



Dear All,

I am sorry for not writing sooner to keep you all up-to-date with what is happening. The extra work with planning and starting the building project has meant I haven't had a lot of time for e-mail. Thank you for continuing to support and remember us in your prayers, even though the latest news has been a bit too long in coming.

July and August were spent re-assessing the plans as the quotes for the original plans were too high. God brought us into contact with a lady, Lubov, who owns a building materials company. She brought her children to summer camp with us. While she was there, she was really impressed at the work that was being done with the teenagers and she decided she wanted to help us in whatever way she could. When she heard we were planning to build a house for our family and for the continuation of the church/youth work, she easily found the place where she could help. Since then she has taken on an advisory role with the plans, has introduced us to a very good builder, Sergey, who is able to oversee the project, and her company is supplying us with materials at the cheapest rates. It really is such a great help. Together with her architect, they gave us good advice about how to bring the cost back into line with our budget: a different foundation and different materials for the upper floors. So now these things have been

adjusted in the plans and work has started on the foundation.

It is so exciting to see the building work begin. Alexei and Sasha are enjoying the practical work and the children were particularly excited to see the digger digging out the foundation! God has done so many miracles already for which we are so thankful: the fact we were even able to buy the land, the people who have so generously given so that we can start the work, the way we met Lubov and Sergey and so much more. At times the work is tiring and seems so much to manage, but when we remember all God has done, we are sure that He will be faithful to bring everything to completion. ***Now please join us in praying that the weather stays warm and dry for the next three weeks so they can complete the foundation. Also for our witness to Lubov and Sergey as the project goes on.*** Thank you so much to everyone who has given their support, whether financially and/or in your thoughts and prayers. We appreciate it so much - it is a great blessing.

The main work on the building is now planned for June, July and August 2012. If anyone is interested in coming to help that would be great: please let us know and towards the end of the autumn we should be able to get a plan together for building teams.



The **camp** this summer went exceptionally well. Not only have Marina and Anya gained so much wisdom and experience over the years, their team of helpers has also grown stronger. This means that each year the programmes and the way the team share God's love with the participants seem more and more amazing. Many of the young people who were at camp this summer have had a significant experience of God's love and grace. Some of them have now joined the youth group which Ira and Sasha lead here in Pushkin, and one of the boys from St Petersburg has joined a church there. ***So rejoice with us at all that God is doing and please continue to pray that these young people would continue in fellowship and grow in faith.***

Our **family Bible study group** continues to be a blessing. As well as our regulars, another family has joined us, again a contact through Lighthouse who then joined us at summer camp. ***Please pray that those who have recently joined us find faith in Jesus, and that we would continue to reach out to other families.***

God has also been blessing the new school year for **Lighthouse**. Another member of staff has joined us and we already have 130 students of various ages signed up for English classes. It is great to see that God is faithfully watching over the work. ***Please pray with us that all our students would make really good progress in their language skills and that through our lives they would also see the "light" of our faith in Jesus.***

For us as a **family** it has also been an exciting time. Zak has now started at primary school. He is managing well with all the work so far (it is the same local Russian school that Anna goes to). ***Please pray that his Russian language skills would continue to develop quickly so he will be able to manage all of the school programme, which is quite rigorous at times.*** Anna has settled back into school happily and is also enjoying her athletics training, especially after she won a couple of competitions in the town. Ruth continues in her pre-school group at Lighthouse. She is also starting a Saturday class at the same primary school which is preparation for her starting there in Sept 2012. She is excited that she can go to school as well, even if it is just once a week at the moment. We think she will already know the first class programme by next year as she often helps Zak with his homework!

Alexei and I are fine, but need extra strength and wisdom to balance the responsibilities of family, church family, Lighthouse and now the building project as well. ***Please pray for God to give us wisdom and strength in all of this, so that the on-going work is not neglected while we invest time in building for the future.***

Thank you so much for your prayers and participation in God's work here in Pushkin.

with our love and thanks,
Alexei and Pauline, Anna, Zak and Ruth