

MONGOLIA FOR CHRIST

Dr. Tom Keller – PRAYER LETTER UPDATE – July 2011



Along the way: standing inside a large local market behind the Wrestling Palace in Ulaanbaatar, I closely observe my fellow, veteran American missionary friend negotiating the purchase of a nice cut of beef. I don't understand much, but marvel at the fluent, comfortable exchange that takes place between he and the woman behind the counter. With great admiration I tell him, *"Brother, I'm so impressed. I want to be able to shop here some day, make some good deals and relate to these people the way you just did."* A moment later, as we begin to move along, I grab him by the sleeve and ask, *"by the way, what did that woman say when she handed you the bag of meat?"* With a funny grin, he says, *"she asked me to marry her."*

Ministry Update: I just finished my first two and a half months of language school. I never realized such torture existed. Monday through Friday I have one-on-one lessons from 9am – 12pm, then study 3-4 hours in the afternoon.. Sometimes my pronunciation scares these people. Bless their hearts for withstanding the abuse. But by God's grace, I'm making progress. Although hopefully not quite like the result described in the market, I pray one day I'll be able to introduce many Mongolians to the King of Kings.



For starters, God has provided a special relationship with two of my language teachers, **Odontoia** and **Bayarmaa** (photo), and given opportunity to share the Gospel and my testimony with each of them. I sense that He has been working in their hearts and praying they will soon know Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Dr Charles Keen, Director of First Bible of Mongolia visited recently. He is producing a film update on the progress with Bible translation, as well as our ministry in Hatgal where our future youth center is now about 75% finished.

Answers to Prayer: I'm grateful to feel more relaxed with the culture and language. I found out that Mongolian is ranked in the top three most difficult languages for English speaking people to learn. This helped me put my progress into better perspective and begin enjoying it (a little). Another answer to prayer has been the appearance of a Christian Mongolian physician from Ulaanbaatar with pastoral experience who will visit and preach in our countryside church during July and August. He and his wife are praying for God's direction as they consider pastoring our first Mongolian church plant. If God directs, having a solid Mongolian pastor would be a great asset.

Prayer requests: **1.** Progress with language learning **2.** That Odontoia and Bayarmaa would be saved
3. That God would direct our prospective Mongolian pastor candidate during his visit
4. That God would provide a Mongolian dental clinic to sponsor me for a work visa & license

Blessings and thanks to you all for your sacrificial support in this work!

Tom

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