

Upcoming Events

- Today's Nursery Attendants: Karen W. & Izzy
 - Children ages 0-5 years
 - Parents/Guardians - Nursery attendant will escort you.
- Next Week – FAMILY RETREAT @ KESWICK Whiting NJ
 - Monday Dinner – Friday Breakfast
 - Baptism in the Lake – Tuesday 4pm
- LA CASCATA “BACK TO SCHOOL BASH”
 - All Donated Supplies Due: 8/21
 - Event Date: Sunday, August 25th @ 1pm
- 10% of ALL our Giving goes to Global Missions
Designated Offerings can be made to - Local Outreaches, Changemakers, Etc.
- Get CONNECTED with God, His Church & His People via our CONNECT Card
- Wednesday nights: “Praying in the Spirit” - Bible Study & Prayer Time
 - Recommended Reading:
 1. “Losing Our Religion” by Russell Moore
 2. “The Kingdom, The Power, & The Glory” by Tim Alberta

— MISSIONARIES —



Zambia

• Phiri family

Persecuted Christian

- KAZAKHSTAN -

GOVERNMENT CLOSES CHURCH – FINES PASTOR

- Pastor Zanzhar has led a Kazakh church for more than 20 years, but the government “de-registered” it 9 years ago. When a church is de-registered, front-line workers report that it is impossible for that church to re-register, which forces congregations to either disband or operate in secret. Pastor Zanzhar’s church kept meeting even after being de-registered, but police raided one of their services last year & fined him. He appealed but lost & had to pay a large fee. “What has happened will not prevent me from continuing my ministry as a pastor,” he said. While he remains bold in faith, he is concerned that government pressure might impact his adult children.
 - Formerly under Communist rule as a republic of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan is one of Central Asia’s wealthiest nations because of its vast mineral resources. Islam has experienced a resurgence since the fall of the Soviet Union, & many have returned to what they consider their Muslim heritage, which was restricted for decades by atheistic communism. Today, Kazakhstan emulates its European neighbors, undertaking massive construction projects, enjoying a growing economy & adopting the Latin alphabet used by Western nations.
 - 52% of Kazakhs are Sunni Muslims. The next-largest group includes atheists or non-religious, a legacy of atheistic Communist rule. 15% are Christians.
 - Christians are persecuted by and disowned by their families & communities. Churches & Christians outside the Russian Orthodox faith are restricted & harassed by the government. Christians are publicly shamed & even beaten.
 - All religious activities must be registered with the government, & believers are commonly fined for distributing unauthorized religious texts, discussing faith or holding worship meetings. The government allows more freedom to Russian Orthodox Christians, who make up nearly 15% of the population, but they are suspicious of Christians outside the Orthodox churches who worship in the native Kazakh language. Unregistered churches must meet in private homes. These gatherings are frequently raided & believers fined.
 - Bibles are available, but distribution is restricted & they are difficult to obtain outside large cities.
- PLEASE PRAY:
- For Pastor Zhetis & his family, who are continually threatened by local authorities.
 - For Christian events that train & encourage Kazakh believers.
 - That believers will find ways to spread the gospel despite increasing religious restrictions.
 - For the encouragement of believers who face continual pressure from their hostile government & communities.
 - For President Kasym-Zhomart Tokayev & the government.
 - For the growth of house churches in smaller cities & villages.

PERSONALLY -
CORPORATELY -
RELATIONALLY -
with God
in Worship
in Small Groups