

## *Merry Christmas from the Winklers*

*“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand.” 1 Chronicles 29:14*

We just finished celebrating Thanksgiving. As we approach Christmas, what a great time to focus on God’s love, generosity and His gifts to us. **Our work in Russia and the Eurasia region is ultimately about being a testimony, sharing God’s love and His salvation gift.** While we are no longer allowed to share the good news via traditional methods, we creatively and holistically witness and love those around us. I want to share an example of how this is done through a theater company in Kazakhstan that has been established as a missional enterprise to do just this.

Ray is a new member of the cast for a current play. Spending days and days learning and rehearsing a part allows for deep relational times with one another. One afternoon Laura, began to ask Ray some spiritual questions. She was very receptive and wanted to learn more. Soon, Ray was reading the Bible with Jessica and Laura—the 2 staff girls who lead the theater company. She is so excited about God’s word and readily comments on the scriptures they are reading. Every 3 weeks the group also cooks for a group of homeless Kazakhs. **Ray, is on her spiritual journey of faith and is very open.** If she is not a believer now, she is very close. We are so thankful to the Father who has brought Ray to this play and how He is leading her towards Himself. Please pray for Jessica and Laura. They are amazing high capacity girls working in a very difficult place. And of course lift up Ray and pray for her protection as she continues her journey towards Christ.



**A quick update on Owen** whom I shared about in spring. As you might remember, Owen works for our cleaning company in Tajikistan. Owen, a new believer wants to marry a girl who is also a believer but his parents, dishonored and hurt have refused and are planning to arrange a wedding with a local Muslim girl. Much like things were in Christ’s time, an individual’s reputation and honor was based on ones family’s reputation. Today in our society it is hard to grasp. But for Owen to become a believer and then desire to marry a non-Muslim, is deeply dishonoring to his family and relatives. The update is the wedding his parents are planning has been put on hold. Yes, God is at work even through things like covid-19. Owen is still struggling about what to do. You can tell he is hoping for a miracle. Please pray for him and his situation.

**Last but not least before I hand the writing off to Denise for a year-end family update, is our year-end financial appeal.** Some of our ministry supporters give monthly, yet most of our resources are given at the end of each year. You are truly partnering with us in this work and we hope you feel this partnership. We prayerfully hope you will join us in this kingdom work. As we prepare for 2022, would you prayerfully consider a year end gift to help us be financial ready for these opportunities ahead? A card and envelope are enclosed or you can simply give online by going to [navstaff.org/give/152272](http://navstaff.org/give/152272). THANK YOU!

*Merry Christmas and Happy 2022! In His Love, Doug & Denise!*

## FAMILY UPDATE FROM DENISE

First of all, I want to thank everyone who prayed over the last year for Doug's recovery. He is much improved, but still in the process of healing. We would really appreciate your continued prayers for the pain and for his continued healing. As seems to be normal for us, this has been an eventful year for our family:

**Raisa** graduated in June from Denver University with a Master's degree in Conflict Resolution. She would ultimately like to work with the State Department and as a result she decided to do an intensive Russian Language program this summer. **Josh**, decided to find a job that would allow him to work remotely. He found a great job programming for a company called Guild – they are flexible with their hours, and he even got a raise in the process!! At the end of summer, they moved to Alexandria, Virginia. Ria was offered a job working with a company that works with the State Department to bring foreign exchange students to the US to study for a year. She is now in Ukraine doing interviews with potential students. She and Josh get to spend Christmas in Ukraine! We are excited for them and are so proud of them!



**Nathan** just completed his second year in Oregon with the US Forest Service as part of a Trails Crew. He worked building, maintaining and clearing recreational and wilderness trails. I got to visit him in Oregon and he took me on one of the trails he helped clear – the trees they had to move off the trail were huge. I couldn't believe the size of them! Nathan will spend the winter in Bend, Oregon and hopes to get a job in Washington State for next summer. He met a very sweet girl while working for the Forest Service and they starting dated this summer. We look forward to getting to know her better!

**Nick** is currently working at Del Taco. He continues to struggle with life skills and his finances. He was recently evicted from his apartment but was able to find a place to live with a friend, for now. We pray for him often and are trusting in Lord for life changes for Nick.



**Katya** got a job bagging at a local grocery store earlier this year, but made a mistake that got her fired. In some ways this has been a blessing. She has helped us this fall with our business –



she unpacked shipments, priced items, and worked at the Holiday Gift Shows with Doug. All this has been great for her to focus on various life skills – communication, being on time, time management, focusing, dealing with customers, ringing up orders, making change, etc. At home we have been working on cooking - she made stuffed bell peppers, stuffed cabbage rolls, and she made and canned homemade apple sauce. She did great and I am so proud of her!! Also, she attends a Young Adults group and has found a church that she likes.

I have been leading a new High School Girls' Bible Study Group. This group has been exceptionally challenging – the girls range from 13 to 16 years of age, are all Third Culture Missionary Kids. These girls have moved to the US while in Middle School, during a Pandemic, after living most of their lives in a different culture. We are dealing with some serious social, emotional, spiritual and maturity issues. Your prayers for these wonderful and very sweet girls as well as Libby (my assistant leader) and myself are very much appreciated!

Thank you so much for your prayers for our family. We wish you all the best for Christmas!! *Love, Denise*