BIG FAMILY Mission to Children September 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

From left: Elvina Ziablitseva, daughter of Andrei and Sveta; Taya Morozova, whose father died last year; and Nadia and Luda Kononovs, whose mother died in a fire last December.

Awesome healing at Black Sea!

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Big Family Mission sponsored four children from the Kommunar area who went to the Black Sea with a group from the church at Kommunar. Three of the children are orphans and one is the daughter of Pastor Andrei and his wife Sveta. Andrei and Sveta and their entire church have been very supportive and involved with the ministry of Big Family in Kommunar and at Gatchina orphanage.
Nadia, coordinator of the trip, wrote to our Russian coordinator Eva to give a report. Here is Nadia's letter:

"Hello Eva!

Few words about our group:
Our group went to Crimea to children -health camp "Dolphin", it was 4 shift in this camp. There were 11 kids in the group (including 4 kids sponsored by Big Family).

On behalf of these kids I would love to express huge gratefulness to the people who made this trip possible for these 4 children.

I want to tell you a bit of these kids: Nadia and Luda Kononovs - sisters and orphans. In December of 2006 their mother perished (she was a single mother). The tragedy happened in front of the girls. Nadia 12 (years old) and Luda (10 years old) took from the house which got on fire their old grandmother, which survived only because of the girls. But the fire was already too big and they were not able to help their mom... she burnt down with the house. These days they are under guardianship of their aunt.

Nadia cried a lot after the tragedy, she stopped smiling. In the camp she met several believers, who spent a lot of time with her, answering on her questions, helping her to see that there was a real God, who will never betray her, that she can trust to Him all her life. In our team we had a Bible lesson every day, where kids learned to fellowship with God. We prayed together for different camp problems, for sick kids healing. As a result, Nadia decided to accept Christ into her life as a Savior.

Next day during our conversation with me, Nadezda Koskova- their chaperone) she said: " Aunt Nadia, I don't know what happened , but after our prayer when I received Jesus into my heart, I started to feel so light and easy, as many stones fall down from my shoulders. Now I know that I can change, because God is with me and He would help me in it".

And indeed, I started to see some changes in her - she stopped crying, she started to smile more and more and met few girl-friends. The thoughts that she was lonely and nobody needed her stopped torturing her. There was one more girl - Taya Morozova (12years old). She is from a family of many kids, and her father died last year. Now their mother brings up 4 kids by herself. Their mother asked me to thank all those who helped to send Taya to the camp. Another girl is - Elvina Ziablitseva, she is from a family of 3 kids and daughter of Pastor Andrei. There were many different activities in the camp in which our kids were able to participate and to express themselves. "

Here's a photo of four children sponsored by Big Family Mission and some of the other children who were able to join with the church group from Kommunar.

Thanks for your prayers!

More than two years ago, we asked that Big Family Friends pray for the government of Russia… to pray that the government would become more open to funding foster families and program to get children out of orphanages and into families. At the time we began praying, the situation seemed somewhat hopeless: for generations the Russian government had seen orphanages as the best way to take care of orphans and other children at risk.

But… praise God… two years later, our friends in Russia tell us that the media is now full of stories and examples to help encourage Russian families to become foster parents. Also, the government has begun to provide more adequate funding for those who wish to become foster parents.

We asked Eva to give us a brief report. Here are her words:

"Answering on your question about orphans and foster families and adoption, I can say that we see that on TV in different popular family programs they started to set special time off in order to present a new child to the viewers and each program dedicated to a certain child... After such programs they say that these particular kids are getting into families.

There are social advertisements on TV of different funds which work with kids and initiate adoptions or foster. They show different stories on programs of successful lives of ex-orphans. They tell awful stories about orphanage life and about vicious cycle in the life of a problem kids. It's all here: we have some TV talk shows time to time dedicated to the problem from different aspects.

They have also started to publish those famous families or persons whom all know (actors, public people) who took kids into their families….

Government promises increasing of help to those who take children. Recently I haven't heard declarations from the public about shutting down orphanages, but it should come later if people start taking children into homes and if it will be a prevention program working.

Thanks to all of our Big Family Friends who have been praying that the orphans of Russia will be placed into families! Please keep the prayers going up!

How to write to Russia…

Recently, several Family Friends have expressed the desire to send letters or packages to Russia. For any of you who are interested in sending packages directly to the orphanages or to the church teams who work at the orphanages, we can provide complete address information. Just send us an email: info@bigfamilyministry.org .

Also, you may send letters, cards, photos, packages, etc. to Eva and Misha, our Russian coordinators for Big Family Mission. Eva and Misha will see that the letters or packages get to their final destination (as well as taking care of any translations that need to be done).

Eva and Misha's address in Russian and English:

Россия 188640
Ленинградская область
Всеволожск
Олениных 2\2 - 13
птуха Миша + Эва

Ptuha Misha + Eva
Oleninih, 2\2 - 13
Vsevolozsk
Leningradskiy region,
Russia 188640

When you send a letter or package, the English address should be sufficient, but we usually paste the Russian address to the left of the English address. Please note that air parcel packages that are supposed to arrive in 6 to 10 days often take 6 to 8 weeks for delivery in Russia.

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 or orphans and children at risk.

Please pray for:

- More Russian families who are willing to establish foster homes for children;
- Funds to encourage and to help with start-up costs for Russian foster families;
- Families in Russia and America who are willing to host orphans during Christmas, summer, and vacation periods;
- More Family Friends (sponsors) for Russian orphans;
- **Opportunities to present Big Family Mission in more churches in America. This is a very big prayer need. Churches can be so blessed by having a ministry to orphans. To date, only five churches in the U.S. have opened their doors to hearing about the needs of Russian orphans. We have requests from atheists to help with Big Family, which we turn down, but most church doors are closed to hearing about God's special children. With man, it seems impossible, but we know that God has a special place in His heart for orphans, so please pray with us that more doors will be open.**

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