

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deed.
I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Psalm 9:1 ESV)*

In the fall of 1998, I flew from America to a tiny airport of the newly established capital of Kazakhstan. My team leader met me inside the passport control area of the airport (not done nowadays), got me and my eight boxes through customs and transported us by ambulance to an apartment. That was the beginning of a twenty-five-year journey, first in Kazakhstan, where I lived for 12 years. While there, God used the gifts He had given me in the English language to serve other teams throughout Kazakhstan and in 4 other countries in the region. Then through God's leading, we began helping orphans. The journey then continued to Cyprus. In Cyprus, God brought asylum seekers to our church and a ministry began serving them.



With my parents at my church's sending off service.



The church we started in 1998.

As I remember the many people I have met and the events that have happened, I am overwhelmed with a deep sense of gratitude and awe for the faithfulness of God. He protected, provided for all needs, and gave wisdom. He answered prayers, and rescued people from darkness and brought them into salvation. God brought comfort to the widow, protected the orphans, and gave a family to the refugees.

As on any journey, there have been moments of hardship and ease, great joy and great sorrow. Each have been used by God to change me more into His image or to change a situation for His glory. All that has happened has been filtered through God's loving hands.

To celebrate this milestone, I have put together a small collage of memories. As you read, may you be encouraged by all the wonderful deeds that the Lord has done.

With sincerest gratitude,

Heather



Daniella waiting for her heart operation.



US teacher team who participated in our yearly teacher conferences.

When I left the US, I knew that God would use my English language teaching degree to serve Him. At the time, I thought I would teach English. God opened other doors. He burdened me with the need to equip mission workers who were teaching English or setting up language centers. Through God's leading, I was able to train both short and long-term teams, write curriculum to be used in their classroom and eventually provide them with the tools to set up language centers in closed areas to the Gospel. I also worked alongside national teachers, hosting conferences, and eventually leading a group of teacher

trainers into villages to do training.

Little did I realize that God would allow me to be a part of His fulfillment of Deuteronomy 10:18 ESV:

He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. It started with helping Irina with some babushkas (elderly widows). Then Irina introduced me to an orphanage and this small introduction would become the focus of the organization we registered. God grew that ministry



Baba Nadia, Hiroko and I

and continues to grow it in amazing ways. Then in Cyprus, God brought refugees across my path. The last group mentioned in Deuteronomy.

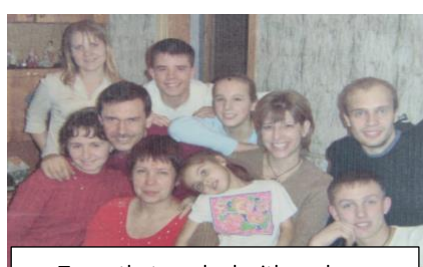


Summer camp with our orphans.

I was never alone on the road. God joined me together with incredible teammates. Together we sought God for His plans, encouraged each other along the road and saw God



Pioneer's Team



Team that worked with orphans



OASIS team

answer many of our prayers.

The answers to prayers are too many to list in this short letter. I will remind you of a few. Danielle's successful heart operation in Thailand, opening of our organization that worked with orphans, the registration of OASIS in Cyprus, the trafficked girl's salvation and restoration to her family and the mother who was assumed dead, reunited with her children 8 years later. God is indeed good.



Another person I met on the journey, my husband.

This letter wouldn't be complete without recognizing each of you. You have been part of this journey through your prayers, finances, friendships, mentorship, visits, and encouragement. I am very grateful. Thank you for journeying with me.