

Partnering with you to see the Great Commission fulfilled among unreached university students

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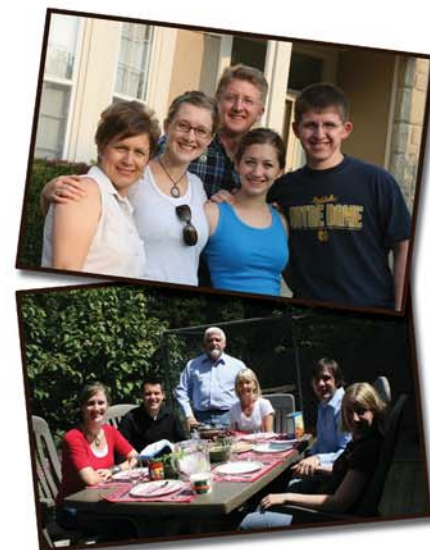
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Faith-Stretching

This summer was a quick six-week trip back to the America. It was great to be back as we traveled to six states all over the Midwest! Some of our goals for the summer were to see existing ministry partners, see friends and family, and continue to build our ministry partner team.

One of our other major goals this summer was to get our visas to return to Nalchik. Praise God with us—we received them!

This is especially great news since, toward the end of the past school year, our team began to see increased political closedness in our area. This has played out practically in things like increased scrutiny by local officials of our work, difficulty entering and exiting our area, and difficulty getting registered to live legally in our city.



please pray

In this letter, we've enclosed two prayer cards for you. On each card you'll find a name and face of one of our most involved students and a brief story of how we met them, where they are in their spiritual journey, and how you can pray for them. These are people that we see almost every day! Your prayers will be powerful in their lives!



In June, this political closedness came to a head when we learned that a man on our team was kicked out of the country as a result of our work. Then, two weeks before leaving to come back to Nalchik, we received some very sad news. We learned that our director and head of the ministry here in Nalchik was also denied entry to Russia. Our director and his wife are dear friends and extraordinary people who have lived in Russia for a long time, and whose burden and calling to the unreached has had them in the Caucasus for many years, so needless to say, this was hard for us to hear.

This news also saddens us because at this point, it means that JB and I will most likely leave the Caucasus earlier than we had planned. Because of our organization's commitment to team, clear leadership, and the development of its laborers, Russian campus leadership has decided to allow us to stay in Nalchik only until December.

In spite of our heavy hearts in leaving Nalchik, we do know a few things for certain. First, we know that God is sovereign, faithful and good, and not surprised by this event! He delights in the change, even though it's hard for us, because He sees the end that we can't see—the end that results in more glory and honor for Him!

Second, we know that God's timing is gracious and perfect. We are so thankful that, if the Caucasus is indeed closing, He led us and our team here when He did—this window of time to bring the Gospel to the thousands He wanted! Praise God for the many seeds that have been sown here!

Third, we know that people have come to know Jesus and are growing in Him!!! There is a movement of students who are walking with Christ and sharing their faith with others. Scripture and history show that often, huge movements toward Jesus are born out of small numbers, persecution, hardship and "unfavorable" circumstances.

Our Fall in Nalchik

What this new situation means practically for us this fall is a huge focus on turning leadership over to local students. We are planning a student leadership retreat in September to allow for intensive training of believers. We will continue to do evangelism, discipleship and teaching of the Word, with increased focus on incorporating local students into all that we do, as well as give them responsibility for many of these things! We will continue to disciple believers, and work to preserve the community that already exists among them. Pray that we can leave a model in place that allows believers to continue meeting together, as well as continue the ministry.

Pray for great wisdom for us this fall. Pray that we would be wise in how we spend our time. Pray that local believers would be full of faith as they take on more leadership and more responsibility. We've seen the Lord preparing new believers to lead—we're in awe of His power and His timing.



Training in the U.S.

In December, we will return to the U.S. to go through a six-week time of training with our organization. After this, we will be assigned to a campus team in the U.S. for a two-year period. During this time, we look forward to working under leadership that will train us for campus ministry long-term. We're excited to see how God uses this time to direct us to the role He'll have us play in reaching the unreached!

please pray

Please pray for wisdom, creativity and energy as we start the semester. We need to keep our focus on broad-sowing evangelism, while at the same time focusing on discipleship and training of student leaders. Please pray that the Lord would direct our outreaches this fall, and that many students would come to know the Lord, and get connected with believers.

Please pray for the student leadership retreat at the end of September. Pray that students would become committed to sharing their faith with their friends. Pray that the Spirit would make their hearts open and teachable as we train them in evangelism, discipleship, how to study the Bible, the practical Christian life, etc.

The campus ministry in Russia will continue to resource the believing students in Nalchik after we leave. Pray that this fall, connections would be made between staff and students that develop into long-term partnerships.



"But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:31-32

Thank you so much for your prayers for us! It's such a blessing to be doing ministry together with you—we hope you feel the weight of the impact you are making in the world!

jb and abbie