



# LAMB International

LEADERSHIP ACTIVATING MINISTRY

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June 14, 2010

## BACK TO NORTH AMERICA

It is difficult to even know where to begin this recap journal. We left for Kyrgyzstan in February, traveled twice out of Kyrgyzstan to Ukraine and then finally left for Canada in May. To say we are home? Not sure that is accurate. Better to say we are back on North American soil, preparing to leave once again for Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan.

## EARTHQUAKE, REVOLUTION AND A VOLCANO

Easily we can say this has been the most memorable time we have spent in Central Asia. Starting with a 5.0 earthquake – and ending with the volcano and revolution. To recap our time is best to just do it through projects and experiences – and there are far too many to report on all in one journal, so we will begin the walk through some of the moments and leave others for later. Our minds are swamped. To begin:

### **KYRGYZSTAN**

#### **MERCY FOUNDATION** - “Building a Legacy through Strengthening Leadership”

We continue to work with this organization. They have five Christian Schools, one home for disabled children, one boarding home and now the new International University of Central Asia (IUCA). They have a playground learning/education program at the \$250,000 playground they built for Tokmok, and another playground they donated to the city of Kara Balta, they operate a summer mountain camp for orphan children and a gymnasium that serves children from all over the city. So what do we do there?

David and Jayne, our team members serve in many ways:

- David is the Spiritual Director for the foundation university and school staff
- Both David and Jayne teach at the University
- David serves on the Mercy Foundation Board

Lynn and Ruby:

- We provide consultation and training to the leadership staff of the foundation
- We serve to strengthen their organization through best practice organizational development strategies
- Lynn serves in the local church as both he and David are called upon to share the Word of God
- Lynn and Ruby provide guidance and training in the area of child welfare for the different residential programs of the foundations
- Lynn serves on the CASA Board – the guiding board for MF.

KEMIN SENIOR HOME - Spending time is the most important activity we offer this home. Yes, we take in lots of food, clothing and other needed items. We have purchased coal, installed a furnace along with our partners Possibilities International and built the Gift of God Friendship Center where our seniors can work on crafts and other projects. And we even delivered many different items the residents have personally requested such as tools to repair shoes and tools/equipment to cut hair. But beyond just needing these physical needs, we have cooked for them, played games with them and have taken teams to visit them. What are our special memories?

- Delivering the beautiful afghans made by the women of Cedarview Community Church of Newmarket, Ontario especially for our seniors. Wrapping these blankets around their shoulders and letting them know they were theirs to keep and seeing their smiles as they realized these beautiful blankets were truly theirs.
- Seeing the eyes of Dushenbeck when he learned we indeed did have a sponsor for his special ceremony he wanted to have for closing the responsibilities for the loss of his wife, understanding how important this Muslim tradition was for him. And then getting his hug when he told us he knew we cared.
- Sitting and being entertained for an hour by the talents of the residents – seeing them dressed in their finest to give us this wonderful concert. Recognizing that EVERY resident participated in some way. Hearing Anatolie play the spoons, and hearing each person sing their hearts away.
- Watching our team give each and every senior a wonderful hand massage and then watching the smiles on each of their faces. Especially seeing Maria, Olga and Nadia smile with deep big smiles when they have seldom smiled in the past. Then returning after the team left to see Olga smile once again – and ask about her dear friend, Cassandra.
- Returning for a visit and seeing a beautiful young woman sitting with Rya (she has suffered a stroke) and finding out it is her daughter who is now coming from Bishkek to visit her every other week.
- Conducting many “Cabbage Potato Club” food drops with our team and with David and Jayne as we all watch our dear friends smile and know we care.
- Having the Home for Disabled men, immediately take our apples to each floor and pass them out – after we were told “there are only a few staff here today and if you take the apples to the kitchen, we won’t get them..” So we said, well today we will be like staff and can we have some strong helpers to deliver the apples to each and every person here? We immediately had volunteers and away they went! What a joy. Then to join them in the kitchen to put new oil cloth on every table and to hear their excitement as the room begins to brighten up. Our time and visit was so exciting and a blessing to all.
- Talking to two men who are very much wanting to go to Bible School...and being bold to tell them we will work hard to make this happen – and then finding out that indeed it might be possible at the Light of Asia Bible School in Tokmok. This is a residential school and has dorm rooms and class rooms on the first floor. This would allow one of our new students access - as his disability keeps him on his knees or in a wheel chair.
- Hearing them say they were praying for US – when we went for a visit just a few days after the Revolution. They were concerned for us.

- To have the community say they would come behind the senior home in Kemin, after our team members, David, Jayne and Natasha held a community awareness luncheon to tell them about the work of the center...which is called Sunshine Senior Home.
- On and on....

Leaving them was very difficult. We lost one of our dear little grandmothers while we were in Kyrgyzstan. Maria passed away. She had been rescued off the streets in Bishkek by Jenish – a young man who works with Teen Challenge. He brought her to the senior home and she blossomed. She was loved and cared for in her final days. And we do believe she had some level of dignity returned to her.

ISKRA HOME FOR DISABLED MEN – they too told us they were praying for us during the revolution. Yet, we see the needs they have and we attempt to meet as many as possible. These are some of our memories there:

- Starting the first for-profit department in the home – hiring an Art Director and artists to create great Kyrgyz art.
- Initiating the process for getting two residents into an education program in the Light of Asia – perhaps the first students from the facility. And perhaps a new Pastor graduating out of the program.
- Bringing beauty to their dining room – covering all 40 tables with beautiful oil cloths.
- Delivering a huge supply of art materials for the new art department.
- “Cabbage Potato Club” food drops.

BABY ORPHANAGE – “Babies Bound for Blessings”

- “Cabbage Potato Club” food drops – bringing fruit and juice for the children.
- Creating a program for getting babies needed surgeries; arranging for transportation to get them to the capital city and providing resources for a caregiver to stay with them while in the hospital. Providing for them to have food and medication in the hospital. We have called this ongoing project – “Babies Bound for Blessings.”
- Crying with breaking hearts to learn of one of the babies we sponsored for two surgeries did not make it through one of the difficult surgeries. Hearing her doctor say he got her three months too late. Knowing that we had been in the country two months earlier – just gave us heavy hearts – if only we had known about the need earlier.
- We sent five babies for tests, and/or hospital stays. We sponsored three caregivers for three different sets of surgeries with babies.

BABY HOSPITAL –

- Naming little baby Melana Grace. She was just days old and had been abandoned by her 15 year old mother. She had no one. Then a sponsor stepped up to the plate and she has been given extra foods, care and love that she might not have had otherwise.
- She was taken to Bishkek for what they thought might have been a heart problem – yet our prayers were answered as her heart is fine. And she will soon

be going to the baby orphanage and will be a child who can be adopted soon. We will follow her and work hard to find her a loving family who will give her their hearts.

KARA BALTA – our hearts were touched to once again be with the children who had previously lived at the Tokmok Children’s Orphanage. When the orphanage was closed (a recommendation we made) we were counting on the children being moved into strong families – working slowly to create a foster care network for this need. This did not happen as the home was closed quickly and the need for placement of the children was great and immediate. Kara Balta is a good place – just far from Tokmok. Most children went to KB, while others went home.

We traveled to KB to see the children. We loved spending time with them and letting them see – that “yes we do come back – no matter where you are!”

ELMIRA HOME – this small orphanage has done a good job with children and we will continue to help them and love on the children. We pray for God’s blessing to these and all the children of Kyrgyzstan.

THE GREAT COMMISSION – One of the major challenges we face each and every day is the language barrier between us and those we come in contact with. We have a great interpreter and conversations are easy with her working with us. Yet we have so much we care about and want to say. We have learned long ago the work of the Great Commission is more than words...it is “showing, teaching, and modeling.”

## BREAKING NEWS.....

### DAYSPRING FAMILY LIFE RESOURCE CENTER

This will be our NEXT journal. You won’t want to miss learning about this wonderful project and you will have a chance to help make a difference in a real way! Stay tuned for the BIG announcement.

#### **UKRAINE – A few more updates...**

FATHER’S HOUSE – we continue to work with FH and are committed to helping them strengthen their infrastructure and staff. This organization is a fine example of a Christian organization caring for the orphan children of Ukraine. They have established family group homes for the children and are committed to family and helping in finding permanence for children who come into their program.

A new project is the mother and baby program. This project for single mothers will help mothers keep their children and raise them successfully. These mothers will be vulnerable to separation from their babies due to poverty, lack of parenting skills or other reasons. This program will make a difference. Mothers will learn the love of

Jesus and be taught, encouraged and mentored to find stability in their lives.

ADOPTION CONFERENCE – ILDC, our co-founded registered organization in Ukraine co-sponsored with Father's House and Christian Broadcasting Agency the first ever conference for adoptive parents. 185 parents attended an exciting weekend at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Kiev. This entire weekend was sponsored by donors; ILDC, Institute for Human Services, Father's House, Christian Broadcasting Network, LAMb, and One Hope. It was a weekend to honor the parents and ended with lots of positive comments. Our team participated in giving workshops, etc. as well. Jayne gave a key note on her new book, *Telling the Truth to Your Adopted or Foster Child*. Jayne and David presented a workshop on *Healing Homes for Children*, Lynn presented a workshop on *Discipline in Christian Homes*, I presented a workshop on *Working with Children Who Have Been Sexually Abused*.

CONSULTATION, TRAINING AND TEACHING CONTINUES - another time to tell these stories

- Classes for students at IUCA (International University of Central Asia)
- Working with the Child Rights Defenders League in Bishkek
- Training for the Kiev city services – leadership who work with children and families
- Developing a university social work specialization with the Humanitarian University in Bishkek
- Preparing the Life Skills classes to be presented in Kyrgyzstan to the Christian School staff, completing the training and working with them to implement this fine program into their schools
- Teaching the staff from the Christian Schools in KG to conduct classes that meets the new religious law – using character building courses developed by Bill Gothard.
- Working with Jessica's family and seeing the fruits of the labor in the family growing, seeking and joining with the local church where we go to meet friends and supporters of her family changes and needs
- Working with the local pastors to build a strong team of volunteers for reaching out to the needy of the community
- Writing articles to help local authorities understand the need to seek alternatives to orphanages

Whew....this is just the tip of the list.

We leave for Ukraine on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June and Lynn goes on to Kyrgyzstan on the 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be back in Canada on July 6<sup>th</sup>...with the exciting update on Dayspring....