



Chicago // IL

My tears literally salted the cold block of rice and fish that lay on the metal tray in front of me. It was cold cafeteria food, full of small bones and nothing like I've ever eaten before - imagining that this would be what I would be living on for a year of my life, brought overwhelming fears and emotions. A few days later I met Heidi, a long-term staff woman, who calmed my fears and reassured me that this year God had much more than tears and a shrinking stomach in store for me. Indeed, that year in East Asia ended up being full of amazing food that would expand my palate, opening my mind to diverse cultures and opportunities to see people respond to Jesus' calling, and filling my heart with friendships, memories and holistic growth that would last a life-time.



Naomi, Rohan & Tosh with the Grandparents

This was Tricia's and my prayer for 4 women and 7 men trusting God for their own lives as each of them prepared to serve in areas of East Asia, Central Asia and the Turkic Region. While Naomi, Tosh & Rohan spent some quality time with the grandparents, we had the pleasure and opportunity to coach these recent graduates over the course of a week in Chicago. Some of the areas we coached them through were conflict resolution, crossing cultures (on their team as well as in their host country), and how to care for themselves and rest well in God's provision in the midst of ministry.

Please pray alongside us for Jun, Joel & Zach, who are in \*JN, East Asia; Patrick, Veronica, Patty & Matt, who are in \*Whitestone, in the Turkic Region; and Ryan, Megan, Joey, Bekah & Matthew, who are in \*Firelands, Central Asia. Pray that they would lean daily on the Lord and His provision for their days, weeks & months of this year, trusting Him with their tears, fears, friendships & laughter.



JN, serving in East Asia



Whitestone, serving in the Turkic



Commissioning our new Interns



Firelands, serving in Central Asia

+ Central Asia



\*Bek & Liz serving in Central Asia

Another unexpected and sweet moment in Chicago, was a reunion of sorts for Tricia and \*Liz, a Central Asian National staff. Tricia met Liz 17 years ago in Central Asia, when both were newly graduated from college. Tricia was interning for a year and Liz had just joined staff with Cru. It was such a neat moment to watch the two of them slowly approach one another, not knowing if they would recognize or remember each other. Of course they did, and were able reminisce, laugh and catch up on the past nearly 2 decades of ministry, marriages and births of children - 3 kids each! **Would you join with us in praying for both Liz's and our family, as we each minister to and lead the staff entrusted to us, leaning on the Lord for wisdom, direction and discernment for the next 2 decades of ministry.**

Much love, NICH & Tricia