



"Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?" James 2:5 (ESV)

I was in God's plan!

Dear family and friends,

Summer 2017

We want to thank you for embracing the very heart of God, through your continued prayers and financial support, to send us where Christ has not been preached. Yes, **Christ has not been preached to those we are reaching out to.** These are the ones who are the most vulnerable and helpless—the orphans and abandoned children in the mountain regions where we live and work. We have dubbed this area, "**the land of the orphan.**" And the locals here have dubbed themselves, "the people who sit in darkness." One of the reasons for the spiritual darkness in the land is that for so long, these children have had no one to plead their cause. So, many simply die through sickness, disease, malnourishment, and extreme neglect. But God has not called us to simply report the bad news, because **we are carriers, through Christ, of good news—of hope** where there is no hope and mercy where there is none.

When we first met Yulia and Oksanna, they were babies living in extreme poverty, in filth, and in the process of being abandoned. We so wanted to take them at that time, but we were prevented from doing so. Little did we or they know that they would have to go through **another seven grueling years of poverty, trauma, tragedy, and loss** before God's plan for them to receive a new family, and for them to be reunited again, would come to pass. In hindsight, we see that God used those seven years to form in them an unshakable hope and more powerful testimony of His love and saving grace—in the midst of suffering. In the years following their coming into their new family, they could more readily empathize with and relate to the hurts and pains of many other orphans and abandoned children that the Lord would send them to speak to. Their testimony is simple: "In the midst of everything, I was still in God's plan."

Proverbs 24:11-12 (NLT) states that we are to "Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die; save them as they stagger to their death."

Oksanna's life is one example of this proverb. Her father died when she was 6. The village shack she called home burned down at age 9. Shortly after, her 15-year-old sister collapsed and died, of heart failure, in the field outside of their burnt-down shack. And her mother, an alcoholic, **abandoned her to live alone in a root cellar**. Her days were then spent walking alone through forests, which she says brought her peace, while looking for mushrooms and berries to feed herself.

During this time, the Lord moved us and our adopted Ukrainian children to live in the "Land of Darkness" and begin a new work there—amongst the poor, needy, and orphans—in those mountain villages. Then, the Lord used a government official, who found Oksanna, to bring her from the root cellar to a brand-new home built especially for children like her—not an orphanage, but a family!

But the story doesn't end there. Oksanna shared with us that she had a sister she had been separated from—who also needed a new family. And we discovered that her sister was living in another village in the mountains. And the Lord gave us favor before the government, and all the paperwork was done quickly so that we could take in her sister as well. **So, Oksanna and her sister Yulia, after years of separation, were together again!** They now had a large family of brothers and sisters—all former orphans and abandoned children—complete with a Mom and Dad.

And **since coming into our family, they have given their lives to Jesus** and are growing into beautiful women of God! **Oksanna has a real heart of love and compassion for other needy children like she was.** She loves to go with us as we minister to the poor children in the mountain villages surrounding us. And she has a real gift of prayer as well. **Yulia loves to worship the Lord, and she sings and plays piano on our church's worship team.** After her high school graduation, she decided to stay home and help Mom and Dad in their **ministry to children, human trafficking prevention,** and administration. Friends, only God deserves the glory for such a miraculous love story—of sisters reunited and then going on to love and serve Him!

When you see children going from being extremely in need to becoming generous and loving givers, and from being wounded to becoming wounded healers...there can be no doubt: God supernaturally heals and transforms lives—especially those who have no hope. Now, Yulia and Oksanna can say, "I was in God's plan." And this has brought hope, healing, and love to the many other orphans and abandoned children God has used them to reach, along with their new family.

Friends, Proverbs 25:25 (NLT) says, **“Good news from far away is like cold water to the thirsty.”** So, as much as possible, we try to write you—our partners and co-laborers—individual good news stories like Yulia and Oksanna’s, and the many other children we’ve written about over the years, whom the Lord has healed through this ministry. Our purpose of life is God-ordained, and our cause is just—to heal the orphan and the widow, the poor and the broken-hearted, in Jesus Christ’s name. **With your help, we will continue** to build homes, provide families, and make disciples of Jesus Christ—for the purpose of seeking and saving the lost, until Jesus returns.

Thank you for all you’ve done and will do. **We are indebted to you for holding our arms up all these years.** Now, may the Lord bless and refresh your souls, because you have refreshed those without hope in the world.

In Christ’s love & service,

Jim & Sandy

Jim & Sandy

P.S. Our whole family, every girl and boy in our care, thanks God for you whenever we remember you in our prayers. Joshua House Life Centers would not be a light in the darkness without your support!

Images from top to bottom:

Yulia & Oksanna with their mother. (inset) Reunited after years of separation. The root cellar where Oksanna was living. Yulia with her new sisters. Oksanna brings new winter boots to needy children.



Three ways to give: Your gift changes lives!

JOSHUA HOUSE LIFE CENTERS
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Joshua House Life Centers is a charitable ministry, founded by missionaries Jim and Sandy McCann, providing children's homes, orphan rescues, Christian schools, churches, wellness centers, outreaches and missions in the Ukraine. JHLC ministers to the poor, impoverished, widows and orphans; demonstrating the Gospel by bringing deliverance to those who are oppressed - in sin, sickness, disease, poverty and extreme suffering; feeding the hungry, speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves, bringing in the lonely, naked and orphaned for adoption and parenting; daily and practically demonstrating the love of Christ through our Joshua House ministry.

Our mission, is to raise and train disciples of Jesus Christ to maturity, sending them out to begin new Joshua House Life Centers, until there are 100+ centers throughout the Ukraine and other countries, with an emphasis on exemplifying God's love in everyday life.

Currently, we have two JHLCs in the Carpathian Mountains, Ukraine, which includes a children's home (the children of which the McCanns have taken in as their own family); a church comprised almost entirely of children and youth, who are actively involved in all aspects of the ministry, including it's many outreaches to the poor and needy, orphaned and widowed, sick and elderly.

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