

The Castagna Connection

Accelerating the Spread of the Gospel Through the Power of Media

September 16, 2022

Kazakhstan Conference



I (Leslie) recently returned from a long trip (literally halfway around the world!) to Central Asia as the leader of a teaching team who shared at a women's conference. The 65 women who attended were from the Central Asian countries of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan. They were HUNGRY for God's truth to permeate their lives. Women in these countries have few opportunities to gather together for fellowship or for encouragement, which is sad because they truly need each other considering their various family situations. These gals were anywhere from 14 to 35'ish in age and absolutely devoured the three days we spent together.

Our main meeting area was a Yurt (pictured above)



about 35 feet in diameter. The music, singing, worshiping, and teaching sessions were done with enthusiasm and a heartfelt passion for Jesus.

While there was much joyful laughter, there were also times of tears while hearing some of their stories. One gal

(pictured with me) had the vitality of a highly caffeinated energy drink and it flowed over in her love of Jesus. She was drawn to Jesus and His fatherly love because her home life did not provide much in the way of normalcy. In many Central Asia countries, young women can be kidnapped; there is no law against this. When the man doesn't want her any longer, she is left on her own and cannot go back to her family. This gal chose Jesus and is now a missionary in some very difficult areas of Kyrgyzstan. She is fearless in the face of danger because she has complete confidence in God. She said to me, "He keeps me safe where He sends me to share His truth to hurting womenLeslie, they have to hear His truth and know His peace." I was so humbled by the faith and dedication of these young women.

Many of these women are missionaries in their own or neighboring countries. Please pray for their safety, and boldness to share the message of hope found only in Jesus.

Next up, I am going to Alaska with a team who are helping to staff a retreat for 48 missionary families. I will be teaching and encouraging missionary women. Pray for these dear women to be refreshed and encouraged.

Matt's Life



I (Matt) traveled to Mississippi earlier this week to work on editing some interviews with Kekchí pastors that I had filmed on my recent trip to Belize. I worked with James, a missionary who now lives in the USA and who is a fluent Kekchí speaker. Each of the pastors we interviewed was involved in the spread of the Gospel back when it first arrived in Belize in the 1960s. These early believers suffered much persecution. Our goal is to preserve their Christian heritage so it can be shared as an encouragement and challenge for future generations. We ended up with three, 19 to 22 minute clips.

Our Golden Girls



Timothy and Joshua dressed for their first day of school at Peace With Christ Christian School. At five years old, this is Josh's first time being in a school situation.

Greetings from the Margosians! This year, we decided to send Timothy and Joshua to a Lutheran school just down the road from us. They are loving it! Timothy meets almost every day with his "reading detective" teacher who is helping him discover why he reads a little "different" from everyone else.

Because of COVID, Joshua was never able to attend a Preschool. He told me in tears on his 2nd full day of school, "I don't like being away from you all day, Mommy!". But each morning the tears are less and less and every afternoon, Joshua is full of stories about his classmates and how he earned "monster points". They both have wonderful teachers and I am so grateful that they get to be at a school where Jesus is the focus.

Our church plant just started meeting at an elementary school. We were at a coffee shop but we got a little too big for the space! We are hosting an "official launch" September 18th, so please pray that we have many new people join us and that they know, through our words

and actions, that they are loved by God. In particular, please play for the kid's ministry. I direct it with a host of volunteers, but we need more teachers with a desire to love and teach the children.

I heard a quote at a women's conference where the speaker said, "I don't remember most of my Sunday School lessons but I remember being loved by God's people". And that's what we desire for our church - that people, including the kiddos, know they are loved, and through that, decide they want to belong to Jesus.

Matt's Memoirs

We are coming down the home stretch with the editing of my memoirs! I am also in the process of adding more photos. Next up, the layout of the book; pray for patience! It's been a fun journey to see all that God has done in and through our lives but I am ready to have the book finished!

**"But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."
Psalm 86:15**

"We never know how God will answer prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer." – Corrie Ten Boom



PRAYER ALERT

"Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God and a scourge for Satan." -John Bunyan

- † Leslie's trip to Kazakhstan to speak was fruitful. Pray for the truths that were taught to take deep root.
- † Pray for the plans for upcoming video projects to come together for Matt and the 10X Productions team.
- † Pray for Lori's health, and that of her little boy, over the coming months. She's in her 3rd trimester, due in November
- † Pray for parental wisdom for both the Lammott and Margosian families.
- † Kyle & Mande's church is in the midst of a building campaign. It looks like they will move into the building in October. Pray for it's timely completion.

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED

- † Praise for the Margosian's new worship location!
- † We continue to enjoy relatively good health!
- † God has so faithfully and wonderfully blessed us through you, during our 46 years of ministry!

Serving with you, *Matt & Leslie*

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