

The Face of God



"I don't know if I had the impact in Ukraine that I wanted to have," said Debbie Hartle at the Ukraine trip debriefing. The language barrier between the Ukrainian children and our English team made it difficult to know if our lessons were being understood. Our team taught four Bible stories in a VBS-style program at the family camp in Lviv, Ukraine. At times, it was hard to tell if the seed of the Word of God was landing on fertile soil. Sometimes seeds take time to grow. Debbie was gentle and loving with the children and her impact was felt beyond the words that she spoke. Her presence radiated the love of Jesus and her face communicated grace and kindness.

Have you found it difficult to use words to convey the Gospel? I often contemplate all that Jesus' face communicated without words. What did the Blind Man see the moment his eyes were opened and Jesus was in front of him? What did the disciples see when they woke the Prince of Peace in the middle of the storm and heard Him say, "Peace, be still"? What a contrast it must have been to the terror that creased across their own faces. How warm and welcoming was His smile when He scooped up little children into His arms and blessed them. What did Jesus' face communicate when He said, "Don't be afraid, just believe" or "Do you want to be healed?" or "Martha, Martha..."

The stories help us relate to Jesus. They help us to understand who He is. They compel us to trust Him. "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). **He lights up when He sees you! Jesus' face is shining on you and through you!**

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Mission Twin Cities



On August 2-6, Hope Lutheran in Minneapolis, MN hosted an outreach called Mission Twin Cities. Instead of heading to an overseas location, they decided it would be good to learn how to be on mission near home. Orality Institute was invited to provide orality training to the youth in order to equip to share the Good News of Jesus.

Jesus told His disciples, "You will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). That would have been an exciting assignment for His disciples. They were to tell people about Jesus. What He did, what He said, and how He treated people. They were tasked to tell stories about Jesus! The Hope Lutheran youth were taught to do the same thing. Tell people about Jesus by sharing the stories that you have learned. They learned the story of Jesus healing the Blind Man from Luke 18:35-43 and then divided into groups of three to go around the neighborhood and share Jesus with people. There were those not interested in hearing about Jesus, but there were also many who accepted the invitation and listened to how the Blind Man was healed.

Following the outreach there were many excited testimonies. Seeds had been sown in the form of a story from God's Word. One group shared with residents at a nursing home. They were interested in the story. Five residents requested Bibles and one man prayed to receive Jesus as his Savior! You can join those first disciples who were eager to be on mission, always ready to share the good news of Jesus through a story.

Hike and Bike: September 26th the Orality Institute will be hosting a 30-mile awareness/fundraiser **bike ride**. We will start at Emmaus Lutheran in Bloomington, MN at 2:00 p.m. and ride around the Minneapolis lakes.

October 10th is the annual **Grand Canyon Hike**. The hike will still happen, but it will be modified because of the August 29th flash flood that took out some bridges in the bottom of the canyon. These events are intended to raise awareness and finances for this essential ministry.

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