

HAIR CARE

Having successfully completed two hair-dressing courses, Lena is seeking out every opportunity to practice her new craft. In addition to caring for family hair, Lena has been providing free hair cuts to local seniors, friends and even Sonia's classmates. This past Friday Lena's "hair care" ministry expanded greatly. Vera Z., director of "Rainbow of Hope", invited Lena to come to the centre to give free haircuts to "their kids".

The Rainbow of Hope Centre is essentially a street ministry works with families in crisis and with maladjusted children and their families. One of their main areas of work is to help families and children who are at risk of breakdown or abandonment. They conduct activities that help families understand and meet the necessary roles for bringing up children, which reduces the risk of abandonment. As a result, families are able to better provide protection and care for their children.

We have been friends with Vera and her husband Sasha for many years, and I have been to their annual summer camp for street kids and orphans. But this was the first time one of us has had the opportunity to work at the Centre. Lena spent an entire day cutting hair, all the while sharing God's love. She had meaningful talks with each of her "clients", including 17-year-old Dema (pictured above) and Katya (below). Dema and his twin sister Valya have been with the Centre for nine years. Vera said that in all this time she has never seen Dema's mother sober. Fifteen-year-old Katya has been with Vera & the Centre for the past four years. Since Katya was 10 years old she has been living with a man who is not her relative. She still sees her father, but does not live with him.

Lena has committed herself to serving at Rainbow of Hope on a regular (at least monthly) basis from now on. We are excited to be able to deepen our support of Rainbow of Hope (we regularly give a portion of our tithe to support the Centre). Please remember Vera & her staff in their ministry and of course kids such as Dema, Valya & Katya. May God continue to bless the ministry of Rainbow of Hope!

– Kevin, Lena, Sonia, Maya & Deena



COMING TO CANADA

◆ Thank you to all who are offering suggestions and assistance as we prepare to settle in Canada come June 2006. Please keep the suggestions coming! Moving our belongings, finding a home and a vehicle and...? Lots of questions with welcome answers! :-)

We are very thankful to all who have offered help with our big move! Thank you for helping to spread the word about our needs!

BLESSINGS

◆ *Answered prayer from previous weeks!* Lena & Sonia's immigration paperwork arrived safely in Manitoba this past week, and before this week is out the application package should be complete and making its' way to the processing centre in Ontario.

PETITIONS

◆ This past week our office has been extremely busy preparing the application forms, program descriptions, travel arrangements and more for the Christian Camping Leadership Conference (Jan. 29 - Feb. 4, 2006). Please continue to uphold us in prayer as we send word out this week via post, email, internet and telephone.

◆ After putting Sonia's health in the Blessings column last week, we're moving it back to Petitions! Somehow whatever is ailing Sonia won't go away peacefully. Thankfully it doesn't seem too major, but the reoccurring sore throat, fever and cough are frustrating and costing her a lot of missed school. Please for her complete healing.

DID YOU KNOW...

◆ ...that out of the blue Russia started celebrating Mother's Day? Posters announcing November 27 as Mother's Day started appearing late last week, to the disinterest of almost all. Every Russian knows that the real Mother's Day is March 8—International Women's Day! Regardless, it's on the books now: Russia has joined much of the rest of world in giving mothers an official special day! (Now if only they would recognize us dads...)

ESSENTIAL INFO

◆ For add/remove options: hpp@krhamm.com | otherwise use kevin@krhamm.com

◆ Support info: www.krhamm.com/support

◆ Key web sites: www.krhamm.com | www.mbmission.org | www.ccirussia.org/en

ABOUT US: Kevin & Lena Hamm are Mission Associates with **Mennonite Brethren Mission and Service International**, serving with **Christian Camping International/Russia** in St. Petersburg, Russia