

MOMENTS IN MONGOLIA

MINISTRY REPORT FROM THE RITCHIE FAMILY IN ULAANBAATAR



"...we are more than conquerors through him..." Romans 8:37

Thank you for praying faithfully for our family and ministry during the past months. God continues to bless despite the challenges we face from the global health crisis. Our greatest difficulty has been to balance physical restrictions with the necessities of ministry. We are still learning to show proper deference to regulations without letting these sometimes onerous or unnecessary things keep us from helping hurting people.



Since we last wrote, there has been a rash of quarantines, restrictions, shortages, and general confusion about what is allowed regarding church, school, and even daily life here in Mongolia. At times, we have not even been able to leave our home; at other times, transportation has only been restricted. Having police stop us to check our papers, having store clerks chide us for not wearing two masks instead of one, standing in endless lines of temperature checks, chemical mists and hand sanitizer has become a way of life. Once, we were stuck in the car during an eight hour "snap" quarantine just across the river from where our children were waiting for us at home.



Generally, our difficulties have been a matter of inconvenience, but the Mongolian people are having a hard time. There have been protests at the national square, two thirds of the government has resigned and one young person, in desperation and despair, publicly committed suicide by lighting himself afire.



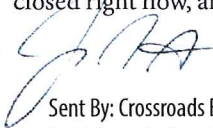
During this time of difficulty and tragedy, we have done our best to minister in every way that we can...connecting with people on Facebook, or by phone, exercising church discipline and restoration (over zoom) for two young people who fell into immorality during the quarantine, having church when we can or secretly visiting in homes to avoid prohibitions on public gatherings, creatively meeting the financial needs of people in a way that does not make them dependent on the church, learning to hold Sunday school and church services online using Zoom, YouTube and social media and using technology at the Bible School to continue training future leaders...**"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."**



We just want you to know that we are not discouraged, and we will not give up. We know that you all are going through a difficult time too. But In manifold ways, God continues to show Himself strong and we praise him! We praise Him for the young man that was saved last month, for church members learning to participate more in the ministry, for fellow missionaries to partner with, for the opportunity to purchase a piece of land for our summer camps, for new support to help translate and print notes and textbooks for the college, for continued progress on the Bible translation, for good attendance in our online services, and for all of you.

We could not do this without your financial support and prayers...and by the way, we have felt them! I would ask you to pray for one more thing. My father, Wayne Ritchie, is on a ventilator in a hospital right now in Houston, Texas after having been diagnosed with COVID Pneumonia. It is not clear that he will recover. Please pray for healing if it is God's will, and for comfort for Mom and the family. Unfortunately, the border is closed right now, and we are unable to be with them, so we are just trusting in the Lord. May God be glorified!

In Christ for the Harvest,

 Jason and Mary Ritchie, Katherine, Anthony, Sean, Emily, Allison, Jenna & Madelyn

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