

Eastern European Summit on Orphans and the Church

Donetsk Christian University

Donetsk, Ukraine

March 17-19, 2009

The
CoMission
for Children
at Risk

www.comission.org



RiskNetwork.ru

Национальная сеть христианских организаций по работе с детьми группы риска

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the Eastern European Summit on Orphans and the Church. We're glad you are here! It is wonderful to have this many leaders gathered to exchange ideas and encourage one another for the cause of orphans and the cause of Christ. You are one of almost 150 participants representing churches and organizations interested in learning about various ways that believers can care for orphans. What an awesome opportunity the Body of Christ has to show His love to orphans and to the world! Most of you are already doing so much to help these children, and you are an encouragement to us. We hope that this event will be a blessing to you and that when we leave, each of us will be encouraged, equipped and empowered by the Spirit to mobilize more believers to share the love of Christ with orphans.

You have come with a unique perspective to share. You will also hear from others presenting their insights and experience in serving children at risk. When these perspectives are exchanged, greater cooperation to help orphans and street children can be the result. The outcomes of this Summit will rest on each of you as participants. You will not be spectators in an audience. You will be encouraged to share your ideas and expertise in serving children. And as you meet new friends, think about what you can contribute to their growth and success in caring for orphans.

Thank you to those who have sacrificed time and shared their talents in order to make this Summit a reality. Your labor of love will result in greater opportunity for others.

If there is any way we can help you during these few days together, please let us know. We want you to be encouraged and refreshed to follow the call God has on your life. May God bless and guide each of you as you seek His direction in these next days.

With our love in Christ,

Karmen Friesen, *Director*
The CoMission for Children at Risk

Cristi Hillis, *Project Coordinator*
The CoMission for Children at Risk

Janna Danilova, *Network Coordinator*
National Network for Children at Risk

Tuesday, March 17

7:00 – 10:00am Registration (Breakfast offered in the Cafeteria)

10:00 – 11:45am Opening Session: God's Heart for Orphans

Welcome

Worship

Walk with the Cross
Gennady Makhnenko

The Culture of Adoption in the Church and God's Heart for Orphans
Mikhail Kozitsky

11:45am – 12:00pm Coffee break

12:00 – 1:15pm – Workshop Session #1

1:30 – 2:30pm – Lunch

2:45 – 4:00pm – Workshop Session #2

4:15 – 5:30pm – Workshop Session #3

5:45 – 6:45pm – Dinner

7:00 – 9:00pm - General Session: God's Heart for Adoption

Worship

Video clip

The Spirit of Restoration
Sergey Demidovich

The Magnitude of the Orphan Problem: Families as the Only Answer
Susan Hillis

Testimony

9:00pm – Networking and Fellowship

Wednesday, March 18

8:45 – 9:45am - Breakfast

10:00 – 11:45am - General Session:
Every church caring for every orphan

Worship

A Friend for Every Orphan
Nikolai Kuleba

How to Start an Orphan Ministry in your Church
Petr Dudnik

Video clip or testimony

12:00–12:15pm Coffee Break

12:15 – 1:30pm – Workshop Session #4

1:30 - 3:30pm - Networking Lunch

3:45 – 5pm – Workshop Session #5

5:00 pm – Coffee Break

5:15 pm – 7:00 pm – Final Session;
From orphans to sons and daughters

Testimony

Difficulties in Raising Adoptive and Foster Children
Tamara Dudnik

Wisdom and Revelation: Keys to Hope and Healing
Jenni Means

Closing

7:15 pm – Dinner

8:30 pm – Networking Time

Thursday, March 19

7:00 am - Breakfast

8:00 am - Site Visits
(attendees may choose one)

Mariupol

Foster families and children's rehab center

Donetsk

Older orphan ministry;

Foster family;

HIV-positive baby home .

Slavyansk

Foster families and Christian orphanage

3:00pm - Bus back to Donetsk

Arrive in Donetsk by 5 PM, in time for trains and flights to other cities

Workshop Session #1

Tuesday, March 17

12:00pm – 1:15pm

Workshop Topics (You may choose one of the workshops listed below to attend during this session):

The Prevention of HIV among at-risk Youth

Vitaly Mikhailovich Ozerny and Susan Hillis

- Participants will be able to describe the relationship between HIV and Orphan problem in Ukraine and Russia
- Participants will be able to identify effective approaches to HIV prevention education among high risk youth using Model Curricula.

Life Skills for Youth; an independent living course for youth raised in institutional conditions

Karen Springs & Galina Schaefer

The Life Skills Curriculum was designed to help youth who are graduating from state-run institutions to learn skills of independent life. The purpose of the course is to develop abilities and desires in graduating orphans so that they are able to successfully integrate and function in society outside the orphanage. During this workshop we will discuss some of the content of the curriculum and how it is being used in Ukraine and other countries.

Ministry to Abandoned Children in Children's Hospitals

Tamara Dudnik

In this seminar attendees will hear how they can begin (or continue) ministry to abandoned children in children's hospitals. They will learn everything from how to visit babies and just hold them, to how to help babies actually find families.

Developing A Successful East–West Partnership

Jeff Thompson and Irina Skrypnik

Jeff and Irina are in their 15th year of successfully overcoming cultural and distance barriers to share Christ's love and compassion with thousands of needy children and families.

Mass Media – Reformation of the Mentality of a Nation

Sergei Alekseevich Demidovich

It is possible to change post-soviet mentality, to get to the core of the national character, which shows itself in lack of responsibility and in absence of the culture of adoption, by forming a new way of thinking and by making a huge emotional impact. The main tools for this reformation of mentality are TV and the Internet.

Workshop Session #2

Tuesday, March 17

2:45pm – 4:00pm

Workshop Topics (You may choose one of the workshops listed below to attend during this session):

Pastors and Ministry to Orphans

Mikhail Stepanovich Kozitsky

- Revelation about adoption for pastors
- A good method of bringing this revelation to Church
- Is. 66:8 “Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children...”

How To Develop and Grow A Child Sponsorship Program and Ministries To Children and Families

Irina Skrypnik and Jeff Thompson

In this workshop you will learn from the 15 years of experience of Jeff Thompson, Irina Skrypnik, and her staff on how to develop a Child Sponsorship / Child Development Program.

Nuances of Adoption in Ukraine

Ludmila Litvin

You will fully understand what the adoption process in Ukraine looks like. You will hear about its nuances, including its legal, social, and spiritual aspects.

“God Has Good Things to Say” – God’s Languages and Our Identity as His Children

Jennifer Means with Steve and Colleen Coombs

Learn the importance of «being still and knowing that He is God», through the languages God uses to communicate with His children. Understanding our identity in Christ through shedding the «pauper» mentality and moving into our «royal» roles as sons and daughters of the King.

The Tragically Relaxed State of Christianity Today

Gennady Viktorovich Mokhnenko

- The dangerous longing for comfort in modern Christianity
- Life of a Christian – a difficult journey or a relaxing cruise?
- The Church should understand the problem
- An honest call to action.

Workshop Session #3

Tuesday, March 17

4:15pm – 5:30pm

Workshop Topics (You may choose one of the workshops listed below to attend during this session):

How to Start and Run a Training School for Foster Families

Mikhail Viktorovich Pimenov

- Types of training for potential foster parents
- How to start a training school for foster families; training specialists and forming a team.
- How to create and use training materials.
- Off-site training
- Providing support and follow-up for foster families.
- Starting support groups for foster families.

Strategies for Church and Government Cooperation

Nikolai Nikolaevich Kuleba

- Governmental strategies for protection of children's rights
- Effective models of work with children in crisis
- The role of the Church in helping orphans.

Working with Street Youth

Gennady Viktorovich Mokhnenko

In this seminar attendees will be able to hear from Gennady Mokhnenko, the director of the largest children's rehabilitation center in Eastern Europe, about his years of experience working with street children. They will be able to learn how the street children situation differs today from 10 years ago. They will also learn best practices in serving street children in the days and times we currently live in.

Prayer Ministry—Breaking Generational Curses

Petr and Tamara Dudnik

Many families fear adoption because they fear “genetics” – “is it true that as the child grows up, he'll become like his alcoholic father or drug-addicted mother?..” This seminar addresses those fears and how to deal with them through prayer.

Providing Families for HIV-positive Children

Ludmila Ivanovna Batekhina

The problems of providing families for HIV-positive children: what can society do to solve them?

Workshop Session #4

Wednesday, March 18

12:15pm – 1:30pm

Workshop Topics (You may choose one of the workshops listed below to attend during this session):

Seven Ways to Care for an Orphan

Petr and Tamara Dudnik

Hundreds of thousands of children in Russia and Ukraine need to be adopted. Maybe they dream about you and me in their sleep, and then they call us mommy and daddy. But in the morning they wake up, and they know that they are all alone in this big world, and nobody needs them. They are outsiders... Can Christians make their dreams come true? Can the Church of Jesus Christ change this situation somehow? We say, "Yes and yes" – it is possible...

Motivation/Filtration/Preparation/Support:

How to Practically Help Foster Families

Mikhail Stepanovich Kozitsky and Susan Hillis

- Participants will be able to describe compelling magnitude of orphan problem and sure reward in caring for orphans
- Participants will be able to describe profile of families who are likely to be prepared to care for orphans
- Participants will be able to describe core areas of preparation for prospective adoptive/foster families
- Participants will be able to describe ongoing need for support for adoptive / foster families.

Engaging the Church for Disabilities Ministry

Charlie Chastain and Michael Norton

The disabled population of Eastern Europe is one of the most overlooked people groups struggling to find its way within post-Soviet society. Beyond their physical and mental impairments, the disabled of Eastern Europe also struggle to overcome discrimination due to misunderstanding and misinformation within the community, often resulting in neglect. This workshop seeks to engage the Body of Christ by offering a more clear and accurate understanding of disabled individuals and providing concrete strategies in changing hearts and opening doors within the Church to our precious Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Workshop Session #5

Wednesday, March 18

3:45pm – 5:00pm

Workshop Topics (You may choose one of the workshops listed below to attend during this session):

Types of Family Care:

Adoption, Foster Care, Family-type Orphanages, etc

Petr and Tamara Dudnik

Answers to frequently asked questions: what is the difference between adoption and foster parenting, does the government support families that take children – and if so, then how exactly, etc.

The Role of Mass Media in Motivating Believers to Adopt or Foster

Galina Aleksandrovna Obrovets

Participants will learn how 1,5 – 2 hour meetings, during which people watch the movie *An Orphan And Me Are God's Family* and ask questions, help them make the final decision to adopt an orphan. They will also learn how churches and ministers change the core attitude of society towards the orphans. We will also tell the participants about stories of adoptions by believers having been published in the Christian women's magazine "Sister".

Parenting Orphans

Mikhail Stepanovich Kozitsky and Susan Hillis

- Participants will be able to describe staged approach to adjustments to family life
- Participants will be able to describe 5 styles of caring
- Participants will be able to describe the foundational value of bonding amidst competing demands for acceleration of development.

Ministering to Orphans through Puppet Ministry

Oksana Oleinikova

A puppet show is a great way to tell children about God's love and the Gospel. Children always like shows with funny characters, and they understand the language of these shows very well. Such events help build relationships with orphans and give people a chance to help them and bring them joy.

During this seminar, you will learn what a great tool puppet theater ministry can be for work with orphans.

Site Visit Descriptions

Donetsk, Ukraine (people who have early trains or planes out of Donetsk should go here):

The group staying in Donetsk, Ukraine will be visiting three sites:

- 1) A Christian family-type orphanage where foster parents have taken in ten children. Participants will get to visit the home and meet with the parents and the children.
- 2) An HIV orphanage - The orphanage is home to over 80 infants, many of whom are HIV positive and it was the first orphanage to ever have HIV positive children adopted into families. A limit of two groups of six people each will be able to visit this orphanage.
- 3) A center for orphan graduates

Slavyansk, Ukraine:

This team will visit a Kramatorsk orphanage and a Slavyansk non-governmental children's center called The Sails of Hope. It was opened in 1999. The center was created to provide rehabilitation services for orphans, street children, and children from dysfunctional families, and also for children whose parents are HIV-positive. More than 270 children have gone through the rehabilitation process at the center and have been given a family. Right now, there are 23 children at the center, including several HIV-positive ones. The main goal is to do the rehabilitation, to establish an orphan status, and to help the children come back to their biological families, and if that is not possible, to provide new Christian families for them.

Mariupol, Ukraine:

This team will visit the Pilgrim Charity Fund at the Good Changes Church. This fund runs the largest rehabilitation project in Ukraine for adults and teenagers addicted to drugs. Street children, the majority of which are severely addicted to drugs, go through an adaptation process there.

More than 2700 teenagers have been treated in the Children Center since 2000, and 60% of them have returned to their families or orphanages. A year ago the Pilgrim Charity Fund started another project, the goal of which is to provide a family for every child. They started 3 family-type orphanages with 6-12 children in each of them. One of them specializes on HIV-positive children. It is the only family-type orphanage for such children in the former CIS. Attendees will be able to visit some of these foster families.

Speaker Biographies

Ludmila Ivanovna Batekhina

*Assistant Head Physician,
Makeevka Regional Orphanage*

1975 – 2002: pediatrician at the City Hospital #21 in Donetsk, Ukraine.

2002 – present: assistant head physician at an orphanage for HIV-positive children.

Charlie Chastain,

*Missionary,
The Mission Society*

Mr. Chastain and his wife, Miki, began working with disabled orphans and street children in Saint Petersburg, Russia in 2001. In partnership with The Mission Society, the Chastains lead Acts of Advocacy- a program dedicated to telling the stories of the at-risk youth of Saint Petersburg. They will begin serving in Russia full-time in May.

Steve & Colleen Coombs,

*Children's Ministry,
Southlands Church International, Brea, California USA*

Colleen and Steve have been married for 32 years and reside in Santa Ana, California. They are the parents of four grown children and two grandchildren. Colleen has been serving as the Children's Ministry Director at Southlands Church Int. for the almost two years. She served for over ten years as the Orange County Coordinator for Moms in Touch, Int., a prayer ministry focused on children and their schools. Steve is the team leader for the pre-school children aged 2-5 years old and has been nurturing a weekly «quiet time» in order to introduce the truth that “God has good things to say” to them. Taking time with the children to «wait expectantly for Him» helps nurture recognition of the voice of their Heavenly Father.

Sergei Alekseevich Demidovich,

*Founder and Leader,
Together International Ministry,
TV-TOGETHER,
Representative for TBN Ukraine*

Sergei is married and has children (including 3 adopted ones). He has been serving the Lord full-time for more than 20 years. He is a pastor and a well-known Christian composer. He is a producer of movies with public service agenda and an author of several Christian TV shows. Once he and his wife discovered the happiness of bringing good change into orphans' lives, he formed a team of close friends and coworkers and dedicated his time and resources to a global goal of providing every child with parents. The national project called You Will Be Found helps achieve this goal.

Petr and Tamara Dudnik,

*Pastors,
Good News Church*

They are the pastors of the Good News Church in Slavyansk, Ukraine. They received a revelation about adoption years ago from the Lord. They have two biological children and four adopted ones. They have been serving orphans and street children since 1999.

Susan Hillis, PhD, MS

Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia

Dr. Hillis has been a believer for 37 years, married to a godly servant for 33, a mother for 24, a US government federal official for 18, and a university professor for 7 years. She is the mother of 11 children, 8 of whom were adopted from Leningrad Oblast after the tragic death of her son at the age of 9. It is her deep joy and privilege to participate in this conference. She has traveled to Russia and Ukraine 32 times over the past 12 years to work on prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, and she has published more than 75 articles in scientific medical journals.

Mikhail Stepanovich Kozitsky,

Pastor and Co-Director,

Light of Love

Mikhail is 38 years old. He has been married for 15 years and has 6 biological and 2 adopted children. He has been a pastor of a church in Tosno, Leningrad region, since 1994. He is the co-director of Light of Love, an NGO of Christian Foster Families located in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Nikolai Nikolaevich Kuleba,

Director,

Department of Child Services in Kiev, Ukraine

Nikolai was born in 1972 in Kiev. He has a degree in economics. He is married and has children. He has been a president of the NGO "Child Protection Services". This organization has created a network of centers for street children, as well as a rehabilitation program. He has been the head of Department of Children Services in Kiev since 2006.

Ludmila Litvin

Ludmila is the manager for an adoption promotion project called "New Family". She works for the international charity fund "Father's House".

Jennifer Means,

Director of Children's Ministry,

Northlands Church

Jennifer has a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and has taught in both public and private schools for 15 years. She has been in Children's Ministry for 25 years and is currently on staff at Northlands Church in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia. She has been married to Scott for nearly 27 years and they have three daughters. She has recently begun to travel internationally sharing the message of God's desire for His children to know and hear from Him even at an early age.

Gennady Viktorovich Mokhnenko,

Founder,

"Republic Pilgrim" Rehabilitation Center for Minors

Gennady Viktorovich is the founder of the biggest rehabilitation center for minors "Republic Pilgrim", as well as of rehabilitation centers for adults. He started a protest program against drug distribution. He studied history, sociology, and religion. He has a Masters of Divinity and has written three books.

Michael Norton,
Board Member,
Tri-Development Center of Aiken County, SC

Mr. Norton is the Lay Leader for mission outreach at Saint John's United Methodist Church in Aiken, South Carolina, USA. In addition to leading the church's mission effort, he has served as a Board member of the Tri-development Center for six years. The Tri-development Center provides community services in Aiken County for individuals with autism, head and spinal cord injuries, and mental retardation. These services include full time care, day-only services, and employment opportunities.

Galina Aleksandrovna Obrovets,
Director/Editor-in-Chief,
Biblical Education Center/"Sister" Christian Women's Magazine

Galina lives and works in Moscow. She was born in a Christian family and graduated from the Moscow History and Archives Institute. Galina is an adjunct-professor at the Christian College of Georgia, USA and the author of a manual for Sunday school teachers called "Favorite Pages of the Bible" (1995). She has translated some books and materials for children and youth and has been organizing conferences for women leaders in ministry since 1997. Galina has been editor-in-chief of the Christian women's magazine "Sister" since 2000. She has been organizing Christian camps for kids from non-christian families since 1994, and educational and humanitarian projects for orphans since 2001. Galina helped film the movie "An Orphan and Me Are God's Family" that helps families and churches understand the importance of adoption and shows the biblical basis for it.

Vitaly Mikhailovich Ozerny,
Director
Crossroads, Western Region of Ukraine

Vitaly graduated from Kazan University in 1981 and has a degree in physics. He has been working in the field of education since 1989, working as a teacher, an assistant principal, and a superintendent. He accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior in 1989 and has been involved with the Crossroads international project since 2001.

Mikhail Viktorovich Pimenov,
Director
"Family" Charity Fund

Mikhail was born in 1965 in Kochetovka, Hoholsky area, Voronezh region. He graduated from a military school in Moscow. He served in various leadership positions in security agencies in USSR and Russian Federation till March, 1998. He then worked as a head specialist in social work at the orphanage "The Road Home" from March, 1998 to September, 2002.

From August, 1999 – March, 2007 he worked as the Director of the charity fund "Childhood Shelter" and from March, 2007 – to the present as the Director of the charity fund "FAMILY"

Galina Schaefer,
Project Manager for Life Skills for Youth Training
Mission Emmanuel

Galina Schaefer was born in Donetsk, Ukraine. In 1997 she graduated from the Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary. For over 10 years Galina has worked in the field of orphans' welfare. Galina currently works with the Gift of Adoption project at Mission Emmanuel in Kiev.

Irina Skrypnik,
Ukraine Director
Eastern European Outreach

Irina Skrypnik Ph.D, is the EEO Ukraine Director since 1994 and oversees a Child Sponsorship / Child Ministries program of 1300 children..

Karen Springs,
Director of the Gift of Adoption Project
Mission Emmanuel

Karen Springs graduated from Seattle Pacific University in Washington State and moved to Kiev, Ukraine in 2004. Since then Karen has been involved with orphan ministry through Mission Emmanuel and currently serves as the director of the Gift of Adoption project. The project has many different focuses, including camp ministries, adoption promotion and awareness and Life skills training for graduate orphans.

Jeff Thompson,
Director
Eastern European Outreach

Jeff Thompson is founder and director of Eastern European Outreach in Murrieta, California and a veteran of 30 years of ministry in Eastern Europe.

