

Russia 2019 – Day 3

Richard Taylor

Our overnight train ride ended this morning. I looked at the rails which we rode on which seemed very smooth. So I am amazed at how bumpy and noisy they were. I have assumed some gremlin was making bumps to annoy us. It is a mystery. I slept, well sort of. We had our breakfast on the train, the Russian version of pancakes which are delicious. Arrival at the Cherepovets stay brought another battle with the baggage. It also brought a joyous reunion with the staff of the Comfort Foundation. They are such a great group. They even helped with the baggage. It also brought our bus and its owner Sergei. I have given him the well deserved name, Nascar, and he has not let up on the gas a bit. We moved into our hotel called the Hotel Leningrad. John and I will room together, a bit crowded but doable. A shave and shower followed which helped to wash away the train ride. Then the team gathered. John Roach is our leader. Debbie Wilt is our brains who plans the lessons and activities. Leo, Lena, Lilya and Josh Ivanenko do everything but are especially needed because they translate. Kelsey and Karleigh Yori with Theresa Quinn lead games and occupy the children. I give some lessons and help where needed. I also try keep you up to date on our activities. We began our meetings at Light of Hope Church. It has a lot of new construction and is quite nice. I have attached a picture. Almost 30 children showed up. They are all excited so enthusiasm fills the air. Today's story was about forgiveness and Debbie had planned a jig saw puzzle for the craft. It illustrated how forgiveness restores relationships. We walked back to our hotel for lunch and were in the bus after for our afternoon meeting which had a similar format and the same enthusiasm. The facilities at New Corners are a bit less spacious but very nice. After the lesson, a group of teenage girls did some cooking and made head bands. There was lots of laughter so I assumed it went well. They wanted their pictures taken with the girls. The guys did not receive even a single invitation for a picture. As the afternoon wore on, some heads were observed nodding. No names will be given. The bus arrived at 6:30pm to take us back to the hotel and supper which was scheduled for 8pm. Following supper, we all headed for our rooms. No night life after since an escort is required if we leave the hotel but no problem of that.



Image from Pastor Taylor



Image from Tweet by John Roach - twitter.com/GBFC_Russia