



The Spotlight-September 2021



Greetings for the first time from Kazakhstan!

Yes, we've been here almost three weeks and though we're still finding our feet, we feel at home and excited about what tomorrow holds! Ministry-wise, the Lord has not spoken of anything specific, though of course, the Great Commission remains the goal we share with every Christian.

For now, what is clear is that He has blessed us with roles we enjoy but which are currently demanding in themselves for there's still much to do before we open our doors to students in less than weeks. Also clear is that our workplace will be where He expects us to serve and bless.

A few people have asked if we're safe here in Kazakhstan given all the turmoil in Afghanistan, but if you're at all concerned, let us put your mind at rest and say the only similarity between the two ends with the suffix 'stan', which means 'land'. In fact, the two places couldn't be more different, for though the people of Kazakhstan are primarily Muslim, the government here is moderate, and the people are in no way extreme in their interpretation of the Quran.

On the topic of Afghanistan, of course, we're as torn by the Taliban's actions as you will be. In fact, there seems to be turmoil in so many places in the world right now, and even the so-called civilized countries seem to be falling into disarray and disunity, but as Ecclesiastes 1:9 informs us, 'there is nothing new under the sun,' and the truth is that the world has been in pretty identical turmoil in the past, most notably in the mid 14th Century. However, just as Christ was victorious then, He will be so again, for He is the answer for today's ills and will always be the answer in the future, so let us not lose hope. Instead, let us pray fervently for all who are suffering with confidence and trust that God is at work, despite what is going on around us, and know that in His time, He'll reveal exactly how He has been working all things together for good.

Well, once again, it's time to leave you with links to the past month's messages; a mixture of 'home-grown' and what we called 'Stellar' messages from around the world with great merit.

[1. The Assurance of Salvation: Once Saved, Always Saved - Steve Gaines](#)

[2. God: The Ultimate Teacher - Jim Pounder](#)

[3. Becoming a Mature Christian: Spiritual Discernment - Jim Pounder](#)

[4. Grieving Loss - Larry McCarthy, Jr.](#)

[5. The Case for Christ - Lee Strobel](#)

*God bless you always,
Love Jim & Elaine*

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. (Romans 8:28)

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