

May 15, 2004

Hello everyone,

It's been a little while since I wrote last and I'm sorry for that. I feel like I haven't had even much time to breathe lately. Been constantly doing something. Finally this afternoon I was able to take a nap when Anna and Caleb laid down. Boy did it feel good.

Last Sunday was the church's 8th year anniversary. We sure did miss Pastor Bob and Mrs. Judy, as they are in the states on furlough. We had a nice day. Bro. Anatolie preached in hearing church and Bro. Slava in deaf church. Everyone was supposed to bring cookies, so after each service we had lots of cookies and a drink. There went my sugar free diet. haha

I have been staying away from sugar lately because I have been having some problems with it, I think. I had been feeling sick to my stomach in the evenings for quite some time and thought it might just be stress. Not that I have a lot of stress or anything, living in a new country, learning a new language, teaching homeschool and raising four children. haha But after eating a piece of candy one day when I hadn't had any sugar all day, I began to feel the same sickness as I feel in the evenings, so that is when I decided to cut sugar out of my diet just to see. I did it for a few weeks and now I can eat something sweet and it doesn't bother me. Praise the Lord! I'm not quite sure what the problem was but for right now it's not bothering me. I was afraid there for a little while that I may have diabetes but then someone told me about a friend of theirs that had a similar situation. The doctor told him he had a high build up of something and that is why his body was sensitive to it now. So the doctor put him on a special diet without this substance and later he was fine. I don't know, but that might have been my problem. I have been wanting to get a blood test taken to make sure. Tony wants to get one done again as well. His neck has been bothering him again. So please pray for him.

Since Bob and Judy have been gone, we have planned to have Artur and Nekita over to our house every other weekend or so. If you remember, these are the two boys whose mother passed away shortly after we got here. They were put in an orphanage for a little while but now are living with their grandmother and grandfather which are both deaf. They will both be adopted by a family in Iowa. Praise the Lord! We had been wanting them to come over but have had some difficulty with the grandmother not letting them, especially Nekita, the youngest one. But this last weekend, Praise the Lord, the grandmother allowed both of them to come over and spend Saturday with us. We had a great time. Tony took them to the children's park here and then for ice cream. They had a time! Then on Sunday, the grandmother asked me if the boys could spend the night at our house that evening, so they were with us all day Sunday and all day Monday also. It was nice to have them over. Then today they called to ask if they could come over today. I felt bad but I had to say maybe next week. Today was the first day I was able to take a breather. So it looks like God has changed the grandmother's heart. Maybe she feels she can trust me now.

This morning Marc and Joshua had their very first piano recital. They both did a nice job. We were proud of them. There were about 10 children from 6 to 13 years old. It was really nice. There was this one young boy, age 10, that played very nice. He was all over that piano. Tony and I were really surprised. The teacher said he practices all the time and has only been taking piano for 5 years. We were impressed and so were the boys.

I want to thank you for all your prayers. We are doing a bit better in our language studies. We have been just reviewing for the last couple of weeks and it has been really good. You understand so much more the second time around. haha. I am getting some practice with talking with Galya and that is really helping me. I have also started being tutored in sign language this week. One of our teenage girls in our Sunday school class is teaching me. Both of her parents are deaf. She is helping me every wed. for an hour before church starts while Marc and Joshua are taking their piano lessons. I learned the whole alphabet and about 20 words last week. She said I did very well, and I pick it up fast. I told her, "don't say anything now, wait to see if I remember it next week." haha. But my heart is in it. I really enjoyed it. And it will also help me in remembering my Russian words as well.

Please pray for our young people in our Sunday School class. There are several that have not been very faithful lately. We had a baptism class and hear their testimonies. We are not sure how many of them are really saved, so please pray for their salvation and dedication to the Lord.

Thank you all of you who email me. It is truly a blessing to hear from you and also to be able to pray for your loved ones as well.

For His Glory,
Dawn Hess