

2017 Year End Report

God has richly blessed our ministry in 2017.



Countless volunteers in **Mariupol, Ukraine**, have been ministering to the displaced by the war, marginalized and at-risk families as well as single mothers (pictured on the left). With a smile on their face and open embrace Ukrainian Christians welcomed, cared and served those, whose fate was determined by governments and fighting sides, who had lost homes and hopes and lived on the verge of despair. In 2017 we've provided food, medicine, clothing and basic necessities to about 100 families per month. In winter months, additionally, we delivered firewood and coal to help the families heat their dwellings.

God opened doors for us to help so many families in 2017, that we have no doubt He has great plans for Eastern Ukraine. An amazing revival is happening at Mariupol churches and most of the people we reached out to started attending church and Bible studies. Close to 200 people are studying the Bible for the very first time! 19 people were baptized this August in Mariupol as a result of our outreaches! Half of them came through the outreaches that Mulberry International started a year and a half ago. The people you can see in the pictures below are the direct result of our ministry in Mariupol and of your personal involvement. It is because of your prayers and support, these people first heard of God, receiving food and care packages during their time of need.

You might recognize two women in these pictures: one of them is giving her testimony and another one is comforted in the videos on our YouTube channel! It is humbling and beautiful to see how God operates through continents and cultures! The Mulberry board envisioned and



communicated our vision to you, Natasha went to the field and helped start our ministry in Mariupol, you gave financially and prayed, countless local volunteers sacrificially poured into hundreds of displaced by the war and at-risk families, and TOGETHER we rejoice at the harvest! Praise the Lord!

In August 2017 we started a new ministry: Mothers' Day Out at a local church. Its' a day children's center that cares for preschool through middle school children.



We've discovered how many single mothers, displaced by the war and at-risk families, deal with unemployment, abuse, PTSD, and barely making their ends meet. Since ministering to hurting children and families has always been the heart of Mulberry's mission, we have decided to step out in faith to support this new program.

Right now, about 30-40 children attend our center three days a week. They have a chance to learn how to read and write, do crafts, hear Bible stories, and receive much needed counseling. They also receive lunch and a food packet to take home. Some of the children come from abusive and neglecting families and our goal is not only to minister to these little hearts but also to reach the families through their children.

With the help of International Disaster and Emergency Service, we were able to open a bakery to create jobs for displaced by the war and struggling families. Our bakery employs four women and provides bread and baked goods for all outreaches at below-market cost, thus moving us toward a self-sustaining program. What a blessing to see Ukrainian Christians taking ownership of the ministries we've started!

Our bakery also prepares hot meals for the children attending the Mother's Day Out. In addition, it provides "on-the-job" training for young people preparing to graduate from an



orphanage we are partnering with. Teens enjoy learning a skill that will make a difference in their future search for a job and independent life after the orphanage. Baking and cooking is also a great therapy for neglected and abused children that attend our Mother's Day Out program. The little ones enjoy working with dough and eating the fruit of their labor!



In a restricted access region, our team conducted a Christmas camp at the shelter for abandoned children, at-risk teens and single mothers. The administration of the shelter and half-way house does not allow to openly share the Gospel, but we find creative ways to tell its residents about God. Tedious work of advocating for the orphans' rights, help with their transition into adult life, counseling single mothers, most of whom are teenage orphans is hard. However, years of showing these children and youth love and care do bear fruit. After they graduate from the welfare system, several young adults started attending church. It is not easy to change a heart that had suffered abuse, neglect and abandonment, but we do not grow weary shining His Light into their lives!



We also provide support for children in abandoned baby wards, a special needs orphanage, three foster and adoptive families. Our families are the testimony of redeemed lives and a wonderful future that God can give to the broken and hurt.

On behalf of our volunteers and families on the field we THANK YOU for supporting us in 2017!

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