

Help for Slava and his Family

Even though I personally offered to pay for all of the aid that Slava's family will need, many of our Mission supporters have reached out to me to ask if they could help too. Once Slava is able to determine how we can best help him and his family, we will be launching a Mission fundraiser to raise funds to support them – so keep an eye out in the next couple weeks for that forthcoming announcement.



Of all my Mission photographs and my Mission “moments”, I think I treasure this one the most, which was taken as we were departing Drohobych after three hours of bonding with Slava and his family.

Right after this photo was taken, out of the corner of my eye, I watched as Slava stepped aside and wiped a tear that had slid down his cheek. Fearing something was wrong, I asked him if he was okay. His face flashed a hint of embarrassment (remember what I said earlier about Ukrainians being a very proud people) and he spoke softly in telling me that he had forgotten what it felt like to be this happy and to smile like this – and right there, my heart again melted.

If we had accomplished nothing else in our entire Mission other than helping Slava's family, I would have felt as if it was all worth it. We not only saved a “double-orphaned family” but we made their new patriarch organically smile and gave him a few moments of tearful joy. And in this one act we also accomplished our people-to-people Mission goal of delivering humanitarian aid to the neediest of Ukrainians.