



David Olson in Mongolia!

I have now lived in Mongolia for two and a half months although I continue to feel as if I moved here yesterday. The people and culture of Mongolia along with its stunning nature provides new



experiences and adventures each week. I am so thankful that the Lord continues to bless me and pray that He will guide me during my stay in Mongolia.

What am I up to?

I am currently studying the Mongolian language full-time. When I first moved here it was uncertain how long I would be taking language classes as it was uncertain how long I would be living in Mongolia. After only being in Mongolia a few days I quickly realized that in order to truly help the Mongolian people and work to further Gods Kingdom here it was beneficial to learn the language. English is spoken some in Ulaanbaatar but if I want to gain the trust of the Mongolian people I feel it is necessary to learn the language. So I currently have one on one language training 3 to 4 hours a day and try to study another few hours

each day. Then I try to use what I learn in everyday conversations. It has proved very difficult but I pray the Lord will give me the strength to learn the language to the best of my ability.

The Norwegian Lutheran Mission

The Lord has blessed me in regards to my placement with the Norwegian Lutheran Mission (NLM) in Mongolia. NLM has offices in Ulaanbaatar, where I live, and Khovd, which is in western Mongolia. NLM currently works with two development projects in Mongolia. One is called Strengthening Children's Rights and the other is called Strengthening Primary Health Care. NLM employs eight Norwegians, 1 Colombian (married to a Norwegian), and myself and has three Norwegian volunteers. They also employ roughly 35 Mongolians. They work strongly with local governments in promoting children's rights and education in the health sector. Through the contacts they make they have been able to help establish a Lutheran church association in Mongolia.

Bayariin Medee (Good News) Christian Church

The Norwegian Lutheran Mission helped establish and supports Bayariin Medee Christian Church. The Church has four congregations around Mongolia and is currently trying to plant congregations in other communities. I am involved with the local congregation in Ulaanbaatar. The members of the Congregation have been very welcoming and I enjoy attending weekly worship services (even if I do not understand much). The Lord is truly working within the congregation as the congregation continues to grow. I have enjoyed working with the young adults group. They currently have roughly 70 young adults that attend Bible Studies, Small Groups, and New Believers Classes. They have excellent, dynamic young leaders who are eager learn about Jesus. I, myself, have been blessed to learn much from them about being on fire for Christ. We are trying to raise support for the young adults group to hold a weekly sports and activities club. This is to attract new people. We will play games and share a devotion and we pray

Receipts					
July 2012		August 2012		September 2012	
General Fund	135.00	General Fund	70.00	General Fund	2,687.62
Hungary	190.00	Hungary	10.00	Hungary	2,821.89
NLM	100.00	NLM Mongolia	522.00	NLM	128.70
NLM Mongolia	700.00	Retreat Scholarship	10.00	NLM Mongolia	300.00
NLM Tanzania	20.00	Aug '12 Total	\$612.00	NLM Tanzania	20.00
Retreat Scholarship	10.00			Retreat Scholar.	846.00
July '12 Total	\$1,155.00			Sept '12 Total	\$6,804.21

Memorials:
Given by Jerry & Jewel Dahl in memory of Ordean Fossaa

Fiscal year 2012 ends September. (2013 Fiscal year begins in October)

Mission Gifts:	July	Aug.	Sept '12	TOTAL Fiscal Year 2012
General Fund		\$2,892.62		\$5,927.62
Retreat Scholarships		\$866.00		\$1,056.00
EKE-Hungary		\$3,021.89		\$3,021.89
NLM		\$1,790.70		\$3,290.70

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that the Lord will open the hearts of many those who are new to the Gospel and that they may come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Future Jobs

I will continue with daily language lessons but will begin to work with a variety of projects in November.

Because of my work experience within banking and administration in North Dakota I will begin to work within the administrative office here at NLM in Ulaanbaatar. NLM will begin a third project this year in cooperation with Bayariin Medee Christian Church called Church Social Work. The goal is to set up a Christian Counseling Center. I will work with the Committee to explore how to set up a Counseling Center.

Mongolian People

The people of Mongolia have been very open and nice but I have noticed a large difference between those in the countryside and those in the city. Western culture is influencing the culture and people in Ulaanbaatar. I believe one must travel away from the capital city in order to get a true sense of the Mongolian people and their way of life. Christianity has been



in Mongolia for 20 years but there is still work to be done. There are still unreached people groups in Mongolia and NLM is trying to focus on these people groups in western Mongolia.



Ulaanbaatar

I live in the capital of Mongolia. Mongolia currently has one of the fastest growing economies in the world. They have an abundant supply of natural resources and the development of the mining sector is playing a huge role with the development of the country and especially Ulaanbaatar. I was actually very surprised when I moved to Ulaanbaatar to see an abundance of wealth and development. There are apartment high-rises, condominiums, and sky-scrapers being built at an unbelievable rate. Yet in the midst of all this one can see that there is much work to be done in regards to poverty. One can drive down a busy street in Ulaanbaatar and pass a Mercedes 4x4 and at the same time see homeless people living in sewers. Most people still live in the traditional Mongolia ger tent even in the City. Many of the nomadic people are flowing into Ulaanbaatar. They bring their ger and set it up wherever they can find a hashaa, or yard. Traffic and pollution are major problems. Although many problems exist in Ulaanbaatar it still offers many exciting things. Western services are abundant and the beautiful and wild Mongolia countryside is only minutes away.

Mongolia

It is very hard to explain the Mongolian nature and countryside. I never like to compare one country to another because each country is unique in regards to nature, culture, and history. But I truly believe it is one of the last, great wildernesses. I have been fortunate to be able to travel some in the Ulaanbaatar area and even had the chance to live in a ger in the countryside for a week. No running water or electricity (except for a solar panel that charged a battery) and many adventures. This past week I attended a NLM gathering in Khovd. What a beautiful country! Wild, open, scenic landscape combined with the nomadic culture lifestyle provided an unforgettable adventure. One is reminded each day of the Lords creation and how majestic it is here!



Retreat Pictures



The Halversons in Papua New Guinea

I stood beside the bed of a dying man who was clutching my hand and arm with great force. I thought he might bruise my arm, but I didn't care, because his pain could easily be rated a 10, and if it could help him I was glad to get a bruise. But in spite of the pain and knowledge that he was dying, this man was at peace with the prospect of death. In fact, as we cried and listened to a Gaither song, I heard him say something like, "Jesus come get me, I'm ready", and one week later, Jesus did come get him.



This man was my father-in-law. In mid-September, we received an email from Lisa's parents saying her dad was dying of cancer. So we quickly made plans to travel from Papua New Guinea to Washington State, and we were there in a week. Two-and-a-half weeks later Lisa's dad died.

As I took turns being with him at the hospital, I reflected on how at peace he was in spite of the fact that he had significant pain and knew he was dying. Then I thought how horrible this must be for someone who has not trusted Christ as their Lord and Savior. Not only would they have the pain of the cancer, but also the fear and uncertainty of what would come after death. And then I thought about the fact that the agony that person would be experiencing would be nothing in comparison to what they are about to experience in hell--and that agony would not end. Needless to say, it was a very sobering reflection. But at the same time I was amazed at the comfort, hope, peace, and assurance that we can have in God when we trust in Christ. Oh, that all people might repent of their sins and trust in Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

Lisa, Thad, Thea, and I have just returned to Papua New Guinea, where I will continue to fly in service of Bible translation, with the desire that we will see Papua New Guinean lives and communities transformed by the Word of God as they receive it in their own language.

2012 Hauge Foreign Mission's Family Retreat Report

Once again we were blessed as 140 campers gathered over the Labor Day weekend to be refreshed, challenged and feed upon God's living word at the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, WI.

The campers were challenged to go deeper into the parable of the prodigal son by Pastor Tim Johnson and see some more of the depth of God's love for His children through the cultural significance of the parable.

Pastor Peter Malik and his wife Eszter from Lucfalva, Hungary attended the retreat representing our sister - mission group of EKE (Lutherans for the Gospel). We were strengthened in our understanding and challenged by the need to "become all things to all people in order that we might reach some" for Christ. We were encouraged to hear about some of the ministry to the gypsy people of Hungary that is resulting in the salvation of souls. The work of the bible school in EKE continues to go forward, Peter shared his personal testimony of how it was while attending one of the EKE youth weekends that he came to a personal assurance of salvation. Peter then deepened his faith through attending the bible school. Please continue to pray for the EKE ministry they are holding youth weekends, young adults weekends, young couples weekends regularly throughout the year and it is bearing much fruit for the kingdom.

Our evangelist Pastor Michael Brandt also challenged us to go deeper into our understanding of the purposes for which God has created us and called us to be His followers. Some nuggets from Pastor Brandt's sessions.



"If you miss that you are created for a divine purpose you miss it all."

"God as created gems that are eternal in His word to miss them and their divine purpose to strengthen your life in Him, is tragic!"

"Your plans only matter when they are in the center of His will (Jere. 29:11). They are His plans for you. You need a divine drive that says, "your will be done.""

Other retreat highlights included:

The election of the new HFM board: President - Joel Unverzagt, Vice-President - Austin Ross, Treasurer - Pastor Earl Korhonen & Secretary

Steve Dahl. Other board members include Pastor Tim Johnson, Don Hansen of Rochester, MN and Don Hansen of Roland, IA who was newly elected to the board this year. Gene Gunderson decided not to accept re-nomination this year and we thank Gene for his years of faithful service to HFM.

\$1800 in a mission offering for EKE came in at the retreat as well as \$835 for retreat scholarships to help others attend next years HFM family retreat, held once again at the Association Retreat Center from August 30th - September 2nd, 2013.

The HFM board also approved a summer team to go to Hungary next summer late July to August, (exact dates in next issue) to help teach at the youth camps held by EKE. The team will be lead by Pastor Jonathan Unverzagt and Pastor Earl Korhonen if you are interested in going please email Pastor Jonathan at millpondguy@gmail.com for more details.

Next years theme is ***"So Send I You!"*** taken from John 20:21. Plan now to attend we'd love to see you there!

- BANNER editor - Jonathan Unverzagt