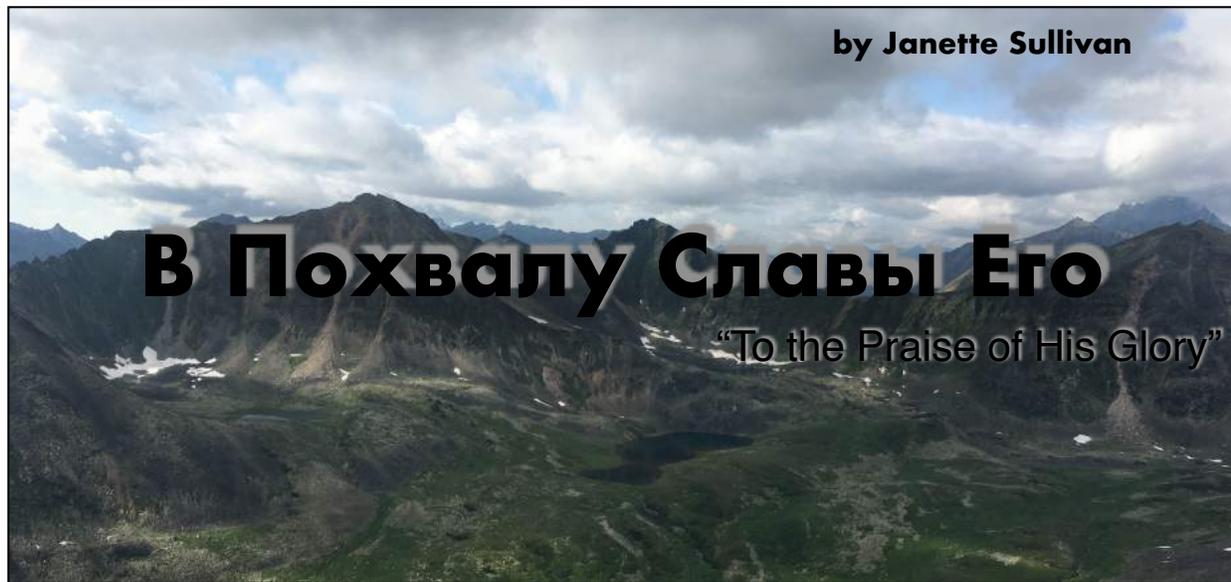




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В Похвалу Славы Его

“To the Praise of His Glory”

Salty Tea, Camels, and Pagodas October 2021

What do salty tea, camels & pagodas have in common? These are all things you find in Kalmykia!

SEND International has gone through a lot of changes in the past couple years. One of those changes for SEND Russia includes efforts to expand our ministry to other regions of Russia where other unreached people groups live. After doing some research and study, we learned of another people group, the Kalmyks, who are Tibetan Buddhist by religion, and similar to the Buryats in culture, appearance, and language. Kalmykia is home to the largest Buddhist temple in all of Europe. Our leadership decided to take trips there and connect with the local church. After taking several vision trips and making connections with local believers, a team went to Kalmykia in September for 9 days to help the local church do outreach. Our team consisted of Leif, Jami and their 3 kids, myself, a SEND teammate from another region of Russia with 2 of his kids, and 2 Buryat believers, Bo and Nat. Kalmykia is located about 3,500 miles away from Buryatia, but there are many similarities between the cultures. The local church there is

wanting to do more outreach in the community and desire to build relationships with people outside the church, so we planned to help them do outreach using english and sports. When we arrived, the people from the church welcomed us so warmly, taking such good care of us, providing housing and transportation for us, and making sure we were well-fed (we drank lots of tea with milk, salt & butter). Even though things didn't always go as we planned or expected, God opened doors for us to build new relationships with people in the church, as well as with people outside the church. We ended up leading 2 English clubs, which both had a tremendous turnout! We expected to lead the English club as a one-time event, in order to show the church members how they could lead a club on their own. There were so many people, we decided to do a second one. Several unbelievers came and we hope it was a good jump-start for the local church to continue connecting with people through English ministry. We also planned to do sports ministry, but that didn't turn out as we had hoped. However, we were able to play games and connect with young students at a local school, as well as accompany a Kalmyk believer as he shared the Gospel with 2 university students.

One cool story is our teammate Nat hoped to go to some of the surrounding villages to talk with some of the local people there. She used to live in a village in Mongolia for many years and knows the Mongolian language very well. A local pastor took Nat and Bo with him to a village about an hour drive away, and it turns out they were able to meet a family from Mongolia. This family moved to Kalmykia several years ago to raise camels. The children have studied in Russian schools and can speak Russian, but the mother still doesn't know the Russian language. Nat was able to communicate with them in Mongolian, and learned that about a

year ago, the father/husband (in his 40's) died suddenly from falling on his head while playing with his kids on the playground. The oldest son now has to take responsibility for his family and it's a difficult situation for them as Mongolians living in a foreign land. Our entire team visited them a second time after we visited a house church not far from their home. They served us fresh meat cooked in a huge pot over a fire, taught us how to play traditional Mongolian games using sheep bones, and gave us camel rides. It was a real cultural experience! After we left Kalmykia, the local pastor visited them a third time and shared the Gospel with them. The oldest son prayed to accept Jesus! We praise God for the work He is doing through the church in Kalmykia and continue to pray that the local church will be able to share the Gospel with Kalmyks, Russians, and many other peoples that live in their region. Our hope is to continue to take short-term trips to Kalmykia over the next several years.

“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the LORD; the humble will hear it and rejoice. O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together.” Psalm 34: 1-3



Eating dinner with friends in Kalmykia



Nettie's News

In August, after the cases of COVID started to go down, I was able to lead fitness in our community at the local playground a couple times a week. There was a good response from the ladies and on average had 6-7 people participating. Now that the weather is cooler, I would love to find a warm place where I can continue leading fitness for the ladies in our community. Even though I didn't share about God, it was a great way to connect with people in our neighborhood. I'd appreciate prayer for God to provide a way to continue with this ministry.

At the end of August, our SEND team in Buryatia met together for a mini conference. We spent 2-3 days worshipping, fellowshiping and strategizing together. We discussed new goals for our team in the coming year. Some of those goals focused on praying together with local believers, which is something I would like to be more involved in.

At the beginning of September, before going to Kalmykia, I took a vacation and visited my friend in St. Petersburg. I loved walking around and seeing the sites of this European Russian city. :) It truly is a beautiful city and very rich in history and culture.

If all goes well, and COVID won't prohibit travel, I will be planning on coming to the States this winter/spring for home service. I can't believe it's almost been 3 years since my last visit! I really look forward to connecting with many of you as I visit my supporting churches. I will spend some time visiting with my family in NC, and then plan to live in WNY for a few months as I travel to visit friends & supporting churches. It will be wonderful to hear how God is working in your lives, and to share what He's doing here in Buryatia!

Prayer & Praise Corner

- Praise God for the opportunity to go to St. Petersburg & have a time of rest.
- Praise God for the privilege of being a part of the team to Kalmykia and for all the ways God is working there.
- Praise God for the opportunities to connect with ladies in our community. Jami and I hope to start a Bible study this fall with some of them.
- Praise God for Vk, a Buryat lady in Spring Village, who came to Christ after a man in our church shared the Gospel with her. Now she comes to our home group.
- Pray for the young Mongolian man to grow in his new-found faith and for his family to also find salvation in Jesus. Pray for Vk also to grow spiritually.
- Pray for God's provision for a place to lead fitness in Spring Village.
- Pray for open doors for relationships with people in Spring Village and that God will lead us to people who are open to spiritual things. Pray for opportunities and boldness to share the Gospel with people around us.
- Pray for the church in Kalmykia to unite together to share the Gospel with the people of Kalmykia. Pray for God to bless their new English Club.
- Pray for God's cleansing work in me. I've been confronted with sins in my heart, as well as realizing I'm living in a lot of fear and shame. Pray for a surrendered heart to Jesus.



**поездка
pah-YEZD-kah**

"trip, travel"

Contact Me!

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Pictures from Top to Bottom:

- ◆ Bo with the Mongolian family in front of their yurt home.
- ◆ Using the evangelism tool "for Life" to share the Gospel with university students.
- ◆ Our team with new friends in front of the Pagoda in downtown Elista (the capital of Kalmykia).
- ◆ Leading fitness on the playground in our neighborhood.
- ◆ me with teammates, Renata, Lisa & Art at Lake Baikal
- ◆ Visiting Peterhof, located just outside of St. Petersburg. The gardens around the palace were amazing!