

Beginning of Life

A ministry there, where the differences are needed...



NOVEMBER 2008

What you can read
in this bulletin
about:

The low of the
team conservation

Further in this
bulletin:

The end is a new
beginning 2

Camps of all lands,
unite! 2

Schools 4ever! 3

SWW: news from
the North 3

How can you find
us? 4

Evening Chisinau:
a drivers notes 4

The law of the team conservation...

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“All the changes seen in nature happen in the way that when something is added to something else, it means it was taken from yet something else. As many hours I sleep – I minimize as much from me being awake...” In this way Mikhail Lomonosov explained to Euler, the German mathematician, the law of the substance conservation. In order for you to give something to somebody else, you need either to have it or take it from somewhere else – this is the law. And we live in the physical world where everything actions according to certain rules and laws. As much strength and ideas a team gives away to others, just as much it needs to “refill”. So here is the law of the substance preservation, or the 1st rule of thermodynamics in a team. No team can be an eternal source of advices, spiritual support and answers for questions – here is the 2nd rule of thermodynamics. But using a simple language, it can be stated that for ministering to people and for changing their lives, for the changes in society – we need a source for reviving us spiritually and physically as well as with new knowledge and experience. That’s why for the first time in Moldova and the whole Europe, for the period 10-14 November, 2008 there was conducted training by a team of Woman’s Missionary Union on the basics of teambuilding, as well as preparing for creating women job corps in Moldova. Sandra Nash, Eva DeLaRosa and Hope Nilsson shared their experience and knowledge in the area of raising and developing a team with BoL staff team using the example of a ministry with women who for some reasons became victims of different forms of abuse. “Don’t give people ready solutions, help or answers, otherwise they’ll turn into dependable consumers. Teach them to look for answers, make independent decisions and only then they will be able to survive in this cruel world. And always act together as a team, be responsible and creative. Renew the motivation for your ministry to the people and establish new goals for yourselves, then you’ll have enough strength to continue what you are doing. And using the experience of somebody else don’t forget to share your experience with others. Cooperation can become a rich source of conservation of your team.” These ideas were the red thread throughout the different aspects of the training. Besides the team of the missionary union participated at HIV+ group fellowship, as well as at the girl’s party, where were the girls who are now facing life’s fork-road. Meanwhile Ben Nash met with 40 doctors of the city hospital # 1 and shared with them his experience of working with the pregnant women, infected with HIV. The time we spent together not only enriched us with new ideas, but also allowed us to get to know each other better, to become more unified, renew spiritual strength for the next steps into the world where the differences are needed.



The end is a new beginning...



“Congratulations, you have a boy!” (or a girl) – says a doctor. And you are lost; you don’t know what to do: to laugh or to cry. You look into the widely opened eyes of your baby and it seems that these eyes get into the deepest parts of your soul. And not so long ago you wanted to take away the chance of life from this small person. In the last bulletin we promised to tell you about the conclusion of “Let the mother be!” project. And we are glad to do it. Indeed, the project came to its end. At the end of November there was the last meeting of the mothers’ group, who, by the way, successfully delivered healthy children. There were tears and laughter during the meeting. Some asked timidly “Is it ok, if we call you or come to visit you?” They were afraid that the end of the project means the end of the relationships. But, “I can surely say”, shared Natalia, the project coordinator “that the end of the project is on the opposite – the beginning of the relationships. It’s pretty difficult to build strong relationships within a year. Yes, we were with them when they delivered their children and the first months of their babies’ lives. But after a year-two the children will grow up and this is when these women will need help. Not help to buy diapers and baby food, but help with advices of educating them, because their children’s character will start showing up more and more often and many mothers won’t know how to deal with it. Frankly, if we would have the possibility, we would continue the project with these women, so that we would reach active changes in lives”. Each woman manifested herself individually. Sometimes the mothers who live in bad conditions surprised me with their accuracy and cleanness. Others, on the opposite, saddened me with



their careless, consumatory attitude. They would come, pick up their package and would disappear until the next time there was something for them to get. For women like this, the end of the project meant something different, like the end of relationships. But fortunately, there were more of those who attempted to build close relationships. They would say: “Of course thank you for the package, but I’m more thankful for your care in my life. Thank you for visiting me at the hospital. You became my friends”. I saw in these women also a sincere love for their children. What at first seemed to be unnecessary and unneeded became the most precious for each one of them. Lena, for example, has 5 children already, her husband left her and in addition she is HIV infected. Having a baby, she became pregnant again. She had an abortion, but after several months, she became pregnant again. She called BoL in frustration and told us that she wants to abort that child as well. She asked for our advice. We persuaded her that she needs to keep the baby, even though all the people around her were telling her the opposite. As of today, this baby became the biggest joy for everyone in this family. She says: “*Natasha, you were right. Thank you for persuading me not to abort this child. I can’t imagine my family now without him.*”



Camps of all lands, unite!

At Karl Marx’s (German communist ideologist) grave in London it is written: **Workers of all lands, unite!** To get united in order to become stronger in striving for equality of rights? Maybe, this also had its place in the communist aspiration towards the bright future. However, the history proves that one of the most famous mottos of communism is not new. And even though this idea exists from the ancient times, it didn’t lose its urgency in the modern world. Even though we are far from the politics and ideological systems, the motto “Unite!” speaks to us as well. “We don’t unite churches; we unite camps for the sake of the salvation of young generation”. These were the first words which Vladimir Ubeivolc said at the meeting of camp directors on the 28th of November. There were 30 directors, 6 missions and 7 different denominations that gathered under the roof the BoL center. They were united by three things: camps, Christian faith and the love for youth. Baptists, Pentecostals, 7th Day Adventists, Orthodox and others met not to argue about what differentiates them, but to clearly see the goal ahead of them, to exchange experience and to get to know each other better. As Maria, the director of daycare center by St. John church, noticed: “there are many things we can learn from each other, so let’s not waste our time...” There were discussed at that conference such topics as: what a camp is, connection between camps and church, how to raise the enthusiasm of camp workers. For 6 hours the participants discussed thoroughly the new strategies and changes in the camp ministry. So when the lunch was served late, it didn’t bother the participants at all. The exchange of experience continued during mealtime in informal way. At the end of the meeting all the participants, who didn’t join the association of Christian camps, expressed their desire to become a part of this movement. Most of the directors asked to enlarge the size of the meetings and their frequency. There are more of us because we get united; we become stronger, because we are united...



Schools 4ever...

Corr.: Petr, please, share how did everything started. Why schools?

Petr: To be frank, the school work started without me. The pioneers in this were Yulia Ubeyvolc and Vitalii Birca. They made the first steps. I was serving as a missionary in Choukotka for 6 and a half years. When I came back to Moldova, I heard that Yulia and Vitalii go to schools with interesting lectures. I decided to go with them.

Corr.: And how did you realize that this is what you want to continue to do?

Petr: One day my friend and I went to a Choukotka village. And when the children from that place found out that we were coming, there was a big crowd gathered. So we realized we had to do something. And at that time we didn't have any work experience with children. So we quickly made a small skit right there about David and Goliath and then explained it to them. The children were excited and I felt that I liked it. Later I was invited to work in one of the orphanages in Choukotka, to teach some lessons to children there. There were about 300 of them. Those lessons with children and youth gave me a lot of experience, which I started to use later in schools. When I got into a school with Yulia and Vitalii for the first time, I realized that was what I wanted to do, because in reality I remained a teenager inside that's why it's so easy for me to find common ground with them. And another strong encourager for me to work in schools was the book of Bill Willson "Whose child is this?", where the author showed a unique effectiveness of work with youth using creative teaching. He described the key methods and elements of work with the youth. So then I decided that I'll go to work in schools. I went there, saw it and absolutely loved it...

Corr: How would you compare your first lessons with the ones you teach now?

Petr: At first it was just a simple lecture where we would discuss everything. Back then we didn't have cool Power Point presentations and video equipment. Later I started to perfect that type of lecture, then divided it and after that new lectures came up. The very first video materials that appeared back then, I used them at my lectures. This way the visuals, elements of training, discussions, jokes and personal experience became my most effective tool in my work with youth and teenagers. I work for 4 years now in different schools and I realized that we need to talk with the teenagers just about everything openly and honestly. Some teachers disapprove me, considering that I minimize the authority of a teacher using nonstandard methods. But I just want to be understood by them. Maybe I allow too much during a lesson, but I never undermine the authority of a teacher or parents, even though they do or say something wrong. During the lectures I always try to teach them to love and respect those who are older than them. I have a rule: disapprove sin, but not people. I see and realize that many guys are smoking, live a sexually active life, but I never judge them for it. But at the same time I'm "cruel" to what they do. And they know it, that's why they come eagerly to our lectures and after the lectures come up for an advice or help.

Corr: What are the perspectives of your ministry?

Petr: The perspectives are in developing and expanding the ministry beyond Chisinau. During the last years I trained and taught more than 10 disciples, providing the needed materials for them. As of today there is an active teaching in the schools of Riga (Litva), Krasnoyarsk (Russia), Transnistria and some other cities of Moldova. Lately I've been working on video and audio taping my lectures, so that many others could learn it for themselves. Besides every lecture is being perfected and expanded with information and visual materials.

Corr.: Do you have any kind of statistics of the results of you work in schools?

Petr: My lectures are oriented to prevention that's why it's not so easy to actually count some "results". Each guy who didn't start smoking or drinking, every girl who kept herself clean and didn't become the victim of trafficking – these are the results that we maybe won't ever get to see in numbers. Sometimes in completely new schools somebody comes up to me and says: "We know you, we listened to your lectures in an orphanage". Or I meet a guy who attended my lecture a year ago. And he tells me that back then I really got him with my questions and he stopped drinking. So this is the statistics...

Corr.: For how long are you planning to continue your ministry in schools?

Petr: At least for another 20 years.



My name is Andrei. I study at SWW in Balti. Prior to that I graduated from College of Theology and Education.

There I got a good theoretical foundation. After the graduation I began to minister among youth right away. I liked it, but something was missing. It seemed I didn't get to fully apply my potential. I continued my search, went more and more involved in the ministry. But every time when getting out of the church building I thought to myself: "What about those people who don't know God and don't come to church?" When SWW was getting students' applications, I was glad to apply as well. The first exams became small discovery to me that pressed me to rethink about many things. First of all, nonstandard approach to teaching encouraged me to reorganize my teaching methods. I teach biblical lessons in a youth group of "Kovcheg" (The ark) church as well as the lessons on Ethics in schools. I realized that I needed to make the Gospel to be understandable to the unbelievers so that they'll see its value and action in life. My understanding of the Church's mission in world has changed. I need to go to people. That's why we have already started preparing a Christmas project for children and youth in rural orphanages. This will help them to look at God differently and will help us as well to develop our potential.

SWW: news from the north



A ministry there, where
the changes are needed

Your desire to become a
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"Beginning of Life" Public organization is acting on Moldovan territory starting from 2000. Service spectrum of the organization was increasing with each year and today we are ready to offer:

1. Lectures for students, parents and teachers on the topics like:
 - * AIDS—21st century threat
 - * People trafficking
 - * The art of communication
 - * Conflict resolution
 - * Drug addiction and alcoholism—moral suicide
2. Consultations of a psychologist
3. Rendering support to people who live with HIV
4. Rendering pregnancy counseling
5. Carrying out of summer youth camps
6. Rendering help in professional orientation and arrangement for studies
7. Conducting trainings on the topics like:
 - * Team-work
 - * Labor ethics and conflict resolution
 - * Team-building

All the services are **free** of charge.



Evening Chisinau: a driver's notes

The Sunday shift was coming to its close. There were very many passengers that day. So it was like in a song: "there was not even a minute for lunch". But I was in a great mood. Being in this wonderful mood, I was approaching one of the intersections dreaming of the rest and special lunch that I was going to have soon. The green light allowed me to freely drive on. Crossing the intersection by the old habit I looked around and suddenly pressed the breaks. There was a truck heading right at me at a very high speed even though it was a red light for him. He passed by me almost hitting my car. I didn't have enough time to think about it, when I noticed a militia's sergeant sitting next to me. "Catch him, he ordered shortly, if not here, then surely there will be an accident in another place". We didn't manage to catch the truck within the city limits. Driving among so many cars I was cautious, but the driver of the truck was speeding without limits. Finally we got outside Chisinau. We were driving over 100 miles/h. We passed by the truck and stopped about 200 m ahead. The sergeant jumped out of the car while it was still on the go and ordered the driver of the truck with an authoritative gesture to stop it. But the truck driver passed by us without dropping the speed. So we passed him again, but this time I decided to create a traffic jam so that he would not be able to go on. There was a narrow bridge and another car ahead of us stopped to let us go. "Stop the car!" – the sergeant ordered. So I stopped my "Pobeda" (Victory) in front of the car coming from the opposite direction. Now the truck driver was trapped. He stopped the truck approaching the bridge. He was approaching us looking guilty and taking out his documents. As they say: the cat knows whose meat it had eaten". And inside the truck there was a woman sitting holding a baby. "I got to ride with him thinking I'll get home faster, said the woman, but he almost killed us. Thank you for stopping us. Teach him, so that he'll know". Getting back to Chisinau I wasn't sorry that I was late for lunch...

Ivan Berejnoi

"Evening Chisinau", 6 October 1958.



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