

BIG FAMILY

Mission to Children

August 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)

These orphans need a “family friend”!



Pavel



Alisa



Peter



Regina



Eugeniy



Natasha



Vladimir



Olesia



Andrey

You, your family and a Russian orphan will be blessed forever

In this month's newsletter, we present nine opportunities of a lifetime! Nine children who need the love and prayers of an American "Family Friend".

What do Family Friends do? They pray for Russian orphans and contribute their "pocket change" (most contribute 50 cents per day) to help with projects to improve the lives of Russian orphans.

Some of you who are reading this newsletter are already "family friends" for a Russian orphan, and we ask you to please pass this month's newsletter along to someone who might be interested in becoming a family friend.

100% of contributions to Big Family Mission go directly to help orphans. All administrative expenses of Big Family Mission are paid by contributions made by the founders of Big Family Mission.

Big Family Mission is a U.S.-based mission society that ministers to Russian orphans. We provide financial and prayer support to churches and Christian volunteers in Russia who reach out to love and to help orphans.

Our volunteers in Russia visit the children on a regular basis and build long-term relationships with them.

Why work in Russia?

Economic conditions in Russia have helped to create hundreds of thousands of "social orphans", children whose parents have either deserted them or whose parents are in prison or addicted to drugs or alcohol. The vicious cycle goes like this. Children are born to parents who do not want to or are not capable of caring for them. The children are abandoned and go into orphanages. A few lucky children are adopted, but most will go from one state institution to another as they grow older.

After a lifetime of living in a controlled

Big Family volunteers in Russia minister to children at three orphanages: Kommunar, Luga, and No. 14 in St. Petersburg. Big Family also supports a foster home in Kommunar, provides on-going assistance to a widow and her four children (including three foster children), ministers to children at the rehabilitation center in Vsevolosk, and supports other programs that focus on providing family for Russian orphans.

environment, the children “graduate” and go out into society. Most are not equipped to cope with the outside world. Many end up homeless. Many will turn to drugs and alcohol. The “graduates” give birth to more children...and the cycle continues.

What will break this cycle? The answer is not more modern and better-equipped orphanages. The answer is an invasion of “salt and light” from the Christian world—hands that reach out to touch and arms that reach out to hug.

Please become a Family Friend... and get ready to be blessed!

More about this year’s church camp

In last month’s newsletter we told the story of how the Kommunar orphans got to go to the church camp when, at first, it seemed an impossibility.

Our volunteers in Russia have given us an additional report on the church camp. In the first days of the camp, the children were mostly depressed. Why? They all knew that at the end of the summer, they would not be going back to the orphanage at Kommunar. (As previously reported, the Kommunar orphanage is being closed by the Russian government.) One teen-age girl talked of committing suicide. But as the days passed, the children realized that they were in a loving environment, and many opened up to the camp counselors to talk about their deepest cares and concerns. Six of the children committed their lives to Christ. The director of the orphanage at Kommunar said that the children who returned to Kommunar were “different kids”. As our coordinator in Russia reported: “It was a very important time for the children!”

Thanks again for all of you who are Family Friends and helped to support the summer church camp!

Where will Kommunar children go?

For those of you who have been reading our newsletters over the past months, you know that the orphanage and internat school at Kommunar is closing down. This will indeed be a difficult transition for the orphans who have come to know the Kommunar orphanage as their home.

During the past few weeks, we have received the fourth revision of information about where the children will be going. The latest report is that no one knows for sure where the children will go. As we write this newsletter, it is now less than a week to the date when the children will return from camp and go to their new “home”, but unfortunately no one knows for sure where that home will be.

Please pray for the children as they go to their



As mentioned in our last newsletter, some of children from Luga and Kommunar got to go to Finland this summer. Above, girls from Kommunar and Luga became friends.

new locations. Our Russian coordinators will visit the new locations at the earliest possible date.

Prayer requests

- For our foster home children as they begin a new school year: for Tania, who will be studying to be a hairdresser; for Slaviana and Ulia, who will be going to “regular school” rather than the internat school for the first time; and for Vania as he continues his program to become an auto mechanic.
- For the “Russians hosting Russian orphans” program that our friends in Russia are planning for this Christmas. (Opportunity for orphans to spend their Christmas with a family in Russia.)
- For the nine children at Luga, who may have an opportunity to come to the U.S. at Christmas as part of a hosting program in the Atlanta area.
- For more churches to be open to God’s commandments to care for orphans, widows, and strangers.

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