



Ural News !!

A Newsletter from Russia

Vol. 4 No. 9

Nov. 2008

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In This Issue

- Church Business
- English Lectures
- Did You Know?
- A Reason to Celebrate
- Prayer Corner
- An American Thanksgiving
- Trivia
- Fifth Sunday for Kids
- Shepherd's Fold



Students at the public school, enjoying their first taste of pumpkin pie!

Love,
Erik and Adrienne

Thank you to all who are helping the Lord's work here in Yekaterinburg!

All funding and donations may be sent to:

Estes church of Christ
Attn: Russia Mission Fund
PO Box 191
Henderson, TN 38340

Church Business

It has been a busy month for us this November. It has taken some adjustment to get used to life in Russia again, but we are happy to be here and blessed to have opportunity to work for the Lord. We hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are enjoying the rest of your holiday season.

Thanksgiving proved to be a wonderful opening to teach others about the blessings we have from the Lord. Most Russians neither understand this holiday, nor the One that we are spending time to thank. Because of this, we were again invited into the public school to talk about the history of Thanksgiving and some of the traditions we had on such a special holiday. Adrienne taught three different classes in the school and was invited back next month.

Erik also did some teaching of his own when he gave a lecture about Thanksgiving for all English speakers in the city. We had originally planned to have the lecture at the American Center Library, but new arrangements were necessary. It was a blessing to have a large office for the church where we could hold the lecture instead.

We have found a new enthusiasm in Bible classes since we have been back. Some of the members are very eager to have the Bible classes again and be learning more about God's Word. Erik has also begun lessons with Artyom again, studying the Bible as well as the Greek language. Thanks to the special Christians at the Lomax church, we were able to buy Artyom a Greek New Testament for his study. He was very surprised and thankful for such a nice gift.

We planned a special "Kid's Day" for the fifth Sunday of this month. Although it did not turn out as we had hoped, we were happy to see the participation of the members.

We thank all of you for your continued prayers as the Lord's Truth is spread throughout Russia. It is a difficult time for the Russians right now, as they are also experiencing a financial crisis. We hope that you will continue to remember your brothers and sisters around the world.

English Lectures

During the summer, after we learned of the new rules for foreign visitors to Russia, we decided that we should use the little time we would have in the Russian Federation to the best of our ability. This implied keeping as busy as possible for the six months we would be allowed to live in Russia.

As a result, we resolved to work more with the English language in an attempt to attract more people to learning about God. In the past we were worried that many would come only for English and not for learning the Bible if we offered free English lectures. However, some in the congregation felt otherwise and encouraged us to use English as an asset. We finally relented to their suggestions and planned a series of English lectures at the American Center Library. With every lecture, it is our goal to add Christian teachings of some kind. The American Center quickly accepted our offers and set the dates for the events.

Unfortunately, a short time later we heard again from the American Center, this time explaining that, due to renovations, they would be closed until February.

So, instead, we planned the lectures at the church office. This month Erik did



a detailed lecture on Thanksgiving, emphasizing the first official proclamation for the Thanksgiving holiday by George Washington. It was an excellent lecture and those who attended enjoyed themselves. Next month, we plan to have another lecture early in the month centered on Pearl Harbor Day.

Ural News !!

Did You Know??

We will be celebrating the 2009 New Year ten hours before New York City.

A Reason to Celebrate

This month marked the 15 year anniversary for the congregation in Degtyarsk. We were so happy for them and their diligence to continue in the faith. Over the past fifteen years, they have seen times of happiness, and times of pain, rebirths and falling away, but they are a wonderful group of people with a love for the Lord.

To celebrate this commemorative anniversary, the church had a special service followed by a fellowship meal. They had two unexpected Jehovah Witnesses visit just minutes before worship began. Although the two JWs were invited to learn more about God's Word and study, they refused and continued on their way.

The original two members of the Degtyarsk church are Nina and Vera (incidentally, the word vera means faith). They are two sisters who spent the first few years, after becoming Christians, travelling to Yekaterinburg every Sunday to meet with the saints there until a congregation was established in Degtyarsk. We praise these ladies as well as all the other current members in the Degtyarsk congregation, for their faith and service to the Lord.

Prayer Corner

- Victor – he has had more difficulties with his health over the past few weeks.
- The congregation – that we may be able to do much work over the next two months.
- Residence permit – that we are able to obtain the permit to continue living in Russia.

An American Thanksgiving

The Thanksgiving holiday provides a wonderful opportunity for teaching others about God and His blessings; especially in a



country that considers taking a day to thank the Lord such a foreign concept. This month, Adrienne was excited to be invited to the schools once again, this time to teach classes on the American holiday of Thanksgiving. She taught three different classes, one tenth grade and two fifth grade classes.

What a blessing to see those eager students, excited to learn



more about America and its holidays. They

were so interested to hear the origins of the holiday, and the stories of the Separatists, and why they wanted to leave Europe, as well as the cooperation between the Pilgrims and the natives of America.

As a final treat, Adrienne brought pumpkin pie for everyone to try a small piece. That was, perhaps, the biggest treat of all, as none of them had ever tasted anything like that before. We have already been invited to come back next month for more opportunities to teach these young minds.



Trivia

What do the Russians call a happy man who brings presents to children at the end of the year?

- A. Grandfather Frost
- B. Kriss Kringle
- C. Father Christmas
- D. St. Lucia

* answer at bottom of column

Fifth Sunday for Kids

The church decided to have a special day just for kids on our fifth Sunday of the month. We planned for after worship many crafts and games, plus the members bought food and invited others. We had many commit to coming for the day and learning about Noah's ark and the great Flood.

However, when Sunday came, none of those who had said they would bring their children came. In fact, we had no children at all for our event.



Obviously, this was a great disappointment, but we did our best to keep our spirits uplifted. Members have since given new ideas as to how to have a better turn out next time.

The Shepherd's Fold

The attendance in the Yekaterinburg church for November.

November 2	9 in attendance
November 9	10 in attendance
November 16	13 in attendance
November 23	11 in attendance
November 30	13 in attendance

Answer to trivia: A. Grandfather Frost – Дед Мороз

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