Soviet Union, see the horrific, true story of [The Boy from Baby House 10](#) by Alan Philips and John Lahutsky.

Amazing Glimpses of Hope in Honduras by Patricia Perea

José Anibal, “Orgullosamente becado” (proudly a scholarship recipient) is the way one of the kids from our scholarship program in Honduras signs his name at the end of a thank you note that he just sent me. José Anibal is one of our seven young students that the Manos de Dios scholarship program has been supporting since 7th grade and is now attending college. Jose is studying Civil Engineering. The others are studying Forestry, Computer Science, Industrial Engineering, and three are at Zamorano University studying Agronomy.



We started our scholarship program in February of 2002. The original idea was to offer a scholarship to underprivileged students who had finished 6th grade and could not afford to stay in school. That goal has not changed; we currently have 31 students in the program from grades 7 through 12. However, it was to our surprise that as the first couple of students graduated from high school, they asked the question, “Is there any way that you could help us go to college?” We were thrilled to see that our kids had not only graduated from high school but wanted to keep studying. We decided to expand the program to help some of these well deserving students and give them a chance to go to college. I know what you are thinking... “college tuition? I have not recovered from my own children’s college expenses and thinking about sending other people’s children to college sounds inconceivable.” Well, fortunately, the high costs of college have not caught up in Honduras, and you can attend college for about \$1500 to \$2000 a year. It is still a lot of money, but somehow God has provided, and with the support of so many of you, we have been able to give these children a chance to continue their education.

We had the opportunity to invite our seven college students to dinner while we were in Honduras over Labor Day weekend. It was a clear beautiful evening after an afternoon of summer showers, and we gathered in a nice outdoor patio. It was the first time that we were able to get the seven students together given that four of them are attending colleges in different parts of the country. As the evening progressed, I looked around and heard each one of these remarkable students share their experiences in college, their challenges, their fears, and their big successes. I could not help but think that I had known these children since they were eleven and they were now young adults sitting around the table and talking about their dreams. We were surrounded by amazing glimpses of hope. Hope that we are helping break the cycle of poverty, that we are bringing change to these students, their families, and their community.

I would like to thank all of our scholarship sponsors who have helped the Manos de Dios team change lives in Honduras.

If you are interested in learning more about the Manos de Dios scholarship program, please contact Patricia Perea at 210-241-9258 or perea@gvtc.com

Upcoming Mission Trips and Prayer List

| DATE | LOCATION | TEAM LEADER | DETAILS |
|----------|----------|----------------|----------------------|
| December | Mexico | Sandy Graciano | Children's ministry. |

PRAY FOR OUR LONG-TERM MISSIONARIES: Olson Family (Philippines), Chapman Family (Liberia), Miller Family (Israel), Alison Barfoot (Uganda), Jeannie Loving (Honduras), Harry Gunkel (Israel), Dori and Pedro Zubizarreta (Mexico), Erin Cottos (Haiti).

Mission trips for 2012 are being planned. Most teams are open for membership. If you have a heart for a mission ministry that has not yet been developed, please contact the diocesan missions office: 888/210-824-5387 or email Betty Chumney (chumneyb@aol.com), Marthe Curry (mcurry09@sbcglobal.net), or Chris Dohoney (seedohoney@sbcglobal.net).

Lord of the resurrection, keep us faithful
until the day we see you in
all your glory, face to face.
Help us to never tire of waiting or doing
what we have been commissioned to do.
In Christ's name. Amen.

Moravian Church in North America

To Make a Contribution to World Missions Ministries

To make a contribution to DWTX World Missions Ministries, make your check out to DWTX, write "World Missions" on the memo line, fill out, attach to the form below and mail to: DWTX, PO Box 6885, San Antonio, TX 78209. **You may also go online** to DWTX.org>diocese>world mission and click on the "Donate Online" button. Follow directions for giving.

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Amount \$ _____ Designated Mission _____