

# Spring time in Ukraine!

from the Tkachuk Family



As we wake each morning to the beautiful sun shining through our window, we are reminded of the beauty the Lord has created. As we watch the flowers beginning to bloom, the trees beginning to blossom and the grass turn green we see the intimate details of how even the flowers of the field sing His glory! We hope you enjoy reading this update of what we've been up to for the past couple of months. We love you and are thankful for each of you.

*I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*

*~Psalm 9:1-2*

## New Life

We want to start this update with some long awaited news of adding to our family. On April 17th we added two children to our family. Maxim, 8 and Alona, 7. Their mother was killed in a car accident 6 years ago and their father hung himself just this past month.

father, but it is amazing how they adjusted and meshed with our family immediately! The first night was one of adjustment for both of them. We gave them both a good scrubbing as they had lice, Maxim had an ear ache, and sleeping in a completely new place with strangers! They did great! Just a couple of weeks ago we made a trip to the village where they are from and met their grandmother and grandfather. Their grandfather is an alcoholic and their grandmother is addicted to medication. They willingly helped us with documents and all that was needed for them to be officially with us. When we asked Maxim and Alona if they'd like to live with us, they

shouted "Yes!" We see the perfect timing of the Lord as we tried taking so many children, but there was always a problem and now we understand why it didn't work out. When we went back to their village to gather some of their things we found this picture below on the wall of their apartment. Alona's face was



**The day we picked up  
Maxim and Alona!**

We were called by our social workers and asked if we would be willing to take them. We immediately said "yes!" Ruslan picked them up and brought them home to us as a surprise! As you can imagine they have been through much trauma with the loss of their



imposed in this photo so she looks like she has an Indian sari on! The other amazing thing we found out is that Archie and Alona share the same birthday!

We ask your prayers as they have recently begun school, continue to gain trust in us as parents and a family and learn about the love and care of Heavenly Father.



**First blooms of the Spring!**



**Clean kiddos!**



**Some beautiful Spring bloom pictures that Ruslan took!**

## **Outreaches**



interpreted for them for the week. We have also been doing many puppet show outreaches with OM (Operation Mobilization). With our connection to the social services in many different areas of our region, we have been able to be a part of many holidays that they put together for needy families and for handicapped children and adults. What a joy it is to see that people in Ukraine are giving to ones that were once like untouchables. The social services have begun giving them the opportunity to learn and excel. The picture below is one that brought many of us to tears. This was a man who did Israeli dancing at one of the events we did a puppet show. At the end he could barely speak, an obvious heart condition. He thanked the social workers for giving him opportunities like everyone else.



We had the privilege of joining a team from Georgia for a week of handing out reading glasses to remote villages and sharing the Lord with them. We had two members of the team stay at our home and we had a great time getting to know them. Ruslan drove and interpreted and one of older boys Sasha also



**Some fun at the park!**



With the excitement of the trees blooming and watching everything turn green, we had to prepare all the trees and land for the fruit to flourish. We pruned trees, planted new raspberry bushes, replanted strawberries and did a thorough cleaning of the land. We planted some flowers as well, that we are anxiously awaiting to enjoy!

## **Preparing for fruit!**



**Planting new apple trees**



**Planting new grapevines**



**My LITTLE boys!**



**Pruning trees**

We have already planted our garden as well and are about to enjoy some tomatoes that self seeded in our greenhouse!



**Planting raspberry bushes**



**We always had good little helpers!**

We look forward to filling our tummies with the fruits of our labor from this past month! We invite you all to come join us as we taste yummy, apricots, strawberries, raspberries, black and red currants, sweet and sour cherries, apples, plums and all the yummy veggies!

## ***Christ has risen, truly He has risen!***

We had the joy of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord with our family in the village. Along with a beautiful day we enjoyed a fabulous meal that Ruslan's mom prepared and then stayed with her for the weekend for some wonderful R&R!

Even during our rest we did find some things to do to keep us busy, here are a few pictures showing some of the things we did while we were in the village over Easter.



***Easter lunch***



***A fence at Ruslan's moms that Roma (Ruslan's brother) and the boys made***



***Ruslan doing his handy work on moms headstone***

My mother is buried in the village where Ruslan grew up and recently we had the joy of making the place where she is buried beautiful.



***The finished product, with jasmine planted behind the headstone and a plaque with the picture of the Taj Mahal.***

## ***Awaiting Bogdan***

We are anxiously awaiting our next addition to the family. His name is Bogdan and he is 6 years old. His mother passed away and his father has given him up. We are waiting for the courts to legally remove the rights of the father and then he will be able to come live with us. Unfortunately, his mother left him a gouged eye and so we are trying to push the paperwork through so that we can get his eye the medical attention that is needed. We ask your continued prayers during this month as we have been told that the court case will take place and all the paperwork should be finished by the end of the month.



***Bogdan (to the right) on his birthday***

### **Prayer Requests:**

- **The end of the school year for the kids**
- **Bogdan's paperwork**
- **Maxim and Alona's continued adjustment into our family**
- **A bountiful harvest**
- **Finances—We praise God that we have been able to make some payments to the former owner of our home. We currently have around \$42,000 left to pay.**

## ***Some family fun time with pictures!***



We thank our Lord for each of you and your faithful support financially and in prayers. We are blessed beyond words.



***With love, gratefulness and blessings,  
The Tkachuk Family***

Donations can be made to:  
Memo: Tkachuk Children's Home

Heart to Hand Ministries  
733 E. Front Street  
Danville, PA 17821