

God's Mission in Almaty, Kazakhstan

Blaze, Spirit, Blaze, set our hearts on fire . . .

January 2007

Let It Snow . . .

Waiting for the bus while enjoying the winter wonderland can be a time to reflect on the blessings of life. It isn't often that we awake to such a heavy snowfall but one morning we really saw the beauty of the season!

The "undisturbed" newly fallen snow reminds us of the peace that knowing Jesus as ones Lord and Savior brings to ones life. The whiteness of the newly fallen snow is a reminder to us of the pure, holy and sinless life that Jesus lived.



The backdrop of the snowcapped mountains that we can see from our apartment windows is a reminder of the heights of God's love for us.

As various new "paths" are made through the newly fallen snow, we are reminded of the path that God desires for each and every one of us. It's the path that leads to eternal life with Him. That path includes the forgiveness of sins that was brought about through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is through faith in Jesus that we have the promise of eternal life with Him.

Amidst the beauty of God's creation, we seek to serve Him and those we come in contact with in a manner that brings Glory to God. We rejoice over the opportunities God gives each of us to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus with those around us. We rejoice that "though our sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

Prayer requests:

Please pray for the following individuals as the Spirit leads you:

~~ One young woman is new in the faith. She desires a support group within the church. She wants more than the occasional Bible classes that are offered after the service.

~~ The babushka is Russian Orthodox. She was surprised when she found out that we go to worship service every Sunday. She asked us to pray for her son who has a drinking problem.

~~ This babushka and her daughter came together to the Christmas program. A couple weeks later they brought two of their friends with them to church. The following week the daughter had surgery after which they have not returned to church.

~~ The woman received her first Bible, the New Testament, when she was 18 years old. A friend gave it to her and asked her to keep the gift a secret. This was the first time she heard that Jesus was forever and it was a confusing time. Years later this woman came to understand that Jesus is Forever.

~~ A young man has an opportunity to go to America and work. His family does not want to go. Financially it would be better for the family to live in Kazakhstan.

~~ The babushka lives in a very simple apartment. Christianity was not part of her family life when she grew up which seems to still be a barrier for her coming to know Christ as her Savior.

~~ The woman came to faith many years ago. She rejoiced when her son and family joined the church several years later. She keeps hoping that some year her parents too will become Christians.

~~ The young man has a dream to study abroad. He has now left Almaty to fulfill that dream. His housing situation in the new setting is problematic.



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