

PATIENCE

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. – Colossians 1:9-12

Thank you to all who have been praying such a prayer for our family. Seven years ago as I was preparing to move to Russia, I thought back on all the years of work God had been doing in my life. How patient He is to not have given up on me! Now there are five of us, and the ministry of the past seven years has seemingly happened so fast. As we work and wait for the Lord to open (or close!) the door to Canada we cannot help but rejoice for all of you who have stood by us on this incredible journey. Thank you for your faithful prayers, your sacrificial giving and your encouragement.


– Kevin, Lena, Sonia, Maya & Deena




COMING TO CANADA

We have a case number! Not yet an answer from Immigration Canada, but it's a start. When we went digging for some information on my application to sponsor Lena & Sonia we found little info, but what we did find was surprising. First, Lena is listed as "Lena RIZO" (she hasn't borne that name for almost seven years!), and second, while our application was received December 8th, it was not "opened" until January 12th! We pray that the name error is not indicative of Canada's lack of recognition of our marriage. As well, we pray that we will soon hear news from Mississauga so that we can proceed with the next step (visas for the girls).

BLESSINGS

 This past week at a home recording studio (in a communal apartment, no less) several of us lent our voices to the final production of our first post-conference video. Praise God for the work that has been completed!

 Family health has been very good this winter, despite the extreme cold. (Although Sonia has been her consistent self when it comes to minor colds!) Praise God for His protection!

PETITIONS

• Four of our staff are departing for Moscow at the end of this week to prepare for the March 6-17 Camp Directors' Institute. Please remember them in prayer as they travel, along with the other camp directors and the North American instructors.

• It is time once again for me to apply for a new Russian visa. Please pray for my application for an invitation, which will be submitted this week. This process is critical to my ability to serve and live in Russia!!!

DID YOU KNOW...

• ...that more and more local food products are being prepared for export? Unfortunately not too many of the packages are quite ready for foreign markets! Check out the ingredients list on this cake box (no typos on my part!): baking wheat flour, extra class, condensed milk, boiled, confectionary margarine, sugar, natural honey, glucose syrup, eggs products, baking soda, crushed kernels of nuts, white salt, sorbic acid, ascorbic acid. Yum! Extra class!!! And "boiled"!!! (Sonia thinks that their German needs work, too...maybe someone can comment on that!)

• ...that we're averaging one entry a week on the [Shopping Tips For Lena](#) blog? Who's up next with a suggestion? ;-) Drop them off in the comments, or send an email to lenahamm@gmail.com!

• ...that the rest of the family got to see the Ice Palace before it melted? [Visit our Flickr site](#) for lots of daylight images from the coolest palace in Petersburg!



ESSENTIAL INFO

Kevin & Lena Hamm are missionaries with [Mennonite Brethren Mission and Service International](#), serving with [Christian Camping International/Russia](#) in St. Petersburg, Russia.

• A [printable version](#) in Adobe Acrobat format is always available for download.

• Visit www.krhamm.com/pray for links to print versions, archives and more.

• For more on our ministry in Russia, please visit www.krhamm.com.

• You can help! Please visit www.krhamm.com/support for ways you can help our family & ministry.

• Hundreds of our recent photos can be viewed at [Flickr.com](#). (And now [Sonia's pictures](#) too!)
