

“ONE OF THOSE MOMENTS”

I would like to tell you about “one of those moments”. It was “one of those moments” when you realize you are looking at something amazingly special. Something that is totally a result of God’s might works. I experienced one of these moments last Saturday. It happened in Brother Dennis and Charlotte’s apartment. Seven men were sitting around the dinning room table discussing the details of the two church buildings that we are about to begin constructing. It was during this discussion that I leaned back in my chair and just began to look at each man who was giving his life in the service of the Lord and His Church in Mongolia.



Sitting to my right was my pastor, Brother Egi. At 38 years of age he is wise beyond his years. Egi is tall, good looking and a well built young man. Ten years ago Egi was cooking for a small restaurant in San Francisco trying to earn money to send back to his wife and 3 children. At that time he was a babe in Christ only knowing salvation. During the following 10 years he has grown in wisdom and knowledge of God’s Word and I would compare his knowledge to most any pastor in the states. I am very proud to call him my pastor. (read his testimony at www.monolianteam.org)



Next to him sat Erdenbayar. Three years ago Erdenbayar was, by his own testimony, a thief and gangster. He is a man in his early thirties, with a very rough and weathered look of a Mongolian herdsman. He would travel to China, and Inner Mongolia and steal what he could, smuggle it across the boarder and sell it in his home town. He was a brawler and a drunk. When God saved this young man he changed him completely. He hungers for the Word of God, and his great desire is to return to Uginoor and tell his village of Jesus and start a New Testament Church. We are hoping to start a work there this summer.

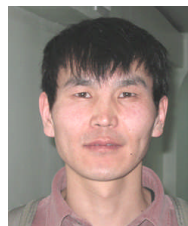


Sitting to his right was Brother Agi, Rich Heart’s missionary to Chore. Before Mongolia declared its independence from Russia Brother Agi was a captain in the military. If you looked in a dictionary for a picture of a Mongolian officer you would see a picture of him. He is square jawed, and has an authoritarian look but his sweet disposition defies his

appearance. He was in charge of the “black boxes” aboard the Mig fighters. When independence came to Mongolia he left the military and started a business. He went to Israel and with his wife began importing Mongolian labor to Israel. He was doing very well until his wife was saved and joined the Lord’s church. He returned to Mongolia and would attend church only to please his wife. He was a tough man, a hard drinker and very stern. His wife’s prayers were answered, for his salvation, but she got more than she, at that time, wanted. In the summer of 2007 he surrendered to be missionary to Chore. Now the ball was in her court, would she sacrifice her business and follow her husband? She did and they now are working full time in Chore.



To Agi’s right sat Tumerwho. Tumerwho is in his early 40’s with four children. He is not a large man, small even by Mongolian standards. What he may lack in size is made up in the tremendous heart he has to serve God. Tumerwho is an early convert to Christ in Mongolia. He was working with a religious group called Christ’s Church but left them 8 years ago. Since that time he has lead a little group in Chingeltei, trying to serve God. Several times in those 8 years he has crossed paths with Brother Dennis and Egi. He has had them come and bring lessons and Bible series on more than one occasion. He and his wife have both attended RHBC Bible School. It was just this past year that he came to Brother Egi and Brother Dennis, and in a very humble way explained he realized that something was wrong with what they were doing and asked if they could help. The rest is recent history, 10 of those working with him have been baptized plus 6 more. Dennis was sent as missionary by the Rich Heart Church and they all are excited at the growth they see both physically and spiritually.



Then sitting on Tumerwho’s right hand is Tuuvshin. Just a couple of years before he was saved his family had him committed to a mental institution. Brother Tuuvshin has a stutter. They determined he had a mental problem causing this. Tuuvshin is 31years old, always with a ready smile. Skinny as a rail yet can eat twice as much as most others. When we came here you could tell that Tuuvshin did not have much self confidence, but what he did show was a love to learn about God’s word. He has training in leather design, for shoes and handbags. He is also an exceptional artist. He

was unemployed when we began our remodel so he was hired as a laborer. It was just a short time before the man that we hired as foreman flaked on us and Tuuvshin stepped into the lead. Daily you could see his confidence grow. It wasn't long before the others accepted his leadership. Not long after this he approached pastor Egi and wanted to teach. There was much concern about his stuttering being a distraction. Mongolian's have very little sympathy for anyone with a handicap. It was truly amazing to watch as the people began to respond to him. After teaching several times you could literally see the change in the congregation as they realize this man knows what he is teaching and is passionate about it.



Tuuvshin today has a missionary's personality, he does not meet a stranger. We fully expect to see him surrender to pastor someday.

Then we come to a man I have grown to love, Brother Dennis. He and Charlotte came here 10 years ago, and if it is tough to live in Mongolia now, it is nothing compared to

10 years ago. The more I learn of the work that they had put in those early years, with the different hindrances that God allowed in this work, the amount of sacrifice and the schedule that he had to keep, the more I am thrilled to work with such a man. God blessed the work they did and a strong church was established due to their sacrifice. In 2006 he resigned as Pastor without any man having said God was calling them to pastor. Since that time we now have a Mongolian pastor, two missionaries, and three men who have expressed the desire to pastor. The Lord has provided us with our own building, missions with property in Chore and Chingeltei. And a third mission to begin this summer in Uginoor.

Looking at these men with such diverse backgrounds, sitting in unity to further the Lord's church in Mongolia, I thought of the Apostles. God can use anyone, from any walk in life, who is willing to make themselves available to his service. In Thessalonica they cried that Jesus' disciples had turned the world upside down. I ask you to pray that these men will have the same charge placed against them about Mongolia.