

DAVID, RACHEL, JULIA, TIMOTHY,
DANIEL & ESTHER BAKER



**SERVING THE LORD
WITH THE LCMS IN CENTRAL ASIA**

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ★ Praise the Lord for a safe return to Mongolia—just in time for Advent! May the Lord continue to direct us as we readjust to life and ministry in Mongolia.
- ★ Praise the Lord for leaders like Pastor Azamat, Hamit and Adam who carried on the ministry in our five month absence.
- ★ Pray that Advent would be a special time of renewal for the young Kazakh church in Mongolia, and that the Lord would prepare the hearts of believers for His return, even as we would come together to prepare for celebrating Christmas as a church.
- ★ Pray that the Lord would shine His light in and through the church to all the Kazakhs still living in darkness!

THE BAKER BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2021



An Advent Journey

We arrived to Mongolia on Sunday, November 28th, the first day in Advent. We indeed began the season with an “Advent journey” of over 9000 miles—from Wisconsin to Chicago to Istanbul, Turkey to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. We thank you all for your prayers for our



return. We are grateful that our journey to Mongolia was fairly uneventful—undoubtedly more comfortable than Mary and Joseph’s trek to Bethlehem 2000 years ago. Interestingly, the only snag on the trip was the late arrive of half of our baggage—one of the few details of our trip that we did not ask our friends and supporters to pray for! We are thankful that our bags did finally arrive, and we press on to the work to which the Lord has called us.

On our first day back in Mongolia we already had seven guests over to our house! A few friends were actually at our house to meet us when we arrived, a couple more came in the evening, and still more the morning after we arrived. Our local church met online just a few hours after we arrived. Though David was not planning on leading worship, Hamit (our seminarian) had to unexpectedly take his mother into the hospital. The Lord helped David overcome jet lag well enough to lead worship and preach. Since then we have been connecting with other church members by phone or messenger and look forward to a house-church meeting this Sunday.

We are currently waiting in the capital city for the completion of our new residency cards before we can carry on with the next part of our journey. Then David will travel 1000 miles further—to Hovd, Western Mongolia to find an apartment for our family. We hope that it will be a wonderful time reconnecting with local Christians, some of whom we have not seen since before the pandemic began.



Again, pondering Jesus’ arrival to earth as a Baby helps to keep things in perspective in the face of moving and transition. We certainly have better accommodations than our Lord Jesus did, and have never had to stay with the family in a barn!

In the midst of our settling in and our impending move out to Western Mongolia, we are also starting to plan for Christmas with the young Kazakh church across Mongolia. We pray that as we work with our brothers and sisters to prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth, that the Lord would continue to work in the hearts of all believers here in Mongolia. And we pray that all whom we serve in Mongolia will be blessed by our ministry and that the Lord would use us so that the KZ people would be prepared for the return of Christ our King!

JULIA'S JOURNAL

(18 years old)



As a missionary kid in Mongolia, Julia has been privileged to be on the distribution side of Operation Christmas Child. She has observed children joyfully receiving their gifts and has heard the

Gospel shared with each family. She has also seen some of these children start coming to Sunday school, even though their families are Muslim. This year, she enjoyed participating in the packing of these boxes in Nebraska, as part of Concordia's Mission Minded Student Group.

TIMOTHY'S TURN

(17 years old)



Timothy's birthday celebration stretched out over a whole week! We visited friends in Minnesota, went to the Lego Store in the Mall of America, did some hiking in two state parks, and hosted

friends from Iowa and Kyrgyzstan in Wisconsin. The extended celebration was appropriate as he celebrated his golden birthday this year, turning 17 on the 17th of November!

DANIEL'S DOINGS

(14 years old)



We gave Daniel a gift certificate to a trampoline and high ropes park for his birthday in October, but we didn't have a chance to go until the week of our departure. That made it extra special, because Julia was back for Thanksgiving break and she got to join us for the celebration. A great time was had by all—with the added bonus of no injuries!

ESTHER'S ESCAPADES

(11 years old)



Due to our visa issues, we were able to reconnect with Julia two more times before heading back to Mongolia. What a blessing, especially for Esther, who really feels the absence

of her big sister in our household. Esther planned extensively for those reunions, preparing activities and making gifts. One of the latter, a book she wrote for Julia, includes the line, "I love you, I love you, I love you, sweet sis! When again I shall see you, I'll give you a kiss." And, because she was able to give it to Julia in person, she got her kiss!

CONTACT INFO: Mongolia Cell: +976-9414-0443, Email: bakerd@swissmail.org

Mailing Address: David Baker, Post Office 48A, Post Box 87, 13373 Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA

To financially support the ministry of the Baker family, call 1-712-882-1029, or email Gary.Thies@lcms.org

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