

MOMENTS IN MONGOLIA

MINISTRY REPORT FROM THE RITCHIE FAMILY IN ULAANBAATAR



“...building up yourselves on your most holy faith...” Jude 1:20

We had a great stewardship conference this month that was well attended by our membership. There was a construction theme which complemented our vision statement for the year: “Adding to our Faith.” Enthusiasm ran high, and many made good commitments regarding stewardship. Additionally, we introduced the concept of faith-promise giving to our church for the first time. We had 602,550₮ (~\$225) pledged to missions, which is very good for us. Our commitment cards showed a marked increase in pledged tithes, offerings and building fund. One housewife could not wait to give her first week’s faith promise offering and she asked me to hold it for her. It was just \$0.40 in addition to her tithe! Though she is very poor, and has no regular job, she still made a faith promise commitment. I was reminded of the widow’s two mites and it gives us great joy to see people growing in their faith. This Sunday we will have our very first national church planter present his work to the church. Please pray for this meeting.



It was a happy coincidence that we were remodeling our auditorium at this same time. The scaffolding and construction supplies added to our theme, and we were reminded that, spiritually speaking, *Christ is building our church*. The new platform, pulpit and other improvements look great and more than ever we are thankful for the meeting location God has given us.

We now have the opportunity to rent an additional 100 square meters on the same floor, and we are praying that God will give us the funds necessary to secure this space. If we can rent it, all together we will have an auditorium, four large classrooms, nursery, counseling room, office as well as a small kitchen area for fellowship times. That would allow us to grow our membership into the 250 range and the space would be dual use for both church and college.



Another highlight this month was a visit from our BIMi Field Director David Harris and his family. Brother Harris was the conference key note speaker and our ladies heard from Mrs. Jenny Harris. We had a great time, and along with the Webers and Kubiks, showed them around Mongolia. Not only did they get to preach in our church, but I took them out to the village church in Jargalant. Pastor Migaa’s wife, Chimgee, knows Japanese, so the Harrises were able to preach and teach in Japanese which was then translated into Mongolian! Toward the end of their time here, we had our very first BIMi Mongolia missionary field conference. We feel very blessed by the counsel and encouragement we have received. We so appreciate the Harris family!

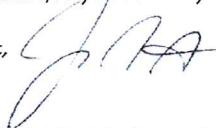


More people have been saved. Two stories stand out to me as particularly encouraging which I will relate.

1) We rejoice that our friend of several years, Chimgee, was saved last month. Chimgee has known the Gospel for at least 15 years, never making a decision for Christ. She recently began attending church, and one Sunday she was under great conviction. Mary dealt with her for a couple of hours, and she finally prayed to receive Christ with many tears. 2) Recently, we met Baldmaa while at a church ski activity. Baldmaa saw our church group in the cafe, and asked one of the teens if he could help her. We later learned that, many years ago she had heard about Jesus in her village. She had been looking for someone ever since to share the gospel with her. We invited her to our home, leading her to the Lord that night and she has been to every church service since. Sometimes it takes a while but the Gospel is powerful to bring forth a harvest!

Please pray for the Bible translation work. We are 1/3 through the Old Testament translation in 1st draft form which is good for 16 months! Pray for Faith Baptist Bible College. We submit our paperwork for school registration this month. Also, Pray for our family as we travel back to the states for a few weeks.



In Christ for the Harvest,  Jason and Mary Ritchie, Katherine, Anthony, Sean, Emily, Allison, Jenna & Madelyn