



# Persecuted Church: Krgyzstan

Times of crisis bring times of opportunity. This is a reality that I have seen in my nearly two decades of involvement in international missions. Although the tragic events of the past week have brought much instability to the people of Krgyzstan, as well as much worry to the nations surrounding Krgyzstan, it has been amazing to see the opportunities which are opening up before us.

On Tuesday we had the opportunity to join together with believers from other churches and help clean up the city. As citizens, businesses, and government offices in Bishkek are attempting to replace glass, restore goods, and rebuild trust, believers are seeking to show the love of Christ through practical ways.

I have had several conversations with people on the street who are

both hopeful and yet afraid. Will the next government be the same as the previous ones? Among believers I see more hope and healing now than I have ever seen. Among unbelievers I see, as before the uprising, despondency and distrust.

Yesterday Arafat, my neighbor, was quoting the Koran to me and saying that the only thing that can deal with the nature of people (their greed and deceit) is dirt – meaning the grave. I said that I had a different belief from the Bible which says that we should not look to death but to God to transform the hearts and lives of people. I also spoke of how the Bible talked about the last days, the earthquakes which are happening with such great frequency. I spoke with him about how the Koran says that Jesus is going to come back and judge this world and asked him what the Koran says about the events leading up to the last days. He said very little is written in the Koran about that, but it does say that women will go around unveiled in the last days.

Last night I had the opportunity to talk for three hours with an offi-

cial in the new government. He is an advisor to one of the three main opposition leaders. It was amazing to hear of his hope for his nation as we talked about the problems of security, corruption, the rule of law, and society as a whole. There exist possibilities now which, up until this time, have never existed before. Will it be a short romance with idealism or will things stabilize enough in this country for these ideas to become a reality?

I guess President Medvedev in Russia keeps focusing on the present instability which exists in Krgyzstan and warning of the possibility of civil war. Perhaps certain international players would benefit from a civil war here (since then Russia would have a reason to come in and put in their own puppet government), however we pray that the Lord would quickly resolve the existing conflict, give the current leadership wisdom and the decisiveness to lead, and give us boldness to use this crisis as an opportunity to share the love of Christ with many. Now is a time to continue in serious prayer for this nation.



## *You Probably Think This Song Is About You*

---

I eagerly awoke to a shining sun and obnoxious birds pouring out their thankful souls for all the privileges they receive (no one else is provided with free food and pool access). I was bright eyed and bushy tailed and ready for the day; it looked to be a busy and productive one. Some treat mornings like polar bears treat March, a couple slow sluggish movements, rising is considered but then the snooze regains control for another month or so. I am no polar bear, morning means movement and action, no time to waste. I spent most of the morning on the run, back and forth between tasks, unable to sit still. Lunch was a quick bite in between appointments; I was in rush mode and so found it difficult to even stop to eat.

I still don't remember why I went up on the roof that afternoon. It is difficult for me to think back and reconstruct exactly what I was thinking; but it was certainly a great day to sit on a roof. The view of the neighborhood was fantastic and I enjoyed sitting on the ridge looking out over my world. I began to examine the edge of the roof and at one corner discovered the soffit was not completely nailed down. The corner gapped open like the open mouth of a cave and

curiosity got the best of me. Gripping the edge of the gutter I lowered my body over the edge and pulled myself up into the space above the soffit under the overhang of the roof. The space was dark and dirty; apparently a bird had built a nest there last year and it reeked of starling. I realized that the roof above and the soffit below provided me with a tunnel running the length of the house. I was excited and began running up and down my new race track. My discovery was apparently even more exciting for the women who lived in the house; who began to make shrill, high pitched sounds of terror; begging someone to come home now. I was a bit bothered by the wailing from the rooms below but was growing more and more fond of my new hideout. It was warm, dry and very comfortable and I wondered if there was any reason for me to ever leave. It was then I noticed that the opening that I had entered by looked much smaller from the inside than it had looked from the edge of the roof. I went over to the hole and tried to climb out; but somehow it had shrunk and my body was simply too big to push through. I admit that this frightened me a bit. I have never been very claustrophobic; but being stuck in that dark space which was getting smaller and smaller; made me long for the outside. I continued to push and

strain at the soffit trying to get it open enough to squeeze out. I looked out of the too small opening and saw a man in brown pants with what looked like a bird's nest on his head, standing below me and looking very angry. I did not know why the brown-panted-bird-nested-guy was so upset; maybe he had heard the shrieks from the house and had come to make them stop. I stopped trying to escape; his furious frown made me nervous. I sat back from the hole a few feet and wondered what I was going to do. Suddenly my contemplation was shattered by a loud thump followed by more thumps and scratches at the hole. I scooted back, wondering what this horrible sound could mean; but somehow knowing that the high pitched sounds in the house and the frowning-nested-brown-panted-man had something to do with it. The hole suddenly grew larger and a long branch was shoved into the hole and began to flail around the opening. I sat and watched and wondered what the purpose was for this poking and stabbing; perhaps the frowning-bird-nested-brown-panted-stabber had finally decided to clean out the mess the birds had left the year before; which was, in my opinion, a good idea; all though a bit overdue. He accomplished very little but seemed content after a few minutes and left the stick in the

## Pastor Isaac...continued

---

hole and silence reigned again. I cautiously moved forward, wondering if perhaps I could fit out of the hole now. But then a new sound blasted into the silence; a loud banging; as if someone had taken another stick and was banging on the soffit back behind me at the other end of the house. The banging moved steadily towards me but stopped a few feet short of where I sat. I had no idea what these people were trying to accomplish; all of their strange behavior seemed silly and pointless to me. Living above such loud and obviously unstable people was beginning to appear less and less attractive. It was quiet again and I decided to try to get out before the banging-stabbing-frowning-brown-panted-bird-nested-man did something even more ridiculous. I edged toward the hole and peered out. The branch led from the hole down to the top of a step ladder standing eight feet, or so, below the roof. I wondered why the incompetent fellow had left the branch shoved into the roof; making an almost perfect bridge from the hole to the ground. I ignored the branch; not wanting to encourage or support such ineptitude and quickly climbed out the widened hole and back up onto the gutter. Free at last! I ran quickly up to the top of the roof and sat for a minute looking out over my kingdom, the wind

blew my hair and I flicked my tail a couple of times, pleased with myself for getting out of such a difficult situation with such poise and grace. I noticed a suspicious looking bird's nest peaking out from behind a tree in the yard and I did not doubt that it was attached to brown pants and some wild tendencies. I quickly climbed down the nearby tree and ran past the bird pool towards the street. The banging-stabbing-frowning-and-clearly-unstable-brown-panted-bird-nested-man ran up from the back waving a stick and shouting at me. I shrugged and sauntered off under a car and into someone else's yard. Who wants to hang around with a crazy guy like that anyway?

At what point did you realize that the main character was not who you thought? Let me rephrase have you realized yet that the story is not about you? No one is an atheist, even the humanist thinks he is God and so worships, someone. My concern is that many who claim to worship God still think that they are the hero; that the story is about them. Many read the Bible (God's revelation of himself) and seem to think that it is written about them. We ask questions like; what does this say to me today? If we cannot answer that question then we assume that the Bible has failed it's primary mission. The Bible does apply to our lives but the

main point of the Bible, the protagonist and hero, is God, and what it says about him is what is primary. Christians need to stop reading the Bible like humanists and instead begin reading it like believers; people who worship God and believe that His glory, not ours, is of foremost importance. We do the same thing with church; convinced that the body of Christ was created for us; instead of created to serve and honor the Head. We come to get. We evaluate churches based on what we will receive instead of what we can give. We still assume that we are the hero that the church revolves around us; that it has been created to meet our needs. We rarely consider that we have been put into the body to build up others, for the common good, to sharpen those around us. Instead we assume that the point is our own glory and satisfaction. We cannot all be the hero; there can only be one protagonist; and we believe that is God, right? So then how does your role support the lead? Are you seeking to grab the spotlight? Do you think *you* are the subject? Do you view the Bible as *your* roadmap for life? Do you evaluate the church based on how it makes *you* feel? *All things were created by him and for him*; even squirrely, self-serving people like me. What would change if I believed that?

Well, my blog experiment is going strong—meaning that it still exists, has been updated, and I haven't thrown in the towel yet. For those who are still a little wary or shy about blogs, I want to briefly let you know how to access it and what you might expect when you get there. First, in order to access the blog, all you have to do is type: [www.seeingeverythingbyhim.wordpress.com](http://www.seeingeverythingbyhim.wordpress.com) : as the URL (top space on your internet) and hit enter. Once at the site, you will see the title at the top, followed by a few different words you can click on. The "HOME" link will always take you to the front page of the blog, the "ABOUT" link will take you to a brief bio and description of the blog, and the "RESOURCES" link will take you to different links/articles/handouts from classes I teach at FBC. If you scroll down the front page, you

will see all of the recent posts, which you can click on to read more. Finally, feel free to comment by clicking on the "Leave a Comment" link at the end of the posts. (Note: If you know someone who is in college or younger, they will be able to show you how to do all of this and more, without even having to think about it. A "Blog" is their newspaper.)

Do you have any questions, issues, or thoughts about Christianity that you have always wondered about or that have recently encroached on your mind? I would love to deal with such topics every Thursday with a post on my blog. For this to work, I need for as many people to participate as possible. So if you have a question/topic/issue that you want to see dealt with on Thursday, please: (1) comment on the blog, (2) email me or the church, or (3) drop a note in my

box. Now, I want to be as clear as possible here, by posting on these issues I am not attempting to claim any sort of "Bible Answer Man" or "Genius of All Things Christian," or "I Know More Than You" titles. If you know me, I am by all accounts a nerd—a massive book and a cup of coffee make me a little giddy...I watch three hour lectures online for fun...and I'd like to follow every movie viewing with a long discussion on its truth claims, underlying philosophy and worldview—so I enjoy digging deeper into these sorts of discussions and will not be attempting to give the definitive "answer" to every question or topic.

If there are any other ways that you think this blog might be more helpful or useful, please let me know!

---

## "Being a Proverbs Woman in 2010"

---

Ladies of FBC, there are many upcoming events planned just for you. It is our hope that you will take advantage of the opportunities to fellowship together. A registration table has been set up in the Narthex. Someone will be there after each service to answer any questions you might have as well as take your registration.

This is the last week to register

for May 7-8.

### OVERNIGHT RETREAT

at Camp Rotary with Linda Harris titled "Blue Jean Faith". If you need long-lasting strength and duration, denim is your logical choice. That is certainly what we want in our faith. "A faith that lasts and is practical in our world today." We want to know how our faith works in our every—day life, a faith that works right here and

now. Cost \$10

Bus is leaving the church at 5:15pm Friday and will return no later than 3 pm on Saturday.

### BEEF & BOARDS

"Church Basement Ladies" is August 19th the cost is \$43 - we have 40 seats reserved. Reservations must be made and paid for by Sunday, July 10th.

# Women . . . Destined for God's Purpose

## ABW 74th Annual Summer Conference - June 4 - 6, 2010

Workshops: Do You Need A Life Coach?, Dance with Yvonne Rench, Echoes of Silence, God's Purpose For You Involves Living An Abundant Life!, Nicaragua: A Mission Trip with Janice Mott  
State Project: Missionaries Dwight & Barbara Bolick of Chile need a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

**Registration Form** - please print (all housing will be in Elsey Hall)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Association \_\_\_\_\_ Room Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap/Dietary/Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check which registration you want:**  This will be my 1st Summer Conference

Full Time - 2 nights; 5 meals - \$85.00

Full Time First-timer - 2 nights; 5 meals - \$42.50 (full price after May 15)

Part Time - 1 night; 1 breakfast; 1 lunch; 1 dinner - \$50.00 -  Friday or  Saturday night

Check which 3 meals:  Friday dinner  Saturday breakfast  
 Saturday lunch  Saturday dinner  Sunday breakfast

One Day Only - no meals included - \$20.00 - Extra meals may be ordered in advance

Friday or  Saturday dinner \$11.00;  Saturday lunch \$8.50  
 Saturday or  Sunday Breakfast \$6.50

\$5.00 Late fee if postmarked after May 15th, no refunds, may be transferred. Please return the registration portion of this form with your check made payable to "AB Women's Ministries of Indiana" mail to Conference Registrar: Cindy Border, 1400 Washington St, Rochester, IN 46975

### American Baptist Girls Gathering

The Board of CE will pay half of the registration for AB girls gathering. Total cost is \$75; your cost will be \$35.50. This is a wonderful, Spirit filled weekend for girls 6th through 12th grade. Girls will be on the campus of Franklin College at the same time as the women with separate housing.

Please complete your registration and turn into the office or give to Marge Hughes with your check no later than May 1st.

### **AB GIRLS Gathering 2010 Registration**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Association \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate Preference \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: (adult or youth) S M L XL XXL T-shirts are an additional \$10 include with payment.

### Hands & Hearts

May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.  
All ladies are welcome. Our project for May is putting together a dozen "Recipe in a Jar" to sell at the bazaar at the ABW Summer Conference in June. The proceeds go to the Edna Martin Center.



### Passion Groups Monday, May 17

10:00 am  
Marge Hughes at  
Terri Duncan's  
105 Woodlawn Dr

7:00 pm  
Patti Kinslow at  
Jerri Conner's  
609 Penn Dr

7:00 pm  
Nancy Kline  
in her home at  
2459 W Del Mar

# GLCCM Activities

---

## Toddler room

### Ms Janee & Ms Jessica

The new words we are studying are: spider, lady bug, bee and butterfly. Special themes are: Fun with Bugs & Mother's Day. The color for the month is blue. For Bible time we are reviewing the school year.

### Twos—Ms Jennifer

We have finished working on our ABC's and have started with numbers and colors. Our Bible lessons and stories this month are from Acts. We will be spending time outside and some of our crafts will deal with all of God's precious gifts: the buds on the trees, the spring flowers in bloom & all of the new baby animals coming into the world.

### Twos—Ms Melissa

This month Ms Melissa's class is going to learn about spring and how things grow. We are going to learn about Same & Different. Our crafts will include sponge painting and drawing with chalk.

### Threes—Ms Daysha

The 3 year olds are working on learning to write and recognize Y & Z and color things that start with Y & Z. We are still working on counting, colors, days of the week, weather, seasons and shapes. The children are very excited about the warm weather and being able to play outside again!

### Fours—Ms Donna

We are rounding out another great school year. The children are looking forward to the sum-

mer fun. Especially the field trips Ms Julie is hard at work preparing. To finish out the school year we will work on writing and addition. The children are doing great on their sight words. Bible time will consist of different stories.

### Fives—Ms Lisa

This month we will continue to learn about spring. Living and nonliving things. How God changes the earth with Seasons. We started writing and sounding out small words and now have written sentences. The children love to use BIG KID paper.

Bible time has been "Jesus & Me" virtues to grow on.

They are very excited about Graduation. We are working hard on the songs they will sing.

## Note From Julie

---

We have been very busy at the daycare. Some of the children went to the Lane House and had an Easter egg hunt with the residents. They love to have the children come and visit with them.

In May we are planning our annual graduation. It is May 20th at 6. Please come and support the children, they work very hard to prepare songs to sing. We will have a reception following the graduation.

BIG THANK YOU TO:

**Ralph Anderson:** Ralph is com-

ing the first Wednesday of every month with donuts and coffee for the parents. It is a great opportunity for the parents to hear about the church in such a loving way.

**Tina Martin:** did the first bag of snacks for March. Each family in the infant room received a bag of snacks to take home and share

with their family. The bag also included an invitation to come and worship and the worship times.

**Board of CE:** provided each staff member with flowers and chamber bucks. What a great surprise! All the staff were so appreciative to be remembered.

Please continue to bring Clorox spray and wipes. Sunscreen spray is needed for summer weather.

Continuing to service,  
Julie and the Guiding Light Staff



## Thank You from the Congregation

---

The family of Mark Mefford would like to thank our church family for the love and support my brother, Mark Mefford, received during his long struggle with cancer. He especially treasured the prayer quilt.  
Susie & Bill Locker

Dear First Baptist Friends,  
Thank you for the 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration. Our hearts were greatly warmed.  
Walter & Bonnie Terry



**Thanks So Much!**

Thank you for the baked goods. They were very good and went fast.  
Cody VanScoyoc

I would like to thank my church family, for the condolences, cards and flowers in honor of my sister Betty Sewell's death.  
In Christ's Love,  
Juanita McCauley

First Baptist Family,  
Jed and Renee Gourley send their love and thanks to the congregation for ongoing support that allows them to reach out to so many people in Kyrgyzstan. Assisting the wounded in the recent uprising, they were able to purchase food, clothing, and medical supplies and medication needed for those hospitalized. This outreach from their church members gave opportunity to share the love of Christ to many. People are so

impressed with the changed lives of those who are Christians, that Jed was asked to suggest names of Christians who might run for leadership in political offices. Most people are so disillusioned with politics that they don't want to be involved in it, but they know they need trustworthy people.

They look forward to working on the children's classrooms, and are grateful for the support generated by the children's cinnamon roll project. They realize what an undertaking that was and are appreciative for Cindy Zull's efforts in making all the dough and organizing the project. Cindy was guided by the Holy Spirit, as Jed was praying about the need and didn't say anything until after the offering was begun by the Children's Church group. So they do praise the Lord for the prayers and the tangible support as well.

---

### 90th Birthday Celebration

The family of Betty Cooper invite you to help celebrate her 90th birthday on May 15 from 2-4 in the Fellowship Hall.

The family requests no gifts please, but cards would be appreciated.



VBS Week June 21-25

## MAY CALENDAR

- 2 Man Night 6:00**
- 3 Financial Peace 6:00**
- 4 Voting 6 to 6**  
**Hands & Hearts 5:30**
- 7 Women's Overnight/Camp Rotary**
- 9 Mother's Day**
- 11 Board of CE 6:30**  
**Missions 6:30**
- 15 Book Club 9**
- 16 Cabinet Meeting 6:00**
- 20 Keenager Lunch**  
**GLCCM Graduation 6:00**
- 21 Wedding Rehearsal 6:00**
- 22 Carrington/Keller Wedding 4:30**
- 23 Trustee Meeting 6:30**
- 24 Assemble Newsletters 9**
- 25 GLCCM Meeting 5:45**
- 31 Memorial Day - Office/GLCCM Closed**

### Prayer Concerns:

- Judah Billings**— infant,  
recovering heart surgery
- Jimmy Northcutt**—infant,  
waiting heart transplant
- Tina Hall**—5 months along,  
hemorrhaging
- Barb Craig**—broken pelvic
- Candy Morrison**—surgery
- Clark Cox**—bleeding ulcer
- Marge Hughes**—  
recovering from surgery
- Art Rice**—recovering from  
surgery
- Cecille Cormier**—severe  
heart condition
- Andrew Gillespie**—  
recovering from surgery
- Don Nevitt**—test results
- Glenna Nevitt**—Medicine  
Adjustment
- Rebecca Wellhausen**—

- medicine adjustment
- Karla Jackson**—no signs  
of cancer in bone marrow
- Tammy Scott**—loss of  
hearing
- Howard Holt**—accurate  
diagnose of health issues
- Vivian Spencer**—lung  
Cancer
- Extended prayer needed:**  
**Gourley's in Kyrgyzstan**  
**Barnes in Mexicali**  
**Marcus Hutson**—deployed  
To Afghanistan

### Our deepest sympathy to the families of:

- Betty Sewell
- Jerri Colvin

## May Birthdays

- |                     |                        |                   |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Mark Fulwider     | 11 Kelly Thompson      | Robert Sosbe      |
| Vern Taylor         | 12 Chris Gable         | Virginia Todd     |
| Jean Frederick      | Carrie Pool            | 23 Tom Prince     |
| Malcolm Mitchell    | 14 Becky Barclay       | Joan Collier      |
| David Lucas         | 15 Joshua Enlow        | 24 Rita Zahn      |
| Andrea Brown        | Cameron Enlow          | Calli Patton      |
| 2 Kyle Fry          | 16 Schuyler Haines     | 26 Ed Brown       |
| Catie Cox           | Barbara Rusk           | Bob Zahn          |
| 3 Lauren Furr       | 17 Shane Hutchison     | 27 Bud Allen      |
| 4 Eugene Tague      | 18 Betty Cooper - 90th | Thomas Edwards    |
| 5 George Allen      | Mary Ann Salter        | 28 Ruby Sterrett  |
| Mike Deck           | Margaret Plank         | 29 Linda Kunold   |
| Zach Akers          | Dustin Zahn            | JoAnn Taylor      |
| Eric Cruz           | 19 Drake Clore         | 30 Walter Terry   |
| 6 Louanna Remley    | 20 Jim White           | Ann Baker         |
| 9 Gabriel Zull      | Jennifer Day           | Jeremiah Thompson |
| 10 Rosalie Mikesell | Joel Hobson            | Garren Holt       |
| 11 David Kincaid    | 21 Tim Veatch          | Mireil Zull       |
| Terry Wear          | McKenzie Case          | 31 Robert Cook    |
| Tracy Clore         | WesLee Harrison        | Mary Meese - 80th |
| Justin Lourash      | 22 Maxine Booker       | Arlene VanScoyoc  |
| Kavla Clore         |                        |                   |

## Anniversaries

- 2 Mike & Julie Myers
- 5 John & Karen Gerold
- 8 David & Sandra Booker
- 12 Jeff & Trish Overpeck
- Dion & Lisa Gobel
- 13 Arthur & Martha Lewellen - 65th
- 18 Steve & Dawn Hoffman
- 21 Brian & Jennie Veach
- 26 Brian & Rhonda Smith