

# Mission to Ukraine

*We exist to serve the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of women and children, orphans, and children with special needs and their families in Ukraine with the love of Christ.*

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives...to comfort all who mourn...to bestow on them the crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of despair...”

Isaiah 61: 1-3



Little Sasha with cerebral palsy enjoys music

## God Has Brought Them to Paradise

by Cynthia Mankus

### Of the Lord's Favor!

Praise be to God for the summer camps of the Lord's Favor! As the camps are nearly over, we thank our Almighty God for raining down His blessings on all the parents and children that attended "Good Mansion".

After the many years of camps, the fruit of the labor is finally visible to our human eyes. Parents of our special needs campers, who have heard the good news preached over the years were able to help teach the new families that came for the first time. Whether they arrived broken hearted, held captive by years of guilt and pain, or still dealing with mourning the loss of a husband due to a broken marriage; our camps were filled with the love and compassion which helped to soften the hearts of all. God used the camps to reach both mom's in the Lifesavers program and those mom's with special needs children. He allowed them all find a sense of community with each other.

### Unimaginable Love vs Hurt

Many who come for the first time have never had someone in their life willing to spend time with their disabled child. To many, rejection from family and friends is all that they know. To come to a strange place where they are fed five times a day and young men and women take their children for the entire day to play with, teach and to love is unimaginable. Knowing that day-to-day life includes cleaning, cooking, laundry, tending to the garden, and taking care of children or a child with a disability, having a time of rest must be like a dream. In fact, so often parents that come to the camps feel that God has brought them to Paradise. It was a living dream for those who came to camps with only knowing hurt and sorrow, when they experienced the love of God through the love the leaders had for their children and the time of fellowship they were blessed with each day. It was the rest some of them have never experienced.

### Spa Day - Rare Experience of Pampering

This year our parents had the opportunity to be blessed by a rare experience of pampering- to have "bestowed upon them the crown of beauty instead of ashes". Mission to Ukraine arranged for a "Spa Day". From morning until afternoon, mothers, grandmothers and even one father experienced the luxury of receiving a massage, facial, hand massage, pedicure, manicure, hair cut and style while enjoying coffee and tea.

To know that most of the parents and grandparents have little to no income due to the necessity to be at home with their child each day, the reality of going to a salon for even one service is not even imaginable. For older moms and grandmothers this experience was the first in their lifetime. As one parent said "I have lived for 50 years and have never experienced such a thing as this." It's unimaginable for some of us to think of not having at least one of these services done at least some time throughout the year. But, to these parents, the time that people took for them throughout the day allowed them to feel appreciated, blessed and valued.

How easy it is to forget that some people live without the love of God in darkness and how exciting it is to see them come into the light...even if it is only for a week.

