

# BIG FAMILY

Mission to Children

June/July 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*



## ***16 orphans at the Black Sea!***

The photo above tells you a lot about the 16 children who have gathered at the rail station in St. Petersburg for the adventure of a lifetime: a journey to a Christian vacation camp and two weeks on the Black Sea. As we explained in our last newsletter, a vacation on the Black Sea is equivalent to going to Disney World in America. The Black Sea, noted for its warm waters and beautiful beaches, is three days distant from St. Petersburg by train.

If you look at the expressions on the faces in the photo, you will not see a lot of happiness and joy. When we asked Eva and Misha, our coordinators in Russia, if the children were excited about the trip, they explained that the children were more apprehensive than excited. Why? The children had no concept of what the sea was like and how much they might enjoy it. They had no parents to tell them about their adventures as kids when they went to the Black Sea. So that's why you see more worry than happiness on the faces of our young friends.

We thank all of you who prayed that the trip would be possible for the children. Coordinating the purchase of the tickets, all the arrangements that had to be made with the orphanage, the reservations at the Christian camp, and getting the kids on the train and on their way was a major project for Eva and Misha, and we very much appreciate their role in making this adventure possible. Eva and Misha have been staying in touch with the children and their chaperones at the camp, and YES... the children now understand why it is so much fun to be able to go to the Black Sea.

Please continue to pray for the children and their safe journey home.

## ***A June/July newsletter***

We (Ken and Dianne) have been busy with preparations for the summer hosting program for Russian and Latvian orphans, and so we have decided to publish a combination June/July newsletter. If you contribute to Big Family on a monthly basis, please consider sending a gift for two months when you mail in your contribution.



### **More “final bell” photos like this!**

In our last newsletter, we wrote about the “final bell” for Russian orphans... the day when they graduate at age 15 or 16 and face the world. Please pray for more “final bell” photos like the one you see above. Ulia, on the right, was congratulated by Big Family Mission, and now she will go on to study to be a cosmetologist. What’s different about Ulia? Thanks to you and Big Family Mission, Ulia is part of a foster family, and she will have daily prayers and encouragement to help her along the way to becoming a successful adult.

With Ulia is Slaviana, who is also a member of our Kommunar foster family. In our last newsletter, we reported that Slaviana would be graduating also, but Slaviana has now decided to continue in the regular school system, which is more focused on academics. Slaviana is participating in a summer training program for youth and praise leadership for her church, and we recently heard a good report that she is enjoying the camp and is learning how to sing and to play the drums!

Three years ago, Ulia and Slaviana were orphans, and had little hope for the future. Today, they are developing into the beautiful young ladies that God intended them to become.

Big Family Mission presented “last bell” congratulations and gifts to all the children in the orphanages where we are working.

### **The orphans are here!**

Twenty-one Latvian and Russian orphans have arrived in the U.S. in our northeast hosting program partnership with New Horizons for Children, and the children are now enjoying becoming part of a “real family” for five weeks.

A welcome party for the children and their host families was held on the first Saturday after their arrival, and a number of special events are planned for each Saturday the children are in the U.S.

If you have interest in meeting some of the children and/or their chaperones, or helping with special events or transportation during the hosting

program, there is still time to get involved. The children depart on August 1 to return to their home countries.

### **Really Big Prayers Needed**

In the year ahead, Big Family Mission will continue to seek out opportunities to help orphans get into families... families in Russia and families in America... or elsewhere. Family makes all the difference in the lives of orphans and children at risk.

Please pray for:

- More Russian families who are willing to establish foster homes for children;
- Funds to build a large dwelling for a foster family in Russia;
- Families in Russia and America who are willing to host orphans during vacation periods;
- More Family Friends (sponsors) for Russian orphans;
- Opportunities to present Big Family Mission in more churches in America;
- Opportunities to present the hosting program in more churches in our area.



***This is how it's done... I think!*** When we visited Luga orphanage during our May trip to Russia, we shared candy and treats with the children, gave the children an American football and demonstrated how it is used, and gave craft items and toys to the children. Above, Ken proves that he remembers how to assemble a model airplane.

### **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](http://www.bigfamilyministry.org)  
 E-mail: [info@bigfamilyministry.org](mailto:info@bigfamilyministry.org)

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