



MAY 2019

# THE PEREKOTIYS

ODESSA, UKRAINE

SERVING VULNERABLE CHILDREN + UNREACHED PEOPLES THAT THEY WOULD PRAISE + PROCLAIM JESUS CHRIST IN UKRAINE + AROUND THE WORLD!

## DID YOU KNOW THAT WE'RE ORPHANS?

In December I met Tanya + Vlada at the Heritage after-school program. The director told us about a family in need for Christmas; their mother was absent, dealing with addiction, + their father had just passed away the month before. Their single Aunt Ira stepped in to care for the five sisters.

I picked up the girls + their Aunt at their tiny, two-room apartment. **The first thing Tanya said was, "Madison, did you know that we are orphans?"** I was a little taken aback, but before I could speak their Aunt interrupted with a polite, but embarrassed response.

We chatted about school as we drove to the *bazar* (outdoor market). Even riding in our car was an adventure for these girls! We hunted through the crowded corridors of shops for boots. Tanya + Vlada were nervous, but finally selected fur-lined, navy winter boots. We picked up thick tights for each of their sisters + I gave Aunt Ira watercolors + coloring books Chambers had picked for the youngest sisters.



**Since losing their father, the girls also gained the status of orphans.** The Heritage after-school program stepped in to help their family as much as they could - with the Gospel at the center of everything! Praise God! However we know that God desires for local churches to fill these needs too. At least four local churches are within walking distance of this family, yet none of them knew about their hard situation.

This really prompted us to pray about **how to engage local churches with orphans + vulnerable children right around them.** "Social orphans" are children growing up in homes with disconnected relationships, lack of food or electricity, absent parents and/or many types of abuse. The Lord pieced together our prayers with people already doing this important work all over the world!

While in the States we met with Lifeline about their (un)adopted ministry which exists to equip the Body of Christ to manifest the gospel to vulnerable children. **We are now alliance partners with Lifeline** to further this mission in Ukraine, providing us with valuable training in trauma + attachment.



LABOR DAY PICNIC WITH OUR DEAR FRIENDS FROM HERITAGE

We also met with Ukraine Without Orphans while we stopped over in Kyiv. God has moved in a powerful way for the last 20 years as they've worked to educate, train + empower up local churches to care for vulnerable children. **We are learning from Ukraine Without Orphans as we feel God calling us to this long-term ministry in Odessa.**

Our friends at Heritage are strategically connected with so many orphanages, churches + families already. God is good to place us together!

CONTINUE ON BACK >

THIS MONTH:

++ We are settling in at home, our local church + school. We really missed our faith family + are excited to be back here with them!

++ Camp LELA prep begins! We are getting ready for a full summer of ministry at Camp from June 1 - August 5. Please pray for our family, the volunteers, international teams + **most importantly the children who will come + hear about Jesus, perhaps for the first time.**



YURA WENT ON A RAFTING TRIP WITH OTHER HERITAGE LEADERS TO PLAN FOR UPCOMING CAMPING ADVENTURES!



CONTINENTAL KIDS CORNER

**We are so excited to share that we are expecting another baby!** The Lord is so kind to have entrusted us with another blessing. Now are navigating Ukrainian medical care -- finding a doctor + place to deliver here in November.

"I hope it's a girl baby so she looks like our cousin Charlotte!" - **Chambers**

"I think the baby is as big as a donut!" - **Lev**

"My baby!" - **Mila**, referring to her baby doll, since this "big sister" concept hasn't quite sunken in yet.

Thank you for praying + taking an interest in God's story unfolding here in Odessa!

If you feel led to partner with us to see the gospel spread to vulnerable families in Ukraine, you can make a monthly or one-time tax-deductible gift through Globe International.

--- *Madison + Yura*



Our time in the US was really fun! We saw so many good friends + family. Madison's brother Gray married Erika + the kiddos performed their ceremony duties beautifully ;)

PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1. Pray for our children as we transition to Camp life.
- 2. Praise! Documents for our car are complete!
- 3. Praise! Our children's Ukrainian documents are ready, so we can get their passports this month!
- 4. Pray that our family would be fully-funded financially so that we can remain in Ukraine long-term.



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