

Hi everyone!

I have arrived safely in Moscow! God is very good. My flight to Denver was cancelled on Thursday so I did not leave Boise until Friday afternoon. This was a blessing because I would then be on the same flight as Craig Blair from Germany to Moscow so I would not have to go through customs alone. My flight to Denver was delayed over an hour. When I arrived in Denver I had less than 30 minutes to make my connection. I made it aboard and flew to Washington/Dulles airport where I had an hour and a half layover before flying on to Frankfurt, Germany. The flight was only 7 hours long so I didn't get much sleep between dinner and breakfast and being cramped the seat. I had another hour and a half layover in Frankfurt and met up with Craig at the gate. We flew to Moscow together. It only took us an hour to get through customs because my seat was near the front of the plane and I saved a place in line for Craig. We found Craig's three suitcases, but none of mine arrived. (I'm sure they never made it in Denver. The girl sitting next to me on that flight had flown into Denver the week before and they were telling people that it would take 2 hours for the baggage to get from the aircraft to the baggage claim area. When she said it, I thought to myself that it would be a miracle if my luggage made it to my flight to Dulles.) This too, was a blessing in disguise. Sam was to pick us up and he was not going to have room for both of us and all our luggage so one of us would have to wait at the airport for him to return. Without my luggage, we were able to fit into the car. I was so thankful to have Craig for the lost luggage process. The lady helping didn't speak very good English and I would never have been able to give them the address. I guess I would have called Marina and gotten her to give the woman the information over the phone. As it was, Craig was able to do most of it and he has a Russian cell phone so when Marina called, he just wrote down the address from there. I guess I'm going to have to memorize where I live. ☺

We left the airport shortly after 8:00 p.m. (Our flight arrived at 6:10.) However, we were delayed after hitting a huge pothole in the road and getting a flat tire because it bent the rim. So, after a change of tire, we were on our way again. I arrived at my new home between 9 and 9:30. Marina was the only one home and had been waiting for me to arrive for days. She told me later she was so nervous and anxious about my arrival that she was disappointed when I told her my flight was canceled and it would still be another two days before my arrival. She knew she had more days to anxiously await my coming.

I know my father will be greatly relieved to know that my new apartment is on the first floor. ☺ (As was I.) I won't get any exercise going up and down the stairs though. ;-) You have to have a code to get into the apartment buildings and then we have a double-door to get in. The outside door is padded to help with sound blocking and then there is another regular door. Our doorbell sounds like a bird chirping. I'm going to have to get used to all the vehicle noises so I can sleep. It's 11:30 right now and I can hear a big truck on the street as well as the neighbor's television. Because of the holiday, there will be many fireworks throughout the week that will also make a lot of noise. I get to choose if I want to sleep in the living room or on the top bunk of the bunk beds in the bedroom. I think I'll opt for the room, but we'll see. I'll have my run of the house next week while Anya and Marina are on a mission trip to deliver gifts to orphan children. My friend Sasha will come and stay with me while they are gone and Marina asked another girl as well.

Tomorrow morning there is only an 11:00 church service so we will go to that and then tomorrow night we have a New Year's Eve party to attend. Marina is going to find the Narnian Queen costume they have so I can wear it to the party. She is going to be goldilocks. I put her hair in rollers tonight so it will be curly tomorrow. I think it will be fun, but there will not be much sleep.

In Christ,
Kerri

P.S. My luggage arrived at the apartment around 4:15 Sunday (12/31/06) afternoon. Praise the Lord! :-)