

“Worship that is pure and unblemished in the sight of God the father is this: to visit and help and care for the widows and orphans in their affliction and need....” James 1:27

Experiencing God’s amazing grace at the Grace Center in Russia!

Big Family Mission has been partnering with the Grace Center in St. Petersburg for almost a year now.

For me (Ken) it has been a big blessing and a humbling experience as we watch God’s work through Grace Center unfold. Ask Dianne: She will tell you that I want to explain everything in a logical manner. Yes, I want to say the Grace Center does “this, and this, and this”. It has these goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. But, praise God! There is nothing logical about the Amazing Grace that God provides to each of us. And, in similar fashion, we have found that the work and love extended by the Grace Center cannot be reduced to a simple formula.

In the time we have partnered with the Grace Center, Big Family has:

- helped a young woman decide to keep her baby and provided clothes and furnishings as well as a temporary home for mom and baby;
- provided food for a single mom with 4 children who couldn’t work because she broke her leg;
- helped hold a Christmas celebration for single mothers and orphanage graduates;
- helped an orphanage dropout decide to keep her baby and join the Center’s young mother’s program;
- helped treat an orphan with cerebral palsy to her first-ever excursion to a supermarket; and
- and assisted with the many other acts of grace that flow from the aptly named Grace Center.

We thank all of you who pray and contribute to help with the work of the Grace Center!



Adelia is a Christian mother with four children. She is educated as an engineer but now works as a housekeeper. Her husband left her and the children. When she broke her leg, she had to be off work for two months. Big Family helped Grace Center provide food for Adelia and her children.



Lena from Grace Center helps Lisa shop for baby clothing. God’s grace flowed to Lisa through a generous gift by one of our Big Family friends.



The young lady in this photo (Uliana) is near and dear to our hearts. We first met Uliana when she was nine years old and an orphan at the Kommunar Internat School. At age 16, Uliana became pregnant and had to drop out of the orphanage school at Jukki. Uliana has had a faithful Big Family sponsor who has prayed much for her over the years. The Grace Center worked with Uliana to help her decide not to have an abortion. Now she has her baby girl Alina, and Alina’s father has married Uliana. She participates in the program for young mothers at the Grace Center.

More about the Grace Center



Sonja: amazed at the supermarket

Big Family Mission helps the ministry of Grace Center through Help for Children in St. Petersburg, which is led by Natasha Kirillov. Here's is Natasha's account of the life story of Sonya Kasterina.

"Sonya has a walking disability, cerebral palsy. After her mother started drinking hard, Sonya was sent to the orphanage Grace. She lived there for a year. Then the orphanage was closed, and Sonya came back to her mother. When she heard that we have Grace Family Center, Sonya asked us to put her into the program. We regularly invite Sonya to the center, where she has opportunity to attend the church services and fellowship with the children of her age. She says this is the only good thing of her life. She knows that there are people who care and accept her as she is. Sonya is a good Christian: she prays hard and she was specially blessed this Easter. When supporters from Finland came to visit other children in our ministry, Sonya had 5 visitors who came to Russia with the only goal: to see her, say hello, say that they remember about the girl! When we told Sonya that they are coming, she didn't sleep 3 nights, so excited she was!

When Sonya comes to the Center we always talk to her to find out what she needs the most, to be able to help her better. Last year she has spent one month during the summer at Bolshevo (summer camp). We are

going to invite her to one of our camps this coming summer as well.

Recently when we were discussing what to buy for the Easter celebration, it appeared that Sonya HAS NEVER BEEN AT THE SUPERMARKET IN HER LIFE. The only store she has been to was when she was 5 or 6 years old. Her mother has never been interested to take Sonya from the house, and Sonya can't walk without support of a person. She has always been thinking that people are ashamed of her being disabled. When we found that out, we drove her to the nearest supermarket right away! Sonya was amazed!

She was so excited that she spoke in a very loud voice near everything she would see. The store was like a museum for her, and even milk and bread was like an exhibit! "Oh, look how big is the store! I would never think that food and clothes can be sold in one supermarket! Is it true that I can touch everything! Wow, look at the line that can move when you put products on it (she was saying that standing in front of the cash-register)! I have heard about it, but saw it only by TV!"

We made Sonya's day and she was absolutely happy!

And how many of us think that the life is boring and brings no joy? Now think about Sonya, and compare how many opportunities do you have! It is amazing how little so many people in need require to make them happy, but even this little support is absolutely impossible without our participation.

Sonya's life is not easy: her mother is drinking again. But she prays to God so that He will bring her mother to the church and change her! Will you help Sonya by praying with her?



Thank you for supporting our work here! It all is impossible without you!"

Sonya experienced the joys of shopping in a supermarket for the first time in her life. And, of course, one of those joys is trying on the crazy hats!

Thanks to all of our Big Family Mission partners!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Do you receive our email updates? If not, can you please email or write us with your email address? We have much more to tell you about our work in Russia, including an update from Ivan Ikyushin about the project: Russian with No Orphans.

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