

DAVID, RACHEL, JULIA,
TIMOTHY, DANIEL & ESTHER BAKER



(another picture of our family together in Greece)

SERVING THE LORD WITH THE LCMS
IN CENTRAL ASIA

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ★ Praise the Lord for the fruit of our summer camp—the growing faith of children in our churches and small groups across Mongolia!
- ★ Pray that the children would be protected from persecution for their faith and be able to gather together freely around God's Word!
- ★ Pray for Christian families to value the spiritual well-being of their children and to gather as families to worship, pray and read the Word.
- ★ Pray for persistence and wisdom for church leaders as they lead children's outreach, often with few materials and resources.
- ★ Pray for our seminarian, Hamit, and his bold engagement of the Muslim families of children touched by our camp and/or involved in Sunday school.

THE BAKER BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2022



Pressure, Persecution, and Persistence

Our children's camp at the end of June was a big success and effectively relaunched our children's ministry across Mongolia. However, wherever the Lord is at work, Satan most often feels the need to stick his oar in!

Capital City Area: Our largest local congregation used to have a vibrant ministry before Covid, with 40-50 children regularly involved. Even though

this number dwindled during Covid, after our summer camp, the numbers were back up to 40+ kids coming to learn about Jesus each week! In September, we rejoiced as one family, along with several children who participated in the camp, joined God's family through baptism. However, within two weeks of the baptisms, a local Muslim Imam came to spy on the children coming in and out of the church on Sunday. No one noticed



him that day, but he proceeded to visit the families of these children, many of whose parents are still Muslim. He pressured them with guilt, shame and intimidation—arguing that it shamed the whole Kazakh

community when they let their children associate with Christians. The result? Almost half of the children have been forbidden by their parents to come to church on Sunday. Our seminarian, Hamit, has been praying over the situation, discussing with the church families about what to do. They are planning an outreach meal for the families that the Imam visited. Pray that God would turn what Satan devised as evil into an opportunity for the Gospel to spread even more throughout the Kazakh community.

Children of the Nomads: Many nomadic families have not yet returned to their winter grazing grounds, near where the school for the nomadic children is located. So, upon visiting one tent, we found the parents still absent, but the children who had been part of our summer camp already settled into school life. We spent some time in worship with the children and taught them how to have devotions each day—reading a Bible story, singing some songs, praying together, and memorizing a Bible verse—and we left them with a copy of "The Children's Garden of Bible Stories" and a church songbook. The children excitedly agreed to read and pray together, as well as to memorize John 3:16 by the time we make our next visit. The biggest challenge in working with nomadic children is that church life is so irregular. Often the church goes for months without gathering around Word and Sacrament because the families move around so much with their flocks. Pray that regular home-church groups would be established in each of the nomadic communities so that the whole church can be steadfast in the faith and grow in their relationship with Jesus and one another.



Small Town Youth: There is almost no regular "youth ministry" in most areas where we are serving. That is no surprise when we are struggling to better establish the church life in general and basic Christian family ministry in these areas. That said, we praise God for a grass-roots youth group that sprung up in a village among a group of children who had attended our summer camp. Pray for their Sunday school teacher as well as for Pastor Azamat and his wife, who make regular visits to this village, as they act as mentors for this group of young Christians. In Western Mongolia, where the church is a bit more established, we have noticed that the youth of many Christian families have been growing away from the faith—pulled by both the temptations of youth and the pressures of the Muslim community. Some of these youth who were part of our camp this summer will be attending a gathering this week. Please pray that this would be a turning point to rekindle the faith of the Christian youth in the community. Pray also for the families of the church to have a consistent spiritual life that will help nurture the faith of these dear young people.

JULIA'S JOURNAL

(19 years old)



Julia arrived back in Nebraska the day before her sophomore year of classes began, thanks to some dear friends who picked her up at the airport in Omaha late on Saturday night and drove her to

Concordia on Sunday. With another 18-credit course load this semester, including singing in Cantamus, playing viola in the orchestra, writing and knitting clubs, and other activities, her plate is full! However, she was delighted to have a special visit from Grandpa and Grandma Selle this month and to show them Seward and Concordia's campus.

TIMOTHY'S TURN

(17 years old)



Ulaanbaatar is the only place in Mongolia where college entrance exams like the SAT and the ACT can be officially proctored. So, Timothy and Rachel traveled together to Mongolia's capital city this past month—a trip of almost 900 miles each way! A few short days later, they drove back to Western Mongolia, where

Timothy helped put the finishing touches on the desk and shelves that his dad had built in the kids' bedroom for a homeschooling space. We are all definitely staying busy!

DANIEL'S DOINGS

(15 years old)



We recently visited Bayan Ulgi, the only large city in Mongolia where Kazakhs are in the majority. Even the schools and businesses operate in the Kazakh language—not Mongolian. So for us it is almost like taking a trip back to Kazakhstan. One of our local Christian friends found an eagle chick last year and

has been training it to hunt with the hopes of competing in a future Eagle Festival. We were all thrilled to meet his beautiful bird up close, and Daniel even got to hold it!

ESTHER'S ESCAPADES

(12 years old)



Whenever we are in Bayan Ulgi, Esther meets and encourages her friend Aigerim, practicing guitar with her and singing songs about Jesus. On this trip, Aigerim introduced us to a

classmate of hers whom she had reached out to with the Gospel during a dark time in the girl's life. They are the only two believers in their school, and meet regularly to read the Bible, sing together, and pray for their classmates. They don't have much by earthly standards, but they are so rich in Jesus!

CONTACT INFO: Mongolia Cell: +976-9414-0443, Email: bakerd@swissmail.org

Mailing Address: David Baker, Post Office 48A, Post Box 87, 13373 Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA

To financially support the ministry of the Baker family, call 1-712-882-1029, or email Gary.Thies@lcms.org

THE BAKER BULLETIN

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Greenleaf, WI 54126

6725 Elmro Road

Allielua Lutheran Church

54180

Wrightstown WI

Permit No 14

U.S. Postage Paid

Nonprofit Org.