

Clown Ministry

Who's Behind the Red Nose? ...by Shelly Godlien

Greetings, my name is Shelly Godlien, except when in my clown character, my name is "Lite Brite" which is a reminder that if we have God in our heart that we are to be a light to the world.

However, here in Ukraine my name doesn't translate very well so the children simply call me "CLOWN."

During the summer of 2003, I was blessed with the opportunity to be a part of a short-team mission team that spent two weeks serving in Lviv, Ukraine.

It impacted me in such a way that I knew I would return. For how long and in what capacity I was not sure but committed it fully to prayer.

I decided to "step out in faith" and fully trust God with this. I would never have fathomed that I would be stepping out in faith in big clown shoes and a RED nose and going

to Ukraine for a year! However, here I am!

Back home in Calgary, I am a Special Education teacher by profession. I've taken a year leave of absence from my job and am volunteering for HART.

'Clowning' as a Ministry?

Some of you may be asking yourselves this question, "How can a clown share such a serious and life-changing message as the gospel?"

The purpose of ministry is to share Jesus with others and clowning is just another way to reveal our

faith in Christ to others.

Christian clowning offers endless opportunities for street evangelism or presentations in orphanages, to share through skits, songs and clown antics.

I have experienced firsthand how the silly antics and colorful character of a clown captivates an audience and touches lives through joy and laughter.

Partnering with local Ministries

The focus while I'm here in Ukraine is to equip & train those interested in this type of ministry.

These young people will be able to impact others from behind a big red

nose!

I firmly believe this approach is the most fruitful.

Also, the new clowns unlike myself speak Ukrainian and have ongoing relationships with the people they minister too.

God has blessed us with several very eager clowns-in-training.

Ministry teams that do outreach programs within orphanages and boys prisons have been open to and desire to use clowning within their programs.

Please keep these 'clowns-in-training' and this ministry in your prayers.

Lastly, I would really like to encourage others in North America, to 'get involved' - use your gifts (ones you may not even know you have!).

I say this because I see how God has blessed me abundantly and beyond anything I would ever comprehend, because I made that decision to "step out."



Shelly Godlien
a.k.a. Lite Brite



Shelly & "clown-in-training" Yura

"I became involved in the clown ministry on one hand because I like it, but on the other hand because through this we can share Jesus Christ, our God, and make children happy with our presence." ...Yura (age 17)



Shelly at a Birthday party for orphans