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## ***Brian and Crystal Boecker - September 2022*** **Hungry, Humbling and Home**

As I sit recovering from Covid, I got somewhere along my recent travels to Central Asia and the 30 hour travel time, the 3 words that come to mind that encapsulate a challenging, but beautiful trip are: Hungry, Humbling and Home.

I (Crystal) went with our church to minister to young women between the ages of 20-30 as the pastor's wife hosted the first ever women's conference for new believers from this undisclosed country and some of the surrounding countries that have limited access to the gospel.

These women were hungry for any teaching or advice we had and sought us out throughout the day and night to ask our thoughts on everything from marriage and missions to women and healing. These young ladies always brought surprises! While they were up on all the latest Pinterest and Tik Tok trends (we did Dance Dance Revolution, before and after every meeting), they also wanted the American Band-aids I brought for an illustration! Many of them had already been serving as missionaries to countries where they could be kidnapped or thrown in jail.

I was personally humbled as these women learned to trust each other in new ways and create community and support for each other when many of their families were broken or did not support their Christian lives. I was a bit humbled in another way when they surprised me with a rendition of the Disney Frozen song, "Let It Go" that I guess I was supposed to dance and sing to before the beginning of my talk...a bit awkward, to say the least! I'll need to practice my show tune repertoire before I go again.

culture, combined with vestiges of communism felt like I was back in East Asia. We even ate at a restaurant that had a signature dish from the last city we served in Asia! Also, I love being around Asians and that culture, so I loved it!

Please be in prayer for this young pastor and his wife who are reaching young people across Central Asia with the Gospel, and training them to be sent out as Missionaries. They have a love for these young ones that is palpable. Every hug and word from them is lapped up and stored as love, acceptance and a strengthened identity that says they are loved and worth loving.

They have grueling schedules and they travel and encourage these men and women, and have a young family who also needs their care.

Thanks for being part of building new parts of the kingdom with us, We are excited to be partners with you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crystal Brian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

#### PRAYER

Thanks for praying for the virtual leadership conference that Brian was able to help lead. It was good to be with old friends serving in their home country in East Asia. Please continue to pray for these precious leaders.

#### Coming Up Events:

October—Crystal will be part of an Azmera trip to Romania to minister to woman who serve across Europe. Brian will be part of a LEAF (leadership evaluation and formation) conference in Orlando. Pray as he prepares for that.

Brian's Health— I am doing well, but still need to find the right doctor to better help me understand my diagnosis and direction. Thanks for all your prayers and concern.

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