

# RESTORING HOPE

## a ministry to ORPHANS

HopeUpdate  
March/April 2004

### Adoption – leaving orphanhood behind

Dear Friends & Partners in Ministry,

On March 27<sup>th</sup> it was a great pleasure to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> annual dinner of the Canadian-CIS Friendship Exchange Society (CanCIS) at Meadow Gardens, Maple Ridge.

I have been to these functions for 10 years, the past 7 as a member of the board of directors. During that time we have been privileged to facilitate the adoption by Canadian families of over 150 orphans from Russia and Kazakhstan. About 45 of the children were at the annual dinner this year together with their families and friends.

The group now ranges in age from the most recent arrivals at under 1 year, right up to the teenagers who were adopted from Siberia in the early 1990's.

It is a constant frustration that individuals both here and in Russia continue to exploit orphaned children for personal profit. The average cost of an international adoption has risen by over 300% in the past eight years. As a result, more and more people seeking to add to their families through adoption are finding the financial challenge simply too great.

While increases in some costs such as travel expenses are unavoidable, the bare fact is that a growing number of people are seeing the emotive mixture of children who have been thrown away, and the families who want to love them, as an opportunity for gain. We know that this is not in alignment with God's heart (read Exodus 22). We must pray that divine correction or moral self-examination enables these people to address their very dangerous position.

Having said that, the annual CanCIS dinner is still testimony to God's plan of motivating many families each year to overcome the barriers and make the adoption journey. Watching the community of changed lives grow every year is cause for constant praise!

In His service,



### Heading for India

In October 2004, Sue is joining a medical missions team from Sovereign Grace Ministries that will visit Visakhapatnam, India. The team will be working with Pastor Yesupadam whose ministry in the region includes church planting, schools, and orphanages. Further details and an opportunity to contribute to this project will be posted to the web site soon.

### Well Project Near Completion

In a joint project with Hungry for Life, we are sinking a well in the village of Laraque, Haiti. Funding for the project has been in place for some time - the recent troubles caused some delay, but engineers are now about to start work.

On a visit to Haiti last year we were impacted by the effectiveness of a similar project in the nearby village of Grand-rac. (There is a short QuickTime movie on the website).



The well at Grand-rac completely changed the fortunes of the entire village. In particular, it enabled the church school to begin a care program for the abandoned children in the village. We are praying that the well at Laraque will have a similar impact for the many orphans there.



### New Pilot Project

In cooperation with CrossWay Community Church we are sending small consignments of clothing to churches in Rostov and Krasnodar. While we will continue to support the efforts of our existing partners in Krasnodar, there are still many more orphanages in the region that do not have visitation programs.

This pilot program will determine whether there is an opportunity for CrossWay to develop a long term, sustainable visitation program that will be implemented by the local Russian churches. We know that such programs dramatically reduce the suicide and crime rates among orphans leaving their institutions at age 17.

Four cases of summer clothing have been sorted and packed; thank you Matt & Julie Rawlings' care group. Check the **Projects** section of the website for more details.

### RESTORING HOPE

18039 58A Avenue, Surrey, BC V3S 1N7

Phone 604-576-6823 Fax 604-576-1108

Cell 604-728-2112 info@orphans.ca

[WWW.ORPHANS.CA](http://WWW.ORPHANS.CA)