



LAMB International

LEADERSHIP ACTIVATING MINISTRY

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THE NEW NORMAL... EARTHQUAKE, REVOLUTION AND VOLCANO

5.0 on the Richter scale...

Kyrgyzstan has had many twists and turns for us since we arrived in February. First, we had an earthquake, sending many people out to the streets in fear of what might happen. The earthquake rumbled and shook us a bit, but damage was minimal in our area. There were reports of some damage closer to the epicenter, which was about 60 miles from our town. The earth is moaning all over it seems.



The Presidential Palace – a place we had just taken our team to see two days before this riot.

The Revolution...

With our team here from Canada, the revolution was of concern to us in many ways. One was in getting them home safely. The day things changed here from being peaceful to violent took us all by surprise. The men had traveled out early to head for the men's prison outside of Bishkek – about a three hour trip.

We had secured permission for them to go and this was a trip they had all been looking forward to.

Serving and sharing with those men who have given up on life.

The women traveled the opposite direction to Kemin, the home for the seniors who have been rescued off the streets. We looked forward to spending time with them, sharing, playing games, hand massages and just “hanging out” for a day.



As we headed out of town to Kemin, we heard of the gathering of protesters at the bus station. We had a journalist with us, Kristine McDougall, who wanted to drive by close enough to take a few pictures. We saw no real harm at the time and did that. We kept a safe distance, but could see crowds gathering – men, all dressed in black. Then we headed on to Kemin – not concerned about safety at this time.

Within a few hours we received a call from Mercy Foundation to get back to Tokmok as soon as possible, as it seemed things had escalated all over the country and violence had broken out even in our town. We were told to come straight to the foundation. This we did. Our driver attempted to go home. As he left the foundation, his bus was accosted and they wanted him to get out of the bus so they could take it over. He was able to get away and drove the bus back to the foundation and placed it in the confines of the property – in the back and out of sight. Later we learned they were pulling drivers out of vans and buses and beating them. This was so they could take the vehicles and transport people.

By now we knew the situation was serious. The men had called informing us that they were having difficulty getting through Bishkek as roads were being closed and chaos had broken out. They managed to get back to the foundation by trial and error of finding open roads. We are grateful that their driver was familiar with many alternative options to travel out of the city.



Crowds had been gathering all day and it was obvious violence was on their mind. Police were attacked, their guns taken by the mobs and later used on them. Many died this day. Our hearts are broken to see the destruction. We visited Bishkek five days after the violence and the aftermath of destruction brings many ruined families, closed businesses, beauty gone and peace in the hearts of many disrupted – likely for years to come. (I have conducted two different training/teachings to bring to light the issues of trauma and the effects and how they can bring on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. When teaching about the disorder, many nod with understanding. We just pray this time in discussion and training will help them personally and help them help the children who have been witness to television graphic pictures and who have been exposed to all kinds of stories and situations, including the deaths of parents, relatives and neighbors.)

critical and NOW was the best time to do that. We would sleep at the airport in the van or in the terminal and they would travel out in the morning. We prayed.

Rumors were rampant. However, we did not know what we did not know, so felt we had to travel NOW and do everything we could to get the team out of Kyrgyzstan. Again,

Once we were all back at the foundation, we had some decisions to make. The team was to travel to the airport around 2am for their flight out of Kyrgyzstan and back home. This would mean traveling on roads where there were no police (all had taken cover by now – fearing for their own lives) and without any protection. We decided to take the group to the airport immediately. We had a quick dinner and got the group packed up to leave. We had been in contact with the airport to ensure we could get into the terminal and that things were okay there. Word was the flight would go in the morning and we could come to the airport; however, the airport was closing for the night and there would be no one there to help us.

The decision was to err on the safety of the team as best we could. Getting them to the airport was

our driver loaded us all into his bus and we headed out. It was getting dark. We took some very back alleys and roads to get out of Tokmok, on alert the entire time as we saw people gathering here and there. We were told they were locals guarding their neighborhood.

Once we were out of town, we took the highway that is the least likely for problems – a back highway with only a few populated areas. The alternative highway goes through many different villages and towns. Reports were saying these towns and villages were experiencing violence so it was clear we needed to stay far away from them. Yet, traveling on an isolated section of highway was a bit uncertain as well. Decision made, we continued.

Within about 20 minutes we saw a car with many people hanging out – traveling very slow. It was leading a camel down the highway, likely from the resort and restaurant ahead. It was dark by now and we could see what appeared to be a fire. Suddenly we realized we were witnessing a popular restaurant and play area, called Hawaii, on fire. (We later learned several people were murdered here.) By now we could see huge flames and countless numbers of people gathered watching the fire. And then they saw us.

A car in front of us had slowed due to the crowd on the side of the road somewhat blocking his path, causing us to slow as well. Men on the left side of the road began to swarm our bus and attempting to stop us at the driver's side. Our team was in heavy intercessory prayer and we continued to pray God would just keep our bus invisible. Our driver masterfully swerved to miss the car slowing in front of us and “bumped” the leader of the swarm to get past the car and speed up the bus. It was clear that stopping or being stopped was life threatening to our team. The violence and killings of the day had created a mob mentality and a lack of reasoning for these groups. There were hundreds here. Yet we were protected and God in His mercy made our van invisible the entire trip.

Upon arriving at the airport, we were shocked to see NO police, NO airport guards. There were others gathering for their morning flights as well. Likely the same thoughts as us – get to the airport and pray for safe exit. Soon our arrival, our interpreter was told we should leave immediately as something was going to happen. Weighing the situation, we felt it safer at the airport than to travel back to Tokmok. The streets had turned too violent. We moved the team to a spot in the airport where we were less visible and waited. After a couple of hours we began to see men arriving with white arm bands and we were told they had come to the airport to protect it. We were told the government had been overthrown and there was now a new government, controlled by the opposition and we would be safe at the airport. Yet, still we did not know if the team would get out – the flight was now scheduled to leave at 9:30 am instead of at 6:30 am. We waited and later through the night found out the flight had left Moscow and WOULD be arriving into Bishkek at about 8am and would be returning. Our team would get out.

The flight arrived and they passed through security! We waited at the airport until they were in the air and then headed back to Tokmok. The streets were quiet this morning, but we jogged and dodged crowds of people, turning off streets where we could see

groups. We did not want to take a chance. Our driver, a wonderful Muslim man, was impressed with the teams calm and their prayers. He agreed that God had guided us safely through a very dangerous situation. He did not tell his wife immediately of our experience but when he did, she asked him – “Why didn’t you refuse to take them to the airport?” His answer? “I had a commitment to them!”

In spite of the situation and the violence experienced here with the revolution, we see a kind and wonderful spirit in the people. Walking into a little food store after the revolution, you see the eyes of the people – looking at us and likely wondering how we see them. Since language is not always our best skill, we motion with our hands. We draw the heart on our chest and say Kyrgyzstan and they smile. They understand. We love Kyrgyzstan and we love the people.

Please pray for Kyrgyzstan.

NOTE: This journal has been the story of the team leaving, but there is so much more to tell. The team did some amazing things here. They brought hope, dignity and Jesus to everyone they touched. I will give you more of those stories in a future journal. For now, we just want you to know that we are blessed to be here, have been blessed to have the team here and mostly are thankful to our Heavenly Father for His grace and mercy for “such a time as this.”



The Reason we Continue...”As we go...stopping for the one in front of us!”

SECOND NOTE: Please read our blog for more details of the team’s work. www.lambinternational.blogspot.com