



# Ural News !!

A Newsletter from Russia

Vol. 6 No. 2 February 2010

## ERIK & ADRIANNE PFAFF

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This is a skating rink in the center of the city at the "Ice Castle".

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

February, the shortest month of the year, was full of events reaching out with Christ's love. In the Yekaterinburg congregation, we started to use the new Russian song book printed by Eastern European Missions. The members enjoy using a real book and having more songs.

Adrienne and I visited Victor numerous times during the month. We try to bring movies to him, which can be played in Russian and English and, most importantly, have English subtitles. While we are with him, we record his lessons that will be used during the worship service, talk about interesting topics, eat together, play chess, etc.

When we visited Degtyarsk for the last time in February, I went to visit Zhenya, the husband of Anya who lives in Revda, while Adrienne visited with those at the foster home. It was a good visit that included prayers, Bible study and good conversation. He is suffering with family problems. His mother has been missing for at least five months. Please remember him and his mother in your prayers.

At the Institute of International Relations, I was blessed to be able to deliver a lecture on "Human Rights and Religion." It was attended by over 60 people. After the lecture there was a time for questions and answers. Very intriguing were the questions concerning religion and various political topics, about which I could voice my Christian worldview. After the lecture I was asked if we would come back in the future.

Following the lecture, Adrienne and I met with students at a café. We discussed various topics, of course, including religion. They did not fully understand how we could have time for God when we were not old. We pray that we can keep in contact with them and, Lord willing, teach them more concerning the Truth.

One surprise blessing we received was being asked to teach at an English center. Adrienne and I go over to this center and teach the English language to Russians. The students (from all ages; children to adults) ask us questions about life in America and Russia. It is so wonderful to have to explain our purpose for being in Russia over and over to these classes and then discussing religion. The teachers and students are looking forward to our return in June. We pray that we are good examples of Christ to them.

Until our temporary living permit happens to work out, we will still have to leave Russia for another 90 days. This time we are leaving on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. God bless you all.

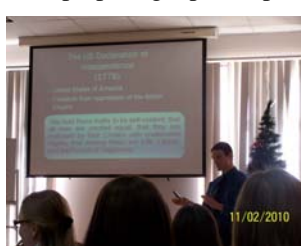
## Human Rights and Religion

While Travis and Mia (two teenagers from TN) were helping us here in Russia, they did a presentation at the American Center. After this well attended meeting, a man came up to Erik and introduced himself as one of the directors at the Institute of International Relations. After talking with Erik, he invited him to come to the institute and give a lecture to his students. This lecture was intended to help the students practice their English and work on translating.

Brodsky, the director from the institute, gave Erik a list of topics for his lecture, and he chose Human



Rights and Religion. After deciding the topic, Erik began researching for the lecture and preparing a power point.



On the day of the lecture, we were given a brief tour of the institute. Then we went to the lecture hall where over 60

people were already seated.

Erik delivered a wonderful lecture, exploring the history of human rights, and their roots in godly principles. Then he discussed Christianity and the church. He later compared the two and how to distinguish human rights with human wants.

Following the hour long lecture, there was a period of questions and answers. Many inquired further about his lecture, but there were many who asked new questions about politics, the end of the world, and Judaism.



We were thrilled to see such an opportunity opened for God's work. We pray that we may have

some further connections with the institute and its students.

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## Special Recognition

During World War II, Zoya helped defend Moscow from the Nazi attacks. During the recent holiday to celebrate all those who have fought and protected



Russia, Zoya was presented a beautiful medal commemorating the 65 years that have passed since her

service in the Great Patriotic War. We are thankful that Zoya had this recognition for her hard work and dedication.

Not only is Zoya dedicated to her country, she is also just as devoted to our Lord. She tells us that every day she wakes up and thanks the Lord for letting her live another day.

### Did You Know??

The 8<sup>th</sup> of March is a holiday for all women here in Russia. Usually they are presented with chocolates, flowers, and other gifts.

## The Weekly Bulletin

The church's weekly bulletin used to be prepared by Sveta. She was always reliable and put together good articles and announcements every week. Unfortunately, when she left to study in Syktyvkar, no one understood the computer well enough to take up the work. Although when we arrived back in Russia, we began printing it up again every week, we all understood the congregation would again be without a bulletin when we left in March.

Then one day Anatoly expressed his interest in formatting the bulletin every week. In order for him to do this, however, he had to be taught everything about the computer. It has been fun trying to teach him, and his study will have paid off if he can print the bulletin every week from now on!

### Prayer Corner

- Members of the Church – we will be leaving again in March. We pray that the congregation will be strong.

## Trivia

What is the warmest temperature we have seen so far this year?

- A. -13°F
- B. 22°F
- C. 31°F
- D. 45°F

## New connections

Adrianne needed to get our paperwork from the US professionally translated for the living permit that we are attempting to receive. She saw an advertisement for the Oxford Language Center near our home and decided to have the documents translated at this convenient location.

Obviously, the lady working at the center realized that Adrianne was an American. When she went to pick up the translated paperwork, she was asked if she would be interested in coming to teach classes in English. They had an American working there last year, but she had to leave Russia (most likely due to the strict visa laws) and did not have another native speaker at the center since then. We thought it was a good opportunity and agreed to come several times a week. Adrianne goes to every class but Erik only goes when he is free from other work.

It has been a great way to make some new connections with people around our area.

The classes vary from 6 and 7 year olds just learning basic English, to adults



wanting to improve their skills. We have had numerous conversations about the church and the work that we are doing here in Yekaterinburg.

We also had some other connection through the lecture that Erik gave at the institute. We were invited to a café with some of the students to discuss topics about the



United States. Although we were not able to set up a Bible study with these girls, they still heard us talk about the Lord and His Church during our meeting. We hope to meet with them again in the future.

Answers to trivia: C. 31°F We have not yet been above freezing

## Living Permit

During February, Adrianne and Elena spent time working on the temporary living permit. Paperwork, translations, phone calls, and meetings have all been done toward the goal of receiving the temporary permit, but we are unfortunately still not there yet. At times it seems as if we never get closer to receiving the permit. And as always, we find more complications with getting the permit that we had previously not known.

### The Shepherd's Fold

The attendance in the Yekaterinburg church for February.

February 7	7 Members
February 17	9 Members
February 21	7 Members
February 28	11 Members

## Studying God's Word

This past month we have spent much time having Bible studies with friends in Revda, Degtyarsk, and of course Yekaterinburg. We have had wonderful conversations about God and His love.

One of the families that we study with is struggling with obstacles in their life. Unfortunately, their marriage is suffering as a result of these stresses. We pray that their situation will



improve and that they can overcome these hurdles. On the other hand, we were surprised to hear that a bond of marriage in Degtyarsk has been reunited. Over three years ago, this Christian couple had split up. However now, after repentance before the church, they renewed their marriage to one another. We are happy for them and their children.

As always, we pray for the spiritual growth in every member of the church, as well as for those who have not yet been baptized into the Lord's church.

If you would like to discontinue receiving this newsletter or need to change your address, please write to us at [uralchurch@churchofchrist-urals.org](mailto:uralchurch@churchofchrist-urals.org).