

Remember Mongolia



Pray

In addition to the external events taking place, CAMA in Mongolia is wrestling with some very real financial issues as well. Indeed, this is true across the board within the C&MA. Our field submitted what we felt was a minimal working budget for the coming fiscal year. We received it back this week with a 45% cut. This is spite of the fact that we are increasing our staff by four families and one single missionary.

In the two years we have been in Mongolia, cost of living increases have not been able to be added to allowances, and unless there is a turnaround in GCF giving, there will possibly be an across the board cut for missionary allowances in September. As language students, ministry expenses have been minimal and we have not had to raise a significant amount of "Work Special" monies. However, we find ourselves in a place where those needs are greater as we seek to establish a community center. At the same time we are facing decreased income even though the cost of living in Mongolia as gone up 40% since we arrived.

Will you join us in praying about the financial issues, as well?

Fire, Tanks and Vodka Bottles

Election Chaos in UB

It has been quite a week here in UB. Since there is so much news, this is actually an update between newsletters.

For those of you who have no idea what has gone on, let's start there. A week ago, Mongolian elections were held. As the votes were being counted news began to come out that the Democratic party was in the lead. However, as the day went by the news kept changing until the Communist party (MPRP) had taken an overwhelming majority of the races.

Bernie left UB to go to the church leadership camp Tuesday morning. While traveling on the train, the atmosphere among the Mongolian people was an angry one. This was in fact, the mood that was pervading and this culminated in rioting near the city square.

Why is this significant? Apart from the fact that we are here? The Mongolians take great pride in the fact that they are a peaceful people. Their conversation equivalent to our "How are you?" "I am fine" is "What's new?" "Things are peaceful." Their independence from the USSR was won bloodlessly. It is a high value to them.

This past Tuesday, the protests took a different turn and resulted in the MPRP headquarters being burned as well as other surrounding buildings. Five people died and a significant number were injured (depending on the source between 200-500 people). As a result, the President declared a four day State of Emergency, which was in effect marshal law. Things that we as Americans highly value were taken away:

- *no public gatherings (the freedom to assemble)
- *all television coverage except the Communist station was taken off the air and no sound amplifying devices were allowed (freedom of speech)
- *weapons of almost any kind were banned (right to bear arms)

In addition there was a mandatory curfew from 10 pm to 8 am.

Rumors have run rampant – closing borders, more



rioting, etc. There are numerous reports that would seem to substantiate the claim that the elections were bogus. However, the committee to study this allegation (all MPRP) found things to be in order and the election results stand.

For those of you who were aware of what was taking place and prayed for us, we want to give you our heartfelt thanks. It was by far the most excitement that has happened since we've been here, and we experienced it separately, with neither of us knowing what was taking place with the other. However, at no time did we feel as if we were in danger ourselves.

How do things stand now? As far as we can see, things have returned to normal and there is calm. We hear rumors of larger demonstrations – and if this is true, they will also be more organized. Again, these are rumors. We have no idea whether or not this is over.

However, *in our opinion* (not necessarily the opinion of our organization or its sponsors), it does not need to be over. In our conversations with Mongolians social reform is a much felt need for them. And while we are aware that our place is to fulfill the commission of making disciples, that doesn't change the need they feel or the importance of basic human rights. It is our hope that any further action be done peacefully and without loss of life, but we do desire to see changes take place.

Again, thank you for your prayers. We will keep you posted as/if things develop. If you would like to read more, below are some additional links.

www.thomasterry.com

[BBC](#)

[UB Post](#)

[Photos](#)

