



BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

January 2017

Dear Partner,

Thank you for your prayers and financial support for our recent mission to Kherson, Ukraine. Mark and I had a good trip with no major problems. Unfortunately, Jim Harkins was unable to go. Our translator, Natasha, was sick one day and unable to help us, but we managed. I had a sinus infection during the trip, but it didn't prevent us from doing what we were there to do: share the gospel, bless 300 orphans with Christmas gifts as well as minister, give gifts and have lunch for 100 poor children.

We bought much-needed groceries for many poor families who were so appreciative to receive them. Our team shared the gospel with them. In some of the homes the mother had passed away. In one home the father was raising 8 children. The two oldest children had achieved many awards. The boy was disabled, had an artificial leg and only part of his fingers, but had received many awards in competitions.

As you'll notice in the pictures, all the children and families have on their best. Natasha, with whom we worked, calls to let them know what time we'll be there to visit. The last poor family we visited only had a hot plate on which to cook, no running water and no indoor bathroom. There were 4 little girls in the family and the mother was expecting another baby in March. Before leaving for this mission, someone had given us extra money to use however it might be needed. The Lord laid it on my heart to leave that money with Natasha and Mark to buy this family a stove. There was enough left over to also buy a large cooking pot.

We visited the "baby house" and home for mentally deficient children. The teachers had worked with these children and they performed for us. They were so cute and precious. We gave them gifts, took diapers and shared our love with them.

Another day we visited an orphanage for disabled children. Many are in wheel chairs. We felt blessed to be able to give them Christmas gifts and share the

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gospel with them. Many of the children there were bedridden and could not come to the meeting area. The nurses took their gifts to them. We had invited a friend who dressed up as Father Frost. He played games with the children which was so much fun for them. One girl, Tonya, is 20 years old and thinks she will be moved from the orphanage soon. She gave me a picture she had made. It was especially hard to leave her.

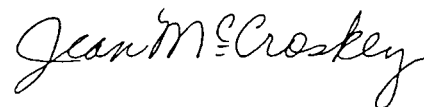
At the luncheon for poor children, we told the children and parents that people in America made the luncheon possible. One of the mothers asked me to tell all that made the luncheon possible "Thank you". There were Christian teenagers who sang Christmas carols, played the violin and performed a play about the birth of Jesus. We gave each child a gift which made them so happy. I add my thank you to each of you who made this possible.

If an orphan has any relatives, such as an aunt or uncle, they go home with them for Christmas. There were 10 boys who didn't have any relatives with whom to spend the holiday. We took them to McDonald's where we treated them to a happy meal, ice cream and gave them each a Christmas gift. We also took them to see two large Christmas trees with beautiful lights. The boys were full of joy.

Although it snowed and kept snowing while we were on this mission (a total accumulation of 6 inches), we continued to take groceries to poor families, show our love for them, give their children gifts and share the gospel.

Thank you to all who gave financially and/or prayed to make this mission possible. May God bless you.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean McCroskey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "In Christ," text.

Jean McCroskey