

"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

Family in Siberia prays for and adopts 4 children they had never met



Pastor Andrey and Marina (in Siberia) prayed for, loved, and adopted 3 brothers and their sister before they had ever seen the children. Back row, from left, Nadya (adopted), Anita, Grisha, Nikita, and Timothy (3 adopted brothers). Front row, Yura, Andrey, Marina, Pastor Andrey, and Alina.

- **Three brothers and their sister**, ages 3 to 8, living in different orphanages in western Siberia, miles from their hometown;
- Their **mom and dad: drug addicts**, and their father died from drug abuse;
- Pastor Andrey Khoroshchenko, Novokuznetsk, Siberia, first learned of this family when he **buried the children's father**, over a year after the government placed the children in orphanages.

Pastor Andrey remembers his visit to house that had once been home for the four children: "We saw a severe picture: small house, two beds and a sofa, some dishes in the kitchen. Nothing else. **Drunken people, dirt, cold.** The outdoor wooden toilet had been burned to heat the house. We learned parents had been using drugs and drinking for several years. Then we were told that there were four children, who lived in an orphanage for the last year."

Thus begins the story of how Andrey and his wife Marina grew to love and then started the adoption process for the four children they had never met.

Pastor Andrey continues the story: "As we worked with drug addicts, **we saw a lot of destroyed families and abandoned children.** We also worked in orphanages so we knew very well the future of the four children.

"Marina wanted to adopt a child, so when we learned about the four children, we started praying. We prayed for several months and tried to decide how we could help those children. Only one thing was clear to us: **God wanted us to minister to these children.** We had never seen them. They had never seen us.

"I called to the orphanage and was told that the children had been moved to another city, Anzhero-Sudzhensk, and lived in different orphanages. We started gathering documents. Everything went quickly; we had no problems. Then came our interview with the social committee of the city. They told us that they had been known us for several years, that our church helped a lot with orphans. So they didn't have any questions and were **very happy for us that we had decided to adopt.** (More on next page....)

“When we went to Anzhero-Sudzhensk to take our children from the orphanage, the director was very surprised to see us with all the documents and ready to take children home. They informed us we **need orders from mayor** of Anzhero-Sudzhensk. Also, we needed to get children’s consent. So we had to wait.

“A month later, we could at last take children. They were taken from different orphanages to meet us. We saw each other for the first time. They looked at us very shyly, and when the social worker asked them if they wanted to come with us, they nodded their agreement. **I don’t think they realized completely what was happening, who we were and what we wanted.**

“That day, we welcomed to our family: Nikita, 8; Tima, 6; Nadya, 5, and Grisha, 3.

“Physician told us that Grisha had serious problems. He was born when his parents used drugs. He had tuberculosis, chronic bronchitis, HIV, and other diseases. We didn’t expect to hear this, but we knew that God wanted us to serve these children. **He is Father to all orphans and widows.**

“Later, we learned that Grisha was not potty-trained. He had deep wounds in his soul. No one had loved him, nobody had needed him. All the time he lived in fear. At night, he woke up screaming.

“Adopting children is a ministry to God. We have about 10 years to put in them right priorities, eternal values, a love for God and His Word. We don’t know if we can do it, but we pray to be able to do it.

“On our way back home, the children started calling us mom and dad. I asked if they prayed at the orphanage. ‘Yes,’ answered Tima, **‘we prayed that somebody would take us from there.’** Once again I was convinced that God is not indifferent to such children. He really loves them and wants to serve them.

“I should not forget to tell you that Marina and I already had four children, so suddenly our family had doubled. Now, every day is noisy and joyful. One is playing, another is crying, two are arguing, and all of them want to go for a walk. **Our home is like a beehive with bees.** I take a rest at church, when I work. Each morning there is a line to the

toilet. Each day, a new toilet paper roll. We are definitely not bored.

“Children are good. They are obedient and not spoiled. Of course a year at the orphanage gave fruit: they say bad words to each other. But we educate them and pray and heal and serve them. **We also ask you to pray for them.”**

Thank you, Pastor Andrey for sharing with us this beautiful testimony of God’s love for orphans! And, thank you to all of our Big Family partners who make it possible to embrace and encourage this family with prayers and financial support!

Natasha and Lena to visit in USA!



Natasha (Billie) Kirillov (above with girls from Ukki orphanage) and Lena from *Help for Children*, our partner ministry in St. Petersburg, Russia, will be visiting the U.S. in early June. They will be sharing:

- Sunday, **June 3**, Slavic Pentecostal Church, 2611 Westfield St., West Springfield, **MA**, at 10 a.m. morning worship service.
- Tuesday, **June 5**, Lighthouse Community Church, 5 E. Penn St., Lyon Station, **PA**, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, **June 7**, Calvary Christian Church, 15 Redwing Drive, Winchester, **KY.**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.
- Saturday, **June 9**, Fellowship Christian Church, 2301 Valley Loop Rd, Springfield, **OH**, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, **June 10**, Word of Faith Family Church, 3660 State Route 72, Springfield, **OH**, 10:00 am.
- Chicago, **IL**: time and place to be announced.

If you live nearby, come out and thank Natasha and Lena for their faithful service to the orphans of Russia!

Contact information:

Ken and Dianne Dockery
Volunteers & International Coordinators
Big Family Mission
83 Boy Scout Road
Kutztown, PA 19530
Telephone: (610) 285-8542

Contact for Russian ministry in America

Sergei & Nadya Morozov
Coordinators of Russian Ministry in America
Big Family Mission
79 Claredon Avenue
Chicopee, MA 01013
Home phone: (413) 592-6919

Big Family Mission is an international, inter-denominational mission outreach involving churches and Christians from many different denominations. Website: www.bigfamilyministry.org E-mail: info@bigfamilyministry.org