

2 0 1 1 O C T O B E R E D I T I O N

the HENRY family

YOKED TOGETHER FOR THE FIELDS ARE WHITE TO HARVEST



This is Ganbaatar. He is 29, single, working for World Vision, has been a believer for over 10 years and would very much like to meet a godly woman whom he could marry. Opportunities are scarce for him living here in Tosontsengel, but they were for me also! Pray that God would provide as generously as He did for me.

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✘ THE GOSPEL ✘

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation" (Rom 1:16 ESV)

DEAR FRIENDS,

Winter is rapidly approaching and we realize that we have not been very faithful in communicating with you all recently. Our teammates left in late September immediately after our harvest for their furlough. We had an average harvest this year and were thankful for the great weather during the two weeks we harvested. Since we sold all of our remaining animals last year (and no longer have that as part of our business) we can stay put in town for the winter months. The business continues to run profitably and provide our two families with our long-term living permissions. This summer our company also helped the town by repairing a road and building a bridge where there was a wash-out in the spring.

During the summer months Barb was able to have 12 Bible lessons with our neighbor children. They usually listened attentively and sang new songs with gusto. Our children were able to have some Mongolian language lessons and learned to write and recognize the letters of the Cyrillic alphabet.

During seven Sundays of the summer Tom, Ganbaatar and I went out to the nearby vegetable field and setup our projector to show some Christian t.v. programming and have mini-Bible lessons. Anywhere from 5-15 people would attend and afterwards we often played volleyball with them. While there wasn't a lot of visible response we trust that seeds were planted and in time God will water them.

One of the lessons I've been learning over the past year is that the gospel is for Christians! What does that mean? Often in American evangelicalism we are taught (or it is implied) that the gospel is what saves you, but that afterwards you move on to deeper things and work on your sanctification. While this is partly true, through a number of resources online I have been hearing over and over again that Christians need to hear the gospel daily. We need to know that Christ died for our sins today. We need to know that we are acceptable to God not on the basis of how far

"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures" (1 Cor 15:1-3 ESV)

along the road of sanctification we've progressed but that we're acceptable to God because of the righteousness of Jesus that has been imputed to us. What this means is Jesus' sinless life and perfect obedience to God's law has been given to me... freely...by grace...through faith...alone! Today for me 27 years after professing faith in Jesus, after lots of ups and downs, I'm no more acceptable to God than I was at age 14. Jesus Christ's perfect righteousness was mine then and is still mine. I haven't added anything to it and neither could I, although unspoken that is often what we are trying to do.

Another area of learning has been in the definition of the gospel. Realizing that the gospel we proclaim isn't my changed life, but rather it is the proclamation of what God has done through Christ in history. When I know this I'm freed to think and speak objectively of what Jesus has done, His dying for our sins. I do not have to convince someone that Jesus will bring them a better, more satisfying life; that isn't the Biblical gospel. Very often and easily the Biblical gospel gets lost and our focus is taken off of Jesus and what He has done and put onto us and what we do or what we've experienced.

One internet radio program (podcast) that I listen to regularly is a discernment ministry called "Fighting for the Faith." It mainly focuses on three movements in the American church: the emergent, the seeker-sensitive and the purpose-driven church. The tag line of the show is *"this is the program that dishes up a daily dose of biblical discernment. The goal of which is to help you think biblically, help you to think critically and help you compare what people are saying in the name of God to the word of God."* The host uses quite a bit of humor and sarcasm in his program and usually reviews an entire sermon each episode pointing out along the way when the pastor is taking things out of context, teaching something unbiblical, is in error or just plain weird. If you have wondered if there is something wrong with mainstream American evangelicalism, this program will help you flesh out exactly what is wrong and why. One of the surprises for me was realizing that the host

is a confessional Lutheran (LCMS), although his Lutheran views usually do not come into play on the issues at hand.

The blog of Tullian Tchividjian (pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church) and the podcast of the Whitehorse Inn have also been used of God in my life during the past year. Much of what these programs teach over and over again is what the Biblical gospel really is, and why Christians need to hear it continuously. They consistently point us to the objective reality of what Christ has done for us and away from the subjective question of "how am I doing in the Christian life."

In closing please remember the following items for prayer:

- I've set up a little bookrack at our root cellar with some tracts and Bible books. Ask that God would put them into the hands of many in our town, that their thoughts might be turned to the true and living God.
- Our group that gathers on Sundays is now often just our family and two brothers. We need wisdom to know how to proceed, how to reach out to those who have visited and shown interest in the past and how to be a faithful witness to the gospel.
- We need continued wisdom as we raise our four children, teaching them the Bible, and that God would grant them all repentance and faith

Thank you all for your continued prayer and financial support.

Grace, mercy and peace to you,

Jason & Barb

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tullian/>

<http://www.fightingforthefait.com/>

<http://www.whitehorseinn.org/> or

<http://itunes.apple.com/podcast/white-horse-inn/id356920632>



Building a new bridge on the road to one of our fields



I drove my neighbors 450 miles to the west to their daughter's wedding and was able to go further west and visit our friends who work with the Kazakhs of Mongolia.



Jonathan caught the fishing bug from someone in our family



We enjoyed a 3 night stay at our friends in Muren, 7 hours away, and there Barb celebrated her birthday



Where I'm sent when I get in trouble, or else our grey water drainage system installed this summer



Horse riding event during our local summer Naadam festival

[I've updated our website with some of our children's drawings, if you're interested.](#)