

Remember Mongolia



PRAYER BULLETS:

• Praise:

God has provided a location for a Student Ministry Center on the University belt in Ulaanbaatar.

•Prayer:

1. All four of us will maintain a consistent and passionate walk with Jesus
2. Grace for Jonathan and Cori as they begin a new school situation this year
3. Church leaders: Soggi, Onon, Undraa. Pray for the future of Seed of Faith Church in UB. Pray for wisdom as seek the Lord's will for direction and changes coming in the near future.
4. Wisdom and grace as we begin the renovation process at the center
5. The presence of God as Bernie and Renee' travel to visit a community center ministry in a creative access field from October 30 - November 9. Pray for safe travel and much learning.

It's back to school ... so time to write:

What I Did On My Summer Vacation...

It's that time of year that everyone who has passed through the American school system knows quite well. Perhaps some of you are (or have children who are) even now in the middle of that assignment that comes this time every August. That first assignment of the school year – to write a paper about every teacher's favorite first topic: "What I did on my summer vacation."

While our summer was anything but a vacation, we want to fill you in on what we did do with our time. Our kids, who did have a vacation will give you some of their highlights as well.

In Mongolia, summer officially begins June 1, with Children's Day. Typically the last day of schools for Mongolians is May 31st, so it is a big celebration. This year was an exception to that due to the threat of "Hand, foot and mouth disease." Mongolian government can never be accused of under-reacting, and closed schools, theaters, street vendors and other businesses that couldn't buy their way open in mid-May.

That didn't really affect us, because as foreigners our school year extended to the end of June. Jonathan was disappointed that the secondary school wasn't closed, but we tried to explain that they assumed teenagers knew better than to put unwashed hands in their mouth. We can't make the same assumption about putting their feet in their mouth, however ☺.

Summer did begin well for us, as we kicked off our summer of hosting by showing [Renee's parents](#) around the city and spending a day at Terelj National Park. At the end of their too brief visit they took Jonathan and Cori with them to spend a summer stateside.

This left us to finish our final two weeks of school. Our "[graduation ceremony](#)" was a barbeque in the countryside. Bernie got to do the honors of translating for the principal before we received our certificates.

From that point we hit the ground running. With receiving returning team mates, new team members and short term teams, we made 13 runs to the airport in about 6 weeks, had 9 team dinners and have made numerous trips to the Black Market and other shopping destinations. The first short term team, the Menomonie Alliance Church youth group, assisted us in our first ever [CAMA Mongolia Youth Camp](#). Less than a week after they left, a team from our home church (FCC) arrived with Jonathan and Cori. In addition to learning about the ministries here and interacting with the workers to gather information for establishing an official partnership, they pulled off a great VBS for the team.

In the midst of all this activity, God graciously provided us with a storefront location for the Student Community Center. We took possession August 1 and it has been waiting for our attention. Which brings us to the second portion of this newsletter...



Cori's
Summer Scrapbook
2008



This summer I went to America for six weeks to visit with my grandparents. That was very fun. For the majority of the time I was visiting in Adamsville with my grandparents and other family, but for a week we all went to the beach in Florida. For another week my friend Simone visited my grandparent's house. We had so much fun. Jonathan and I also went to Franklin for a weekend while we were there. We spoke about Mongolia for a few minutes in church and they prayed for us. That was very encouraging. Afterwards we had an awesome evening with our other grandparents and good friends. Sadly, the fun in America did not last long enough. We had to say goodbye on July 26. Then we met up with the team that was going to Mongolia. This included Mr. Orme, Pastor David, Mr. and Mrs. Mcullum and Lydia. They came back with us to Mongolia. Lydia stayed in our house and we had so much fun while they were here. We showed them around the city. After about a week we went to field forum. That was also very fun. We did a lot of activities, like a digital photo hunt, Bible lessons in the morning, games and other fun stuff. I enjoyed hanging out with my friends. Then we came back and the team left. I will be starting school in about six days. Over all I had a very enjoyable summer and am sad that it is over.

This summer has been really crazy! I've been everywhere! First off, I left for the states in June with my grandparents. I spent a long time at their house hanging out with my cousin Jack and doing fun stuff with him. My friend Vinnie came visit for a week, and the three of us had a good time. At the end of the week we went to Franklin for the weekend and I got to a lot of my friends. My other grand-parents were able to come up as well and we had a great time visiting with them. Probably the biggest highlight of the summer occurred when we went to Panama City, Florida. I hadn't been to the beach in 2 years, so it was great to get back in the water. To top it off we went deep sea fishing and I caught myself a shark!

Another big deal was I turned 16 while I was at my grandparents place. After that I got my drivers permit, so I did a lot of driving! I did a lot of work around the yard this summer so that I could get money to pay off my new computer (which is something I ALSO got this summer).

After a great time in the states, I came back along with my good friend Lydia and the short term team from Franklin that helped with field forum this year. Field forum this year was the best yet. The teens had a lot of fun hanging out, and helping with the little kids in the process. I had a blast at that. After that Lydia stayed at our place for a few days, and we did random things. Once they left I've had to find things to do, and I've done pretty good with it. I've been hanging out with my friends almost every day. I've been riding my new bike (my birthday present) around and enjoying myself... That about leads up to me sitting here. I still have a couple weeks left before school starts, so I'll see what other things I do.



Jonathan's Summer
Catch





But Mom and Dad are not going back to school ...

Now What?

We have shared in previous newsletters and blogs of our sense that God is leading us in this ministry direction for this time. Our original idea of one large "one size fits all" building has shifted to several small centers that would meet the need of the neighborhood where it is located. We want Jesus to be famous in every part of this city. The needs of the city are vast and various. The needs of students are quite different than the poor who live in outlying ger districts which are different than the elderly who are living in other parts of the city. We want to find a way to effectively reach them all, but we must begin with what we have. Right now most of our relationships are with students. So this is where we begin.

Shortly before finishing school, we learned of a storefront property that was available for rent (formally a dental shop, pictured above). Long story short, although significant work is required, the location is excellent and the price is acceptable. So now, with the frenzy of summer behind us, we are faced with the daunting task of turning this property into a place of ministry. We have three different lists, each several pages long.

Now we face a real challenge. It's as if we've opened a jigsaw puzzle box for the first time. You dump out the pieces, but before you can actually begin to solve the puzzle, you have to blow away the dust and start the tedious task of turning over the pieces. Puzzles can be solved in various ways. Some folks insist on doing the edges first. Some will begin with a large section, like the sky, the barn, or the water.

We are, at present, blowing off the dust and beginning to turn over the pieces. At the same time, we are trying to determine where to begin. The renovation is beginning with the electrical work, and then we will probably work from the top to bottom. After that, do we purchase tables first, or a refrigerator, or a new toilet? The completion of the renovations isn't the completion of the puzzle so much as the completion of the border. What comes next, within the border?

We're waiting on God for those answers. This isn't a puzzle that is going to be completed quickly and returned to the box. It's going to be one that is worked section by section, a piece here and there - and we'll possibly never see the complete picture this side of eternity. Because this is a picture of fruit. Not a still-life picture, but living fruit that is the product of corns of wheat that fall into the ground and die.



Special thanks to "[The Graphics Lab](#)" for designing this logo.

Grain of Wheat

The name of the UB Student Center will be "Grain of Wheat". (pronounced "Ulaan Budain Uur" in Mongolian). It is our desire that this center will be a place where Mongolian young people will learn what Jesus means when He says that "Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies it bears much fruit" (John 12:24)). We want to see this center become a training ground for students to learn about the person and work of Christ, and how to live "full tilt" for His renown. It is our prayer that there will be much fruit born around the world, as Mongolian young people lay down their lives for the sake of His Name.

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*"... YOUR NAME AND
RENOUN ARE THE DESIRE
OF OUR SOULS"
ISAI AH 26: 8*

