



McDouglases in Moscow



Notes from Lucy... Our first week in Moscow has been an adventure. We survived our long trip over; Canaan was wonderful! He played and slept well on both flights. Once we arrived, he started sleeping through the night our second night here. However, he was going to bed around midnight, so we have been trying to back his (and our) bedtime back to a more normal time.

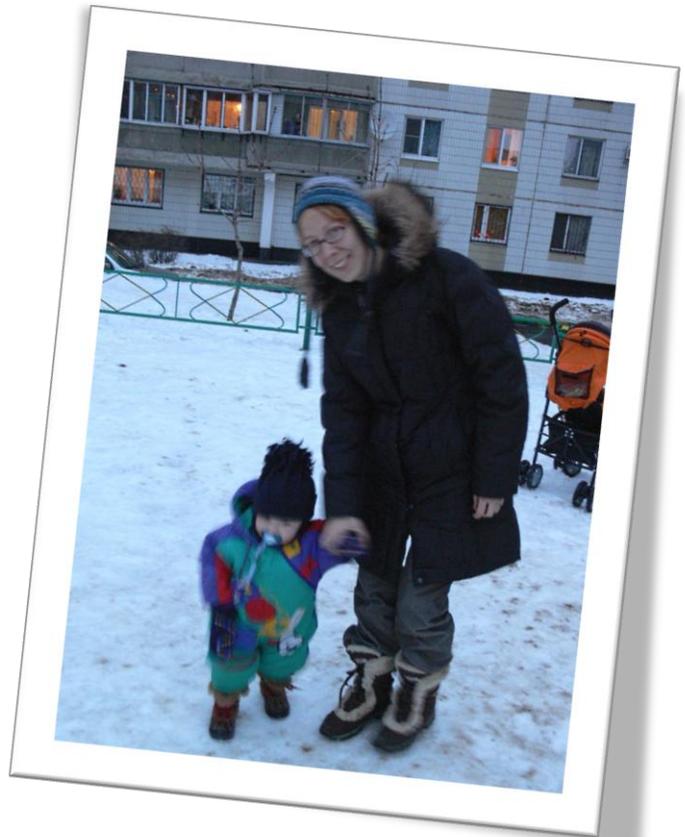
It has been very nice weather since we arrived. I was expecting to turn into a popsicle our first day, but it has been a nice adjustment! The temperatures have been in the teens mostly; it snowed giant snowflakes one day, coating everything with another layer of snow and ice. We are slowly learning how to walk on the icy paths! I have slid many times on the slick pavement, but we haven't had any falls...yet. I am comforted in the fact that many Russians slide as they're walking too.

We have spent most of the first week adjusting to our new time and new home. We are nine hours ahead of Texas time. The sun comes up around 8-8:30am and sets around 5:30-6pm. We have an apartment which we were able to move into the night we arrived. It is about 500 square feet: small but comfortable. It has just one bedroom, so we are learning to sleep in the same room as Canaan! It was remodeled a little over a year ago and has been well kept. It is furnished, so we don't have to buy much furniture. It has taken a bit of time adjusting to Russian living. We went to buy sheets for our bed one afternoon and realized that their mattresses our sized differently than ours. In the matter of sheets, we had to choose between 150x200cm, 160x200cm, all the way up to 250x200cm. In order not to choose unwisely, we went home and checked out the size of our mattress! We have unpacked all our trunks, though some items still don't have permanent homes yet. Overall, we feel good about our progress thus far!

On Sunday, we were able to attend our first church service here. We met with one of the churches that meets at Shabolovskya. Though I didn't

understand anything (except a few words like God, Jesus, love and some numbers), it was still wonderful to worship with brothers and sisters. The people were welcoming and friendly. Some spoke some English, so I was able to talk to them a little bit. We sang some songs with the same tunes as ours, so I was able to understand the meaning, though not the individual words. Because the alphabet looks differently, it is hard to follow along in the pronunciation; with practice, I hope to get better quickly!

This next week we plan to finish getting everything set up around our home and start looking for language schools. Dougle might be able to tutor with a man from the church who is certified in teaching Russian. I am excited about getting back into the school life so that I can start speaking Russian! Please pray for us in our language endeavors, as Russian is a very difficult language!





Notes from Mike... The past several weeks have been characterized by many good-byes and many answered prayers. On our last Sunday in Lubbock, Sunset Church of Christ, our sponsoring congregation, called our team up-front in order to send us off and pray over us. After service, we went to Bible class where they too prayed over our team. We received countless hugs, words of encouragements, and promises of prayer. The next day we had to say good-bye to our team. This was difficult, but we know we will see them soon when they arrive in Moscow. On Monday afternoon Lucy's parents drove us to Dallas to take us to the airport. So on Tuesday morning we had to say good-bye to them too. This too was really difficult for us all, but we are encouraged because they plan to visit us in just two months.

Our trip was full of answered prayers. Canaan did wonderful for his first flight! We brought tons of toys, as well as movies to play on our laptop to entertain him, but he didn't need any of it. We also were blessed upon arrival in Moscow. We were escorted to the front of the line at passport control (we were dead last) when they saw we had a baby. After passport control, we hired a man to help us get our luggage out to the car; because of his help, we didn't get checked at customs. After we made it through customs, Tim Brinley (current missionary in Moscow) was there to meet us and had arranged a taxi to take our stuff to our new apartment. Tim even bought us some groceries to get us started as well as a potted plant for our apartment. Tim has also been a great help in getting our internet set up in our apartment. He keeps telling us that he is happy to do it, but it will be our job to do these things for our teammates when they arrive.

Since being here we have walked many miles in the snow and ice. We have had to make multiple trips to various grocery stores to try and find the best prices; this just means we have to carry these groceries back to our apartment through the snow and ice. We have visited one mall where we were able to buy some much needed things for our apartment. We bought a more city-friendly stroller for Canaan at a large children's store. We got a cell phone for Lucy, which is considered a necessity in Moscow. We finally got our internet set up. We have attended one church service. We have been a guest for dinner at a Christian couples' apartment and have had an old friend of mine over for dinner at our place. As you can probably see, we have been pretty busy this past week. In all of this busyness we haven't even made it the center of the city where Red Square is at. We are probably setting the record for going the longest before visiting Red Square.

We want to thank you all for your prayers and support. We are sorry that this is a long newsletter, but we just have so much we want to share with you. Our following newsletters will probably be a little shorter, but you can always keep up with us on our blogs at: <http://allaboutcanaan.blogspot.com> and <http://moscowmissions.blogspot.com>.