

BIG FAMILY

Mission to Children

November 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



Sveta with two of boys at Gatchina: *“When I look into their eyes, I see gratefulness and happiness...”*

A miracle from God in Gatchina!

Our dear brothers and sisters in Kommunar, Russia, are continuing their faithful ministry to the orphan children at Gatchina internat/orphanage. Here is a report from Sveta, wife of pastor Andrei, who is coordinating the Gatchina outreach:

Hello dear friends of Big Family Mission! This is Svetlana Ziablitseva writing to you with respect. I have a desire to share about our work in the Gatchina children's internat.

Many things have changed a lot from the time we came there for the first time. Now we have a very good relationships with administration of the school (I mean director and her assistance). I think it is a miracle from God!

Let me share some details with you. In the very beginning the direction of the school was not very open before us. I think that they had some misunderstandings and mis-ideas of the ministry which we care about. And the only thing we could do is just to pray. And when pastor Andrey finally came to the school for the talks with the director's assistance - something happened! The attitude toward us radically changed. Once I've asked about "how shall we call ourselves when we phone in order to set a meeting next time" and the answer was "church".

If you could see and understand what kind of attitude toward church these people had before our meeting - you would realize that the Lord made a real big miracle in the hearts of these people. By the way, even on the first day of school year (it is 1 of September here), the Day of Knowledge, the director of school gave a pulpit to speak to the students to the pastor (pastor Andrei).

The kids became closer to us within this short period of time. My heart is rejoicing when we plan next trip to school, because I see how they impatiently run toward us, helping to carry bags with treats. It's noisy loud fun crowd - it's hard to put in words! When I look in to the eyes of children, I see gratefulness and happiness there, we see that we are expected and that kids were waiting for us, and we want to give them love and care (which they lack so much) at least for a short period of time, and the sweets and treats won't reimburse it.

I'm very grateful to the volunteers which participate in this work, I can rely for the help of these people all the time. Also, I would like to thank you, dear Big Family Friends for rolling in to this kind good work. Thank you for your un-indifferent hearts and that you care for Russian orphans.

God truly filled your hearts with His love.

At the end of my letter I would like to ask you to pray. It's winter coming, and many kids don't have warm clothes they need. It's not a secret that the list of needs is not just material.... Please remember about us in your prayers; it is very important. Thank you once again for everything!

With respect , Svetlana Ziablitseva.



A few of the children at Gatchina enjoy bananas and visitors on first day of school; Sveta at far left

Christmas gifts: we need your help to light up lives of 120 children!



Scene from one of last year's Christmas celebrations for orphan children.



Our Russian coordinator Eva Ptuha helps distribute gifts to children at one of last year's Christmas celebrations.

Once again this year, Big Family Mission plans to hold Christmas celebrations and give each child a gift in the orphanages, foster homes, and rehabilitation centers where we work with orphans.

This will not be possible without the generous support of our Big Family Friends in the United

States and Canada. Will you help us this year by providing funds to purchase one or more Christmas gifts? This year we are budgeting \$30 for each gift (up from \$25 of last year because of higher prices in Russia and lower value of U.S. dollar).

For those of you who are new to our Big Family, we decided two years ago to buy Christmas gifts in Russia for the children, rather than try to send gifts from the U.S. Sending packages from the U.S. to Russia is very costly, and air parcel post packages that are supposed to be delivered in 6 to 10 days often take two months for delivery.

We realize that some of our Big Family Friends live on a limited fixed income. If you cannot afford to give to help with the Christmas 2007 project, we would very much appreciate your prayers for our teams in Russia who will be going into orphanages to present the true meaning of Christmas. It is a huge blessing to be able to freely tell the story of Jesus and God's gift to the world.

Not all of the orphans who will receive gifts have Family Friends, so we very much appreciate the generosity of those who can provide a Christmas present for more than one child.

Just include your Christmas gift in the enclosed envelope, along with any regular contribution that is due for this month.

Please keep in your prayers:

- A home and family for every orphan!
- More Big Family Friends to love and pray for Russian orphans;
- U.S. families who are hosting Latvian and Russian orphans during Christmas season, and for the children who are being hosted;
- More opportunities to awaken Christian families to the needs of orphans in Russian and around the world;
- More foster homes for orphans in Russia;
- Continued opportunities for churches in Russia to minister to Russian orphans and communicate the good news of salvation and eternal life.

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