

March 27th, 2004

Hello to my family and friends,

Here we are at another week. Actually I think it as been two weeks because so much has been happening here. I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and serving the Lord.

Lena, who we asked for you to pray about no longer works for us. Its a long story so won't fill you in completely but she is making some decisions in her life right now. Her responsibilities were too much for her so she decided to go work for someone else, which has not quite worked out as of yet. I think there was a misunderstanding from my last letter and I do apologize for that. There were some that thought that she was unsaved. She is a saved young lady but is just making some life decisions right now. As you know, as a teenager you come to a point in your life, when you have to make some major decisions. She is at this point. She has been giving lots of advice from us and other people but is going with her own wants. So basically she needs lots of prayer that she will listen to the Lord. What He wants in her life. But as for her quitting working for us, Praise the Lord, He works all things for good, for them who love Him. That is what God has done for us. We did not jump in and hire anyone right away but prayed about what the Lord would have us do. This week he has given us another lady in her 40's I think to help with the house twice a week. Her name is Galya. Very sweet lady. She does not speak any English so, Praise the Lord, I will have lots of practice with my Russian. She also knows sign language so will be a help for me in that area also. She does not watch the kids, but we did find a few servants that were willing to help us out during our language classes. God is always faithful!

We had good Russian lessons this week. We learned a lot more grammar. Tony and I have both made a goal for ourselves. Tony is wanting to be able to pray in Russian by Fall and I would like to be able to at least communicate some with people. Tony can communicate some with people, me on the other hand, I can only say little things. Can't really carry on a conversation. I'm sure I will learn quite a bit now with Galya. She is a real talker. Praise the Lord!

Talking about learning the language, Tony and I were able to go out on a date the other night and went to a new restaurant we had never been too. They only had a Russian menu. FUN FUN FUN. ha-ha We tried to choose what we wanted by making out some of the items. The exciting part of the whole evening was to see what came for you to eat. ha-ha I ended up having a very good salad and a chicken filet with a sauce with mashed potatoes. Tony, ha-ha started with a salad that had uncooked fish in it and some caviar on top. hahahahaha It was so funny watching him eat it. But he did eat it all. But then came a nice steak and mashed potatoes dinner. Which he was able to enjoy.

We will be having a youth conference this summer. Looks like it is going to be around the beginning of July. Please pray for faithful teens. And for all things to fall into place with all the preparations. Bro. David Sloan is planning the whole conference, so please

pray for him for guidance and wisdom. I'm sure he will do a wonderful job. We are really excited about what the Lord is going to do at this conference.

I have a story that I thought you might enjoy hearing about. There is a deaf gentleman in our church that had a car hit him, I think a couple years ago. He hurt his elbow on one arm. At that time the doctors did not correct his elbow properly. So now he was having problems with it so went to the hospital. They did surgery on it, but then it got infected when he was in the hospital. It got really red and very swollen from his hand to his shoulder. It was really bad. His wife was really scared he would lose his arm. Well, one day the doctors went in and cut a half moon around his elbow and pulled the skin back to clean it out. This was all done WITHOUT ANY Medication. Absolutely NONE! He was in so much pain! We felt so bad for him. This was also done without giving him any antibiotics until two days later when the swelling did not go down. The doctors wanted to do the procedure all over again, but this man told them that they were NOT going to, that they would have to take his arm before he would let them do that again. They gave him some antibiotics two days later and then the redness and swelling started going down. He is now out of the hospital and doing well. Praise the Lord for Antibiotics and Good Doctors in America! We take so much for granted, don't we?

I talked with my mom this week and they have purchased their tickets to come see us in Aug. My mom and Ray (stepdad) and then Sara, (a friend and a very special young lady) will be flying together to come visit. I am plum excited. I can't hardly wait. It's going to be great to be able to show them where we live and the people we work with.

We love you all and miss you bunches! Can't wait to hear what God is doing on your side of the world. He is doing LOTS on our side.

Praising Him with our whole heart,
Dawn Hess