

"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)



Left to right, Abbie, Nathan, and Elecia Hoffman, children of Billie Joe and Don Hoffman, members of Gettysburg Baptist Church.

Raising funds for Luga shower...

Abbie and Elecia Hoffman may be small in stature, but they have big hearts for missions, and they recently demonstrated that they are very big successes at fund-raising. By selling Tupperware, Abbie and Elecia raised \$228 for Big Family Ministry, and with their permission, we have decided to apply their donation to our project to provide showers for the internat orphanage at Luga, Russia. The children at Luga say, "Thank you Abbie and Elecia!"

OK...here's how you can help!

If Jesus appeared to you and asked you to do a small favor for him, would you help? Most of you are familiar with Jesus' words: "when you did it to the least of these... you did it unto me..."

So now we ask, will you become a missionary and do a small favor for this ministry of Jesus?

Enclosed with this month's newsletter you will find photographs of six of the children at St. Petersburg orphanage No. 14, where we are just beginning to minister. We are starting with 20 children at the orphanage, and we need to find Family Friends for each of them.

You probably know at least one person... maybe a family member, a friend at work, your neighbor... who could be blessed by becoming a Family Friend for one of these children.

All that we ask is that you pass the flier along to someone who might be willing to help.

Will you do it for the Lord? He will do the rest!

A slow tsunami in Russia?

When we see the scenes of vast destruction in Indonesia on television news, we think about Russia and more than 3 million children who are the victims of a very slow kind of tsunami...waves of darkness and death that have spread across Russia for more than 15 years.

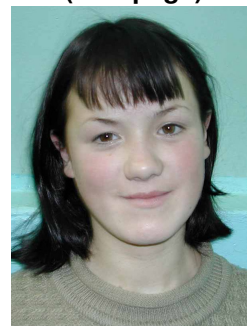
Just as there is much need for an outpouring of prayer and financial resources to help now in southeast Asia, there is also a critical need to reach out with the love and light of Jesus to the orphan children of Russia.

We would like to thank all of you who are faithfully supporting Big Family Ministry with your prayers and financial gifts.

We have said it before, but let us say it again, your financial gifts are important, but your prayers are even more critical in this ministry to Russian orphans.

We would not rush to proclaim any happening as a "miracle", yet we believe that through your prayers, we have experienced two miracles within the past month:

- ▶ First, a radical change in the attitude of the lady who has just been elected mayor of Kommunar. The new director of the Kommunar internat, who is a believer and very dedicated to the welfare of the children, was thoroughly convinced that she would be fired if the lady we mention above was elected. Two days before the election, the lady candidate came to the Kommunar orphanage and begged the director to forgive her and brought a gift of 20,000 rubles (about \$700) to help with the work of the school!
- ▶ Miracle No. 2 is the creation of a foster home in Kommunar. A large apartment has become available for the foster home, and God has called a young couple to devote their time and talents to becoming parents and building a real family for children who would **(turn page)**



Sisters Tania and Ulia will be first foster children in new Kommunar home...

have otherwise never known what it is like to have a family. Two of the children who are currently orphans at the Kommunar internat will be moving in later this month, and perhaps others will join them in the near future. One small detail has yet to be worked out: how we will pay for the rent and other expenses, but we are confident that our God, who owns it all, can take care of that!

Christmas in the New Year...

Christmas parties were held for the children in all three of the orphanages where Big Family is ministering. The parties typically include music, skits related to the story of the first Christmas, a time for sharing about the birth of Jesus, and, of course, cake and tea...always welcome treats for the children!

As some of you may know, Christmas is traditionally celebrated in Russia on January 7, but many Christians in Russia are beginning to celebrate Jesus' birth on December 25 like most of the world does.

This year, the children at Kommunar and Luga will enjoy a very special treat: a second Christmas celebration which will be held later this month. Although we sent the Christmas gift packages for the Children via air parcel post, some of the packages did not reach their destination until earlier this month.

Our Russian coordinator and volunteers will deliver the gifts to the children at Luga and Kommunar within the next two weeks, and so the children will have a very nice surprise: a second Christmas party and gifts!

So we hope to have many good photos of the children enjoying their second Christmas party in next month's newsletter.

Prayer and praises list...

Please pray for:

- ▶ Funds to install showers at Luga internat (\$1400 is needed for first shower);
- ▶ The new internat director at Kommunar who has taken a strong stand for the orphans at Kommunar;
- ▶ The new internat director at Luga, a 32-year-old man who demonstrates much love for the children at Luga;
- ▶ More Christian families in Russia to be open to becoming foster parents for orphans;
- ▶ Salvation for all of our BIG FAMILY children;
- ▶ More BIG FAMILY friends in the U.S.:

- ▶ Opportunities for Ken and Dianne to share BIG FAMILY with more churches.

Praise God for:

- ▶ Directors and teachers who love and care for the orphan children;
- ▶ The miracles we see happening in Russia;
- ▶ Our Russian ministry coordinators, Eva and Misha Ptuha;
- ▶ All of our volunteers and Big Family friends;
- ▶ All those who pray for this ministry every day!
- ▶ An opportunity to present Big Family to a church in Ohio.

Letters for BIG FAMILY children...

Some of you who are Family Friends of Big Family orphans have asked about sending letters to your children. If you would like to send a brief letter, you can now send it directly to Eva Ptuha, our Russian coordinator, and she will translate the letter and assure that it goes to your child. Please include a photo of you (and your family) with the letter. Here's Eva's address in both English and Russian. We suggest you photocopy the address and glue it to your letter when you write. Please keep letters very brief because they must be translated.

Ptuha Misha + Eva
Oleninih, 2\2 - 13
Vsevolozsk
Leningradskiy region,
Russia 188640
Россия
188640
Ленинградская область
Всеволожск
Олениных 2\2 - 13
птуха Миша + Эва

Thank you for your caring and loving...

Our wish for each of you is that one day you will be able to personally experience how much your love and care means to a Russian orphan. The children in Russia are so appreciative of everything that you are doing for them.

We will share with you just one example of the love that these children have to give in return.

During our recent trip to Russia, we took some of the children on a field trip, and Ken (as he usually does) forgot to wear his gloves. Nina, age 9, did not have any gloves to wear, but she noticed that Ken didn't have gloves so she held his hand throughout the trip "so that his hands wouldn't get cold". Thank you, Nina!

