



## The Spotlight - February 2022



*Just look at those faces! The joy of Leanne and her now husband, Chase, on their wedding day was infectious and felt by everyone celebrating with them. We couldn't be happier and, of course, we absolutely loved the family time that the wedding made possible. In fact, words can't explain just how much, but suffice to say that it gets harder and harder to say farewell!*

*Of course, the riots and crackdown in Kazakhstan which resulted in a government 'shoot to kill' policy in early January had us delay our return to the country, and it must be said that that was not a hardship choice for us, for in part neither of us had any desire to return! This was not only because of the violent events, but also because we have faced challenging problems there that we could never have envisioned experiencing last summer! However, despite our desire to leave, God has made it clear to both of us in separate ways this past week, that being in Almaty, at least for the time being, is His plan and so we return not with heavy hearts but in obedience and the knowledge that He knows best and that there is a good reason for His decision. As His plans are much bigger than ours and sharing the Good News is a priority in this corner of the world, we are in no doubt that two happenings are significant in that aspect. First, Jim started a prayer group in the University along with the university lawyer who is both passionate and active in outreach, and second, I was elected President of the Almaty International Women's Club (AIWC). When I spoke after the election results were announced, I quite naturally ended with the words 'God Bless you all', and the previous President immediately came over to share how overjoyed she was to discover that God had chosen another Christian to continue where she had left off. For sure, the work she began in this primarily Muslim nation will continue!*

*Once the decision was made that it was safe to return to Kazakhstan, Jim booked his return ticket and flew back on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. He says all seems to be settled and life is carrying on much as before. I will follow on February 5<sup>th</sup> as I flew to Florida for family time when Jim travelled to the UK, and I only arrived in England on the 25<sup>th</sup> so want/need a little family time here too.*

*As always, we leave you with links to messages featured throughout the past month.*

- [1. The Reason for Our Boldness - Dr. Charles Stanley](#)
- [2. Becoming a Non-Anxious Presence - John Mark Comer](#)
- [3. Perseverance of the Saints - Alistair Begg](#)
- [4. A Case for Heaven - Lee Strobel](#)

*Thank you for your prayer support. Please don't hesitate us bless you too. Jim & Elaine*

*God is our safe place and our strength. He is always our help when we are in trouble. So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and the mountains fall into the center of the sea, and even if its waters go wild with storm and the mountains shake with its action." (Psalm 46:1-3)*

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