

Greetings from Moscow!

This week has been a busy and tiring one for me. Saturday, Feb. 3, I met Dasha and went with her to her church, Open Door, which happens to be the same church my roommate, Anya, attends. It was in Russian, but I enjoyed the music and meeting some new people. There were three American missionary couples that I met as well as some new Russian friends.

Sunday, I slept in as I was feeling a bit congested. I got up and went to the office for our meeting with the Russian teachers about the summer English camp. We had three teachers there. They are the same teachers who always bring groups to the camps. One had her grandson with her, so I took him into the hallway and played Uno with him so that his grandmother could concentrate and enjoy the meeting. That helped me practice my colors and numbers in Russian. It was a fun time.

Monday, I met Kyle and we went to the food court in Mega (a large mall nearby) and we brainstormed ideas for the Spring English Camp. We came up with a good idea for a skit series with a character called Dr. Evil. We have the basic idea for each skit, we just need to write the scripts, cast it and video tape most of it before camp. We also brainstormed game ideas for free time activities and the group meeting times.

Tuesday we had our weekly staff meeting. Irina is in her hometown trying to get her new passport since she is now married, so I fixed our lunch. We had a good meeting and I was able to understand much more than last week thanks to Kyle and Caleb who helped with translation and remembered to talk in English. That was helpful. We proposed some changes to the camp schedule and that seemed to be met positively by the group.

After our meeting, I came home for a little while before heading over to the Craig's where Dasha gave us a lesson on making Pelmini, a Siberian food similar to ravioli. Be sure to check out the pictures on the website: <http://kshold.home.insightbb.com/photos/pelmini.htm> It was a fun evening. Dasha is going to try to get the form for making them easily for each of us. Otherwise, it takes hours to make each one by hand. This way you can make a bunch and freeze them to eat during the week or month.

Wednesday, Craig and I had our class at IKS. Morgan Reese had written a nice little story for us to use as our lesson about life as an American teenager. We were excited about it, but the students didn't think it was "exciting" enough because it is too "normal" and like their own lives. They want to hear about people like authors, singers and artists and what their outlook and perspective is on life. So if anyone wants to write a few paragraphs or story about your outlook and perspective on life, feel free to share that with us.

Thursday, Caleb, Kyle, Craig and I met at Mega and brainstormed again. We feel good because we have the basic schedule for each of the morning meetings ready. Now we just have to fill in some of the specifics, but that will come later.

Friday, my friend Sasha came over for lunch before I had to go to our prayer meeting before club. We had a fun time together. At club, the theme was Coca-Cola. Craig was in charge and

gave a little talk about Coke's slogan "The Real Thing" and how God and His word are the real thing. He challenged the five students and four student leaders to go home and read a book or chapter of their Bible's that night. We had a taste testing contest, Coke floats and another contest to see which team could drink Coke out of a bowl with straws the fastest. It was a fun night. After the meeting, a group of us gathered and played Phase 10 until midnight.

Today we have a meeting at Kyle's house for those who are interested in being counselors for our summer English Camp. I will need to leave shortly to pick up the snacks and get there early. It snowed much of yesterday and is still really snowing. The trees are very white with snow as is the ground. It is about 10-12 F. Not as cold as a couple of days ago, but cold enough. I just wear my warm layers and bundle up when I go outside. Our apartment stays very cool compared to other people's apartments. I don't know if that is a downside or upside to living on the first floor.

I had an interesting encounter this week. I went downtown to meet with my friend Irina again. On the way home, I waited about 30 minutes in the metro for Marina who was on her way home from the English class she teaches on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. I found a bench to sit on and called my friend Sasha. After I talked to her, I started writing a text message to my other roommate. The man sitting at the other end of the bench asked me something in Russian. Of course, I didn't understand and told him (in Russian) that I speak English. He started trying to talk to me in English because he found this fascinating. He wanted to know how long I had been studying Russian and what I could say. So I practiced my Russian with him and he was in the middle of teaching me some new Russian words when Marina arrived and took me home. It is interesting to me how Russians find people speaking English to be exciting to them and enjoy trying to practice their English with you.

Here are my prayer requests and praises for the week:

- Adequate provision: prayer partners and funding (I'm still a little short.)
- Reliable renters for my house in Louisville
- Praise that I am sleeping better!
- Praises that I'm getting better at cooking and can get to the store and home on my own.
- Language acquisition. Marina is helping me, but I need to start meeting regularly with Oxana, Caleb's wife.
- Pray for the English class that Craig and I have at IKS with 10th graders on Wednesdays. One boy in our group is a Christian.
- For spring English Camp-
 - That we will find good Emcees.
 - That we will have creativity in planning the meetings for the auditorium.
 - That we will be able to write a good skit series to go with the lessons and get it filmed in advance.
 - That we will find enough American teachers.
 - That we would have good Russian helpers there ready to serve during the camp.
 - That we will be able to figure out the new visa registration laws and how that will impact the Americans coming and their stay here in Moscow.
 - That teachers will want to bring their students to the Camp.
 - For the Americans who will be coming that they will get their passports so they can get

their visa applications sent in and back in time to leaver.

For training of the Americans and Russians who will be teaching and helping at camp.

- That we will have opportunities to work in schools 2013 and 103 on a regular basis.
- The girls I will be “loving on” because Irina does not have enough time to spend with them and still have her discipleship groups with the other girls in the youth group:
 - Nadya, Dasha, Katya, Julia, Alyona, Alla, Vika, Nastya, Diana, Elina, Anya & Ksusha

In Christ,
Kerri