

BIG FAMILY

Mission to Children

March 2007

“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



From left: Eva, Uliana, Vika, Masha, Anna, and Dasha

Ukki girls go shopping!

Eva and Misha, our coordinators in Russia, learned that some of the older children at Ukki were in bad need of clothing. Big Family Mission contacted the administration at the orphanage and received permission to take the children shopping. Eva and Misha decided to make several shopping excursions rather than try to take all of the children at once. Russia now has a few indoor malls that are very similar to shopping centers in the U.S. The first shopping journey lasted almost six hours, and the girls had a great time with Eva and Misha

Orphans still waiting for good news

As we write this newsletter, XX orphans in Latvia and Russia are still waiting to hear the best news they have heard in their entire lives: they will get to come to America to live with a Christian family for five weeks this summer!

The deadline for the children to be chosen by American families to participate in the hosting program is April 15, but it is likely that the deadline can be extended for a few days for the Latvian children. (It takes longer to get all the paperwork completed in Russia.)

Even if you have no interest in hosting a child, will you take a few minutes to go the New Horizons for Children website and get acquainted with the children who are waiting to be hosted? Please pray with us that each of these children will have the opportunity to participate.

New Horizons' website:

www.newhorizonsforchildren.org .

Big Family Mission is working with New Horizons for Children to bring the hosting program to eastern Pennsylvania and our surrounding states. Based on early interest in the “northeast” program, we will have families from as far away as Indiana, Virginia, and Ohio participating.

If you are interested in hosting, now is the time to take action! First step, visit the New Horizons website and read all the information. Le Ann Dakake and Renee McAlpin from New Horizons will be very happy to answer any of your questions about the program.

Here is how you can get involved now:

- Consider hosting a child;
- Ask your home church to consider helping a family host a child as a mission project;
- Help us spread the word about the hosting program to other families who might be interested;
- Consider giving a financial donation to help a family who would like to host;
- And most important of all: pray fervently for the children and families who will participate in the 2007 summer program.

The main purpose of the hosting program is to give the orphans a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit the USA, and live with a real family. It is not unusual for children who participate in such hosting programs to be adopted by a family that they meet while they are visiting. However, even if the children are not adopted, they form friendships that encourage them and continue to bless them after they return to Russia.



Four of Peter and Leah's children posed for this photo before praise service at their church

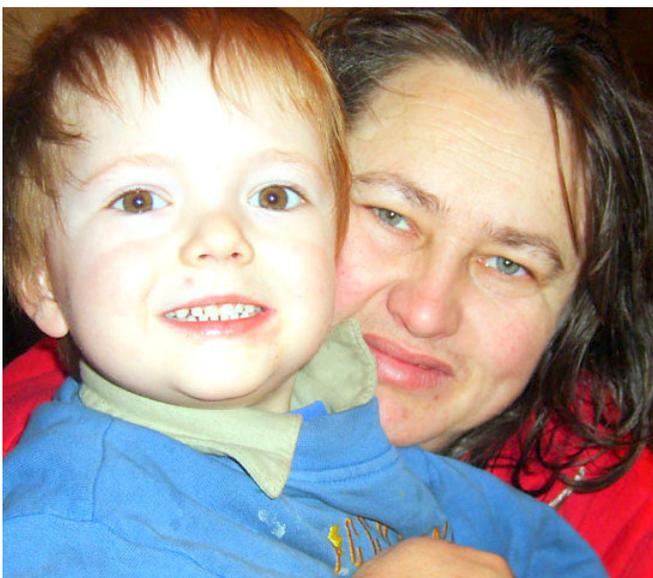
Photos from Peter and Leah

Peter and Leah are the amazing couple who have provided foster parenting for many street children and orphans. At last count, they had 17 children, including one biological daughter.

Through donations and support from different ministries, including Big Family Mission, Pastor Peter and his wife Leah have been able to build a newer home for their very large family. However, it obviously requires ongoing support to feed and clothe such a large family.

Peter and Leah and their children are very thankful for the support that Big Family Mission provides.

Russia desperately needs more families who are willing to provide loving families for street children and orphans. Please pray for more Russians who have the big hearts of Peter and Leah.



Leah with latest family addition, Vadik

How to write to an orphan...

Most of us like to get mail, especially the kind that has been mailed from thousands of miles away. It is easy to write to the children at orphanages in Russia, and the children love to get mail.

If you are writing directly to a Russian orphan, it is best to send a card or photos or drawings... something that has more pictures than words, because most Russian orphans know very few English words.

Some of our Big Family Friends have sent "care packages" to one or more of the orphanages. These packages have included things like stuffed toys, mittens, scarves, and candy. If you decide to send a package to Russia, keep in mind that mail sent by air parcel post, which is supposed to be delivered in 6 to 10 business days, will probably take 6 to 8 weeks to reach its destination. We suspect that the mail arrives at the post office in Russia promptly, and then just sits there until it can be processed for delivery.

Another way to write brief notes to a child is by sending an email to Eva Ptuha, our Russian coordinator. She can translate the emails, and then make sure the child gets your message. Eva's email address is: bigfamily@lens.spb.ru. Some email providers seem to have problems delivering emails to Eva's address. If you have problems, send an email to us at Big Family Mission to let us know.

If you would like to write directly a child at an orphanage, please send us an email to request the address. (Or just drop us a note by regular mail.)

So far, we have not had a problem in mailing letters and packages directly to orphanages, but if you would like to assure that your package has arrived in Russia, you can send it to Eva and Misha:

Ptuha Misha + Eva
Oleninih, 2/2 - 13
Vsevolozsk
Leningradskiy region,
Russia 188640

Contact information:

Ken and Dianne Dockery
Big Family Mission
83 Boy Scout Road
Kutztown, PA 19530
Home phone: (610) 683-6137
Website: www.bigfamilyministry.org
E-mail: info@bigfamilyministry.org

Big Family Mission is an inter-denominational mission outreach involving churches and Christians from many different denominations.

