

BARNAUL NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

January - February 2009

IN BARNAUL

I was greeted in January with typical weather. When I landed in Barnaul it was minus 38 (minus 40 is the same Fahrenheit and Celsius). It stayed around minus 30 for a week. It would be interesting for Al Gore should come here except they'd probably lock him in a room with padded walls

It is beautiful to see about 4 feet of snow and more keeps coming down. Not in large amounts but almost every other day. I know the Russians have had enough snow but for a California/Hawaii guy it is beautiful to see. Wrapping up and going out for a walk or shopping is just part of life here



TEACHING

Andre Sklyarov is out of town for a few weeks and I have been teaching Psalms, I & II Timothy and Colossians. It is great to get back into those books for a change. I mostly taught Ezekiel, Daniel, Revelation and other related books for several years. I'll share more about the school and church next letter.

STUDENTS

We have some excellent 1st year students. They are eager to learn and take in as much of everything as possible. They ask good questions and pursue them until they are satisfied what they ask has been answered. I will highlight these students starting with my next report.

It is difficult at best to search for good students long distance (across 12 time zones). We try our best to screen them using letters from congregations where they serve, and other means. We call and talk to some of them more than once and it is still a challenge. If they are close enough we bring them to Barnaul to spend some time with us.

I really believe that God has given us some good jars of clay. May God give us the wisdom to say and model for these students so that when they leave here they will know of a certainty their mission, eagerly embrace it and know that the all surpassing power is from God.

PAM

Pam did not come to Barnaul this trip. She would like to have come but our medical insurance has gone up \$300 a year for the past 3 years. The two of us now pay over \$1800 a month to stay insured. She is working a few days a week to make up the difference. This is not anything new to those of you self employed as you experience much the same. The old saying you can't afford it and can't afford to be without it is true. Ah, in a few years if we live long enough we'll let the "government" pay.

ANY GOOD NEWS

By the way have you received your big check from Obama yet? I have not heard any news and when I left in January he was still headed for presidency. If you get your big check let me know and I'll have Pam look for ours (ha)! On the other hand you may want to watch your wallet. It was never quite clear to me where the money for these big checks were coming from!

Love you!
Jerry & Pam