

Hope Update

July 22 2003

Our Vision

To impact the outcome for abandoned children, and to raise the status of the orphan in the eyes of the Church and the world to a level consistent with Biblical principles.

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I am writing this Update with very mixed emotions. Firstly, I am very pleased to report on one project that will touch many children – please see the report below for details. Secondly, it is with great sadness that I have to tell you that it is very likely that Sue and I will not be able to continue our work.

At a meeting with our director of Human Resources last Tuesday, we concluded that our family could not continue to function with an income so far below our minimum needs. With pensions and savings gone, and our home re-mortgaged, we are out of options. Campus Crusade has given us notice that unless we raise an additional \$2,400 in monthly support by September 15, we will have to leave staff, and return to secular employment. We have received a pledge of \$200 per month, leaving another \$2,200 to find. It seems an overwhelming task, and certainly one we could not accomplish in our own strength. Would you please pray with us that our Sovereign God would show us another 5 people who would also commit \$200 monthly, and another 12 who would commit to \$100 monthly.

We are also asking those of you who already support us financially to prayerfully consider whether you could increase your current commitment, and also whether you could refer us to anyone you know personally who may want to join the team.

During the next two months I will look for suitable employment and at the same time, try to ensure that we have left no stone unturned in the search for the funding we need. Sue and I need to know that if we are to leave this work, it will clearly be our Lord's will. We can then look forward with anticipation to the next step in our walk with Him.

We will try to keep you informed of progress, and will regularly update the **Support Team Area** on the website - we invite you to check there for the latest news.

In His service,

Stephen Smith

Clothing Boxes

We have begun to ship boxes of clothing to orphanages in the Krasnodar region of southern Russia. We have been blessed with a donation of over 35 boxes of high quality children's clothes from **Please Mum** stores in the Lower Mainland. Each box is valued at over \$600. The clothing is perfect for the orphanages, many of which have old bulk washing machines

that quickly destroy poor quality clothing. The items from Please Mum will stand up very well to the rough treatment.

Freight costs from BC to Krasnodar are only \$130 per box so we are inviting individuals, families, church groups etc. to sponsor one or more boxes. We currently have enough funding to ship six of the boxes. Our friends at **Fellowship and Good News** will personally deliver the boxes and give detailed feedback on each one.



Staff at the Please Mum store in Langley packing clothes for Krasnodar.

OrphanFacts

An increasing number of orphans have HIV. With good nutrition and basic care, over 80% will become HIV negative before they reach age 3.

Prayer Items

1. **Personal Support** – that God would meet our needs so we can continue this work.
2. **Software** – Praise God that the web software we asked for was supplied. If you use the internet, check out the results at www.orphans.ca
3. **Kenscoff Orphanage Relocation** – A potential new facility has been identified and a site survey is underway. Please pray that the children will have a new home soon.
4. **Family Break** – With all that is going on, a few days away to de-stress was more than we could hope for. Praise God for dear friends Frank & Esther for making this possible.

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