



Dear Friends and Family,

Merry Christmas! Blessings to you and your family this holiday season. I am actually finishing this letter during flight layovers on my way back to spend Christmas with my family in Oregon. I can hardly believe I've been in Moscow for nearly one year!

The Lord has blessed me with some good friends and I felt very useful in the ministry this fall. It helped that I know more of the teens in the schools. It is nice to have them greet me when I visit.

We finished our Alpha course Nov. 30. While attendance gradually declined during the ten weeks, we still had a good turn out on Friday with about 25-30 teens and 15 adult helpers and discussion leaders. There will be a Christmas party on Dec. 21st.

Pray that many will come back for that gathering. Pray that those who are truly interested in knowing God will become involved in the Bible Study Paradigma will offer in February on Friday nights.

I am now working in two schools each week. I have a class of 7th graders at IKS (the same school as last spring) and a class of 9th graders at 170 (in my neighborhood). My class at IKS is seven boys and two girls. They are a handful from 3-4 p.m.! They are a fun group and I hope they will attend the spring English camp. The group at 170 has been a blessing and a surprise! The teacher insisted that we come to her class each Thursday afternoon. I recruited Caleb to help me and we have been there three weeks. We have English discussion with them. Within the first hour of visiting with the girls, we had already arranged a time for them to come to my house! Six were invited, but

only two came for lunch with me. We had a good visit and they stayed for nearly six hours! They were so open about their feelings and struggles when we met (not normal for Russians). I look forward to

spending more time with them. They are fun girls who don't try to fit in with the crowd. They asked to come again to learn to cook lasagna, so four girls came this week to make lasagna. It turned



Anya ready to eat!



Nastya and Rita waiting to eat some lasagna!!

out great! ***Praise the Lord for connections in schools and relationships with students!***

We had our first disco at school 170 on Nov. 24. It included a game of Family Feud in Russian. There were about 60 teens. They really seemed to enjoy the game show. It will be fun to do this at three other schools in February and March. We will not be having regular weekly meetings between now and spring English camp. We

will use the time for larger outreach activities at schools and small group follow-up with students we meet through those activities. ***Pray for good attendance at discos and game shows for schools 2013, 4 & IKS. Pray that we can follow-up with the students we meet at these events.***



Disco at 170



Caleb leading Family Feud

Each week I enjoy my time with the college age girls who come for Bible study. Natasha has enjoyed it so much she has started bringing a friend. Four girls come regularly. ***Pray for my relationship with these girls and that I can challenge them spiritually.***

The government passed a new law concerning visas the beginning of October. Much of the implementation of the new law is still undefined. Concisely, all new one-year visas will have a 90/180 stipulation printed on them that means we cannot be in the country for longer than 90 days in 180 days. The way to get around this issue is for us to obtain work permits/visas. Campus Crusade is working with a team of lawyers to determine how this affects their missionaries in Russia and what they need to do for us to obtain the correct visas. ***Pray for this team to find a suitable solution soon.***

My current visa expires on December 28th. I will apply for a 3-month visa that will get me through the end of April. I will then have to leave Russia to apply for another three month visa. ***Pray that I will not have problems getting a new visa and that all the paperwork will come through in a timely manner.***

I will be in the U.S. from December 14th to January 27th. I will be in Oregon until the first part of January and then in Louisville. I will be spending time with my family and friends. I would also like to take time to meet with supporters as well. If you would like me to speak at your church or class, please feel free to contact me. I would love to share what the Lord is doing in Russia! ***Pray for safe travels and time with family and friends. Pray for continued financial provision to cover my financial needs until the end of July. There will be added expenses with the new visa law requiring me to get another visa at the end of January. I am also required to raise \$100 a month toward general ministry expenses for the team. I will be praying with you as you consider how the Lord may be leading you to help financially- through continued monthly support or a special gift.***

Thank you for your prayers and financial support! I would not be able to be here without your partnership.

Your hands and feet in Russia, *Kerri*

Be sure to check out my website & blog for more details: <http://www.geocities.com/samfam042003/>

PRaises:

- Great time in schools IKS, 170 & 2013 giving Family Feud surveys.
- A great Alpha course!
- Our partnership with Paradigma Church.
- Time working with 7th and 9th graders at IKS & 170.
- New relationships with teens.
- Safety and provision each day I'm here.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- My letter of invitation and visa come through in a timely manner.
- help from Americans and Russians.
- My time in the U.S. visiting family and supporters.
- For safe travels here and back to Russia.
- Resolution to the visa issues the new law has caused.
- Building of relationships with the girls from 170 – Rita, Katya, Nastya, Anya, Tanya, & Anya.
- For our ministry volunteers – Dasha, Sasha, Denis & Julia.
- Spring English Camp preparation and that we would have enough
- Upcoming outreach events in schools – Discos with Family Feud game, passing out pens, selling balloons for Valentine's, etc.



*Irina and I
after our
first snow*