

# BIG FAMILY

Mission to Children

March 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 (AMP)*



## **Gatchina children study the Bible!**

When we visited the orphanage at Gatchina for the first time in November of last year, we received a warm welcome, which was a bit of a surprise and a huge blessing because the administration at Gatchina had seemed somewhat suspicious of Big Family Mission being allowed to minister at Gatchina.

The administration informed us that our volunteers would be allowed to visit the children, but that there should be nothing said about God or the Bible or religion. So, we were amazed when we recently heard that our volunteers from the church at Kommunar are now conducting Bible studies for more than 20 of the younger children at Gatchina.

We received several photos of the children in the Bible study (like the one above) but unfortunately none of the photos that showed both the teacher and the children were of good quality.

Big Family Friends, rejoice with us in how the lives of these little children at Gatchina are being changed through your prayers and support!



**Above, children at Ukki (and Eva) model the hats and scarves knitted by one of our Big Family Friends who lives in Wisconsin.**

## **Urgent action needed!**

Over 100 orphans in Latvia and Russia are waiting to hear probably the best news they have heard in their entire lives: they will get to come to America to live with a Christian family for five weeks this summer!

The deadline for the children to be chosen by American families to participate in the hosting program is April 15. Even if you have no interest in hosting a child, will you take a few minutes to go the New Horizons for Children website and get acquainted with the children who are waiting to be hosted? Please pray with us that each of these children will have the opportunity to participate.

New Horizons' website:

[www.newhorizonsforchildren.org](http://www.newhorizonsforchildren.org)

Big Family Mission is working with New Horizons for Children to bring the hosting program to eastern Pennsylvania and our surrounding states. Based on early interest in the "northeast" program, we will have families from as far away as Indiana, Virginia, and Ohio participating.

If you are interested in hosting, now is the time to take action! First step, visit the New Horizons website and read all the information. Le Ann Dakake and Renee McAlpin from New Horizons will be very happy to answer any of your questions about the program.

Here is how you can get involved now:

- Consider hosting a child;
- Ask your home church to consider helping a family host a child as a mission project;
- Help us spread the word about the hosting program to other families who might be interested;
- Consider giving a financial donation to help a family who would like to host;
- And most important of all: pray fervently for the children and families who will participate in the 2007 summer program.

The main purpose of the hosting program is to give the orphans a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit the USA, and live with a real family. It is not unusual for children who participate in such hosting programs to be adopted by a family that they meet while they are visiting. However, even if the children are not adopted, they form friendships that encourage them and continue to bless them after they return to Russia.

## More photos from Russia



*You often see our Russian coordinator Eva in photos with Big Family children in Russia, but you don't usually get to see the smile on Misha's face (that's because he is usually taking the photos). Eva's husband Misha operates a small bakery business in St. Petersburg, not only baking the products but also delivering them for sale. Big Family Mission and the children are blessed that Misha often travels with Eva to visit with the children. As is very evident in this photo, the children love Misha and are like magnets to him when he arrives for a visit.*



*When the director at the Luga orphanage asked for board games for the children, Big Family Mission was blessed to be able to help. Altogether about 50 games were purchased and delivered to the orphanage at Luga.*

### **News from Kommunar foster family**

News briefs from our foster family at Kommunar:

- Slaviana and Ulia are doing well in "regular" school, and Slaviana has joined the worship team at church;
- Vania continues with his studies to be an auto mechanic;
- Tania is recovering and doing well after surgery to remove her appendix;
- And Ira is delighted to have Maxim back home after his recent military service in Chetznia.

### **Contact information:**

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



*Some of the children from Luga recently traveled into St. Petersburg, went to the show at the Aquarium, and had lunch at Subway.*

