



Друзья русских сирот

7557 Wind River Drive • Sylvania, Ohio 43560

(419) 841-6971 • www.fororphans.org • contact@fororphans.org

December 2014

Dear FORO Friends,

One hundred years ago, a remarkable event took place in the midst of the trenches separating the British and German armies during World War I. On Christmas Eve 1914, German soldiers delivered a chocolate cake to the British line accompanied by a note that proposed a cease fire. The British accepted the proposal and offered some of the cigarettes and candy sent by Princess Mary as Christmas gifts to their enemies. The spontaneous goodwill soon spread along the 27-mile length of the British line. Enemy soldiers shouted to one another from the trenches, joined in singing Christmas carols, and soon met one another in the middle of no-mans-land to talk, exchange gifts and even take part in impromptu soccer matches.

For a century, the “Christmas Truce of 1914” has stood as an enduring symbol of the peace of Christmas. It is a sign that the spirit of Emmanuel can overcome the darkest impulses of the human condition. While none receiving this letter face battlefield enemies, all of us recognize that evil and cruelty take many forms and surround us still. And, only the spirit of Emmanuel – God with us – can overcome them.

At no time since the formation of Friends in Russian Orphans in 2002 have relations between the United States and Russia been more cold and frosty. Yet, the thousands of innocent children languishing in Russian orphanages know nothing of that. Nor do their caregivers concern themselves with high-level political maneuverings. Instead they continue the daily struggle to provide hope and help to abandoned and lonely children under worsening economic conditions and loss of support as the cause of orphans fades from front page headlines. FORO’s help is needed now, as much as ever.

This past year, FORO completed its twelfth year of ministry to Russian orphans. Much wonderful work was accomplished. In 2014, FORO facilitated a very successful Bible School program for children at Rakula Koshensky, supported the wonderful work of the “House of Hope” in Perm for children who have been released from orphanages, provided medical equipment and other physical necessities for orphanages in Dzherinsk and elsewhere, became a Ministry Partner to Sue and Chris Champion who conduct orphans outreach programs through ballet and drama in the Moscow region, and engaged in numerous other assistance activities. Please check out FORO’s web site and Facebook page for more information.

But FORO urgently needs your financial help to continue our work in 2015. The Russian children FORO serves live in the no-man’s land of isolated orphanages and lonely lives. We can entrench ourselves in our personal comforts behind the lines and forget about them. Or, we can climb out of our trenches, and generously give so that these children may experience the spirit of peace and goodwill that Christmas forever should be all about.

Today I ask that you join me and FORO in celebrating our own unofficial “Christmas Truce” of 2014. Please give as generously as you can. Together, let’s lessen the darkness that surrounds us by offering our own gifts to those who live and work beyond no-man’s land, in the trenches of forgotten Russian orphanages. I am certain that if you do, Emmanuel will enrich your Christmas with the gifts of peace and joy.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wurster
President

PS: Please follow FORO on Facebook for updates and news of FORO activities.