The Next Steppe

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(What is this? You are receiving this letter because you have touched John & Laurie Day at some point in their lives, and they wanted to share their current journey with you.)

John and I are action movie fans, and one of our favorites is “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.” One of the great scenes in the movie is when Indy is trying to navigate all the obstacles and contrivances protecting the Holy Grail. At the last one – “the leap from the Lion’s head” – Indy is faced with needing to cross a huge chasm. Assuming it to be a leap of faith, he clutches his hand over his heart, closes his eyes, takes a deep breath, and extends his foot over the abyss before pushing off from the edge. His faith is not in vain, as he lands on a previously invisible bridge to the other side.

For about the past year, John and I have felt like Indiana Jones, clutching our heart and extending our foot out to the unknown. No, our decisions have not had life or death consequences attached to them. But trying to determine if God is really wanting us to leave our home, family, business, church, friends, etc., has seemed pretty big.

Scripture has been really helpful to remind us Who is in charge, how powerful He is, and that He is not going to abandon us no matter what. Below are just some of the verses that have spoken to our hearts in the past months (all NIV except as noted).

Deut 31:8 “The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged”

Psalm 56: 10-11 “In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD whose word I praise – in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?"

Psalm 46:10 “He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.’”

Jer 32:27 “I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?”

Heb 13:5b “For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’” (NKJV)

Mat 28:20b “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Rom 8:31 “What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

1 John 4:4 “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Some people have expressed concern about the risk to us and our family if we go to Mongolia. Believe me, all those things have flown through our minds as well. But we know that God’s hands are big enough to hold us all, no matter where we are, together or apart. And what is the greater risk? As Dr. Fred has pointed out, isn’t the greater risk the one to our eternal soul (and the souls of our family and even those we don’t know) of NOT going? So, John and I are stepping out in faith (like Indy), trusting God to guide our steps. As the saying goes, “You can’t steer a parked car.” Therefore, we are moving ahead towards Mongolia, knowing that God is perfectly capable of closing doors and steering us to the right or left as needed to get us where He wants us to be.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we all consider the love He showed for us: leaving the splendor of heaven, setting aside his glory, becoming a baby (dependent on others, teething, learning to walk), following Joseph around the carpentry bench, going through adolescence (who wants to do that one again?), and living down here among selfish, sinful, imperfect humans...and then dying in extreme pain and shame among the condemned. All to pay for our sin and ransom us from hell to heaven. WOW! If the value of the gift is the level of sacrifice involved in its purchase, then how can any of us say that this is not the greatest gift EVER? And how can we not gratefully accept that awesome gift and offer Him all we have during this life and the next? It isn’t really a “leap” of faith at all.

Our plan right now for the near future is to spend the holidays in California with extended family, hopefully with Austin and Jordyn as well. January will bring lots of travel as we go to SE Asia for a CVM Asia Retreat, and then on to Mongolia (yes, in January). We plan to do a bit of scouting of the dairy situation so as to better know what veterinary equipment to take with us and get an updated feel for where we will be living (the last time we were there was 2009). Also, we will see what real cold is like and how many down coats and long johns I will need.

Prayer requests:

- For good travels for us and family in December and January, and meaningful time with relatives over the holidays
- For the Mongolian herders and their animals to survive the harsh winter with minimal losses
- For the Mongolian vets who come into the capital city in the winter for continuing education training at V.E.T. Net, that they would learn needed skills and be open to the Good News

Blessings,

Laurie (for John)

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