BIG FAMILY Mission to Children July 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)

Church camp for Kommunar kids? No way! But…

When Big Family first asked about Kommunar orphans going to church camp this year, the official answer was a flat "no". However, at the last moment, the kids at the Kommunar orphanage had no food and no place to go for a week… so guess where they were allowed to go? At left, some of the smiles of our Kommunar children at the summer church camp, with Eva and camp leaders!

Summer time is camp time in Russia!

Many orphans can look forward to summer because it a very special time when they leave their familiar surroundings and go to summer camp for three weeks. During the weeks before and after the summer equinox, the St. Petersburg area of Russia experiences "white nights"… 24 hours of daytime without the sun ever setting. High temperatures can range from chilly rainy days in the 50s (F) to sunny days in the 80s.

Unfortunately, not all orphan children get to go to camp, but this year the children that we work with at Kommunar, Luga, and St. Petersburg will all go to camp. The children at Kommunar are having a busy summer, attending state camp, the Kommunar church camp, and taking a very special trip to Finland for two weeks.

Several children from Luga will also be able to take the trip to Finland to a camp sponsored by a charitable organization, which is run by our good friend Natasha Kirillov. Although Finland is "next door neighbor" to Russia, going into Finland will be like going into a "new world" for the orphans. It will be an exciting experience for our friends at Kommunar and Luga, and we hope to have some photos to share with you in a future newsletter.

Having Kommunar orphans at the church camp was an unexpected blessing for our volunteers at the Kommunar church. When we originally asked about the orphans attending the church camp, we received a flat "No!" from the director. Then, just a few days before the camp was to begin, the director realized that the children would be back in Kommunar for one week (between state camp and Finland trip) and have no place to go and no arrangements for food. So, suddenly the children were available for church camp!

Church camp provides a lot of fun for children, plus time to discuss more serious life issues with young people from the church at Kommunar. Your contributions to Big Family paid for the children's participation in this camp. Thank you from all of the children!

Volunteers from the church at Kommunar (some on the right) were responsible for the care and feeding of the children… food for the body as well as food for the soul!

It was also camp time in Russia for our Pennsylvania mission team!

A team from Pennsylvania, led by Lighthouse Pastor Al Zentner, from our home church, ministered in a Russian camp for orphans for two weeks during July. At left, our team posed for a photograph with their interpreters and a few of the children from the camp. This camp is run by the Russian government, but allows missionaries to stay at the camp and work and play with the children.

New home for foster family!

Our foster family at Kommunar has found a new flat to call home!

You may remember that our foster family was faced with having to move because the owner of their apartment returned to Kommunar to live. Finding an apartment large enough for our foster family in Kommunar is not easy. Their scheduled "move out" date came and went, and they still had not found a new home. Fortunately, the lady who was renting the apartment to Big Family was understanding and allowed our family to continue living there during July.

Our foster family has found an apartment and will move there in August, but the apartment needs much repair and restoration.

We've decided to list some of the needs for the apartment because we thought some of you would be blessed to help our foster family make their apartment into a nice home for the four foster children who will be living there.

Here are needs and approximate costs:

- New commode and plumbing repairs needed in bathroom: $200;
- Linoleum for kitchen and hallway, $75;
- Curtain holders and curtains, $90;
- Two doors, $60;
- Paint, $20;
- Ceiling tile and glue, $30;
- Water-proof wall panels for bathroom, $90.
- Wallpaper for kitchen, $20.

If you would like to make a donation to help with any of this repair work, please make that notation when you write to us. If any of you would like to see photos of the apartment and some of the rooms that need work, just send us an e-mail and we will e-mail you the photos.

Where will Kommunar children go?

As announced in one of our earlier newsletters, the Kommunar orphanage is closing in August. Earlier, it had been reported that the children would be going to orphanages at Siverskaya and Gatchina, but just recently, the director at Kommunar orphanage told us that plans have changed and the children will be going to two different orphanages.

The good news is that we have Eva and Misha in Russia, and we know that they will find the Kommunar children wherever they go!

Prayer requests

- For the Kommunar children and their new home wherever that may be;
- For all the orphans in Finland and at camp;
- For our foster family as they move to a new home.

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 of Lighthouse Community Church, Lyon Station, Pennsylvania.