

Happy New Year from Moscow! :-) What a celebration it was!

I can hear occasional bursts of fireworks as I write this to you. It is 11 p.m. here. I am alone at the apartment waiting for Sasha to arrive. She is going to spend a few days with me while Anya and Marina are helping with a mission project to orphanages between here and St. Pete. They will be spending Christmas (Jan. 7th) in St. Pete and helping a mission team distribute toys and clothes to orphans along the way.

I have had a quiet day resting and working on my e-mail distribution list today. We arrived home around 6:45 a.m. this morning and then Anya and Marina had to be at the airport to meet some of the mission team flying in from the States. They had to be at the metro at 10:00 a.m. I think I finally fell asleep a little before they left and slept until late afternoon. I forced myself to get up even though my body thought it was 3:30 a.m. so I could sleep tonight.

Sunday morning, we went to Moscow Bible Church where they celebrated the new year and the church's birthday with food and fellowship. We had praise time, a short message from the minister, eating and communion. It was a nice celebration. I got to see several people I have met from previous trips as well and meeting many new ones.

I was invited to a New Year's Eve party at Katya's. It was a masquerade party and white elephant gift exchange. Marina, Craig, Phil and I arrived around 11:30, but about half the people didn't arrive until closer to 3:00 a.m. I was dressed as the Snow Queen from the Chronicles of Narnia, but many thought I was an angel. Marina went as Golden Locks. Craig was Rudolph and his roommate, Phil, was one of many pirates at the party. I'm attaching a picture of Craig, Marina and I as well as a photo of me with two new friends I made at the party - Olga & Sasha. There was lots of food, fun and dancing at the party. We played several large group games as well. We left around 6 a.m. when the metros started running again. It was a fun time and different from most New Year's Eves I've experienced. :-)



Marina (my roommate) and I



Me, Craig, & Marina



Olga, Me and Sasha

Since I didn't have my distribution list together yesterday, I'm attaching my first message so you can read it as well. For those of you at Christian Academy, please forward this to those in your school or department as I did not take the time to add a bunch of names to the list. It is quite large as it is. I hope to be updating my website with photos of the apartment and such this week while the girls are gone. Then, after the 10th, things will begin to get busy as school starts up again and we begin working in the schools and holding club meetings.

Here are some things for which you can pray:

- That I can adjust to the time change without too much problem.
- Language acquisition. (Caleb's wife wants to tutor me in Russian and seems to need an outlet since she is home with a small baby girl now. They return from the States mid-Jan.)
- For the new English club Craig and I will have at IKS with 8th and 9th grade girls. He met with them before the holiday and when he realized they were all girls decided he needed me to help. :-) I love the kids at IKS because they speak good English and you can have good discussions with them.
- My next few days with Sasha - that we can be a blessing to one another.

Thank you for your prayers.
In Christ,
Kerri