



Eric & Stephanie Chapman

Moldova, Malawi & Central Asia



Dear Friends,

January 2, 2021

We have been in Moldova for a few months now, and we spent Christmas day with some of the students from the Christian University. These students come from Muslim-majority countries and are unable to return home for the holidays.

We are working to get back to minister in Central Asia as soon as possible. When I say Central Asia (C.A.), I am referring to the “stan” countries that were formerly part of the Soviet Union and have a Russian language base: Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan primarily. You may ask why we would leave Moldova and Malawi for Central Asia; it would be easier for us to stay where we were and enjoy the success and blessings of our more established ministries. But for 20 years I have been waiting for God to open for us the door into C.A.

God has blessed Stephanie and I with 4 children and 8 grandchildren. We are thankful for the two wonderful ministries that God has given us. Central Asia is a different game, and we know it. The situation poses problems and risks that we have not seen since our early days working in the former Soviet Union. However, the eternal rewards can be great.

Why do we feel this is the time for us to step into Central Asia?

- 1) The other fields are well developed and ready for other leadership. God provided nationals in Moldova that could run the ministry. In Malawi, Africa, God brought our good friends the Hutchins to minister with us and continue the work.
- 2) God opened doors into C.A. and has given us national contacts and partners.
- 3) These Muslim-majority countries are opening to the Gospel. We have graduates from our Moldovan school who are there and wanting to work for Christ, but they need leadership beside them. I believe the experiences God has given me can provide some of the leadership they need.

What are the Obstacles we face?

- 1) *Laborers*: Our young, inexperienced graduates want to minister, but as a result of their faith in Christ, they have been ostracized by family and friends. Because jobs are limited, family pressure is great for them to seek work in Russia instead of staying to be a part of this ministry opportunity in C.A.
- 2) *Resistance*: Naturally, Islam resists the spread of the Gospel. It would not take much research to see that underground Christianity is growing in radically Muslim countries. The more the church grows through the work of the Spirit, the more radical some Islamists become.

EURASIAN BAPTIST MISSION
6847 N. 9th Ave., Suite A, #332
Pensacola, FL 32504

www.eurasianbaptistmission.com
chapmaneric57@gmail.com
850-910-7122

3) *Government*: There is a remnant of the old Soviet style government that continues to push against Christianity. For foreigners, controls like documentation, living permits, and travel regulations become confusing, prejudiced, time consuming, and sometimes dangerous.

4) *Churches*: Many churches in C.A. are not equipped to spread the Gospel. This is a discussion for another time.

Our Plan of Action:

1) *Keep the young graduates there working together in teams for encouragement*: With them, we will be starting youth centers in urban areas. From there we will take the youth attending these centers to camps for a week of Gospel preaching and teaching. Of course, church planting is the targeted end-game of the youth centers.

2) *Provide a livable wage for the graduates through "tent-making" opportunities*: We have decided that small business support is better than foreign monthly support. Working in a small business puts our people in the community and allows them to more effectively interact with their Muslim neighbors.

3) *Train church leaders in Asia*: Establish a Bible school of leadership in Kyrgyzstan with a one or two-year program to train leaders of churches in Asia. Some who have a desire for higher academics can go to the Christian university in Moldova.

4) *Establish mission residence*: Stephanie and I must live there in order to advise and encourage the graduates who are core to this outreach.

How can You Help?

1) Please pray for the young people returning to C.A and for the Chapmans.

2) If you are able, you can give. Any size gift will help. Here are the key project costs: A) Each youth center will cost about \$3000 per year to run. B) One week of evangelistic camp will cost \$50 per youth this coming summer. C) Each business project eventually owned by a graduate will cost about \$5,000 to establish and will provide on-going income. D) We approximate yearly tuition will be about \$600 per student who attends the Bible school we will establish.

To be honest, I didn't want to leave Moldova 8 years ago. However, I had all these qualified men and women doing the work. Then after building the ministry in Malawi, I could have stayed in Africa, but this great door opened up for us in C.A. The objective of everything we do in Central Asia is evangelism, discipleship, and the establishment of Christ's church.

If you want to set up a Zoom call with your missions committee or church, I would love to talk about this in more detail. Please forgive my long letter, but I have a burden to share my vision with you, my friends and supporters.

God Bless,

Eric Chapman