

Teaching English as a Second Language in Vinogradov, Ukraine

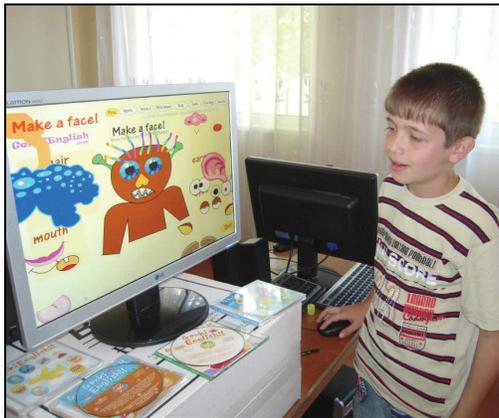
by Cherie Zahora

From July 5 to 17 a LifeNets delegation of Dan and Cindy Harper and Ken and Cherie Zahora taught English and helped with a day camp in Vinogradov, Ukraine, for the second year. We learned several lessons last year, not only about curriculum, but about culture, schedules and the children themselves.

Unlike last year, this year Victor Kubik was with us the first week, which was a huge plus as he speaks Ukrainian fluently. We only had to ask, "Now what's happening?" And we got answers. He translated the daily Christian living classes, which followed the theme of the week of creation.

This year two classes were taught simultaneously in adjacent buildings. Ken and I taught 18 to 20 beginners with the Genki program of pictures, video, gestures and song. Dan and Cindy Harper taught the next level of 20 children, who had a smattering of English already. They learned additional vocabulary, conversation and even delved into pronouns. We came armed with very clearly outlined curriculum maps prepared by Cindy.

Each day we arrived at the *Light of Love Mission* that Vasyl and Irina Polichko began more than a decade ago. Our day began at 10 a.m., when we were all treated to tea, bread and cheese to start. Then came the 90-minute lesson. The lesson began with a warm-up song, review of the previous day's lesson, then new vocabulary using pictures, computer, song and lots of physical action. Games to reinforce the lesson were also used, and the children glued picture words into notebooks. Ukrainian children really enjoy singing, so they really soaked up the Genki lessons. As the children became comfortable with the songs and with us, they were excited to lead the warm-up sessions and the closing each day. They were becoming very confident "teachers."



The children then had free time to jump on the trampoline, play volleyball, badminton, Ping Pong, swing, bounce or kick balls around. They also had 30 to 40 minutes of Christian living class with lots of singing. Then it was time for lunch with more free time, then off to an excursion that included some type of swimming in a river or lake.

We interacted with the children in all these activities, encouraging them to use the English they were learning.

The children, many of whom come from diffi-

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cult family backgrounds, are growing in many ways. They are calmer than last year. We could tell all the patience and hard work of surrogate "parents" Vasya and Maria is paying off. All of the
(see "English" on page 2)

Well in Zimbabwe by Angeline Chichaya

Theresa Chichaya is a widow who lives in a small town in Zimbabwe and owns a 5-acre piece of land on which she grows corn, vegetables and fruits.

She houses 52 adults and children who make up several low-income families who sought accommodation on her land. Some are "lucky" enough to have jobs at nearby farms but cannot afford food even with their monthly wages.

Water is an essential ingredient in the daily survival of these individuals and Mrs. Chichaya has always had a well on her land to supplement this need. Running water had been available in abundance in the neighborhood before the economic downturn in Zimbabwe but under the tough economic circumstances of the last

few years, it became an even more scarce necessity on this land.

Frequent power outages rendered the dream of running water just that, a dream. The well they could turn to had become harder to reach manually with bucket pulleys since the water was far too deep because of previous droughts.

An electric pump powerful enough to draw the water from the well was very sorely needed but was impossible for Mrs. Chichaya and these ordinary folks to afford when all

they were trying to do was feed their families at least once or twice a day at most.

LifeNets learned of this need and provided not only an electric pump for the well, but also a reservoir tank to store water for the many dark days of power outages when the pump would not be functioning. These folks were thirsty, and LifeNets gave them something to drink. At least 53 people's lives have been improved. That means a lot to me because Mrs. Chichaya is my mother.



New: Project for Low-Income Children in Paramirabo, Suriname

A critical factor in the start of any new LifeNets project is how it will be managed on the ground. We have found one that has already started and has reliable and accountable leaders to continue it.

Claid and Marcia Dalfour have started a development project for low-income children, some too poor to afford a pair of shoes. This project is located in Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname in South America. They rented a small meeting hall in Paramaribo. It is actually a small house that was unfinished when they first rented it. The roof was not completely in place, the interior was totally unfinished and the floor of the building was just dirt. With a lot of "sweat equity" they have turned the building into a place where they can provide this service in the neighborhood.

Each Saturday they meet with some 30 children ages 3 to 7 for two to three hours. The Dalfours teach them basic Christian principles via hymns, which the children memorize.

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love they receive from the Polichkos is showing results in their lives. We were surprised how much English they remembered from last year. The seven boys that live with Vasya and Maria Tomaschuk also receive two hours of tutoring in English a week.

It was a real plus to have Ken, Dan and Cindy return as the children had already developed a relationship with them. As the week wore on, the warmth and smiles of the new kids increased. The children love the attention and want to please. The boys reminded Cindy and me to fasten our seatbelts. The children began to put forth the effort to converse with us in casual settings using the phrases they have mastered. "What's your name?" "How are you?" "What's the weather like?"

Yuri, age 7, had difficulty at first fitting into the group. The first two days he did not attend class, but played alone in the yard. Ken invited him to join us and he sat in the back of the class, but did not participate. As the days wore on, he moved closer to the front and was totally engaged. He joined in with the other children, and even played the games with them. The socialization and acceptance motivated his participation.

LifeNets was able to supply four new robust computers to the ESL

They help the older children with elementary reading skills, and they teach all the children basic social skills like saying "Please" and "Thank you." The Dalfours have downloaded some basic children's material from the Internet and use it for their instruction. The texts are in English, but they always explain everything in Dutch so the children can understand.



Marcia Dalfour conducts education program in Paramirabo, Suriname

When the lesson is finished, the children receive a warm lunch before they return home. The Dalfours have been providing this service for about nine months now, paying for everything from their own income. Marcia works as a governmental nurse supervisor in Paramaribo, and Claid is a music teacher.

It is the desire of LifeNets to support this well-run project which simply needs financing. We are looking for sponsors to help sustain this project. Write to us at suriname@lifenets.org.

program and the Rosetta Stone English-language software was networked to these to create a lab for English lessons. This program is very interactive, using headphones and microphone to listen, look and speak. The children could not wait to try out these lessons, even before Dan totally had it all installed. One of the boys

had difficulty speaking the word *women* and the computer would not accept his pronunciation. He listened carefully and repeated the single word almost 20 times, but he did not give up.

The next day one of our students ran to me in

the yard and beckoned me to come with him. Vladislav had sent him to get me, so he could show me that he had scored 100 percent on his lesson. I snapped his picture, and he was very proud of this achievement. We can't wait to see how the students progress with this new tool in the next year.

Some of the children come from the immediate neighborhood and love to stay at the mission as long as they can. They go there to sing, pray, work in the kitchen and enjoy the warm company of the Po-

lichkos. They wash dishes, serve the other children their meals and mop the floors at the end of the day.

The mission provides light in so many ways: food, shelter, Christian foundation, love and hope for a brighter future.



Tea Raises Awareness and Money for LifeNets Orphan Care Centre in Malawi

Once again, a beautiful Charity Tea was held in Piscataway, New Jersey, on an ideally beautiful day. Barbara Walls, the chief organizer, put forth a phenomenal effort to raise attention and money for disadvantaged children in Balaka, Malawi, where LifeNets operates the LifeNets Orphan Care Centre. See a description of last year's tea at <http://lifenets.org/tea/> for information about what makes Dr. Walls go through so much to help these children. Nearly \$4,000 was raised for this coming year's efforts, much of which was given to provide goats for the community. Goats are very important for milk and meat. Orphan children, under age 5, come to the Balaka Chizeni Clinic from two nearby communities. The children are given a medical assessment, food and instruction for their guardians and caregivers. LifeNets has operated this center now for six years at a cost of about \$5,000 a year. This essentially provides for the food and medicine.

Beverly and I thank Barbara Walls and all her supporters for making this a memorable event.



Christina Davis, who was a LifeNets representative in Malawi from January to March 2009, visited Balaka Clinic and obtained some personal stories (see <http://lifenets.org/tea/images2009/whywecare1.pdf>). Her story is also in the May 2009 issue of the *United News* church newspaper. The program started with the signature song "Ordinary People."

Dave Johnson was the master of ceremonies and introduced Dr. Walls who welcomed the guests, including former Piscataway Mayor Helen Merolla.

This was truly an inspiring event. It helped focus attention on the work of LifeNets for orphans. It brought people together to

focus on making a difference. It gave LifeNets the resources and courage to continue its mission with the LifeNets Orphan Care Centre in Balaka.

A Small Amount Can Make a Big Change—a Wheelchair Story With Heart by Wordsworth Rashid

Four years ago Merekina Filipo was riding her hand-operated wheelchair in Salima, Malawi. A vehicle ran into her, damaging the chair. The driver then ran away, leaving her with painful wounds. This woman has two children and two granddaughters.

No one, not even the government, wanted to help her with her broken wheelchair. Her wheelchair was a special one—it could be cycled by using her hands.

She approached one of our LifeNets representatives in Malawi and asked if we could assist her with the repair of her wheelchair. This was in February 2009.

We were glad to help and provided the funding to repair the chair that she had been without for *four* years. The repairs were done and Merekina Filipo is able to be mobile again.

She is proud of the wheelchair that LifeNets has helped to bring back to functional use. She said her appreciation is to God the Merciful Eternal One. Orientation and mobility will now be easy for her. She is able to go to many places within a single day. She thanks LifeNets so much.

What did this cost? Only \$129! This included enlarging the door to her house so she could bring it inside and putting another coat of blue paint on it to make it look nice. What a difference it has made!

We want to thank all our LifeNets supporters who bring happiness through the simplest means.



Before



After



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LifeNets is a 501(c)(3) corporation that helps people in need and promotes self-sufficiency. Contributions to LifeNets are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

How to Effortlessly Double Your LifeNets Donation

Many companies will match their employees' and retirees' charitable contributions. Check with your personnel office, and they will provide the necessary forms and instructions. Then send LifeNets the completed form. Thank you very much!

We Need Wheelchairs

We successfully match about 100 unneeded wheelchairs with people who badly need them. Do you know of a chair that is collecting dust, but could be used to give mobility to a disabled person? Please call our wheelchair coordinator Alix Kubik at 317 536-5219.

Do You Ever Wonder Where Eyeglasses You Donate End Up?

by Lewis Salawila

On Tuesday, May 12, 2009, we in Malawi were blessed upon receiving various types of items, eyeglasses, blankets and toys from America. Thank you.

This came as a surprise, and yet a timely thing considering that it was cold season, the problem of eyes among them, especially elderly people and that most parents cannot afford to buy toys for their children.

A lot of people with eye problems cannot afford to buy glasses from the private and even government hospitals simply because they are very expensive. One pair of eyeglasses can cost \$107.

A total of about 20 people in Blantyre received eyeglasses and 40 were sent to Lilongwe. Dr. Chilopora, who also is running a LifeNets funded clinic in Balaka district, advised recipients to know the status of their eyes before putting them into use by going for testing. Other eyeglasses are being kept for future use in case of damage.



We are very happy to see our shipment of toys, white shirts and blankets make it to Malawi, also!

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Christina Davis: Ambassador for LifeNets in Malawi

Christina Davis represented LifeNets International during an academic study funded by Seattle University from mid-January through mid March 2009. During those nine weeks she surveyed the education infrastructure and employment landscape in Malawi. She analyzed projects to create new applications and monitoring materials for LifeNets. She interviewed school officials and administrators.

LifeNets has 30 people receiving scholarships and 15 who receive livelihood development grants. She visited with all the students and development projects as well as visiting LifeNets Chizeni Clinic and Orphan Care Centre in Balaka that is managed by Dr. Sam Chilopora and his wife Esther.

Part of what Christina did was monitor LifeNets projects and offer suggestions about how LifeNets funding can be

more effective. Her work aided recipients directly—such as the five-hour workshop on business fundamentals.

On May 19 she was able to interview Bill Gates Sr. of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation who spoke at the Albers School of Business. In her questions, Christina asked Mr. Gates to reflect on his hope in young people engaged in service. When Christina asked him to describe young leaders that give him hope, he responded right back at her. “It’s like what you did Christina!” He responded that more youth need to get involved in service efforts similar to Christina’s work with LifeNets in Malawi.

In June Christina spoke to the Skyline Rotary Club in Seattle, Washington, about her work and her aspirations to continue to work with LifeNets.



Christina Davis