

"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

Visit to Russian orphanage: "Who wants to have a Bible?"



When children at the orphanage came forward to ask for Bibles, Natasha was concerned if she had enough Bibles for all the children who were asking... and then found that she had exactly the right number!

We are often asked: "How can I get involved with orphan ministry?" Big Family sponsors at the Calvary Christian Church in Winchester, KY, are reaching out to children at the Luga orphanage and in the Help for Children graduate program in a very special way. Their focus on one group of children allows them to get to know the children and their needs on a more personal level.

Natasha, our ministry partner in Russia, reports on recent visit to Luga: "Children were glad to see us, they said that they speak about our activities every night and are waiting if we will come the next day.

"We told them about the time of preparing for Easter that we will soon celebrate. We encouraged children to pray and read Bible every day. When we asked how many of them would like to have a new Bible, children ran forward with their hands raised. I thought what am I going to do... I don't have enough Bibles. How surprising it was for me to count children that came forward and to see that

we have exactly the same number of kids as we have Bibles! God really takes care of everything!

"Katya Volokzhanina is a girl of hard life-story, she always comes to see us, but she is very closed and sad. When she got her Bible she started to read it right away, and I saw beautiful smile on her face!

"Children were very glad to hear about sponsors who do not forget about them. We thank our dear sponsors for making children's dreams come true and making the life of orphans in Luga brighter and happier! May God bless you!"

How can you get involved? Turn the page to learn more...



Big Family: here's how you can get involved in 2012...



- ▶ Start a Big Family orphan sponsorship program in your church, Sunday School class, or youth group. We would be happy to come to your church or church organization and speak to those who are interested. Or, we can provide you with informational materials, and you can help spread the word about the program. Several churches (both English-speaking and Russian-speaking) now have Big Family Mission ministries in their church. We currently have orphan sponsorship programs in Russia and India. You can also partner with an orphan outreach in Belarus.
- ▶ Consider sponsoring an orphan in Russia or India yourself. You will be blessed and one of God's special children will be blessed! The orphanages in Russia are run by the government, and many of the children depend on our volunteers for regular visits, hugs, and lots of love.
- ▶ We have a wonderful opportunity for a church (or churches) to partner with an orphan ministry outreach in Belarus (part of the former Soviet Union). Several small churches in Belarus work together to minister to disabled orphans (some young and some older). They visit one of five different orphanages almost every weekend. Big Family Mission is able to provide a small donation for their work, but being able to partner with a church or churches in the U.S. would be a huge encouragement to these faithful workers.
- ▶ Bring the mission field into your home! Host an orphan from Eastern Europe in your home for 4 to 5 weeks. This is not an adoption program, but many of the orphans who come to the U.S. during Christian hosting programs do eventually get adopted by a family they meet during their visit. Two programs each year: summer and Christmas.
- ▶ Serve as a short-term missionary working with orphans at a Christian orphanage in Bangalore, India. Over 100 children are lovingly cared for in three orphanages under the direction of Pastor George Fernandes. Big Family partners with Pastor George to help publicize the needs of his ministry in the U.S.
- ▶ Volunteer to help with work of Big Family Mission in the United States. Currently, we do not have any paid employees in the U.S. All work is done by volunteers.
- ▶ Although we do not ourselves conduct short-term mission trips to work with Russian orphans, we partner with an organization that conducts this kind of trip. Contact us for more information.
- ▶ Some of you who read this are already very much involved... please pass this along to someone who might be interested in helping. Thank you and God bless you!

Please email us or call us for more information about any of these opportunities to get involved:

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BIG FAMILY MISSION is an international, inter-denominational mission outreach involving churches and Christians from many different denominations. Website: www.bigfamilyministry.org E-mail: info@bigfamilyministry.org