

*by Les & Jeanne Armstrong*

Outer Mongolia! The very name creates images of nomads herding sheep, goats, camels, and horses, as well as visions of Genghis Khan, moveable felt circular tents called gers, and horses racing across grassy steppes. This was the land to which God was calling us for relational evangelism, and this fall the trip became reality!

We went to Mongolia at the invitation of the National Director of Campus Crusade for Christ staff, Floyd Sebald, who had first arrived in Mongolia “under the radar” in 1995. At that time Mongolia was no longer under communism, but [BREAK]had not yet decided the political course it would follow. Floyd taught forestry at the university and Lynne, his wife, cared for their three preschool boys. Those first years, the Sebalds were able to build a networking base, learn the language, and become part of the culture. We have been connected with the ministry for the past thirteen years since our son, Kevin, went to Mongolia for summer ministry. However, for us to actually work with the Christians in this emerging third world country and to see what God is doing was truly amazing!

Christ has touched many lives in Mongolia. The people are very open to learning about a God of love who really cares for them. After Mongolia experienced a suppressive Chinese rule for centuries, 1921 brought godless Soviet communism. In 1990 Mongolia experienced a peaceful revolution and became open to all religions. Buddhism and Shamanism were reintroduced, and many people now look to those beliefs in the hope that somehow, one of those many gods will look favorably upon their prayer requests. However, God has opened the way for Campus Crusade to bring Mongolians to Christ and to disciple native leadership teams in executive, medical, military, education, campus, and youth ministries! Christianity, with its promise of forgiveness, a personal God of love, and a Christ who died for each person, is a bright, fresh gift for them. In the joy of becoming Christian believers, Mongolians are living into and sharing their faith in exciting ways.

So, how did we get to serve?

Les had the opportunity to present servant leadership seminars based on *Lead Like Jesus* by Ken Blanchard and goal setting workshops, to both officers and non-commissioned officers in active duty military regiments. The regimental Commanders were very open and interested in both the seminars and goal setting. At the end of one of Les' sessions, a Lt.Col. who had been mentored by a Mongolian military CC staff member earlier, expressed his desire to become a Christian.

Jeanne was with the public schools ministry team and taught teacher workshops and classroom demos. She also had the opportunity to share with leadership staff at the schools, and lead teachers' Bible studies.

We each had an excellent Campus Crusade translator and an English speaking staff member who were with us all the time. They were Mongolian Christians who showed their love through their work, and they were excellent. Mongolians are a wonderful, open, caring people; and we laughed, learned, and experienced so much together! As God used us in many unexpected ways, we discovered we were “seed planters” for the Word of God and felt like His ambassadors in a foreign land. We were so blessed on this “dream trip come true”!

Would you like to know more? We would love to talk with you. Call or email us at 858-675-0363, [armstjl@earthlink.net](mailto:armstjl@earthlink.net). You can also go to the Campus Crusade for Christ International Mongolia website at: [www.ccci.org/locations/asia/Mongolia](http://www.ccci.org/locations/asia/Mongolia). There you will find an amazing, true story of one of the CCCI staff, titled “From Political to Spiritual Freedom”. Perhaps God is leading you toward a summer or fall mission trip to this “Land of the Big Sky”! II Cor 5:20 “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors as though God were making His appeal through us.”