



Sparrow's Nest

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Dear Friends,

It is thrilling to write and share with you the answers to prayer that have come over the past two months. Day by day and hour by hour, the needs of abandoned and neglected children are being met. God is faithful. His Word tells us that even in the most desperate of situations, His arm is long enough to save and His ear is open to our cries.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened at all, that it cannot save, nor His ear dull with deafness, that it cannot hear." Isaiah 59:1 AMP

I do not know about you, but in many areas of our work at Sparrow's Nest, I find there are times when my arms are just not long enough. I try with all my strength to provide the care and understanding that our children need, but the pain of abandonment, abuse, rejection, and loss that the children have experienced is so deep, human hands cannot touch it. In most cases, the healing and restoration I seek for them can only come from the Lord. That is why our work here at the Sparrow's Nest is so crucial. We are an avenue the Lord can use to restore the lives of these precious children and families in crisis.

I have a new roommate right now. Her name is Sanita and she just turned one month old. She was born while her mother was intoxicated and was left at the hospital while social authorities investigated her family. At seven days old, Sanita came to Sparrow's Nest.



I walk with this child at night, praying that God will touch her family and heal any physical or emotional trauma. I remind her that she is not a mistake—God formed her in the womb. I tell her that even if her mother forsakes her, God will hold her close.

These good things can be spoken over Sanita because God's arm is long enough to reach into her heart and bring peace and long enough to touch her tiny body to bring healing. God hears her every cry and has placed her into loving arms where she will be watched over and nurtured.



Sanita is not the only new sparrow at the moment. Right now little boys seem to be our specialty. Over the past six weeks, five boys have arrived at Sparrow's Nest. Four of these are siblings, who were found intoxicated at an adult level. They are only four, three, two, and one years of age, and the second oldest boy nearly died in the emergency room. They have no family to speak of and were rejected by three separate foster families. However, God heard their cries and brought them to Sparrow's Nest. We can be sure that whatever the situation, God's arm is long enough and He hears our cries too.



As I mentioned earlier, it is thrilling to share the answers to prayer that have come over the past months. First of all, we were able to take a step further in using the country property to raise food for our children and families in crisis. With the help of a special team from West Virginia, we put fences around the fields and we have our first herd of cattle and flock of sheep! This winter the freezer and pantries will be full!

We also want to express heartfelt thanks to our friends, the Cook family, for the month they spent with us in Latvia. They came with open hearts, unicycles, and the willingness to work hard! The children had boat rides on the pond and several of them caught their very first fish with the Cook family's help. Through their efforts, we were able to find and repair the overflow for our pond. The water can now be leveled, and the dock can once again be used by the children. The staff and children were touched by their kindness and example of loving service. Thank you, Cook family!



Additionally, funds were donated for the playground! We had donations come in from several sources, one of them being a group of children who raised money at their Vacation Bible School. We also have two more volunteers coming from West Virginia to build the play structures. The playground will be built on the new land we purchased last fall. All of the children and staff are excited about the play area.



One of our long-term goals has been to sell the original orphanage home. Yet, one of the obstacles in our way has been the “privatization” of the land the home is on. In Soviet times, there was no private ownership of land. All land belonged to the State, including the land under the orphanage. But through the help of two special friends of Sparrow’s Nest, the land belongs to us now and we are free to sell the home. We prayed about this situation for five years and it seemed impossible—but not with God!

We are also able to report that our goal of replacing the heating units in our homes has been met. The funds were donated and the heating units have been ordered. They will be installed and well tested before the cold winter weather sets in!

Please continue to pray for our children who need good homes. There are several adoptive families who have shown an interest. We need to keep the children and the adoptive families lifted up in prayer. It is an enormous decision to add three or four children into your family, bringing with it many challenges and rewards. Nonetheless, God hears the cries of our children “to belong,” and He answers with loving families.



We continue to thank God for you and to lift you up in prayer. God’s love is very much alive and active on your behalf. Whatever your situation or need, remember that His arm is long enough to reach what you cannot, and His ear is open to hear and to answer your call.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alissa".

Alissa Stemple

We continue to trust God for our current needs, which include:

- School clothing and shoes for the children.
- Additional partners and friends of Sparrow’s Nest who can help us meet the monthly needs of the children.—*We now have 27 children in the Sparrow’s Nest family.*
- Finances for a smaller, economical vehicle.—*\$8,000.00 USD.*
- Finances to properly fence the land around the new play area.—*\$3,500.00 USD.*

