



*The Bible in Public Education...Reaching Children...Touching Families...Transforming Nations*

## Bringing HOPE in times of Crisis Focus on ministry in Ukraine and Latvia...

**26 Years After The Fall of the Soviet Union** - On December 25, 1991, the Soviet hammer and sickle flag lowered for the last time over the Kremlin. Earlier in the day, Mikhail Gorbachev resigned his post as president of the **Soviet Union**, leaving Boris Yeltsin as president of the newly independent Russian state. The former northern Eurasian Empire stretched from the Baltic and Black Seas to the Pacific Ocean and in its final years consisted of 15 Soviet Socialist Republics.

Because of the great need, Kindness Foundation is now focusing ministry efforts on two of the former Soviet Republics: Ukraine and Latvia. Having endured 75 years of darkness under Communist rule during which all Bibles were destroyed, the people of these countries are crying out for God and it is His call that we answer and invite you to partner with us on.

**LATVIA** - On the basis of an order of the Ministry of Education and Science, in the 2004/2005 school year in the first (and later in the second and third) classes, general education schools introduced Christian doctrine and ethics as choice subjects. Each parent chooses which subject the child will study. The Kindness Foundation has provided support of teachers and Christian teachings in Latvia since 2014.



*"By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered, "You give them something to eat." Mark 6:35-37*

**UKRAINE** – In spite of the total collapse of the economy, civil war and poverty coupled with the unspeakable corruption in government, the Kindness Foundation (Fond Dobro) continues to hold seminars for teachers in Ukraine.

Teachers that have been engaged in the program are brought together for seminars where they have a chance to exchange their know how and experience with new teachers, helping to equip them all to present the Word of God to students. Naturally, the need for God's help and intervention is paramount! Therefore, the teaching about God is equally important!

In Ukraine, Christian Education Resource Centers (CERCs) are actively working with refugees displaced from the civil war and have an ongoing program where they distribute food, clothing and other goods.

The Kindness Foundation has been actively engaged in providing much appreciated BIBLES. We are working to raise funds to help meet this growing need for God's WORD.

*"Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35*

# Ministry Report by Dr. Olga Lutsenko

## Bible Distribution – Ukraine Civil War creates Humanitarian Crisis

The ongoing civil war in Ukraine has displaced families, creating fear and uncertainty in a dangerous environment. Citizens have no place to turn. God is their only refuge. But to come to God one needs His word! We are grateful that we can meet some of the need.

Kindness Foundation has provided Bibles to children and adults that fled the civil war zone for the past two years, but we need more Bibles to meet the growing needs as people are searching for answers.

Ministry to children of displaced families is being carried out in several regions of Ukraine. Sharing the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ shines a light in the darkness for these families.



*Bibles are distributed to children of refugee families in Ukraine*



***“In January, the UN Security Council added Ukraine to a growing list of countries suffering due to food shortages, joining Uganda and 16 other African and middle***



*Clockwise from top left: 1.Children welcome the aid & Bibles; 2. The best gift ever; 3. Bibles and goodies for students are distributed at the CERC in Ukraine; 4. Displaced children receive their new Bibles.*



# Ministry Report

by Dr. Olga Lutsenko

## Latvia: School administrators support Bible education despite anti-Christian sentiment in EU

**Latvia:** School administrators recently stated, "In spite of ongoing anti-Christian pressure from the European Union, the interest in implementing the Bible into our school curriculum is growing across the country." The Kindness Foundation's project currently involves Latvian educators and librarians from 10 general education schools, with that number expected to grow. This is an amazing victory when you realize that it could have gone the other way. We must be vigilant in our commitment to help bring the Word of God into classrooms wherever the Holy Spirit has provided an open door! People need to learn of the eternal salvation provided for by Jesus' victory over sin and death as described in the Bible.



On 19 October, Dr. Olga and Fred visited Rezekne Secondary School No. 2 in Latvia. Alevtina Nikolaevna, a teacher of the school, held an open lesson for Class 2B, in which the guests participated actively. She introduced the days lesson with "Today we will talk about the subject of Christian doctrine.

The purpose of this subject is to introduce children to God, the Bible, the foundations of the Christian faith regardless of denomination and, on the basis of these sources, to promote the spiritual and moral development of the pupils. In this way, students gain knowledge and understanding of God's world order, Christian life skills (for example, prayer, service) and are also aware of the motivations for the conduct, activities and personal development based on Christian values.

Dr. Olga and Fred also participated in round table discussions at various schools across Latvia to share experiences and expertise of teaching methods in different countries. "For example, in the United States and Canada, schools are separated from the church, but there are also Christian Schools which provide a high level of education to their students. At these schools, students have a profound spiritual and moral upbringing and are given a great impetus and start in their lives.

In addition to the children, guests, including the Director of the Rezekne High School No. 2, Igor Sergejev, a teacher of the Russian language and literature of Sima Lvov Irishina and other staff of the school, took part in the discussion.



At the end of this excellent event, Dr. Olga and Fred gave all who were present copies of the cognitive Bible and the Biblical atlas. Several copies were sent to the Rezekne Central library.

One educator stated, "It's good to see that children are really passionate about learning and understanding, not only biblical narratives, but also the moral qualities of man and his behavior.

Dr. Olga stressed, "Educating your Child is just a small part of raising your child; we must give our children a strong Bible based foundation." The Kindness Foundation has provided support of teachers and Christian teachings in Latvia since 2014.

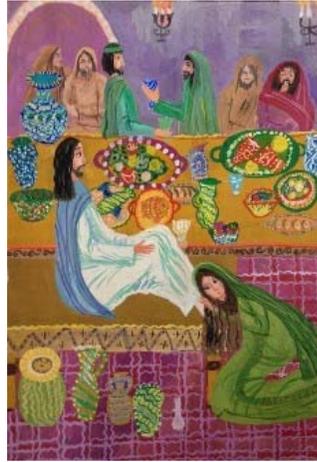
The primary goal of the foundation is to provide a Bible to every pupil who is studying the subject.



# Art for Eternity

The Art for Eternity collection of Biblical Art contains original art pieces created by students in Russia and Ukraine as an expression of their faith in Christ.

The students are invited to participate in annual Biblical Art Contests and the winning pieces tour the finest museums in Russia and are then sent to the Kindness Foundation offices in Hattiesburg, Mississippi where they become a part of our 'Art for Eternity' collection. This collection is exhibited throughout the year at museums, churches and other public venues. We recently exhibited at the Meridian Museum of Art and at 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue Baptist Church in Hattiesburg.



**Kindness Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Christian education society. We are an accredited member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability®. ECFA provides accreditation to leading Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, transparency, fundraising and board governance.

To learn more, please visit [www.ECFA.org](http://www.ECFA.org)

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## WILL YOU SUPPORT US THROUGH OUR BIRDIES FOR CHARITY FUNDRAISER?



We are excited to take part in the *Birdies for Charity* fundraising event on the coast for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row! The title sponsor for this year's event is Rapiscan Systems, the world leader in security scanning systems.

The PGA golf tournament takes place March 23-25 at the beautiful Fallen Oak Golf Course in Biloxi. All donations are tax deductible and 100% of the proceeds goes to the designated charities. Participants can submit a 'Pledge' per Birdie and be invoiced after the tournament or they can submit a flat pledge amount. – Pledge form & envelope enclosed -

Please submit your pledge or donation on our official PLEDGE FORM or you can make a pledge online. Just visit our website at [www.KindnessFoundation.org](http://www.KindnessFoundation.org) and click on the BIRDIES FOR CHARITY link!

## DEDICATION OF OUR 2018 FUNDRAISING EFFORT TO HONOR LAVON SMITH



Lavon Smith with Fred Lutsenko and DeLois Smith visit A classroom during a Vision Trip tour.

In recognition of **Lavon Smith**, who helped to establish the Kindness Foundation in Hattiesburg, MS and who has faithfully served its mission for over 25 years, we are dedicating our *2018 Birdies for Charity* fundraising effort to honor him. Even though he recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, he continues to actively serve on our National Advisory Board. Help us make this our best year ever and in so doing, express our appreciation for Lavon Smith and the charity he serves.