



Love & Humility in Central Asia: (pictures edited to protect the safety of these treasured ones)

As we wrapped up our time in Central Asia, one of the missionaries there encouraged me (Jayne) to think about a word that characterized my experience. **LOVE & HUMILITY** are the words that come to mind most. Learning from the deep love and incredible humility of the people who live and serve there long term is life-changing. Their faith & dependence on the Lord is compelling and makes me ache for more of what they have with Jesus. The ways these faith-filled and faithful brothers and sisters live by abiding in the Lord is such an incredible example to me and many others. Its the basis of their ministry in that part of the world...

They live out **Philippians 4...** ***"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable- if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy- dwell on these things. Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you..."***



They do life deeply & intentionally, building trust and seeking ways to point people to Jesus with their lives, even though most people in this country are far from knowing or trusting in Him. In this country, Jesus' name is opposed and rejected and the cost of following Him is high. If you imagine the journey of faith to be a continuum, the people we get to partner with live in a way that trusts the Holy Spirit to work in people's hearts and move them from unbelief, to faith, to growing. So much of ministry there is tilling soil, planting seeds, and trusting God to move people from -10 closer and closer to a point of trust in Jesus' love and forgiveness. Once that happens, their growth is often exponential, because of the intense journey it is to come to a point of faith!

(actively opposed to God) _____ (curious) _____ **Trust in Jesus** _____ (growing)
-10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9 +10



A special opportunity we had while there, was being part of a retreat gathering of 45 women from rural surrounding villages. In this culture, especially in the villages, women are NOT treasured, loved, or respected. They are treated terribly and intensely dishonored. We had the privilege to share with them (through a translator) about the story of creation and how God treasures His creation, calling us as His image bearers, His beloved. This is a completely different view of God than they have ever heard! Its so completely counter cultural for them, that it can be difficult for them to receive and accept, because most of their lives are filled with people degrading/ dehumanizing/ disrespecting them. We explored how a terrible lie entered the creation story, that has caused women since the beginning to doubt & question if they can trust God. In discussion groups they talked about what lies are most prevalent in their lives. We shared about how God has been fighting the lie and offering Truth to us since those weeds began to grow. We talked about the choice we have to trust the Truth or the lie. In discussion groups we asked the question "How would your life be different if you trusted the Truth, instead of the lies?" We pray that God would reveal Himself to them as the Way, the **TRUTH**, and the Life. As a tangible expression of God's care and delight in them, we had the opportunity to serve and pamper them a bit. We spent time together, massaging their feet and backs in an effort to bless and treasure them and lift their burdens the way He does.



"Come unto me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28"

We got to offer them moments of delight, peace, and refreshment, which is not something they often experience in their lives. We pray that this time would cause them to consider Jesus and His deep love for them. We pray they will have more conversations with the AIA staff who are there long-term and ask questions that move them to a point of trust in His love and forgiveness.

THANK YOU for empowering and equipping me to go and serve, but also grow through this mission!

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THANK YOU for partnering with us as we trust God to see Christ followers on **every** team, in **every** sport, and in **every** nation!

Kyle, Jayne,
 AJ, Leisel, George & Simon