

# Inner Thoughts from Outer Mongolia

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**AUTUMN 2011**



**Dear Friends,**

***Greetings from outer Mongolia this season formally set aside for THANKS-GIVING! In the midst of turmoil in the world, in our lives; many uncertainties and worries, we are always blessed and so we give thanks to God for our lives, our families, our work, and out health, and..., and..., and...Yes, our hearts are filled with THANKS to God.***

### ***SINGAPORE TRIP:***

Since the last letter, which was in August, time has flown. First of all a wonderful trip to Singapore for about 10 days of rest and pampering along with the main event which was the celebration with Kampong Kapor Methodist Church— a time of mission emphasis and also celebrating the pastorship of Kang Ho Soon, who will be ending his completing his work at KKMC on Christmas Day. He has been a blessing to this congregation as has his wife, Yeok. It was a privilege to be part of the mission emphasis along with a couple of missionaries sent by KKMC to serve in SE Asia.

### ***NEW MISSION INTERNS:***

On returning to Mongolia it was time to finish preparations for the two young, male mission interns sent from the U.S. by GBGM. Wall-papering their apartment seemed a must, as especially the corridor was repulsive. Arriving around midnight just one month ago it was to an apartment building in which the electricity was off at that time— for how long we didn't know at that time, but power outages are still not uncommon in Ulaanbaatar. So, it was time to lug all of their heavy bags up to the 7th floor, by penlight illumination. Then after their arrival in the next few days electrical and plumbing problems seemed to follow. Just the rule, rather than the exception, in Mongolia. So, James Khorlaug and Matthew Roudebush are settling in now with lots of frustrations related to the newness of everything. Especially since they finally have visas, which meant they had to make a quick trip to China to obtain visas, and now have a schedule of activities and responsibilities here, they will hopefully feel more comfortable. Please pray for Matthew and James for their protection, comfort, and strong sense of purpose. The real winter will be here soon, so that will be another hurdle for them. I must say they did an EXCELLENT job of preparing warm clothing! WE are very happy to have them join the UMC mission family serving in Mongolia.

### ***NEW CHALLENGES:***

Other challenges of the fall include working with 72 fourth year nursing students from Ulaanbaatar University. They are assigned to Grace Hospice for clinical practice, which means visiting patients in their homes. We started out knowing there were too many students to absorb by our small hospice team, so half of the students each week are with me in the office for class. Unfortunately, they have less time visiting patients, BUT have time for us to try to make connections between what they have learned in class at the University and what they experienced in the patient's home. Thinking this was difficult in itself, then two of our three nurses were off sick for one to 4 weeks at the same time. It has been a real challenge. But, the students are fun and interesting, and report they are learning a lot (and the teacher is, too!) Unfortunately, they only have 6 days with for this clinical rotation

### ***NURSES' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:***

Also, related to nurses is that there is a movement starting among the Christian nurses in Ulaanbaatar to be part of an international organization of Christian nurses. Presently, Mongolian Christian nurses and student nurses are encouraged to meet at a regularly scheduled time for support and prayer. This group is led by a couple of Mongolian nurses with support from a couple of western nursing teachers. Then once each month foreign nurses are invited to join in prayer for these Mongolian nurses and their fellowship. Our Grace Hospice nurse reported after her first meeting, "I was so happy when I left the meeting."

### ***GRACE HOSPICE:***

We are in desperate need of a couple of new nurses and two new doctors. The problem in recruiting is not just the fact that we can't compete with some well-funded new private hospitals, but it is also that we are holding out for new staff who really have hospice enthusiasm, compassion, and are Christians. This has been an especially difficult year with three new staff members who do not have these three characteristics. We are increasing the salaries, and that is actually the easy part, but finding compassionate, hospice-hearted, young doctors and nurses will be a miracle, perhaps only achieved through the prayers of many. I would like to hire some of the nursing students who are practicing at Grace Hospice for a week. There is one new hospital with high salaries that is snatching up most of the really exceptional nurses for their hospital which serves many foreigners. Please pray for us. If we don't find some staff soon I can envision closing our Hospice soon. That is how critical it is that we find some new staff. Also, we are about to train some new volunteers.

### ***FIRST ANNUAL MISSION MEETING:***

On Halloween Day we will have our first official Annual GBGM Mongolia Mission Initiative meeting. In addition to reports of the past year's activities, there will be planning about the future. Jong Sung Kim will be joining us from the New York office to participate in this meeting, and probably will bring us much news.

### ***NATIONAL NEWS:***

Inflation in Mongolia seems unstoppable! How do small employers like us keep up with the salary needs. One shouldn't be penalized if he is working for the church related projects. We know this, but don't know how to meet the inflationary needs. Yes, I know you may be facing the same concerns. The main problem is we have to spend too much time and energy thinking of how to get the needed funds, and too little time on the programs, ways to minister to people here. This problem has really made us aware of how we use the funds we have.

### ***OTHER MISSION NEWS:***

With winter rearing its head a number of times already, coming with snow and cold wind, we are ready for the cold months ahead. Our two new mission buildings are finished, except for a few interior decorating tasks. The construction went well with no injuries, and with a sense of working together at each church. The best part is that some of the construction team now comes regularly to Sunday!

### ***FINANCIAL SUPPORT:***

*If you wish to send a donation through the Advance, 100% of it will be sent to Grace Hospice if you write "GBGM Advance #14928A" on it. If you wish to make a donation for the express purpose of maintaining the six churches and two mission centers and their programs, please make your donation to:*

**#00209A - "Mongolia Mission Initiative."** And, if you wish to contribute to my salary support, use this number: **#11810Z- "Helen Sheperd"**

Please mail donations to this address: **Advance GCFA; P.O. Box 9068, GPO; New York, NY 10087-9068, U.S.A.**

*All of your support in the past has been wonderful and we ask for your continued support, if you feel so led by God. Any gifts would be greatly appreciated. We give thanks for all of the donations we have received to continue God's work here in Mongolia under the GBGM of the UMC. Thank you for your part in this UMC mission.*

### ***PRAYER SUPPORT:***

- 1- Batkhoo and his family
- 2- Grace Hospice—need new staff
- 3- Grace Hospice staff to have the stamina to make it through another winter of home visits in very cold weather.
- 4- God's guidance in future planning for Grace Hospice.

***Peace,  
Helen***

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Senior Citizens



New Sanctuary- Gerelt UMC



Teenager playing Yattig



Holli is Back!



Gerelt UMC

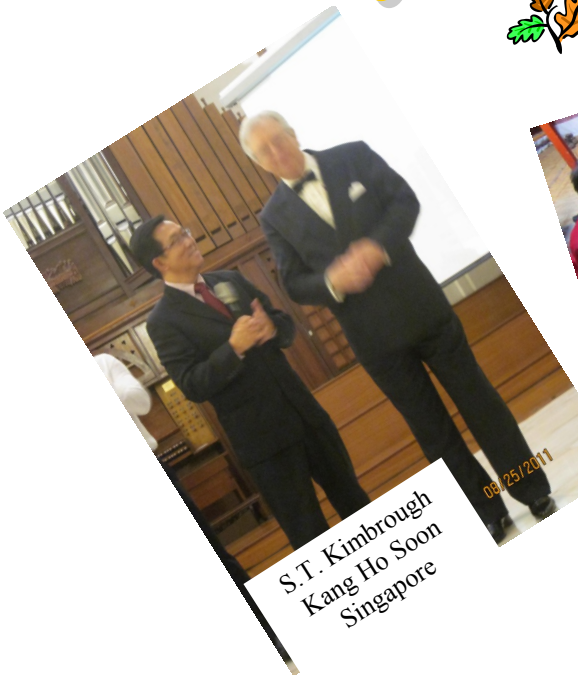


Pastor Seo Preaching



Gerelt UMC Sanctuary

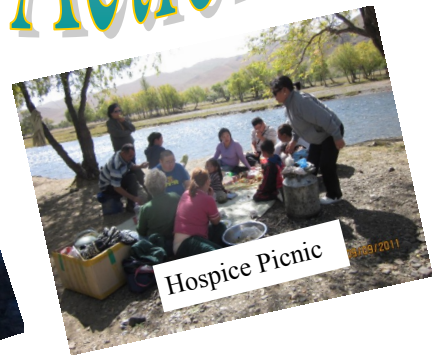
# Autumn 2011 Mongolia Mission in Action



S.T. Kimbrough  
Kang Ho Soon  
Singapore



Kindergarten Sunday School  
Preparing Prayer



Hospice Picnic



Prof. Braum Restaurant  
(Employs Autistic Young People)  
Singapore



Student Nurses at Hospice Office