

“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)

ULIA’S SECRET



Ulia now has a family who cares for her

Do you remember Ulia? Ulia is one of two sisters who are now living in the foster home established in Kommunar, Russia, earlier this year. Ulia recently wrote a thank you note to a Big Family friend who contributed funds to pay April’s expenses for the foster home. In the middle of her thank you note, after she had explained how grateful she was for living in a good home... there was a one-word sentence...

“SECRET.”

When our translator talked with Ulia later, Ulia explained that it is okay to share her secret with Family Friends in America, what her life was like before she came to live in the foster home, but that she does not want her new foster family to know about her secret. So with Ulia’s permission, we share with you so that you will be able to appreciate how this foster home is rescuing lives.

Ulia’s words: “My life was broken. I smoked so badly and I drank almost everyday. I wouldn’t come home for three days. I would go without food for 3 days, because I was drunk and when you are drinking, you are not hungry. My mother didn’t care what I was doing, and if I was hungry or not. I started to miss time at school and some authorities came to take me to school and I would hide. One time I hid under a bed because I didn’t want to go to school. I already believed in God back then, but I continued to behave the way I wanted. I wanted to be free, but then when I got my freedom, I wanted to be back at school. I couldn’t go home because my mother and father are drunk, and they want me to

drink with them. Finally I was allowed to live at the internat school, and on 18 November, I stopped smoking and drinking. This was my life before I came to my new home.”

Our volunteers in Russia knew that Ulia’s mother was an alcoholic and knew that Ulia was missing a lot of school, but they did not know how far Ulia’s life had deteriorated before she was invited to become part of a new Christian family.

Ulia met Irina, her new foster mother, when she went to the Christian Camp sponsored by Big Family in year 2000. Now, almost 5 years later, her dreams of having a real Christian family have become reality.

Our new foster family needs prayer and financial support. Expenses for the first three months of operation have exceeded our expectations, primarily because of legal costs associated with getting papers for Ulia and Tania and other expenses related to starting a new family.

We are asking those who want to be blessed in this important work to join in the support of the foster home in Kommunar. With this month’s newsletter, you will find a form to let us know how you will be able to partner in this work.

Fields of the fatherless

A wonderful blessing awaits those who discover God’s strong desire to protect “the fields of the fatherless”. Proverbs 23:10-11 warns not to move the ancient boundaries or enter the “fields of the fatherless”.

What are these “fields of the fatherless”?

When God was setting up His laws and principals for living, He always provided for the “fatherless, the widows, and the strangers”. For example, read Deuteronomy 24:19-21. “When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, *that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.*” (italics added) Read on. The same holds for your vineyards and your olive trees: leave
(***Please turn the page to continue...***)

something for the fatherless, the widow, the stranger. In Deuteronomy 14:28-29, God commands that every third year, the tithe was to be given for the priests and for the fatherless, the widow, and the stranger *“that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do”*.

In Leviticus, God commanded that the corner of fields were to be set aside for those who could not provide for themselves.

So what does this say to the 21st century Christian who has no fields, no vineyards, no olive groves? Did God change his mind about the importance of providing for the fatherless?

What a blessing awaits those who set aside the corners of their fields for the fatherless! What a blessing it is to those who give generously to provide for the fatherless, for widows, for strangers.

We wish to thank all of those who have been so faithful and generous in sowing into the fields of the fatherless through Big Family Ministry. The needs of the fatherless and those without families in Russia are great. We pray that God will open more hearts and eyes to the harvest fields of Russia. We know that God will bless those who sow into these fields.

We pray for those who will partner with us in Big Family ministry. This is not a “Dianne and Ken” ministry. The work is much too big for us, and we realize that more and more each day.

Consider joining us in the field! The fields of the fatherless are fields of joy and great blessing!

What’s happening in Luga?

Luga is our “southern outpost”, three hours south of St. Petersburg, and almost 5 hours away from our Russian coordinator.

Our volunteers in Luga are members of a very small cell church. As best we can determine, this cell church is perhaps the only church in Luga, a city of about 100,000.

Our volunteers are faithful in their service to the children at Luga, going in on a regular basis to minister to the children and to provide fruit for the children, which is a rare and welcome treat.

When we go back to Luga (we hope the end of April), the children there have promised to show us how to harvest mushrooms, and Dianne has

promised to bake a pumpkin pie for the children. (Does anyone have a suggestion for how you get a pumpkin through Customs?)

We are discussing with one of our Big Family Friends the possibility of he and his wife becoming the “captains” for the ministry to children at Luga. Please pray for God’s direction and blessing!

Big Family on the web now

Big Family now has a website, and you can find us at: www.bigfamilyministry.org. Please take a look at our new website when you get a chance, and also, if you have friends or family members who might be interested in becoming Family Friends, they can go to the website, find out more information, and then sign up to become Family Friends by completing the form on our website.

Or just go there and send us a note to let us know that you are praying for Big Family. We very much appreciate your encouragement.

Praise Report

We shared with our local church and some of our other Big Family Friends the need of Sasha, an 11-year-old boy who had burns over 40% of his body. He was set on fire by older boys. Wounds needed medical attention, but Sasha had no papers. Big Family agreed to pay for medical bills. When Sasha was examined by medical doctor, the doctor said that the wounds are healed and he needs no special medical attention! Praise God!



Prayer Requests

- For Big Family partners in the U.S.
- For more Big Family Friends
- For invitations from churches and Sunday School classes to present Big Family
- For financial resources needed for foster home at Kommunar
- For hearts and hands willing to sow into the fields of the fatherless
- For our foster home family in Kommunar
- For our coordinator, ministers, and volunteers in Russia
- For all of our Big Family Friends and all of their families
- For God’s direction and leadership!!!