

Jan. 2006

Greetings to all of you who prayed for and financially supported the Ukrainian effort in November. Thanks for your patience in allowing us to enjoy the holidays with family before we sent out this report. It was a smooth trip from start to finish, and extremely productive. I'll try to briefly recount some of our adventure for you here.

We headed back to the Ukraine with a team of four: Randy, Jennie, Robin Stanley (a board member and dear friend from Cincinnati) and Mary Mack, a friend of PurityWorks from Northland Church.

The team leader, Zhennya, was concerned about our accommodations. The modern church where we stayed last time was unavailable. Zhennya has dealt with the corrupt orphanage director more than once, and was not sure if the man would be in the mood to let us stay at the orphanage itself.

Amazingly, the director did ask us to stay (we did bring him gifts, after all). This was better for us in the sense that we would be just yards from the children. It was worse in the sense that that we would need to accustom ourselves to the smell, and to the fact that the whole place has only one modern toilet and two makeshift showers. But we forgot these things very quickly. Everything else is more important.

When the 150 children streamed out of their daily school, we immediately took on rock star status. The children recognized Randy and me and were glad to welcome Robin and Mary, who were overwhelmed as we had been by the experience of being at the orphanage for the first time.

In the second building, where the kids sleep, we ate in the cafeteria in the basement. It was large and well-lit, but still dungeon-like. We ate with the children throughout the week, and all of us dealt with digestion issues for the rest of the trip. Some of the food wasn't bad – cheese and sausage, noodles and thick Ukrainian pancakes and cream — other menu items like the sugary water that looks like tea and the fish soup were hard to stomach. Many of the children are small for their age and undernourished, or suffering from dental problems, and we understood why.

This environment of aged, primitive facilities seems to do nothing to diminish the joy of the kids. They are normal children, curious and active, desperate for love and attention. During worship services at night, they stood in line to be held or to have an arm put around them, or fight over positions next to us. It was desperate and emotional at times with 150 of them, and only nine of us.

But our visit was very productive. We prepared our gifts and lessons, and waited in the gym room for our cue from the director, who suspiciously watched our every move. When he gave the signal, we ran to the classroom building with our supplies and began as quickly as possible. With the younger girls, we passed out treats and paper dolls to color, designed by an Orlando artist, and talked about our bodies and modesty. The girls in this place are in special danger, and one of our goals was to help them understand their bodies and protect themselves from boys who know less than they do and adults who might overpower them. They have uniforms for school, but have posters on their walls of underclothed entertainers. How do they get there???

With the older girls, we gave away clothes and packets of feminine products, which my Ukrainian translator and good friend, Svyeta, explained in detail, tearing apart products to show how they work. (Thank you SO MUCH to all the moms who donated new underwear and products—there was just enough for every girl to have her own packet!) I drew a crude poster of the reproductive organs in a woman's body, and told the girls how wonderfully they are made. We suspected that some of them did not know the connection between sex and babies, and we told them. Such ignorance in their circumstances could be tragic.



We noticed an immediate warmth from the girls after these sessions. It was as if fear was rolling off them—now that they knew, they had a secret with each other. We spoke directly to the older girls as older sisters who must encourage the younger ones and keep them from fear.

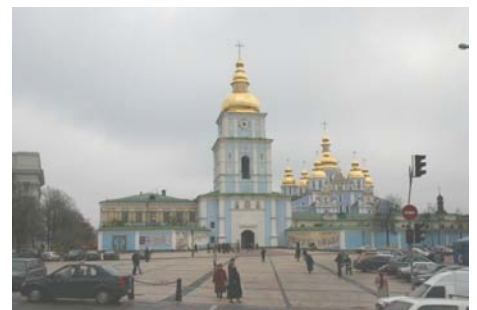
The boys begged for a similar session, and Randy and Zhennya stepped into the fray and presented to the young men, many of whom are in danger of corruption from older boys who return to campus with less than honorable intent. God provided beautifully for the boys by including in our team a young man who has just married after 8 months of engagement and sexual purity. If research holds, 60% of these boys will end up as alcoholics or criminals. About the same number of girls will become prostitutes. That is why we continue to come.



The days were over too soon, and we left after an emotional evening in the children's dormitory. Trying to say goodnight to 150 love-starved children is an emotionally devastating experience. The lady in charge was yelling (we had children pulled early out of classes twice with similar demands and physical force), and the children were loud and couldn't be kept in bed. There are 20 or more beds to a room in their building, and the cries of these children as we handed out last-minute gifts and hugs were burned on our hearts. Some of them wept and wept. One little girl named Tania gave Robin her most prized possession, a worn, torn copy of a Disney princess book. Others

received similar gestures, and wrote piles of notes to those who had previously visited—our pockets are stuffed with these precious sentiments. These children who have nothing act more generously than many wealthy people we know—including ourselves.

Halfway home we dropped off a young man who has “graduated” from the orphanage at 15. He attends trade school in Chernigov, which he says is better than the orphanage. He spent all he had and walked three hours to see us. We replaced the money he spent, but I sobbed as I watched his face disappear through the van window. Lev is only a little boy, alone and forced to make his way. His courage is amazing.



Kiev was like whiplash after the orphanage. We stayed right down the street from St. Sophia and St. Michael's, and a block from the square

where the Orange Revolution took place. The city is beautiful, our apartment allows for luxurious showers, and we shift gears abruptly to accomplish our next goal — a seminar on purity for a young downtown church called Almaz.



With your support, PurityWorks made it possible for the church to secure a meeting place. The church planned for 50 to attend. 85 people attended the seminar. It was wonderfully exhausting because they were all so completely engaged. I gave three sessions and Randy videotaped, with small group discussion and a meal in between. They asked questions until I was hoarse. We told stories and shared purity testimonies from our own lives. The people were attracted to our vulnerability as these subjects are not usually discussed openly. We were all bonded together during this full day of learning and sharing. The church leaders were thrilled with the response. We are duplicating these talks now as Almaz wants to distribute them to churches all over the region.

A pamphlet from PurityWorks was also distributed at the seminar that listed ways to avoid the top ten temptations to impurity in Kiev (as listed by the church's leadership). We also left behind a Bible study on Proverbs 4-9 that would help those who attended follow up in a small group afterward.



As we look towards our next trip to Kiev, we are seeing even more opportunities to share the purity message. Roger McMurrin, the conductor of the Kiev Symphony, has asked if we can share similar seminars with two major churches in Kiev. We hope to do this on a return visit to the orphans this coming fall.

Thank you for contributing to the parenting of the Krasny Huter orphans. Thank you for making a way for young people who want to be pure, to find out how to escape the tragedies that come from uncommitted sex and to guard their minds against impure influences. Thank you for your continuing interest in PurityWorks and our work in Ukraine. We want to continue to spread liberty through the knowledge of purity there wherever opportunities arise.

Our next trip will be to Nigeria with Campus Crusade in March. Lordwilling, that trip will be followed by another Ukrainian effort in the fall. And these trips are only our overseas efforts. In the states, we continue to speak, travel, write and pursue opportunities in conferences, church mini-conferences and small group settings to continue to give the message of Planned Purity to as many people as we can.

I am writing two books to explain Planned Purity at present, and they are both so important to our cause. God has provided some wonderful editors to assist me in this task. I also signed up for a Russian class, feeling a need to be able to communicate better and write letters, especially to the orphans. Our staff continues to volunteer to organize our schedule, write and organize mailings, handle our finances and deal with legalities. We are pleased

to announce that we now have official 501(c)3 status and ALL gifts are tax-deductible, retroactive from August 2005.

If you haven't yet considered becoming a PurityWorks Patron, please do. The operations of our offices seem to go on miraculously at times, reminding us that God is capable of anything. But with regular donations we could do so much more. Our web site needs to be updated to be of practical service to visitors. Our homes are overflowing with the trappings of a business that could be in an office space somewhere, instead of being constantly entangled with our family lives. And doors locally and overseas continue to open. If you are passionate about purity, we are a great investment opportunity. And, thanks to our approval as a 501(c)3 organization, all donations are tax-deductible.

Please know that we are grateful for every one of you, your prayers and contributions. And please call or email us if you have any questions at all. We will continue to do our best to stay in communication with you.

For liberty and purity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennie L. Bishop". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jennie Bishop  
Founder and Vice-President