

HUG AND DO NOT LET GO!

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THE
NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES**

**PRESENTED BY ALMAZ CHURCH AND FATHER'S
HEART IN KYIV, UKRAINE JANUARY 21 – 22, 2011**



STATEMENT OF CONFERENCE PURPOSE

Our dream is to change the heart of the nations towards children with disabilities. In Ukraine, less than 1% of parents of children with Down Syndrome ever take their children home from the hospital. Similar statistics exist regarding the parents of children with other disabilities. These special children are viewed in society as being a burden, being uneducable, being unable to accomplish simple tasks like dressing or feeding themselves, lacking the ability to develop employment skills to earn an income, and being unable to learn to live independently and contribute to society. We want to help change society's image of these children with special needs through education, demonstration, and personal testimonies.

OUR SPONSORS

FATHER'S HEART, INC.

Father's Heart, Inc. is a charitable humanitarian aid ministry from Chesapeake, Virginia, founded and run by David T. Daulton and his wife, Jane E. Daulton. The Daultons have been active advocates of children with special needs for over 25 years. Father's Heart supports various orphanages in Ukraine which house children with special needs, and arranges short term mission trips to Ukraine orphanages from the United States. Since 1999, several teams have come over to Ukraine to work with the orphans with special needs, providing therapy equipment and wheelchairs, teaching therapy and educational techniques to orphanage staff, helping with repairs and improvements of the orphanage buildings and grounds, and installing therapeutic playground equipment which the children with disabilities to play and exercise with the rest of the children at the orphanages.

ALMAZ CHURCH

Almaz Church is a church in Kyiv which has a real heart for the orphans, especially those with special needs. Under the direction of Pastor Sasha Skripak, Almaz has been working with the children in several orphanages around Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine for the past 3 years. Almaz has helped bring in missions teams from the United States and has made many improvements in the lives of the orphans. Besides raising funds for improving the physical structure of the orphanages, Almaz has also brought in many local volunteers to do construction and repairs, provide therapy to the children, and show them the love of God for all of His creatures, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant. Almaz believes that God loves even "the least of these," and that we are commanded as Christians to care for the orphans.

ORPHAN'S PROMISE

Orphan's Promise – Orphan's Promise, a ministry of the Christian Broadcasting Network, was created to minister to the physical, spiritual and educational needs of orphaned and abandoned children by providing loving care, training for future independence and the hope of the Gospel. Through Orphan's promise, parentless children and other poor and defenseless youngsters can discover that God loves them and has a plan and a purpose for their lives.

DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF HAMPTON ROADS

The Down Syndrome Association of Hampton Roads – Established in 1981, The Down Syndrome Association of Hampton Roads is a not-for-profit organization located in Virginia, USA, serving the needs of individuals with Down Syndrome and their families. The association is supported by a board of directors, an advisory board and dedicated volunteers. Its mission is to enhance the lives of individuals with Down Syndrome, helping them reach their full potential by providing family support, education, and social opportunities.

SERVING SPECIAL ORPHANS

Serving Special Orphans – A Mission to provide Early Intervention Supports and services to orphans with special needs. It will soon be a non-profit organization and extend services to include families of children with special needs. Started by Sandie Flannery, MA.Ed., an Early Intervention Specialist with over thirty five years experience providing services to children with special needs and their families. After accompanying a student's mother who was adopting three little girls with Down Syndrome from the Ukraine, Sandie, a mother of an 18 year old girl with significant developmental disorders, realized that this is what God had intended for her.

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS

Dr. and Mrs. David and Joan Kaiser
Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Daulton
Deb and Mike Stewart
Dr. Cynthia Normandia

Ms. Lucina McLean
Mr. and Mrs. Clary P. Barrett, Jr.
Sandie Flannery
Dr. Robert Rogan

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE – DAY ONE

FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 21ST

6:00 to 6:30 **Registration** in lobby. Sign in and receive information packet about sponsoring organizations and specific educational topics offered. Light snacks and beverages provided.

6:30 to 7:00 **Opening Ceremony** in Main Hall -- Introduction of the purpose and participants of this inaugural International Conference on the Needs of Children with Disabilities – who we are and what we are offering. Dave and Jane Daulton, parents of 12 children, 5 “Homegrown” and 7 adopted, will be the featured speakers, along with Pastor Sasha Skripak of Almaz Church.

Session I 7:00 to 8:30 Topics:

A. **Use of Early Intervention Techniques with Children with Disabilities** – What to do and How to do it to enhance your infant and child’s development! – presented by Sandie Flannery, MA. Ed., Early Intervention Specialist.

B. **Down Syndrome 101** – what causes it, what are the effects and ranges of symptoms of children with Down Syndrome, and what kind of future can be expected – presented by Dr. Cynthia Normandia and David and Jane Daulton.

C. **Environmental Impact on Children with Disabilities** – comparison and contrast of the environmental effects of a family life environment versus an institutional environment on children with disabilities – presented by Dr. Robert Rogan.

Break-out Session – 8:30 to 9:00 -- opportunity to meet individually with various presenters – light snacks and beverages provided.

END OF DAY ONE

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE – DAY TWO

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22ND

8:30 to 9:00 **Registration** in lobby. Sign in and receive information packet about sponsoring organizations and specific educational topics offered. Light snacks and beverages provided.

9:00 to 9:30 **Opening Ceremony** in Main Hall -- Introduction of the purpose and participants of this inaugural International Conference on the Needs of Children with Disabilities – who we are and what we are offering. Dave and Jane Daulton, parents of 12 children, 5 “Homegrown” and 7 adopted, will be the featured speakers, along with Pastor Sasha Skripak of Almaz Church.

Session I 9:30 to 10:45 Topics:

A. **Environmental Impact on Children with Disabilities** – comparison and contrast of the environmental effects of a family life environment versus an institutional environment on children with disabilities – presented by Dr. Robert Rogan.

B. **Use of Early Intervention Techniques with Children with Disabilities** – What to do and How to do it to enhance your infant and child’s development!– presented by Sandie Flannery, MA. Ed., Early Intervention Specialist.

C. **Use of Occupational Therapy Techniques with Children with Disabilities** – knowing their limitations and helping them reach their potential through the practice of applied occupational therapy – presented by Dr. Cynthia Normandia.

Break-out Session – 10:45 to 11:15 -- opportunity to meet individually with various presenters – light snacks and beverages provided.

Session II 11:15 to 12:30 Topics:

A. **Down Syndrome 101** – what causes it, what are the effects and ranges of symptoms of children with Down Syndrome, and what kind of future can be expected – presented by David Daulton.

B. **Alternative Methods of Communication with Children with Disabilities** – implementation of full sensory integration and sign language in enhancing the communications skills of children with disabilities – presented by Jane Daulton and Dr. Cynthia Normandia.

C. **Use of Therapeutic Equipment and Techniques in Treating Physical Limitations of Children with Disabilities** – includes demonstration of use of various types of therapeutic equipment on actual children with disabilities from a local orphanage along with teaching tips– presented by Sandie Flannery, MA. ED, Early Intervention Specialist.

LUNCH: 12:30 to 2:00 – Guest Speaker and Host Pastor Sasha Skripak of Almaz Church will present on “God’s Children, One and All” prior to lunch being served. During and after lunch, Guest Speakers David and Jane Daulton will share their personal story and photos of how they came to have 8 children with Down Syndrome and other disabilities in their family! **Free lunch** provided in the main hall for all participants and presenters.

Session III 2:00 to 3:15 Topics:

A. **Dispelling the Myths About Children with Down Syndrome** – common misconceptions and misunderstandings about children with Down Syndrome – a realistic analysis at what these children can accomplish and how they improve our society – presented by David and Jane Daulton.

B. **Individual Assessments for Children with Disabilities and their Families/Caregivers** – you must be pre-scheduled for these free assessments by Sandie Flannery where she will help parents and other care-givers set up an individual plan on how to enhance the lives of specific children with disabilities – 2 sessions of about 35 minutes each.

C. **Working with Children with Disabilities in the Educational Environment** – how to deal with issues of attention-seeking, keeping the focus on academics, use of memory tools and visual aids, and fine motor skill development for school age children with disabilities – presented by Dr. Cynthia Normandia.

Break-out Session – 3:15 to 3:45 -- opportunity to meet individually with various presenters – light snacks and beverages provided.

Session IV 3:45 to 5:00 Topics:

A. **Individual Assessments for Children with Disabilities and their Families/Caregivers** – you must be pre-scheduled for these free assessments by Sandie Flannery where she will help parents and other care-givers set up an individual plan on how to enhance the lives of specific children with disabilities – 2 sessions of about 35 minutes each.

B. **Volunteering to Work with Children with Special Needs in the Orphanages** – a “hands-on” guide to basic therapeutic and educational techniques for volunteers who want to learn how to interact with children with disabilities and help the children improve their physical manipulation of their environment, basic self-help skills, and social skills – presented by Pastor Sasha Skripak and David and Jane Daulton.

C. **Use of Occupational Therapy Techniques with Children with Disabilities** – knowing their limitations and helping them reach their potential through the practice of applied occupational therapy – presented by Dr. Cynthia Normandia.

END OF DAY TWO

OUR PRESENTERS:

Dr. Cynthia Normandia

Dr. Cynthia Normandia OTD, OTR/L



Dr. Cynthia Normandia is a pediatric occupational therapist with 31 years expertise in private and school based practice. She holds a Doctorate and Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy from Virginia Commonwealth University with a specialty in autism spectrum disorders. Her Bachelor's Degree in occupational therapy was completed at the University of Pennsylvania. Cynthia has worked in both New York City and Chesapeake Virginia with children with varied disabilities from birth (0-3 years old) through school age (3-22 years) for most of her career. She specializes in school based practice and presently works in a Virginia School System overseeing a staff of 40 therapists. Dr Normandia provides ongoing training to teachers, therapists and administrators in addressing the needs of children with sensory processing disorders, autism, and other special needs. She is an advocate of student-centered intervention with a strong emphasis on supporting the strengths and abilities of children so that they can reach their full potential. Her strength-based approach is based on her passion that 'all children can succeed'. Dr Normandia emphasizes team collaboration with Parents as an essential part of that team to enhance children's progress and development. Dr Normandia has created innovative programs from seating clinics to social skills programs and has spoken at professional organizations. Her occupational therapy practice is driven by her love for all children and that occupational therapy is valuable to enhance and promote progress at all ages.

Dr. Robert Rogan



Dr. Robert Rogan, D.O., J.D., M.B.A. -- Dr. Rogan did his residency in Psychiatry in North Carolina and is Board Certified in Psychiatry. He is also an attorney, having received his Juris Doctor (JD) from Regent University School of Law. He received his Doctor of Osteopathy degree from West Virginia, after having received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics and a Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in Quantitative Management from the State University of New York.

MEDICAL EXPERIENCE:

Dr. Rogan has over twelve years experience as a staff psychiatrist in community mental health centers, state hospitals, consultation and liaison, prison, jail, geriatric inpatient, community hospitals, substance abuse, and nursing homes, as well as several assignments as locum tenens. He also has three years experience as a family physician in rural outpatient clinics.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Dr. Rogan has ten years experience teaching at the university and college level up through the rank of Associate Professor.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Dr. Rogan has engaged in Family/General Practice medicine in short term mission trips to Haiti, Jamaica, Turkey, and India. He has three years experience in Aerospace as an Associate Research

Sandie Flannery



Sandie Flannery, MA. Ed., Early Intervention Specialist, is an Early Intervention Teacher with over 35 years experience providing services to young children with disabilities ranging from birth through age five and their families. She holds a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Montclair State University and a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education from the University of Florida, along with Certification in Early Childhood Education. She has worked in the public school system in Pennsylvania as an Early Intervention Teacher/Consultant, Behavior and Autism Consultant, and Parent Liaison for 25 years. In addition, she has worked as an Adjunct Professor at East Stroudsburg University teaching courses in Early Childhood Special Education and has guest lectured at many local colleges, seminars and conferences and has participated on many Ad Hoc committee's developing Advocacy and Support Services for Families. Ms. Flannery is also the parent of a child with significant developmental disorders and congenital brain abnormalities so she knows first hand the special issues involved with parenting a special needs child. She has been a long time advocate for children with disabilities and has been responsible for setting up recreational, Camp and Church programs in her community. Having come to the Ukraine to assist a friend in her adoption of three children with Down Syndrome, Ms. Flannery realized that she had the necessary skills to try and make a difference for the children and families who were in need of and did not have access to Early Intervention Services. She is in the process of starting a non-profit foundation called Serving Special Orphans and this is her third trip to the Ukraine . Ms. Flannery feels strongly that a child who has special needs in *first* a child and strongly advocates that teaching must be done through nurturing. She believes that children learn best through active participation with their environment and that the teacher is the facilitator of active learning experiences, adapting the materials to create a motivating and positive learning experience. Utilizing various techniques and strategies to optimize the child's ability to interact and connect with others, Ms. Flannery creates a learning environment that enhances the child's development. She combines quality Early Childhood Programming with speech, physical, occupational, music, and hearing and vision therapies to target individual learning goals for children both in small and large group settings.

David and Jane Daulton



David and Jane Daulton live in Virginia, USA, and have 12 children, 5 “home-grown” and 7 adopted. One of their birth children and all 7 adopted children have Down Syndrome, including Emily from Ethiopia and Jack, Philip, and Anya from Ukraine. They have been involved in their community for years, starting the local Compassionate Friends Chapter and running it for 18 years. They are also active in Special Olympics, Down Syndrome support groups, and promoting the acceptance of children with Down Syndrome and other disabilities. They work with orphanages in Ukraine, helping people adopt children and also organizing short term missions trips. David Daulton graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1987 and with a Juris Doctorate degree from Regent University School of Law in 1990.

PASTOR SASHA SKRIPAK



- **Why does Almaz church serve the orphans?**
- Because there are more than 130.000 orphans.
- Because many orphans are humiliated in the boarding schools. Their personality is neglected and their life is ruined.
- Because they need a family where they will experience love of parents.
- Because they need to know the Gospel, to accept it and to be saved from hell.
- Because every second graduate of the boarding school either gets to a jail or gets involved in criminal activity or dies of AIDS or murder.
- Because they are people and Christ died for them too. We must do everything possible to help them gain salvation.



All Children are a Gift from God, and they all serve different purposes. Our world would be far worse off without these children to teach us about kindness, compassion, humility, patience, joy, unconditional love, and the Heart of The Father. They are truly a Blessing!