

BIG FAMILY

Mission to Children

April 2006

"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)



One picture = 10,000 words...

In this month's newsletter, we have a lot of exciting news about Luga internat/orphanage and the children there, plus photos of the Christmas party at the Vsevolosk rehabilitation center for children.

First, let us visit Luga. All of the children at Luga have received shoes or boots as a gift from Big Family Mission. Our volunteers at Luga helped the children get the right sizes, and our volunteers celebrated with the children at one of their regular visits to Luga orphanage. Durable boots are very important to the children because of the harsh winters in northern Russia. This year, the temperatures (for St. Petersburg area) were very low for several weeks... 25 to 30 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

In the photo above, Peter and Lena posed to show us their new boots.

Showers and activity room at Luga

The other excitement at Luga is that showers are being constructed, an activity room for the children is almost completed, and new doors are being installed throughout the orphanage.

Big Family Friends donated most of the funds that are being used for these renovation projects at Luga. A group of Christians from Finland visited the orphanage/internat in March to help with the work. It is a great blessing to see how Christians from America and Christians from Finland can come together to help improve conditions at the Luga internat/orphanage.



Lots of work going on in Luga: here you can see the tile work is underway for the showers at Luga.

A surprise at Kommunar

When we last visited the Kommunar orphanage, Director Tatiana told us that there was a possibility that the facility might be closed as part of a reorganization of the Russian orphanage system.

Based on preliminary information about the restructuring, it appeared that the Kommunar facility would remain open; however, it has now been announced that the Kommunar internat/orphanage will close in August of this year.

We receive this news with mixed emotions. We know that it will be very difficult for the children at Kommunar. The orphans who have no living parent will be moved to an orphanage at Siverskaya, about 60 miles from Kommunar. The "social orphans" will now have to attend an internat school at Gatchnia, about 30 minutes away from Kommunar. The closing is also difficult news for the church at Kommunar and for everyone who has been involved with ministering to the children at the Kommunar orphanage.

As difficult as the news is to accept, we have reminded ourselves that God is in control. We continue to pray that God will intervene in Russia, and establish homes and families for Russia's orphans. We must accept this move as a part of God's plan to rescue the orphan children of Russia.

Big Family will continue to love and minister to our Kommunar children in every way possible. On our next trip to Russia (late April, early May), we will be visiting the Siverskaya orphanage and meeting the director there. Please pray fervently for the children at Kommunar. We will keep you posted on developments there.

Have you visited our website lately?

If you have ever visited our website, you know that we have never identified Russian orphans and their locations on our website, simply because we wish to protect the privacy of the children.

Recently, the Russian government has taken measures to prohibit photographs of individual orphans being taken, especially by foreigners. In light of these developments and in respect for the wishes of the Russian government, we have removed from our website photos of individual children who might be sponsored through Big Family Mission.

Many politicians in the Russian government have focused on one or two situations involving Russian orphans who have been adopted by Americans who abused the orphans. Unfortunately, little publicity is given to the thousands of Americans who have spent millions of dollars to bring Russian orphans into loving and caring families.

Christmas at Vsevolosk...

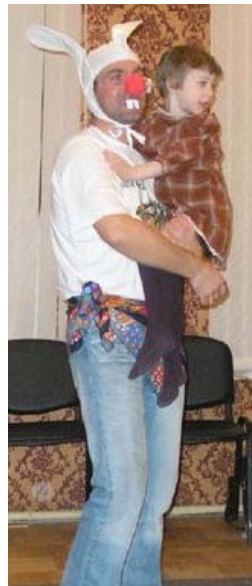
What a blessing to have Eva and Misha Ptuha working with us in Russia to minister to orphans and children at risk.

Eva and Misha live north of St. Petersburg in Vsevolosk, and they belong to a relatively new church started there. A state-run rehabilitation center at

Vsevolosk works with children whose parents have drug and alcohol (or other problems) to attempt to keep children from going into orphanages.

We have visited there several times when in Russia, and Eva and Misha's church now ministers to the children there.

We will let some of the photos of the Christmas party tell the story of the joy and love that flowed during the Christmas party conducted by Eva and Misha and their church.



At left, Misha plays the role of the Christmas rabbit. In the photo below, the children hear the story of Christmas, illustrated on a flannel board.



Prayer requests...

Please pray for:

- Our mission trip to Russia later this month;
- Funds for summer camps. Kommunar orphanage director Tatiana has appealed to Big Family to help pay the cost of summer camp for the orphans at Kommunar so they will not have to sit around all summer in the building they will be leaving in August;
- The fulfillment of God's plan for the orphans of Russia;
- Families and homes for all the orphan children of the world.

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