

Dear friends,

On our return, Moscow greeted us warmly. Literally. For about a week and a half, the temperature had been in the 90s. Thankfully, it is starting to cool off some. Besides adjusting from air-conditioning to no air-conditioning, our transition has gone by smoothly. Before we left, we had asked for prayer in regards to our adjusting to the time change. This time, we had no problems at all. None. We flew in, stayed awake and unpacked, and then slept through the night ready for teacher in-service the next morning. Hallelujah! Refreshed and ready to begin anew! It's such a good feeling to come back and see so many familiar faces, return to our apartment, and realize that we have learned quite a few things the past two years in Moscow. We aren't rookies anymore!

Unfortunately, though, we didn't know how to keep thousands of little moths out of our apartment (since the rare Russian apartment has screens). At night, the fan in our window must have sucked hundreds of them into our bedroom. What an experience to wake up and have little flying pests all over you! Our creativity has risen in the attempts to rid ourselves of them! And yes, we shall see about putting screens in our windows!

School started on August 21 with several teachers delayed because of visa problems. Shane has helped to fill in those gaps by substituting and working very diligently. Some days he has had more than a full-time load! Some have commented that he's the utility man around Hinkson. He's a blessing to all of us. Although Shane only teaches one class at Hinkson (ninth grade boys' health, a subject he is very passionate about), he spends many hours at the school. Besides substitute teaching, he coaches the middle school soccer team, works with the student worship teams for chapel, and leads the staff worship team. He has recently been asked to do a seminar for the student leadership workshop. His desire and passion to work with youth exude from him. I love to see him doing what God has called him to do! Meanwhile, I have jumped right back into my life of teaching. I'm teaching the same classes that I did last year, and I enjoy it. We both are enjoying catching up with the kids and other staff after the summer hiatus.

Every fall Hinkson Christian Academy has three retreats: staff, high school, and middle school. We are looking forward to the staff retreat the end of September. It's an incredible time to fellowship with the other teachers, build a better community as a school, and enjoy a break from school. This year, Shane has been asked to be the speaker for the middle school retreat. He is pleased to have this opportunity to impart words of truth into these kids. He also will lead the worship team for the retreat. As he prepares, please pray that he will share what God has in mind for these kids, and for the kids that they will be open and receive. Last year we went as chaperons on the middle school retreat and enjoyed the camaraderie and times of impact, the building of relationships and the strengthening of the spirit within these kids.

We know that the Lord will do wonderful things this year! Looking back on the past year, we see a lot of growth and deepening of relationships. This year, we believe, will produce even more especially since we already have the foundation laid with so many dear people from last year.

We were thrilled to have been able to fellowship with so many of you precious people this past summer. Thanks for helping to make those two months that we were in the states memorable! We also enjoyed seeing many of you at our banquet right before we flew out. Thank you for helping to make that evening a success - for those of you who came, and for those of you who couldn't but thought of and supported us also. We raised a little over three thousand dollars that evening. Thank you.

This year will truly be a year of growth. As God presents new opportunities to serve and use the gifts He's given us, we quickly find ourselves in greater need of His grace to sustain us. Furthermore, each new year we must once again raise our financial support that enables us to be here and do what God

has called us to do. This year's goal is to raise \$3200 per month through the end of June. We set a monthly goal in an effort to improve our financial planning.

In addition to our normal ministry expenses, we need to raise \$5,000. We will be helping to lead a youth mission trip from Hinkson Christian Academy. Tim Wiley the school chaplain, Sarah Schnaidt fellow teacher and friend, Shane and I will be taking twelve students to Uganda to minister to orphans and work alongside New Hope Ministries. All year we will work to develop our team in preparation for the spring break trip in April. We remember all the short term mission trips that we experienced (with Teen Mania and Adventures in Missions) and realize what an amazing impact they had on our lives and our calling to the mission field. We desire for the juniors and seniors at HCA to have similar experiences. Yes, many of them come from mission families, but it is different when it is something they choose to do themselves, going somewhere they have never been before, and giving out what God has deposited in them. Besides, their parents have been called to Russia, but that doesn't mean their kids have been for the long term. Short term mission trips greatly influence those that go and also the people that are reached. Please help us be able to minister to these kids in a way that we both experienced as young people. If you make a donation specifically for our trip to Uganda, please include a note with your donation for bookkeeping purposes.

We continue to find our strength for today in remembering yesterday's testimonies. Never forget what the Lord has done in your life, however great or insignificant it may seem. It will be your strength for tomorrow.

Blessings to you all,

Shane & Katie Lehman

Shanekatie.blogspot.com

lehmansinrussia@hotmail.com