



## STRATEGIC ANGEL CARE

A Ministry to Orphans and Hurting Children in Russia  
P.O. Box 863988 Plano, Texas 75086-3988

Address Correction Requested

“...look after the orphans and widows in their distress...”  
— James 1:27

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# THE SACRED CHILD REPORT

“...look after the orphans and widows in their distress...” James 1:27

Volume 6, Issue 1  
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The Strategic Angel Care Newsletter  
The Stories of Orphans and Hurting Children in Russia  
P.O. Box 863988 Plano, Texas 75086-3988

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www.SACorphans.org  
1-800-879-3928

## MISSION TRIP

Stories from the Field

### Drama Queen

I have been fortunate to have made seven mission trips to St. Petersburg, Russia with SAC, and am always amazed at the wonderful and interesting people I meet. This last trip, during Thanksgiving of 2007 was no different.

On Monday night of the first week we had a large group meeting of the Road of Life (ROL) Family Home members, and they invited several guests. Because it was such a large group, I was not able to meet each of the guests individually, so I went to the door of the apartment to speak to each young person as he/she left, giving to each a piece of candy and asking their name. One particular young man, Ilya, was (in my 50+ eyes) a little strange looking. He had body piercing in some unusual places, and tattoos peeking out of his shirt sleeves; and his personality was a little bit feminine, to say the least. But I spoke to him, introduced myself, and told him I was glad he had come to the meeting. As I handed him the candy he let out a shriek and said, “Oh, how did you know this was my favorite candy! Can I have another piece?” I laughed and handed over the second piece of candy.

On Thursday night of my second week, I

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### God Prepares the Way

Marina and I had talked about taking the ROL residents and grads on an overnight retreat during my time in St. Petersburg this spring. The cost she quoted was about \$800-\$1000 for 30 people. I spoke to my pastor about using some of my Russia mission fund money for this, and he asked to

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## “An Orphan Life”

Testimony of a Graduate Orphan Working to Lead Other Orphans to Christ

When I began my life I had already lost my father. I lived with my mother and older brother. When I turned the age of 15, my mother passed away. I was in poverty, although I had already found God at the time of her death. I had nothing, no furniture, no television, just an empty room. My brother and I would sleep on the clothes we had on the floor. So I stood in the middle of room and asked God, “Why do I live this way?” He promised me that if I follow him, I will be blessed in all the things that I do. I wanted to serve the impoverished and the orphaned, and asked God “How can I serve, if I have nothing?”

So I began to work and study. My first job was washing cars and in the summer at a fabric factory. Nearby my apartment, I found an orphanage where I first began to visit. That orphanage is orphanage # 51. From the little money I have earned from my work, I used to bless orphans; God began to bless my life. My dream was to help orphans 24 hours a day. So I began to work as a night counselor at orphanage #51. Through that experience, I developed many relationships with kids and counselors. On the weekends, I would take the children to church, and also to my home. I still consider that time of my life a blessing from God.



Lucya (upper right) with kids from Orphanage #14

When I was working in that orphanage, I found out what happens to children who graduate the orphanage. Many disappear and some die. This knowledge became apparent to me when I was working with the oldest group of children; the children who would graduate in the following year. Marina had been visiting children from the same orphanage. I met Marina at orphanage #51, and we quickly became good friends. She became to be a wonderful example from God in my life. She told me that she started a transitional home for girls who had graduated from the orphanage. She asked me to help serve there. This was more than a blessing for me and I was so thankful to God for He had given me an important ministry at that transitional home. I was so pleased that I could serve the graduated girls. That work was such a privilege from God.

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## SAC MINISTRY NEEDS...

**Large Suitcases:** When SAC goes on a mission trip each trip participant takes a “ministry suitcase” filled with activity supplies, humanitarian aid, Bible Study material and gifts for orphans. SAC needs donations of used but good condition large suitcases to carry these items when we go on mission trip. Call John at 972-517-4315 if you can help out.

**Scholarship Research:** As many of you know, John is supporting four kids in Russia that are now college age. With John’s support, one of them has spent his high school senior year in a college program far from his home in St. Petersburg. Room, board, and tuition cost \$9,800 a year. If he can’t stay in school, he will be obligated for Army service and possibly suffer abuse known to be common for conscripts. John needs help in finding scholarships and grants for this international student studying in Rostov, Russia.

**Airline Miles:** SAC wants to help volunteers go on mission trips by providing a “bank” of donated airline miles that could be drawn from. Airline accounts have been setup with American & Delta Airlines. If you can donate miles please call John at 972-517-4315.

To make a tax deductible donation to SAC make your check out to:

**Strategic Angel Care**

Please mail to the check to: P.O. Box 863988 Plano, Texas 75086-3988

## SAC Calendar of Events:

Event	Location	Dates
SAC Mission Trip	St. Petersburg, Russia: Transition Homes	Mar 14 - Mar 23, 2008
SAC Mission Trip	St. Petersburg, Russia: Orphanages, Shelters	Apr 4 - Apr 13, 2008
SAC Mission Trip	St. Petersburg, Russia: Transition Homes	Apr 11 - Apr 19, 2008
SAC Mission Trip	Sosnovo, Russia: Orphanage & Day Center	Apr 18 - Apr 27, 2008
SAC Garage Sale	Hunters’ Glen Baptist Church Annex	May 24, 2008
SAC Mission Trip	St. Petersburg, Russia: Summer Orphan Camp	July 18 - Aug 3, 2008



# A Message from the SAC Director

by John M. Neese

**O**n February 10th, 2008 I was honored when Hunters' Glen Baptist Church, my home church, ordained and licensed me as a minister. Later on March 9th, I was presented my Ordination Certificate at the end of the service. We ran out of time for me to give any comments, but this is what I wanted to say:

*"Since that first trip in July of 1999, I have gone to Russia 18 times and SAC has taken over 100 volunteers on short-term mission trips. There are 7 partner Baptist Churches in Texas and Louisiana working with the SAC Ministry. Today, there are 15*

*ministry sites that our teams visit and hundreds of orphans, hurting children, and graduate orphans that continue to be touched by the love of Christ! None of this would be possible without the help, love, and support of my church.*

*My thanks to Pastor Kim Hall of Hunters' Glen Baptist Church, and "The Center for Global Ministries" for their help in "nesting" and "nurturing" SAC as a young independent ministry. Thanks Kim for continuing to mentor me as I stepped out in faith to form and direct this ministry.*



*And thanks to all the members of our seven partner churches, who have volunteered, supported me financially, prayed for this ministry, and "put up with me" as I shared stories of the plight of Russian orphans and the four kids I sponsor. Thank you!*

The Ordination Certificate itself is a piece of paper mounted to a fine piece of wood. Although no one needs an official paper to be available to serve God, it will serve as a reminder to me of the calling that God has laid on my heart for the orphans of Russia. — John M. Neese

## Drama Queen

(Continued from page 1)

went with Lucia and a group from ROL to Dormitory 70, a twelve-story building that houses 500+ orphans ages 16-23, to help with their English classes they had begun teaching earlier in the fall. After doing an arts and craft project with the six girls present, we had tea. Just as everyone was finishing their tea, I heard a familiar shriek and looked up – sure enough, there was Ilya standing in the doorway. The translator sitting next to me reached over, grabbed my arm, and said, "You must tell him to leave. He is homosexual." I looked at her, smiled, and replied, "I do not judge anyone when I am in Russia. I leave that to God. I am only here to love them – love them all." She frowned at me, but kept quiet.

Ilya sat down and began fixing his plate, the whole time rattling on and entertaining the whole group. After a few minutes, as I talked to Luda on my right, I felt someone touch my left arm. I turned and there, kneeling at my feet, was Ilya. He reached for my hands and very dramatically began to tell me how beautiful I was, what a wonderful gift I was to him, and how much he cherished me. Now, when I say dramatically, I mean DRAMATICALLY – it was as if he were acting on a stage, with all kinds of dramatic gestures and tossing of his head, to say nothing of his facial expressions. He concluded by opening my hand and laying into it a piece of candy – his favorite candy, just like the one I had given to him the previous Monday night. I took his hands in mine, brought us both to our feet, and began a very dramatic presentation of my own – with the same hand gestures, tossing of head, and facial expressions that he had just used. By this time, everyone in the room was laughing hysterically. To say that we were the center of attention would be putting it mildly! This went on for a few minutes as I told him what a treasured gift HE was, how much I appreciated his gift, etc. Everyone enjoyed the show!

As we got ready to leave, Ilya grabbed me in a great bear hug and, with tears in his eyes, said, "You really love me, don't you?" I hugged him back, equally hard, and assured him, "Yes, I do love you. But even greater than my love for you, is the love God has for you. His love is bigger and better than anything I could ever show you."

Two weeks after my departure from St. Petersburg, Ilya accepted Christ. There have been sixteen orphans saved as a result of ministry being done by the residents and counselors of ROL – praise God for their efforts!

My prayer each time I go is that God will use me to show His love, His charity, and the hope that only He can give to children without any hope. God is the only one qualified to judge others, we as Christians need only to accept everyone, without prejudice, and with only love for all. — Nancy Durrett

## Serving Hope

(Continued from page 1)

I have continued that ministry for nearly five years. I can see God's ministry develops within family homes making the people there closer to Him as each new day arises. God changed my life in a positive way through the work there and for that I am very thankful. I know that God has something greater in store for me and I am really excited. I want to say *Road of Life* has really impacted the lives of the boys and girls who went through the program. The most important goal I have for the graduates of orphanages is to find Our Father In Heaven, that they have a Father, the most important and rich Father in the world.

I know from my experiences that if we all focus on God He will always be with us. I knew that God's calling for me is to serve orphans for all of my life. I want to show orphan children that they have someone who loves them more than anyone; someone who will never leave them. I want all orphans to invite Jesus into their hearts. I want them to see how Jesus can change their lives and make them successful. For there is only one thing we all must do to be successful, and that's love Him. I know one of the best ways to do that is transitional homes.

I ask you to pray for all counselors, Marina and children of the family homes. I feel how you all pray for me. I could feel your prayers especially in times of trouble. I thank God for you all and your prayers.

I love God more and more everyday. I am so thankful for the changes He is making within me and for His constant guidance. I know that my calling is to serve orphans and my heart is for them. Where I live isn't important; I will continue to visit family homes and visit the girls and boys within *Road of Life*. I will continue to help them with their needs.

**He is my Director, my Leader, and my Shelter**

Now I visit orphanages every day, and I have begun to visit dormitories for the graduates of orphanages. I want to spend more one on one time with children from orphanages. I want to be sister, a mother or a good friend to them. To share the love of Jesus inside me, I want to share the testimony of my life. I want them to fall in love with Him.

I ask you to pray for me that God will use me in a mighty way. He is my Director, my Leader, and my Shelter. I will follow Him all the days of my life. My trust is in Him. Please pray with me for the children and the graduates (orphans). Keep them in your prayers.

— Lucia, a graduate orphan

**TRIP STORIES**

Check out the **SAC BLOG's** and Mission Trip Journals at:

**www.SACorphans.org**

**PICTURES!**

## RUSSIAN FUN...

You know you've been in Russia too long when...

You answer the phone by saying 'allo, allo, allo' before giving the caller a chance to respond.

You go mushroom and berry picking out of necessity instead of recreation.

You begin paying attention to peoples' floors and can distinguish the quality of linoleum and/or parquet, and thus determine social status, taste, and income e.g. embezzled, earned, pension, unpaid, etc!



## God Prepares the Way

(Continued from page 1)

present it to the missions committee. However, before he could call them on the phone, a dear soul from my church walked into his office and handed him \$1000 with these instructions: "Give this to Nancy. I feel she's going to need to do something special this trip."

Wow! What an awesome God we serve! Marina has scheduled this trip for Friday night, April 18. We will leave the city early that afternoon and travel to a camp outside the city; spend the night; and return home Saturday evening - so everyone can be in church on Sunday.

I have prepared two Bible studies for this retreat: the first is "What is Faith" and the

second is "A Time to Pray." If any of you have any devotions, articles, etc. that you would like to include and share, please bring them with you. During the study on prayer, I would especially love to have personal testimonies of God touching you or using you to intercede for others in prayer.

This is such an awesome opportunity, and I can't wait for this time together. Oh, and if any of you have any ideas for skits, games, etc., jot those down too! — Nancy Durrett

*This was an e-mail sent by one of our experienced SAC Mission Trip Leaders a few days before leaving for St. Petersburg! God goes before us on every trip and uses faithful trip participants in ways we can never imagine when we become "available" to be used by Him! God will supply the needs and prepare the way!*

# Garage Sale!

Bring Things to Annex on Fri, May 23 from 3-9pm

Saturday, May 24, 2007, 7am - 2pm

**T**wice a year SAC holds a Garage Sale to generate funds for our ministry to serve Russian orphans. SAC is now collecting items for the sale. We are looking for clean saleable items such as clothes, baby items, books, shoes, preschool plastic furniture, bikes, and toys. We can't accept large appliances or overly worn and unclean cloth-

ing. Please bring your items to the Hunters' Glen Annex on Friday, May 23rd from 3pm to 9pm. The sale will begin on Saturday morning at 7am. We also need volunteers to help for a couple of hours on Friday afternoon and Saturday. Please contact John at 972-517-4315 if you would like to donate or volunteer! — John M. Neese

# Golf Tourney Winners!

## SAC holds 3rd Annual Golf Tournament



1st Place Team



2nd Place Team



3rd Place Team



Bringing up the Rear!

**I**t was a beautifully "chilly" day as 40 Golfers on 10 teams arrived at the Los Rios Country Club to begin a full day of Golf! Confidence was high and so there were a few less Mulligans sold!

As they waited for the 12:30pm t-off, some worked on their swing at the driving range while others gathered for lunch in the golf shack. The Putting Contest this year was won by Jody Mazzola, Minister of Education at Hunters' Glen Baptist Church! By 5:30pm most of the teams had completed their 18 holes and came in for a "warm" relaxing BBQ meal in the dining room. During that time a Silent Auction with 31 items was being held.

Proceeds from the Silent Auction go to individuals raising support to go on a mission trip with SAC.

The Shawn McGee Team came in first place with a score of 58. Last year's first place was won with a score of 60! The Jay Smith Team came in 2nd with a score of 64.

Third place went to the Rocky Crawford Team with score of 67 and the "Bringing Up the Rear" Trophy went to the Charlie Capers Team with a score of 74, and he brought the most Mulligans! Closest to the Pin was won by Dylan McCarra and the Longest Drive trophy went to Dee Womack.

A great time was had by all and SAC was able to raise over \$2500 from proceeds from the tournament and Silent Auction. Tell your friends and join us for the 4th Annual SAC Charity Golf Tournament in March of 2009! — John M. Neese

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The SACred Child Report is published bi-monthly by Strategic Angel Care (SAC), a non-profit 501(c)3 organization to inform others who have our same passion for the orphans in Russia, to encourage direct personal involvement in missions, to provide for their physical well being and to share the message of salvation through Jesus Christ