

Hi everyone!

I just wanted to give you an update for the week. Last Friday we had about 8 students who came to the club meeting (youth meeting). Because it was the first meeting since their New Year and Christmas holiday, we just had snacks and played games. There were five or six guys and two girls there. From our team, Sergey, Caleb, Craig and I were there. Our student volunteer was Sam (Semiyon). It was a fun time.

Saturday I attended a Russian birthday party for Sergey's wife Anara. It was fun. We had to wear pink and white. I had to borrow clothes from my roommate, Marina. There were several Americans at the party and they were very nice about translating between Russian and English. It was nice to be around some of my new friends and also some old friends. Sasha and Dima were there. Dima was my first translator when I came for English camp six years ago. I got to spend a day with Sasha in Louisville last year when she came for a visit to look at our schools. It was fun to spend time with them here. Sasha runs a Christian school here and Dima works for a computer programming company.

Wednesday, Craig and I went to IKS for our first English Club with the 8th and 9th graders only to find there were no students to meet with us. Unlike America where our schedules are set months and years in advance, the students just found out they have some kind of check-up coming either next week or the week after so they are very stressed about that and preparing for it. We had a good meeting with the teacher and she has decided that the best way to use our help is with her 10th grade English A & B classes. So we will go to the school on Wednesday's at 3:00 and teach a lesson for her. This will be good because I have already taught some of these students at past English Camps. It will be fun to see them again and work with them. They are good English students. Hopefully, a few will become regulars at the Friday youth meetings.

Tonight, we only had three students at our club meeting. Two of the boys who came last week and a girl named Dasha. We had snacks and played games again. Next week Kyle and Irina will be there, so I'm sure it will be a regular meeting. Katya and Yulia were our student volunteers tonight.

My roommates returned from their mission project on Saturday so the apartment has been much more busy. They both had a nice time visiting the orphanages and enjoyed the time with their American friends. We have lots of goodies around the house now. Oreo cookies, American chocolate and candy, Jelly Bellies, etc. I'm going to gain weight from eating all this junk food that is around! I fixed dinner for us Tuesday night. Anya and Marina were both home to eat it with me. It was a nice time. I've been enjoying the time I'm spending with each of them. Anya and I have gotten to have some really good conversations. Since I already knew Marina a little from English Camps, she has been the one to take me under her wing and get me settled. This week is the first that I've really had any time with Anya. I think we will get along just fine.

We learned on Wednesday that the landlord is raising our rent starting in March. I was already concerned because Marina has been talking of moving out and I know she does not have a steady job so part of it is financial. With the rent increase, I'm afraid it will only make her more interested in moving and she's the one who is home the most. So I hate to see her leave. You can pray that God will give her guidance in this situation. You can also pray for Anya as she nears her college graduation and is praying about God's plan for her future. She's tired and burned out with her job so she is really wanting a change. She just doesn't know what that might be.

Well, it is time I had better think about getting to bed. I'm doing better with sleeping. I've taken Melatonin this week which has helped. Not having a real schedule has not, but Anya tells me to enjoy it while it lasts because it won't stay this way long. (I know we have an office, but I haven't been there yet. I don't think anyone has been there working so there isn't much point in going there to work when I can work right here in the living room.)

We have a presentation with the teachers coming up. I'm not sure of the date because it was changed from this week to another day. The 27th is in my mind for some reason. I know they have nice brochures telling about the spring and summer English camps. Craig finished the promo video for the summer camp on Wednesday so I think we are ready. You can pray for the teachers who will attend the meeting and that they will be open to bringing students to the camps. These are the major outreach projects for the team, so promotion for them is important.

In Christ,
Kerri