



The Belarus Fund

Supporting the victims of Chernobyl in Belarus

Registered Charity 1116762

Working with the White Flower Charity in Belarus

Newsletter No.11

Thank you once again to our wonderful supporters who have made this year such a success. We would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

On our recent visit to Belarus, it was a great pleasure to visit the Borisov Abandoned Babies home and spend time with Svetlana, the director, her staff and the delightful children. While all was



going well for the children, life was getting tough in the laundry. Machines have broken down and there are no funds for building maintenance.

A staff member spends 12 hours a day wringing out the washing. This is back breaking work,



normally done by an industrial machine.

We were able to buy a new industrial washer and spin dryer. This will help ease the situation over the winter.

There is always so much washing to do because the staff are brilliant at keeping the babies and children clean

and dry.

In Viljeka we visited Peter who has EB (Epidermolysis Bullosa), a chronic skin condition affecting both his outer skin and internal organs. We first introduced Peter in our last newsletter. Peter is a delightful bright little boy who spends his life in constant pain. His mum has difficulty in sourcing the dressings and other medical help he needs because of the rarity of the complaint. It is difficult to believe that he is actually 5 years old.



With the aid of our supporters, help has been given to Peter and his mum and they are due to go to Germany for Peter to undergo surgery to separate his fused fingers. We hope and pray all will go well for him.

Danny and Jill came with us to Belarus in September to offer a work team to undertake a building project in September 2013. Having looked at several possibilities, they have decided to help Pastor Vasily and Vera, his wife, to complete the sports/play facility for his large foster family and the neighbourhood children.



This will give a safe and constructive place for children to go and build up their social skills and fitness under adult supervision.

Also Liz and Meg joined the team to revisit the Grodno area, a region which is new for the charity. There, we met Pastor Vadim who, along



with members of his church, are doing great work in their city and the surrounding villages. The charity support scheme is now extended to involve families

visited by Vadim. We were also fortunate to meet

Anna and her girls who are both severely disabled and need 24/7 live in Grodno. Anna is the carer



and does the most amazing job in loving and caring for the girls who are twins. Anna and the girls have joined the family support scheme. In Minsk, at the Light of Truth Church, we met Dima who told us about their charity working with orphans who leave the care system and need support to move to independent living. This charity works with the youngsters in their new home and helps them develop their life skills so they can take care of themselves and not become prey to drug abuse, prostitution and other forms of abuse.



Andrej continues to improve with more movement and more mobility, sitting in a special chair for some of the time. Anna still has poor health.



We have known Masha for over 9 years and have seen her grow up. This summer she graduated as a nurse. Well done, Masha!

Lisa and mum, Natasha, were both ill in September with colds, so we were not able to see them. Colds are much worse when you have a compromised immune system. Dima, our driver, delivered the generous quantity of donated products for Lisa's PKU. This was only possible because of the kindness and generosity of Firstplay and Gluten Free companies.

This newsletter is sponsored by John and Joyce Glynn, Irene Wilson, Doreen Halliwell, Valerie and Roy Barlow, and Charity Trustees. Thank you to all supporters.



Ludmilla loves the bag that Kathy sent from the UK. She was delighted with it and asked us to give special thanks to Kathy.



Viktor was injured in an industrial accident and as a result had both feet amputated some years later. He has joined the support scheme and is visited monthly by Alena.



Zoe loves to knit and has offered to knit slippers for everybody! She likes to keep her hands busy.



Maya is wearing the new cardigan Carol brought for her.



Maxim's parents thank everyone for their overwhelming generosity. This means that Maxim will now be able to have the surgery on his brain tumour.

On our September visit, the team were shocked by the large rise in the cost of living in Belarus. Prices were up by 50% or more in the three and a half months since our last visit.

A big thank you to all our supporters with love from Carol, Alan, Janet & Brenda

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