

These past few months have really blown by. We were able to take a trip to Ukraine in Dec. while there I saw some of our partners, preached and then Luda and the girls stayed with Luda's family. The girls were able to participate in a Christmas program in the Church Luda used to be a member of. I traveled onto Central Asia and met up with Some of our national church planters for a couple of days of teaching, fellowship and planning. I had forgotten that five years ago I had shipped a box of Bibles over to the location we were using for our meetings. As we



got ready to start up our teaching time, brother Micah T, got that box of Bibles out. River saw it and dove into the box grabbed one and hugged it to his chest with tears welling up in his eyes, he said, "it has been so long since I have been able to hold one of these". He sat down and began reading. This is one of those moments I am sure to never forget. His Church had been raided and they lost their Bibles and his House had recently been searched and he lost his Bible and study material. These times of getting out of their country and away from the stress of the ministry is vital, their persecution is much. Thank you for your participation in supporting these getaways, as well as the ministry, both through your prayers and giving. Since we came back in January, we have been constantly traveling and speaking in supporting churches and a few new ones. You folks have been amazing to us in the outpouring of your love to us.

Frequently I have people ask me for projects that they can help to fund. Rarely do I write about them in prayer letters, however, brother Righteous, is in need of a new church building. They are one of our few churches in Central Asia that actually has official registration from the government. They managed to register back in the day when they only needed a handful of believers. They are allowed to continue relatively peacefully as the Government needs a few examples to hold up and show the west how accepting they are. The previous building, they had begun to have many problems, from frozen split pipes, to foundation separating from the walls and even 3-inch gaps in split walls. The church has voted to rebuild. They are selling some land, others sheep and goats so as to fund the building. They need to raise



about \$35,000.00 dollars. They believe they will come up with about 10,000.00 through their own sacrificing. We would love to help them raise the rest. The Government and city architects have approved the building. Here is a picture of what the architects drew up. The men of the church have been dismantling the former building and are clearing the land. May is the month to rise up and build. Would you partner with us? Make checks

payable to BIEM, earmarked Central Asian building fund. Send to: BIEM PO Box707 Danville, In 46122-0707

April 5th I had laser surgery on my eyes to repair my corneas. The surgery went extremely well, and now my eyes are healing. The doctor expects about 29/40 vision with glasses when all is said and done. As it was I was nearly blind several days of the week. Please pray for this healing process.

Thank you for your love, support and prayers. The Smiths. Tim, Luda, Sarah, Rachel and Naomi