

Russia 2019 – Day 4

Richard Taylor

Eye shades - I never used them before. I brought the freebies I got on the plane and I used them last night. By 4:00am the sun shines like it is high noon. Not conducive to good sleep. So I put on the eye shades and convinced myself it was dark. Yes, I went back to sleep. The morning began pretty routinely. Find clothes and get ready. We ate breakfast at our hotel. Russian breakfasts are a bit different. Cucumbers and tomatoes are available but not my idea of breakfast food. I discovered I could get oatmeal and pancakes. Now I knew all was well. They were delicious and washed down with some coffee. The only thing missing was my morning Philadelphia paper which would not appear for another 6 hours. We were joined by the Russian staff as we walked to Light of Hope. They are great and I wish you could meet each one of them. Lena A., Lena Z., and Sasha. They are here all the time. The children love them. Lena A. teaches English in a university so we can talk. Sasha and Debbie are a team who does the crafts. Neither speaks the other's language but they understand each other and always seem to know what the other is doing. And they love working together. Lena Z. is often behind the scenes and, I should mention, a great cook. At Light of Hope Church, the children enjoyed their games. A three legged race was followed by a sack race. It was lots of fun for them. The lesson today was from the life of Joseph. The craft was making a coat of many colors. During the craft time, Lena and I sat with some of the older students and enjoyed talking. I asked them questions about their schools and they asked about America. I really enjoy just hearing from them. After lunch at a cafeteria, we were off to New Corners and its joyous welcome. A lesson on being willing to try to do things was offered followed by another craft which the children love. The children love the attention. Some of their stories are sad. The teenage girls showed up for a cooking lesson and a handicraft project. One of the special concerns of the ladies here is the girls who have very few positive models to follow. Interaction like this is very good for the girls. Off to supper we went in a rush. I was asked to lead a Bible study and we were one half hour late as it was. I shared from the life of Jesus with Lena I. doing her superb translating. I am now back in my room at 10:00 sharing the story of this day. Thanks for listening. Leo was sick today and feeling better tonight. Other than that, we are all well and excited about our opportunities.



Images from John Roach