

Introduction Mongolia

We have one central church in the capital of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, and four branch churches scattered around the country, all with Mongolian leadership. The central church, Eternal Light Wesleyan Church, was one of the first churches planted in Mongolia after communism fell in 1991.

While our leaders are faithful and energetic, most have not had the benefit of much formal theological training. Our ministry in Mongolia is primarily one of training and equipping. One of our primary ministries is conducting a quarterly Bible school when we bring in the key leaders from each of the five churches and give intensive training for three to five days, usually trying to cover two major topics each quarter.

We would like to continue to improve this training opportunity so that it becomes a real alternative to a Bible college degree for those who cannot come to the capital to study. Chris also does training on various levels in the main church and in the branch churches—preaching, speaking at camps, leading Bible studies, and giving training on practical issues like cell groups, time management, etc.

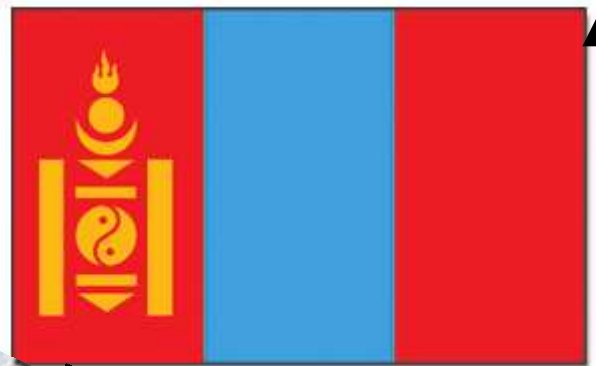
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Currency:
1325 Tugriks =
\$1 US

Gobi Desert:
Used to be a salt water lake
Many dinosaur fossils exist in the Gobi
It is the fifth largest desert
Temperature ranges from -40 F to 122 F



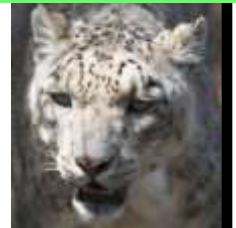
Cuisine
Buuz—meat
filled dumpling
Khushuur—
stuffed pocket
bread
Aaruul—dried
cheese curds
Boortsog—type
of cookie
Tsuivan—noodles
and meat



Ulan Bator is the coldest capital city in the world
Ghengis Khan sits on the largest statue of a horse in the world
Buddhism is the dominant religion
There are more horses than people in Mongolia
The average age of the people is 14



The two humped camel, yak, and snow leopard are native to Mongolia. A snow leopard can leap 20 feet straight up



Modern day Mongolia is all that is left of what once was the largest kingdom that ever existed. It was ruled by a nomadic tribe under the leadership of Genghis and Kubla Khan. 2

Children's Story

Ganbold's Story

For more than 60 years Mongolia was a Communist country, shut off from the outside world. Under the Communist government no religion was allowed to be practiced. Then, in 1990, Communism fell in Mongolia, and freedom of religion was again established. Mongolians began to return to their traditional religions, Buddhism and Shamanism, which had been nearly stamped out under Communism.

These events changed Ganbold's life. He was a child when his family again began to practice Buddhism. Everyone in his family told him he would be a good Buddhist monk, so he shaved his head, put on the red robes of the Buddhist lama, and began studying the Buddhist scriptures. After a year, all his family and friends were afraid of him because of his status as a monk and no one would talk to him. He decided he did not want to live this way, so he left his Buddhist studies and returned to his family.

Around this time some Christians came to his small town and gave his family a pamphlet titled "Who is Jesus?" His family read the pamphlet, but did not decide to follow Jesus at that time.

Ganbold's family went on a vacation to the Gobi desert. He was taking care of all the children when one of the young ones lost a shoe. He and the other children looked all over for the shoe for a long time, but it was nowhere to be found. Suddenly one of them remembered the pamphlet about Jesus. They said, "Didn't that pamphlet say that if you ask Jesus for something, he'll answer you?"

So they tried it. They gathered together, closed their eyes, and asked Jesus to help them find the shoe they had been looking for. When they opened their eyes, the shoe was lying on the ground right in front of them.

This set Ganbold's family on a search for God. They became Christians, and started the first church in their province, a church that is still meeting today. When Ganbold grew older, he left his small town to go to Bible college and became a pastor. Now he is a board member at Eternal Light Wesleyan Church in Ulaanbaatar and works to develop training materials for leaders in the Mongolian church.

Memory Activity

Isaiah 44:6

This is what the Lord says,,, I am the first and I am the last, apart from me there is no God.

Take pieces of paper and cut them into four sections. Write 3-4 words of the memory verse on each of these pieces of paper. Make enough pieces so you can have five copies of the verse (see pages 123-4 in the resource section for a sample.) Crumple the pieces of paper and scatter them on a table or the floor. Divide the students into five teams. Each team scrambles to find all the words of the verse and place them in order on their table. The first team to assemble the verse in the correct order wins.

Bible Lesson

Naaman and the Servant Girl

2 Kings 5:1-15

Naaman was a commander of the army in Aram. He was a good and brave soldier, but he had a horrible skin disease. Naaman and his wife had a servant girl that had been taken captive from Israel. She knew about her master's disease and suggested that he go to Elisha, the prophet of God in Samaria, to be healed.

So, Naaman went to the king of Israel with many gifts and a letter asking to be healed, but, the king could not help him, he was not a prophet or a healer. Elisha heard about Naaman, and asked to see him. He told Naaman that in order to be healed, he must wash seven times in the Jordan River, then he would be healed and he would no longer have the skin disease.

Naaman became angry. He could have stayed at home and washed in the rivers there! Why did the prophet ask him to do something so simple? Why did he not pray, or ask him to do some hard task? Naaman's helpers convinced him to go to the Jordan River and wash. After all, it couldn't hurt him.

Naaman went to the river and washed himself – one, two, three times. Nothing. Four, five, six times. Nothing. The seventh time – when Naaman came up out of the water – his skin was clean – no more spots, no more sores...he was healed!

Naaman hurried back to the prophet, Elisha. He was excited! He told Elisha that he now believed in the One True God!

It all started with a young girl, a slave girl, who was bold enough to suggest that her master go and visit a prophet of God. Because she was willing to say something – even just a few words – her master became a believer of God. We must never be afraid to speak about our faith. Even a few words can make a difference in somebody's life.

Where do you think the young girl learned about God?

Why was it important for her to listen to those who knew God?

What are some of the places and times that you can learn about God?

Can God use you to share what you have learned with others so they can know God?

"Bones" Game (Shagai)

Children in Mongolia's rural areas play games using animal ankle bones. Encourage your class to play the following game that is similar to this type of game, but which substitutes boneshaped dog treats for animal bones.

You will need to purchase 24 bone-shaped dog treats in four colors (six of each color) for every four children playing the game. (If you prefer, use clay or small blocks of wood to make the "bones.") **If colored bones are unavailable, mark each bone with one of the four different colors.**

Directions:

Choose the first player to throw all of the "bones" onto a table or the floor. Using the thumb and index (pointing) finger, the first contestant flicks one of the bones and tries to hit another one in a matching color. If successful, he or she can pick both bones up and take another turn.

If the first player's flicked bone hits another bone (not a matching color), the contestant loses his or her turn and the next player gets to try. (If a flicked bone hits a bone in a matching color and a non-matching one, the contestant still loses a turn.) Play continues until all of the bones are claimed. The winner is the player who has the most bones.



Game Time

Time for Prayer

- Guidance for our church board. Pray that they make good decisions regarding the church's future.
- Strength and encouragement for Mongolian believers. Many are young people who are the only Christians in their family.
- For Mongolian Christians to go deeper in their walk with God.
- For Mongolian non-Christians who see Christianity as a foreign religion.

Activity

C
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v
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t
y

H

O

R

S

E

Color the letters and then make a list of words starting with each letter that describe a Christian boy or girl.

In Mongolia horses are a very important part of life. Using the words above, make up a story of how a boy or girl might use a horse to share their love for Jesus with others.