

Things have been moving at an alarming rate since last month when I wrote. It seems like we have been playing on "Satan's Monopoly board". The cliff notes of our lives could read like this: travel, sickness, bugs, computer hacked, parasites, worms, 2<sup>nd</sup> computer hacked and crashed, persecution, more sickness, no sleep, 3<sup>rd</sup> computer hacked and crashed, baptism, out. Still you can see the beauty of God's plan in and through our lives. The baptism was of a man who came to Christ the last service we



had last year before leaving the county. He had shown up at my house the first week we were in the country with the family. I had shared the Gospel with him that day, and presented him with an Evangelistic HIN MP3 player to listen to. I didn't see him again for six months till he showed up in our service and trusted Christ. This year I got to know him, he was an Imam in the Mosque until he trusted Christ as his Savior. His life has been radically changed by the Power of the Word of God! He has been a great blessing to us as well as our national coworkers Barnabus and Peace. This former Imam was hateful, drunken, wicked and lonely, he is now one of the most loving, caring and helpful men we know in our region. He is sharing his new-found faith in Jesus Christ with everyone he knows and meets.

God's protection and safety have been very evident. Several weeks ago, I was on my way out to the capital city to try to set up another translation of the film King of Glory. As I was going through our mountain pass, there was a land slide, two car lengths in front of me. Rocks the size of Volkswagen Beetles came tumbling down the mountain along with lots of sand and gravel. Praise the Lord for His protection as no one was hurt. I had the opportunity to share with many at the sight that our lives are a vapor, and it is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment. These folks had never heard the Gospel Story before.



When we were out in the Mountains our middle daughter, Rachel was bitten by a tick and two weeks to the day had a massive rash appear on the back of her head where the tick was found. Her lymph nodes swelled and she had daily fevers. She all but quit eating and had no energy to do anything but lay around. We took her to the doctor as soon as we saw the rash, I told them I believed it was Lyme Disease. She was given several blood tests and 5 days of antibiotics. She was fine while on the antibiotics but as soon as she was done the symptoms came back. We went to several doctors in two countries, but they were unable to diagnose her and they repeatedly told us that she was fine. We could clearly see she was not fine, and her weight loss was getting very scary as were her fevers. After a month and a half of this I told our advisors at BIEM our mission board, who advised us to come home and get her taken care of. Her fevers seemed to be at a lessening, so I bought tickets and we flew home on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is an awesome thought to think of God working through unbelievers to fulfill His plans. We were boarding our Turkish Air flight to Chicago when the manager unexpectedly wrote something on our boarding pass. She had for no reason other than that God had so moved her to put us in business class at no charge! As soon as we took off the stewardess came and made Rachel's bed, by this point her temperature was higher than ever. She went to sleep and it came down. We got home and immediately went to urgent care Mayo Clinic, they confirmed she has Lyme. She is now on antibiotics for 21 days and after that period we will have to reevaluate how her body is doing. Please pray for her to somehow conquer this challenge, so it will not be a hindrance in life and ministry. While Rachel is regaining her

health I am home, once she is a bit stabilized I will go back to Central Asia for several weeks. Luda and the girls are out till next spring as it was close to our time to leave, and it is time to start school. I will be going back and forth in between meeting here in the States which I have yet to set up.

With us being back home the ministry does not stop. We work closely with national partners throughout Central Asia, and they remain and continue to evangelize, baptize and plant churches. We have opportunities from time to time to help start new ministries in these remote village. For instance, we have a lady who is serving her community through her nursing skills. She goes to homes and helps children with Downs syndrome, in these countries they typically just hide these people from society and they never have a normal life. We are now supplying her with diapers for these older children, so that they can live a bit more normally. Thank you for your many gifts that allow us freedom to help with these types of out reaches. She is seeing many come to Christ through here demonstrated love for those whom society has shunned.



Many of our other brothers and sisters in another Central Asian country have been arrested recently for their attendance of home churches. Others are faced with fines, and imprisonment, while another brother, Mark was recently beaten for his faith in Christ. Please pray for them that their faith would not waiver. Pray that they would not allow fear to gain a stronghold in their lives. Pray for their protection and for the leaders to fearlessly continue with the Gospel. Just last Saturday Brothers River and Philip baptized several new believers, despite the



persistent watch of the KGB. River's testimony says it well, "I understood something the other day as I walked away from the head of the KGB who tried to arrest me. He was placed in his position by God, and I must respect him and obey him as much as is possible. I also understood that God has adopted me, and that my position in Him is much greater than the head of the KGB, and as God's child the KGB cannot touch me without God's approval. So I walked away with

renewed courage and determination to serve the Lord with all my strength as long as my days allow."

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support. Please continue to uphold our Central Asian Leaders in Christ. River, Philip, Mark, Andrey, Zealous, Almond, Righteous, Barnabus, and Julie (women's center director). Please pray for Pastor Righteous as he will be taking the film "King of Glory" to evangelize shepherds living in yurts, like in this picture. Please pray for us as we begin traveling in the States to our supporting churches, and as I go overseas on shorter trips. Pray for Luda and the girls as school is just around the corner.



For the glory of God, Your servants to Central Asia,

Tim, Luda, Sarah, Rachel and Naomi Smith

