

# Taldyqorghan Tidbits

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Morris and Jean Olson

## Settling In . . .

It has been almost three weeks since we arrived in Taldyqorghan to begin ministry in the city and surrounding area. Much of this time has been spent getting our apartment in order and getting to know parts of the city. We've done lots of walking around the area even though public transportation is available—walking is just more comfortable since the windows on both the buses and minivans don't open! We've met lots of friendly people on the streets and they sometimes accompany us to our destination or make sure we are going in the right direction before they continue on with their own errands. We live in a sprawling city; much smaller and much, much quieter than Almaty; traffic jams are at a minimum. We no longer have the large supermarkets that we became used to in Almaty but there are plenty of small shops/kiosks usually gathered within one large area. Some of the shops close for lunch so that can be a little frustrating at times. Of course, one always has the option of shopping at the outdoor bazaar and we will once again accept that style of shopping as a part of life. The outdoor bazaar is located near the center of the city so convenience is a plus.



Our apartment is located on the top floor of this nine-story building. The apartment faces north and south so we are surrounded by a view of the hills/mountains. If one looks out over the city from the balcony off our bedroom we are surrounded by mostly individual homes for a couple blocks and then apartment buildings seem to circle the homes. In the background one can see a couple factories. The small balcony off the kitchen faces north and looks out on one of the busy, main streets that run through the city. A stadium is located not far from us and the roar of the crowd can be heard when a “football” (soccer) match is going on.

We met some of the neighbors from the ninth floor the day we moved in. They were helpful and brought the last load of our personal belongings up the elevator for us.

They also helped us out when the stool clogged the first week! We rent what is called a three-room apartment, living room and two small bedrooms, with kitchen and bathroom. This apartment reminds us of our living space when we arrived in St. Petersburg in 1993. (It's size; the type of wallpaper; brown linoleum in every room except the tile in the bathroom; style of windows.) There is definitely a shortage of storage space so we use a little alcove near the entryway for a storage area and will cover our excess with a curtain.

Throughout the city there are tall, dry weeds and several flowerbeds that are definitely in need of moisture. The climate has been hot and dry with lots of wind compared to Almaty.

The paperwork for our registration to live here has been completed. The young lady who assisted us with the process at the registration office was very pleasant to work with. Each time we need to renew our visa we will also have to go through the registration process also so that we legally live in Taldyqorghan.

## Prayers and Praise . . .

- Friendly/helpful neighbors.
- Nice, comfortable apartment located near the center of the city.
- Registration at our apartment was completed without a problem.
- Relationship building with the individuals we have met.
- Guidance and direction on ministry endeavors.
- Health for Morris's parents (his father is back at the nursing home and gaining strength; his mother recently suffered a heart attack).
- Grandson Benjamin's appointment with a neurologist for a check-up.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20-21

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