

This month, a word from Heather:

"When I'm here, I feel like my soul rests."

"It is so good to have been here with you.

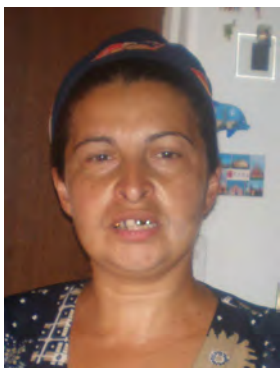
You read the Word, we prayed, and now life seems lighter."

These quotes, from Nastya, a medical student, and Lora, a pastor's wife, come as an answer to prayer. My prayer has been that our home would be a haven of God's peace and that God will use me here and now -- at home with three children after having let go of much of the official ministry work I was doing a year ago.



More recently I have been praying not just for God's peace to be evident in our home, but for the presence of His Spirit. As I sat one evening, rocking Ian, now 9 months old, the question came to mind, "What is God like? What would it be like, for instance, to sit down with Him for tea?" As if in answer, a Scripture song began playing in my head: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness. The fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." I thought about how, if that is the evidence, the fruit, of God's Spirit *in us*, how much more must all of those qualities describe *God Himself!* What a privilege, what a blessing we have to be invited into God's family, that is defined by such wonderful characteristics – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control! Sure, we see it only imperfectly here on earth, but what a family awaits us in heaven! My prayer is that our home would more and more reflect our heavenly home.

Praise God, in another answer to prayer, a new teacher volunteered to take my place in Sunday school! Larissa told me that she had been thinking about it for a while, but God laid it on her heart at Christmas time to step forward and work with the children. Right after the first of the year, she and Nastya (mentioned above, who helped me last year) began taking turns teaching the 3 to 6 year olds. It has been my privilege to continue helping Nastya prepare, giving me the opportunity every other week to build into Nastya's life as well as the children's ministry.



In the months following our return to Russia, I made an effort to restart the monthly tea for pastors' wives. While it was a rough go and somewhat discouraging, (we only managed one tea before breaking for the summer) my efforts resulted in some good phone calls with the ladies and a couple social visits, often including at least a brief chance to share, pray for, and encourage one another. Praise God for those! Through the summer, my desire is to stay connected with the ladies individually even though the group is taking a break. Lord willing, September will see us together again, praying for our churches, our husbands and each other, finding rest in the

Lord, and leaving "lighter."

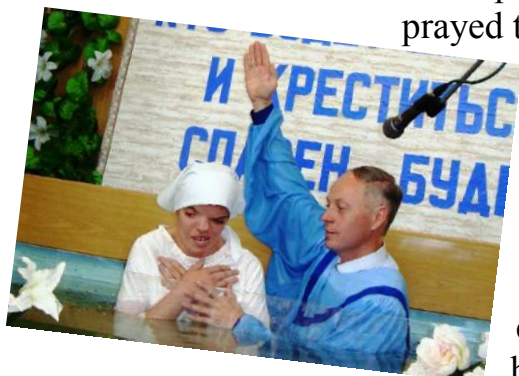
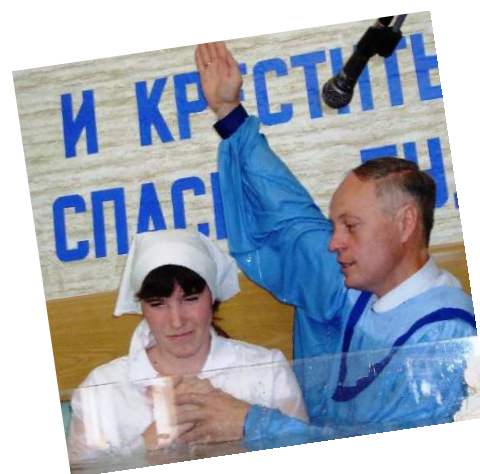


A 4 day kayak trip on the Svapa river was a great opportunity to share life, as well as many Bible stories, with orphan kids. This year 21 orphans participated (plus Kyle!)

And a word from Ken:

A great step of faith:

On July 3rd we had the great joy of witnessing the baptism of two of our girls in the Harbor. Sasha and Natasha have been exposed to Christians for many years. Visits by Christians to the orphanage gave each the opportunity to hear the Christmas and Easter stories among other occasional messages. But it wasn't until living at the Harbor and having Christian mentors that they began to take things more seriously and understand the truth of the gospel. Last summer at a Christian camp Sasha repented and prayed the sinner's prayer.



Natasha had prayed some time before.

Over the last year they

have gradually gotten more involved in the church: attending youth meetings and singing in the choir. Along the way they began asking about baptism then attended classes and finally made the public declaration of faith as believers in Jesus Christ!

Thanks for your help!

In our last two newsletters we've written about our need for funding to start the boys program. It has been a joy to see the funding come in, some in small amounts, some in larger amounts. Finally we were asked how much of the need remained – soon it was completely covered! We're now using that money to get a house ready where boys will live beginning at the start of the next school year in September. We are intensely grateful to all who have responded so generously!

Blessings!

Ken & Heather

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