

BIG FAMILY

Ministry to Children

July 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)



Building up those muscles...



Misha (Michael)... row the boat ashore...!



Make sure you wash those hands...!

A few scenes from summer church camp held in the great outdoors south of St. Petersburg. Our Russian coordinators, Eva and Misha, visited the camp and had a fun day with the children.



Time for tea and cake!

Summer church camp is always a big hit!

Summer camp is a fun time of the year for Russian orphans... and the days go on forever around St. Petersburg because it is the time of “white nights” when the sun never sets. Most orphans get the opportunity to go to summer camps run by the government, and this year our friends at Kommunar, St. Petersburg, and Luga went off to camp in late June.

We are delighted to know that the Luga children got to go to camp this year, because in past years, they have not been able to do so, and they have spent their summers at the orphanage. Only the children at Kommunar have the opportunity to go to a church

camp, but even at the official government camps, many of the young people who work at the camps are Christian volunteers from America and Finland.

This year’s theme for the church camp, sponsored in part by Big Family Ministry and by the Word of Faith Church in Kommunar, was a “tour of Solomon Islands”. Each of the “islands” at the camp represented a different proverb from the book of Proverbs, most of which is attributed to King Solomon.

We expect to receive a more complete report about the camp for a future newsletter.

Welcome Springfield, OH!

We recently had a wonderful opportunity to present Big Family to the Word of Faith Family Church in Springfield, Ohio, and we now have at least 17 new Family Friends from that congregation!

So, we welcome our friends at WFFC into our Big Family. Our special thanks goes to Pastor Jim Britton and his congregation for their warm welcome and hospitality!

Can I write to an orphan?

We are often asked if Family Friends can write to the child they are sponsoring. The answer is "yes"! But please keep in mind that messages written in English must be translated into Russian (unless you know Russian and can write in Russian).

We suggest that for a "first letter" you send a card with a brief personal message and a photo of yourself or your family. Russian orphans like to collect photos of themselves and others, and they will enjoy knowing that they have you as a Family Friend in America!

Please send your message to Eva Ptuha, our Russian coordinator (via air mail), and don't forget to include the name and location of the child you are writing:

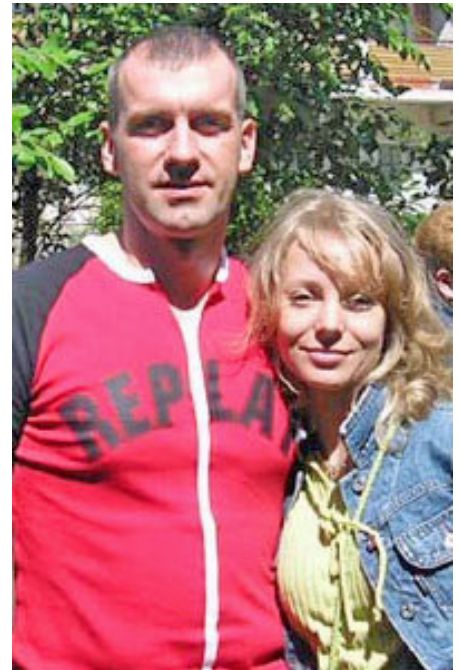
**Ptuha Eva
Oleninih, 2\2 - 13
Vsevolozsk
Leningradskiy region,
Russia 188640**

Prayer List...

- Olga, un-wed pregnant 17-year-old Kommunar graduate;
- Dima, 17-year-old Kommunar graduate who tries to find answers to his situation by drinking vodka;
- For all the children at summer camp;
- For all those who minister for Big Family in Russia;
- Funds for a computer at our foster home (\$300);
- Funds to install 2 showers at Luga (still need \$2600);
- More opportunities to present Big Family to churches in America;
- Invitations for our Russian coordinators to speak in Russian churches about opportunities to minister to orphans;
- Possibility of a U.S. mission team going to Luga in spring of 2006;
- Possibility of bringing a small group of orphans to the U.S. during Christmas season.
- Funds to help with foster home expenses.

Ministering for Big Family in Russia

Although Eva's husband Misha has two jobs that keep him very busy, he is very much involved in Big Family Ministry in Russia. So we say a big thanks to Misha for all that he does! Here's Eva and Misha enjoying one of the precious warm days of summer!



Spreading the word in Russia

A recent survey among Russians indicates that most Russians are concerned about orphans who graduate and need to find housing, find a job, avoid crime, and go on for further education; however, most of those surveyed believe that the government is responsible for giving orphans a brighter future.

Russian orphan graduates face a bleak future: the statistics say that 5 out of 6 will become involved in crime, drugs and alcohol, prostitution, or commit suicide.

Our team in Russia is now preparing to go into churches in the St. Petersburg area to speak with church members about how they can get involved in the life of an orphan and change the statistics.

New for Family Friends!

We are establishing a special section on the Big Family website, where Family Friends can view photos taken of our children in Russia.

Adding the photos takes time, but we have some available now if you wish to take a look. The special section of our website is password protected so that only our Family Friends will be visiting there. We prefer not to publish photos of children which can be tied to a specific location on the public site.

Here's how you find the special Family Friends section:

- Go to this web address: www.bigfamilyministry.org/friends .
- For user name, enter : "friend" (lower case); for password, enter: "russia" .
- Enjoy the photos! It's a beginning; more later.