

Olson October Mission Moments

Dear Friends of the Work in Kazakhstan:

On October 25, Kazakhstan celebrates Republic Day, marking the commemoration of the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty by the Supreme Soviet of Kazakhstan on that day in 1990. This historic event set into motion the beginning of Kazakhstan regaining its independence from the USSR. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in August 1991, Kazakhstan gained full independence on December 16, 1991. To celebrate the official state holiday which marks the establishment of the Republic, Saturday became an official work day with Monday and Tuesday being set aside as days to enjoy the holiday with friends and family.

Each week the missionaries gather to share a meal and study God's Word. We also share our "ups and downs" for the week and end the evening with prayer time. On the mission field the "team" becomes one's family. We thank God for Marat, Amy and Amanzhol Kashenov; Pastor David, Rachel, Julia, and Timothy Baker; and Pastor Armand Boehme as they serve beside us and encourage us as we all work among the people of Kazakhstan.

A significant portion of October has been devoted to reviewing and revising the field's Balanced Focus Plan and preparing the budget for the next three years. Although the process we go through is a long and grueling task, it is one which engages us to prayerfully seek God's guidance and direction as we endeavor to serve Him and the people of Kazakhstan in this part of the world. Interaction with and input from the emerging church leadership is a vital component for us in this process. As our mission team works in conjunction with the nationals there are several scripture verses which guide us through the process...

- Make plans by seeking advice (Pr 20:18)
- A wise man listens to advice (Pr 12:15)
- Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed (Pr 15:22)
- In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps (Pr 16:9)
- Many are the plans of a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails (Pr 19:21)
- A man's steps are directed by the Lord, How then can anyone understand his own way? (Pr 20:24)
- Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed (Pr 16:3)
- Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight (Pr 3:5).

Pray that the Lord unite our mission team and the national church leadership as we individually and collectively seek to serve Him in a manner that brings glory to His name.

Ablaze! Partners, Morris and Jean Olson
Serving in Almaty, Kazakhstan
LCMS World Missions
www.lcmsworldmission.org

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