

BIG FAMILY

Mission to Children

October 2005

“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 (AMP)

Celebrating the lives of Russian orphans



The first Big Family “life celebrations” were a big hit for our children at Kommunar, St. Petersburg, and Luga. Children who had birthdays in August and September were honored and presented with a gift from Big Family Friends.

The program at each location included a “life lesson”. The first lesson centered on the fact that each child is a special creation by God, and each child is “fearfully and wonderfully” made by God.

As part of the life lesson, the children used pipe cleaners to fashion their own special creations. Although most of the children had never seen a pipe cleaner before, they quickly caught on to the many different shapes they could create.

BIG FAMILY partners with MIR

BIG FAMILY is now partnering with the MIR organization in Russia. MIR was founded in the fall of 2000 to serve as the "legal face" of Mission Global Outreach in Russia. Since then, MIR has expanded and has entered into partnerships with several other mission organizations and churches from the US and Scotland. BIG FAMILY is MIR's newest partner. Each year MIR helps over 250 people come on short-term trips to Russia, transfers funds for humanitarian aid, and oversees on-going programs.

BIG FAMILY's relationship with MIR will allow us to carry out our work as part of an "official" organization in Russia. For more information about MIR's ministry and partners, visit their website: www.mir-russia.com.

Who will be going to Russia next?

In some of the churches where we have BIG FAMILY Friends, there has been discussion of organizing a mission trip to Russia.

Do you have any interest in this kind of mission trip? If we decide to proceed, the trip would probably be one week in April of 2006, and we estimate the cost per person would be about \$1600, including all expenses except passport and spending money.

If you think you might be interested, can you send us a note or contact us via e-mail?

Keep Us in Prayer for November Visit

Our next visit to Russia will be November 18 to 27, and two BIG FAMILY friends will be accompanying us! On previous visits, we (Dianne and Ken) have traveled by ourselves so we are delighted that Carol Salwocki (Dianne's cousin and a big supporter of Big Family) and Vickie Felix (co-captain for the Luga orphanage outreach) will be joining us to get a first-hand look at the work being done at Kommunar, St. Petersburg, Svelosk, and Luga.

Please keep all of us in prayer as we travel.

Update on Kommunar foster home

Our foster family is growing! Vania, a 15-year-old graduate of the Kommunar internat, has officially joined our foster family, so Ira and Maxim now have three foster children in addition to their own son, who also has the name of Vania.

Through a special gift from Family Friends at the Slavic Pentecostal Church in Massachusetts, Big

Family recently purchased a new refrigerator for our foster family. This larger refrigerator will allow Ira to purchase food in larger quantities, and in the long run, will help reduce food costs for the family.

Please keep our foster family in your prayers!

Last call for Christmas giving

If you would like to help with Christmas gifts for our Big Family children and have not already made a contribution, please include your check with this month's gift.

Last year at Christmas, we sent actual gift items from the U.S., and the cost of the postage was equal to or greater than the value of the gift items that we sent.

This year we ask that you make a donation to participate in buying a special gift for each child in our Big Family. Suggested donation is \$25. Some of our Family Friends may not be able to give \$25, so if you are able and wish to give more than \$25, it will be much appreciated.

Funds for the Christmas gifts will be used by our volunteers and staff in Russia to choose a special Christmas gift (much needed clothing or personal items) to meet each child's needs. All the children who are on our list for Big Family will receive a gift.

We will of course report on what gifts are bought and will feature the Christmas celebrations in the Big Family newsletter.

Prayer requests...

- A large house for our foster family in Kommunar, which would enable them to expand their family;
- Opportunities for Eva and Misha to present orphan ministry to church groups in Russia;
- Homes and families for the orphans of Russia, both in Russia and the U.S.;
- Opportunities for Ken and Dianne to present Big Family mission to church groups;
- For all the orphan children of Russia and for all of our Family Friends and volunteers.

Contact information:

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Big Family Mission is an inter-denominational mission outreach of Lighthouse Community Church