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Making an impact



JOHN KACHELMAN

There are moments in life when your sensitivities to life's inequities and evil's traumas become more acute;

these are times that your emotional extremes are piqued. As you experience these moments the created physiological responses uncontrollably erupt—joy either floods your soul and tears fill your eyes. These intense moments are deeply etched within your psyche. You are “touched.”

From our efforts in shipping benevolence into 23 foreign nations we receive reports that are emotionally charged and these are instantly placed in the mind's museum of memories.

A recent narrative illustrates the emotions of practiced compassion. It comes from an orphanage in a village in western Ukraine. It describes the situation of a 16 year-old young man orphaned when he was 3 years-old. That trauma began a series of unbelievable calamities. Here is real life that many cannot comprehend.

Here is the narrative that describes how hopeless calamity was replaced with divine compassion sent...

“Evil that is done around us makes our life seem unbearable. We are tempted to give up. People need the love of Christ and hope for future more than ever now. Displaced people lost their near and dear ones. They lost everything they had managed to build life. They have no expectations as far as help from the government goes.

“We try to help such people as well as offer help to various local groups. We are thankful to you, dear brethren, beyond words, for your prayers and support. Thanks to your help we have access to different organizations, schools, hospitals, institutes, children's home and orphanages.

“We received a request for help from the administration of a children's rehabilitation center. There are 38 children there from 3 to 18 years old. All of them found themselves in impossible life situations as they lost their parents (some died and some were denied parental rights). These children were left without parental care, some have criminal past and most have various

diseases. These children suffer with lice, worms, lamblia, and need help badly.

"When my wife Svetlana and sister Luba went to that shelter they saw that there were a lot of needs and problems needing immediate attention but the administration was helpless and about to give up hope for these children. The administration could not do anything due to the lack of budget and problems in the country.

"We learned that some of the older children were about to commit suicide. They saw their lives as useless. There was a young boy by the name of Dima. He is sixteen years old. He came to this shelter when he was three years old because both of his parents died.



Dima's relatives took him but they died soon after moving to their house. After the death of his relatives Dima was adopted three more times. But all of his

adopted parents died for different reasons so the boy is deeply depressed.

"When Svetlana saw him in the orphanage Dima had shoes THREE sizes larger than would fit.

"Dima said his dream was to find a job and buy a suit to feel adequate around his schoolmates.

"Thanks to the aid that our American brothers and sisters sent we were able to help this children's home. So we send BIG thanks for lice treatment, shoes, food for children, rice with vitamins and peanut butter."

"Pure and undefiled religion" is neither adherence to blind rituals nor innovative seeking to satisfy selfish needs. "Pure and undefiled religion," expected by the Almighty from those serving Him, is surrender of self's ambitions and pure altruism—it is a decision made when one is committed to following the Lord's example as He sought not His own needs but our needs. Had Christ been controlled by the attitudes of many today He would not have surrendered His rights and put aside His needs for us.

And, if that had been the narrative of Christ's earthly ministry then Dima would not have received the compassion that helped him realize that life is worth living regardless of the terrible situations in which we live.

Because of the "mind of Christ" in the hearts of disciples, a container was shipped into western Ukraine. The container carried a pair of shoes that were the size Dima could wear!