August 31, 2012

July/August 2012 Update

Greetings! The summer has flown by, and for many of us, it has been challenging in different ways. We are thankful to have a merciful God, who sustains us during trials, promises his peace in the midst of turmoil, and gives us his blessings, even though we may not "deserve" them. He is faithful, even when we are not! We missed travelling to Ukraine this summer-and just as a geography refresher, here is a map of Ukraine which shows Kyiv, the capital, in the north central part, and Lutsk, the location of Brenna's Home, in the northwestern region known as "Volynska". Lutsk is five to six hours west of Kyiv by highway.



Ukraine had its share of hot weather this summer, and some of their crops will suffer, just as some in the USA. The country is also undergoing a lot of political turmoil, and relations between the government and the "West" are being tested. Pray for free elections for the Parliament in October.

At Brenna's Home, we were glad to see that Pavlina was able to spend some time there this summer, with the other children. The photo below shows Pavlina on the right having a snack with Sasha, Valeria, Pavel, Dima, and Yulia (behind Pavlina). This summer also brought the completion of the building project which consisted of two new winterized enclosed balconies with the staircase connecting the two apartments. The picture below (right) shows the downstairs balcony with a good supply of apples which will be prepared in various ways to use during the winter.





In July. we shipped six boxes of clothing items (about 300 pounds) by sea. These arrived several weeks ago, and many of the clothes will be useful for the children for school. (School begins on Monday, September 3). The pictures below show Sasha opening one of the boxes, Yura (center) with his new items, and Dima (right) holding a shirt he likes.



Below, some of the children are saying "thank you" with kisses!! Thanks to those of you who donate clothes which are appropriate for the children. They always love clothes from the USA, because their friends think they are "cool", and quality clothing is difficult to find there.

On another note, a very special delivery arrived in July to Halya, and her husband Sasha. Little Artemka (below) is shown here the day of his birth. Halya was one of the first three teens that came to Brenna's Home in 2005. She is married to a pastor and they minister to others, including orphans and underprivileged children!!



We are in the early stages of planning a winter trip to Brenna's Home in early January, and look forward to another Ukrainian Christmas this year. We will keep you posted on plans as they develop.

We still continue to be in need of "Sponsors" for children at Brenna's Home (individuals or groups who are willing to make a \$25/month commitment to help with costs for a specific child for a 12-month period (\$300 total). If you can help, please let us know!! Our plans for 2013 will depend on what happens to improve our financial picture over the next few months. We always appreciate your thoughts and prayers! Love and blessings to each of you, Rich and Donna

This list server is maintained by The Brenna Engle Foundation, www.brennaenglefoundation.org If you wish to respond to any messages, please respond to richengle@aol.com (Rich) or DBRN1234@aol.com (Donna). If you prefer not to receive communications through our list server, please send a note to either of us requesting to "unsubscribe". We appreciate your support, whether through prayer or finances!

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