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Mongolian Memorandum

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HOPE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS | ASIA



Students gathered
'round the Bible

Dear Friends,

As the school year has come to a close, I want to take a moment to look back and share with you how God has been working through the school this year and some highlights of the year.

A great blessing has been the opportunity to work with so many Christian teachers. Although not all my coworkers were believers, many were. We were able to share in times of prayer and worship and the goal to minister to students' souls as well as their minds.

I grew especially close to my fellow teacher Chimgee, an energetic woman in her early forties. From the beginning I recognized her strength as she started the school year just one month after the death of her husband, following a long illness. I watched as she struggled with grief while continuing to care for her children, teach an incredible class load, and strive to connect with her eleventh-grade homeroom students. Her passion for understanding the students and caring for their emotional needs challenged me as well.



Teacher Chimgee

Another blessing from this year was getting to know a large group of Christian young people. Approximately 80 percent of our student body is from Christian families. Their parents are some of the earliest church converts in Mongolia and represent many church pastors, counselors, Bible teachers, and worship leaders. However, not every child from these families professed the same faith. Getting to know the students involved not just classroom assignments but lunch-time talks, class gatherings at my house, and taking part in many different activities over the year. At times I got to see beautiful worship performances, hear a first sermon, or discuss beliefs and future dreams. At other times, there were tears of heartbreak or failure, outbursts of anger, and many other frustrations of youth.

Praises:

- 1) T. and B., two young men who were saved this year.
- 2) Successfully starting a weekly chapel in after-school.

Prayer Requests:

- 1) I began summer school in the countryside. Pray that lives would be reached in this remote community where there is no church.
- 2) Pray for the students who have received Christ this year to continue learning and growing.
- 3) Pray for an increase in monthly support, which has fallen away in the last half a year. God knows the need.

The greatest joy of the year had to be that two of our students came to profess faith in Jesus. T. is an eleventh grader whose mother and extended family are Christian, but he did not profess. That finally changed when he was able to connect with the Christian young people of the HSBC Make Him Known trip. Shortly after the team left, he requested a Bible. Not long after that he began attending church, then accepted Christ! He has a long way to go on the road to maturity, but he certainly has started the journey well.

The second young man was even more of a surprise. B. is an only child from a single parent household, and his mother is staunchly Buddhist. He has been attending the school for several years now, and through his teachers and his ACE PACEs has learned about God.

When he applied for the afterschool program in the second semester, he was informed the curriculum would be largely Christian and would include Bible memorization and chapel services. As our director interviewed him, she gently pushed. "You've been coming to the school for a while, and you've learned a lot. Are you ready to make a decision?" He agreed he was, and prayed with her at that moment in her office! He must be very careful about telling his mother for fear that she might pull him out of school, but he has blossomed from a very quiet and shy young man to a friendly and joyful person.

Finally I want to thank the Lord for His help in starting a weekly chapel in the after-school program. During our chapel time, the students who attended would pack into a small room to worship, hear Bible stories, listen to guest pastors speak, and do crafts and activities filled with Bible memory verses and simple gospel messages. During the last chapel of the year, we made wordless books, and I taught the students several simple ways to share the good news with their friends, peers, and family. I am asking God to use the simple words and tools to call forth a harvest. On our final day of school my heart was encouraged when a young girl from fifth grade whispered, "I want to keep having chapel!" as she packed her things to leave. May God keep working in the lives of these young people and raise up a generation who will call on the name of the Lord.

With a grateful heart,

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