



1
00:00:02,746 --> 00:00:04,716
Hi, my name is Dan Burbank,
and I'm talking to you

2
00:00:04,716 --> 00:00:08,136
from aboard the International Space
Station as commander of Expedition 30.

3
00:00:08,956 --> 00:00:12,996
Holidays spent away from family and friends,
especially when you're thousands miles away -

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00:00:12,996 --> 00:00:15,256
in our case hundreds of miles above the surface

5
00:00:15,256 --> 00:00:17,066
of the planet -- can be a
little tough sometimes.

6
00:00:17,636 --> 00:00:22,216
But we know that in our case in a very real
sense, we're not for those who care about us.

7
00:00:22,936 --> 00:00:26,876
For one thing we have hundreds of people
worldwide and control centers watching

8
00:00:26,876 --> 00:00:29,446
over us and our space station 24/7.

9
00:00:30,146 --> 00:00:33,176
And we also know that our families
and friends are thinking about us

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00:00:33,176 --> 00:00:34,676
and supporting us every step of the way.

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00:00:36,046 --> 00:00:39,596
My crewmates, Anton Shkaplerov,

Anatoly Ivanishin

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00:00:39,596 --> 00:00:42,346

and I have been living aboard
space station for nearly a month.

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00:00:43,026 --> 00:00:45,616

It's been very busy but wonderful experience.

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00:00:46,336 --> 00:00:51,006

ISS is designed for crew of six, so we've
been at half strength for quite a while now.

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00:00:51,806 --> 00:00:54,956

That's about to change next week
when we're joined by our friends

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00:00:54,956 --> 00:00:58,376

and crewmates Oleg Kononenko,
Andre Kuipers and Don Pettit.

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00:00:58,806 --> 00:01:01,996

With the arrival, ISS will
be back at full strength,

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00:01:02,246 --> 00:01:04,896

but we'll also have three
good friends to join us.

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00:01:05,826 --> 00:01:09,566

We'll also have them just in time for the
holidays, the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

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00:01:09,616 --> 00:01:13,826

We've already put up decorations, and we've
gathered together all the cards and gifts

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00:01:13,826 --> 00:01:15,756

that our friends and families have sent to us,

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00:01:16,186 --> 00:01:18,486

and we're planning for a couple of very big meals.

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00:01:18,656 --> 00:01:19,516

That'll be great.

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00:01:19,976 --> 00:01:24,286

And we'll celebrate the holidays in great fashion after they get here.

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00:01:24,926 --> 00:01:32,976

To see planet Earth from above, from the vantage point of space is an incredible experience,

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00:01:32,976 --> 00:01:34,756

and we're very fortunate to be able to do that.

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00:01:35,476 --> 00:01:39,346

This planet of ours is indescribably beautiful when seen from above.

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00:01:40,196 --> 00:01:43,076

In my opinion photographs just don't do it justice.

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00:01:44,186 --> 00:01:48,646

A couple nights ago at the end of the workday, the three of us were

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00:01:48,646 --> 00:01:50,636

in the cupola, taking turns sharing the view.

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00:01:51,566 --> 00:01:53,336

And that's a room that we have in one of the modules

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00:01:54,336 --> 00:01:56,696

about midway down the stack space station.

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00:01:56,696 --> 00:02:01,836

It's got a 360° view, and you can see thousands of miles of the Earth's surface,

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00:02:01,836 --> 00:02:04,876

from horizon to horizon to horizon to horizon.

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00:02:05,676 --> 00:02:09,506

And it was nighttime, and we're flying up the East Coast of the United States,

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00:02:09,506 --> 00:02:13,556

and we could see from Florida to Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

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00:02:13,556 --> 00:02:16,526

We could see from Washington DC to Chicago, Illinois.

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00:02:16,526 --> 00:02:20,796

And then within about 10 minutes, we were flying over the North Atlantic,

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00:02:20,796 --> 00:02:25,166

and the aurora borealis, the Northern Lights were putting on a spectacular show.

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00:02:25,686 --> 00:02:28,866

And then a few minutes later we were flying over the Swiss Alps,

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00:02:28,906 --> 00:02:30,926

still nighttime, and then over the Mediterranean.

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00:02:31,876 --> 00:02:37,966

And to me it looked as if the northern lights were perfectly bracketed

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00:02:38,066 --> 00:02:41,326

by city lights on both sides of the Atlantic.

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00:02:42,066 --> 00:02:49,126

And I couldn't help but think what many of the previous space fliers have thought, I think,

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00:02:49,126 --> 00:02:56,206

and said before, and that is that this planet is unimaginably beautiful, and it's peaceful

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00:02:56,206 --> 00:02:59,246

and it's serene when you look at it from from space.

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00:02:59,496 --> 00:03:05,006

And that night pass to us seemed like a holiday greeting card,

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00:03:05,156 --> 00:03:06,716

the most beautiful one you could imagine.

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00:03:08,136 --> 00:03:11,716

So on behalf of the Expedition 30 crew aboard the International Space Station,