



2010 Spring

# GREAT COMMISSION NEWS

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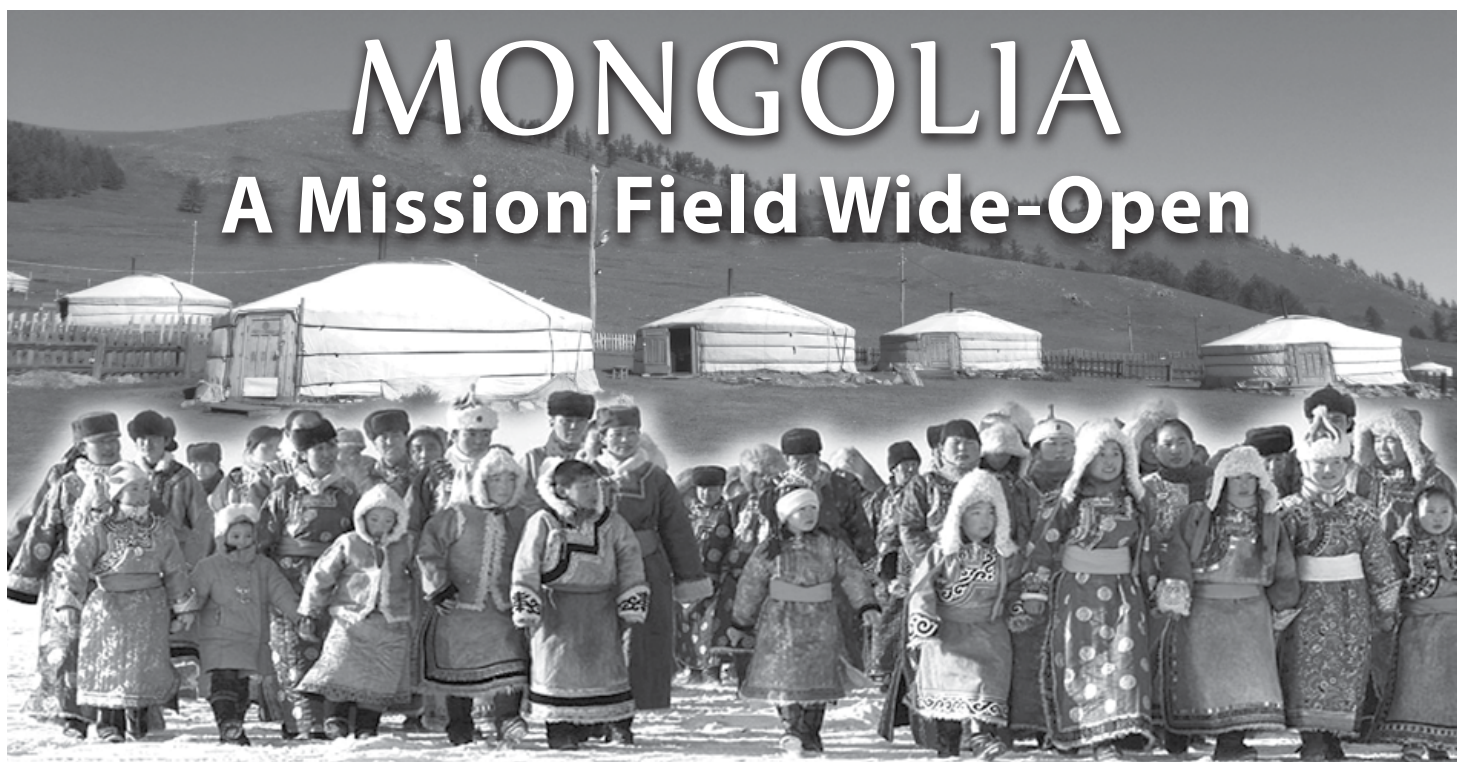
Email: [info@gcciusa.org](mailto:info@gcciusa.org)

Tel: (408) 636-0030

Fax: (408) 636-0033

## MONGOLIA

### A Mission Field Wide-Open



Mongolia lies between Russia and China. It is the second largest inland country (the largest one is Kazakhstan). 90% of the population is Mongolians. However, there are seven distinct dialects among the Mongolians. The official language is Halh Mongolian.

Mongolia was first unified as a nation in 1208 under Genghis Khan. In 1278, the Mongolians invaded the Middle Kingdom and established the Yuan Dynasty, which lasted until 1368. During this period of time, they became the greatest empire in the world, stretching from China to Central Europe. However, after their golden years, most of the Mongolians went back to their place of origin, i.e. Mongolia and Inner Mongolia of China.

From the Chinese point of view, Mongolia was

part of China until 1921, when a Russian-supported revolution broke out, and she seceded from China. Under the rule of a Communist government, Mongolia associated with the Soviet Union until 1990 when she denounced Marxism and became independent.

There are only 3 million people living in this vast country of 1,565,000 sq. km. There are immense grassland and forests in north, three major mountain ranges and the Gobi desert in the east and south. Most of the people engage in pastoral and agricultural activities. 90% of their exports are from livestock and animal products. However, extreme weather (from minus 40 C in winter and 40C in summer) always affects Mongolia's economy. It is estimated that nearly one-third of their population lives under poverty line.

**Mongolia's Constitution honors Buddhism, Shamanism, and Islam as her main religions. Most of the people are practitioners of Shamanism and Lamaistic Buddhism, or a mixture of both. Government grants certain religious freedom to her people.**

**Nestorian, Catholic and protestant missionaries came to Mongolia in 12th, 13th and 19th centuries. However, they could not take roots in this hard soil. It was estimated that there might be only 4 Mongolian Christians in 1989. But God has subsequently opened the hearts of the Mongolian people. Today, there are small congregations in almost every one of Mongolia's 22 provincial centers with a total Christian population of 50,000. It is reported that there are about 200 congregations in Ulaanbaatar, the capital, alone. Mongolian Christians are expecting a new modern Mongolian Version of the entire Bible from Mongolia Bible society later this year.**

**Churches are growing rapidly in Mongolia although facing numerous challenges – poverty, liberalism, atheism among the intellectuals,**

**materialism in the cities, the revival of Shamanism and Lamaistic Buddhism, and cultic teaching from Mormons and Jehovah's Witness etc. They have set a goal (20/10) of expecting 10% of their population are Christians in 2020.**

**There are about 400 expatriate Christian workers in Mongolia. Most of them are members of non-religious aid agencies, which are not permitted to engage in religious activities. A number of these workforces has formed the Joint Christian Services (JCS) to provide social services for the people, such as health care, youth work, relief work, rehabilitation center for alcoholics, as well as educational, practical and professional training for pastoral and agricultural workers. There are also theological training schools for local Christians. The most established one is Union Bible Training Center.**

**Rural churches have little support or teaching because of their distance from the cities where most of expatriate Christians reside. They need all kinds of help. Would you consider helping while the door is open?**





# Harvesting Together

Mojic Baldandorj



It has been almost 20 years since the first Christian Church was established in post-communist Mongolia.

Mongolia was known as “the end of the world” during the Communist regime and had remained closed to the outside world for 70 years. With the fall of Communism, Mongolia entered into a new page of history, and freedom and democracy were gained in 1990. There was no Christian presence recorded during the 70 years of exile under Leninism.

The first Christian gathering happened in the spring of 1991 with students of English classes, whose teachers were Christian missionaries. Three churches separately formed by the end of 1991 in the entire Mongolia, totaling 40-50 local Christians coming to worship on Sunday.

Just under three years, the passionate new believers spread the gospel day and night. Through street evangelism, home visitation, and Jesus Film showings, the good news was proclaimed to the newly opened country.

It was estimated that by 1996, almost 60 local churches had been planted and over 6,000 Mongols were attended these churches. By 2002, over 200 churches had been established in every centers of the 21 provinces, with a total of 25,000 followers of Jesus.

Today, there are over 500 evangelical churches established in the country, and nearly 2% of the population are Christians.

However, the explosion of rapid church growth creates leadership shortage. Many new-born churches lack of Christ-like servant leaders whose life can demonstrate integrity and reflect Christ's fragrance. For this very reason, Mongolian Mobile Training Center (MMTC) was born in 2002 with a vision to train and equip rural church leaders of integrity. We offer courses in provincial centers so that students from villages can come to be trained.

Today, we have over 100 graduates from our 2-year Theology Certificate program. They are pastoring 45 churches in 8 different provinces. In 2010, our ministries will be held in the following locations:

## 1. Hovd (West Mongolia)

It is the center of 5 provinces in the western part of Mongolia. Over 24 ethnic people groups live in harmony in this strategic center. There are 5 universities in the city attracting students from near and far. There are only 5 local churches among 23,000 residents.

## 2. Murun (North Mongolia)

It is the provincial center of Hovsgol province in North Mongolia with 18,000 people. Murun is well known as the birth place of Shamanism.

## 3. Dalanzadgad (South Mongolia)

It is situated in the Middle Gobi province with 23,000 people. Churches in this regional center have been growing fast in the last couple of years.

## 4. Seoul, Korea

It is estimated that over 35,000 Mongolians are living and working in Korea. They need biblical training in their own tongue.

## 5. Inner Mongolia, China

Nearly 5 million Mongolians are living in China. They also need the gospel.

In order to enlarge our scope of service, we have been renamed as Servant Leadership Center. It is our hope that we can provide Bible based servant leadership training to local government officials in the future.

## Special Prayer Requests for Herdsmen

During the last winter the weather has been the hardest of the last few decades. The temperature dropped to minus 40-50 C at night and 90% of the land was completely covered with heavy snow. The government of Mongolia has declared a state of natural disaster and over 2 million livestock did not survive the harsh winter.

Please pray for these victims. Food, fresh water and warm clothes are very much needed for the affected families. If you and your church would like to help, please contact Elder Ramsay Chan (ramsaychan@rogers.com) for details.



# Partnering to Reap the Great Harvest in Mongolia

**Peter Mah**

Upon the invitation of the Country Network, the Great Commission Center International Canada Office (GCCCI Canada) partnered with the Country Network to reap the great harvest in Mongolia. The Country Network entered Mongolia soon after Mongolia opened her door to the outside world in 1992. It has established Bible colleges and training centers, and supported pastors and seminarians financially for church planting. Rev. Mojic, president of Mongolia Mobile Training Center, is the fruit of that ministry.

The Country Network has worked in Mongolia for 17 years. Its network base has been established, but it needs the believers and churches to build upon it. GCCCI Canada and GCCCI Headquarters both espouse the same vision and burden for Mongolia. Their goal is to mobilize Chinese Christians and churches to seize this opportunity to reap the harvest, and to help the Mongolian churches to achieve the goal of “20/10” (Christians will increase to 10% of national population by 2020).

In September last year, GCCCI Canada worked with the Country Network to form a short-term mission trip. They taught in two training centers, investigated field situations and discussed future partnership possibilities. At the end of their trip, the chairman of the board of the Great Commission Center Canada signed an

Agreement of Cooperation with the Mobile Training Center for future ministries.

The gospel work in Mongolia started in 1870 by James Gilmour, a Scottish missionary of the London Missionary Society in Great Britain. After 20 years of arduous ministry, he led only a few people to the Lord. He died in China in 1891. He prayed that despite many difficulties, God will in His own time to raise up Mongolian Christians to evangelize their countrymen.

God answered his prayer after 100 years. In 1992, Mongolia broke off from the former Soviet Union, and her people enjoyed freedom of religion. During the past 17 years, the number of Mongolian Christians has increased from a handful to approximately 60,000. There are 21 provinces in Mongolia. Many are in remote areas with limited means of transportation. There are about 12,000 to 35,000 people in each

province and belong to 14 or 15 people groups. Each people group has about 2,500 people. Praise God that after 17 years of arduous efforts, there are about 200 churches in the country. About 30 churches are in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. The rest 170 churches scattered among remote areas in different provinces with at least two to three churches in each province.

The goal of the Mobile Training Center is to train



church pastors in the remote areas in all provinces. Most of the pastors cannot leave their ministries and go to seminaries in the capital. Through the two-year training program during the past seven years, the Training Center has trained pastors in 45 different churches in eight provinces. 100 people have graduated with outstanding achievements. The Training Center must subsidize the trainees (mostly pastors) on transportation, room and board. Usually, classes are held in local churches, the trainees sleep on the floor at night or in the yurt. Volunteers will prepare food for the trainees. Averagely there are about 70 trainees in a term, which requires about 4,000 USD (transportation and meals included). The expenses are fully dependent upon the free-will support from Christians and churches. Previously, most of the financial needs were supported by coworkers of the Country Network. Now, they hope that GCCI Canada could help to mobilize North American Chinese churches to help the Mongolian churches to achieve their goal of 20/10, by training Mongolian pastors in the remote areas.

Besides the training ministry in Mongolia, the Mobile Training Center has started the training among 120 Mongolian churches in South Korea. The 35,000 Korean Mongolians also need the gospel (the Mongolian language is very close to Korean language, so it is easy to learn). In addition, it also has training ministry in Inner Mongolia which also need help from the US or Canada. Furthermore, we hope that pastors in different Chinese churches can help the training ministry. Mongolia had been part of the China and the Mongolians were our fellow countrymen. They are

open to the gospel, and easy to believe and to commit. Thank God that we have the opportunity to be part of this great harvest. We pray that churches and Christians in the US and Canada will rise up to meet the need and the opportunity. Please mail your financial support to the GCCI Headquarters (848 Stewart Drive, Suite 200, Sunnyvale, CA 94085, USA) or GCCI Canada (c/o9670 Bayview Avenue, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada L4C 9X9).

GCCI Canada will organize two short-term mission trips to Mongolia this year for the purpose that more churches will know of the recent situation of evangelism need in Mongolia. For further information, please contact Elder Ramsay Chan by email ([ramsaychan@rogers.com](mailto:ramsaychan@rogers.com)).

*(The author is a board member of the Great Commission Center International and the board chairman of GCCI Canada.)*





# WORLD MISSION NEWS

Compiled by Samuel C. Y. Ling

**China:** Officially encouraged mass migration, particularly young people, from rural area into cities has prompted agencies to increase efforts in urban areas, resulting in explosive growth of churches there. Also the urban area have less persecution and officials have allowed them to do their work, including bringing Christian business leaders from US and Canada to help train the local Christians in using business as platform to serve God.

<WorldServe Ministries, [www.worldserveusa.org](http://www.worldserveusa.org), 1/26/10>

**India:** An agency reported strong church growth of 700 new churches every month. Several years ago, they started work in the state of Maharashtra (population 95 million) where 1% of people were believers. Today 3% are evangelicals. They are now training 1,000 church planters to send into areas with no Christian and expect to see 2 million believers in 3 to 5 years.

<India Gospel League, [www.iglworld.org](http://www.iglworld.org), 1/8,22/10>

**Netherlands:** Only 6% of the 600,000 college students are evangelicals. As most churches are quite self-absorbed, one student ministry is using a variety of ministries to reach out to them, especially some 80,000 international students many from closed countries like China, Iran and Iraq. The Muslim are surprisingly willing to listen.

<InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, [www.intervarsity.org](http://www.intervarsity.org), 1/13/10>

**Columbia:** Several years ago an urban youth was recruited to join a gang. But first he had to kill a man and a pastor was the target. His girlfriend had received a story book about Jesus and give it to him to read. After the salvation message convicted him, he followed the contact info in the book and met a pastor who turned out to be one he was to kill. Today, he is youth and worship leader for this pastor.

<OneHope, [www.onehope.net](http://www.onehope.net), 1/6/10>

**Mission Giving:** 22,000 students at a conference were challenged to raise US\$500,000 for 12 Christian ministry projects. They raised over \$668,000 that was matched by a generous couple for a total of \$1.3 million. One agency's \$75,000 project to build a Dalit education center in India received twice the amount and will build two centers.

<Operation Mobilization, [www.omusa.org](http://www.omusa.org), 12/17/09>

**Gospel Ship:** World's oldest ocean-going passenger ship, Operation Mobilization's Doulos, retired at the end of last year. Built in 1914, the ship made 600+ port visits in over 100 nations in the last 32 years bringing the hope of the gospel, Christian literature, relief work, and support for local churches. There is a potential buyer for possible use as a museum ship and for ministry training.

<Operation Mobilization, [www.omusa.org](http://www.omusa.org), 12/29/09>

**Malaysia:** The Dec 31, 2009 court ruling allowing a Catholic newspaper to use the Arabic word "Allah" to refer to God prompted attacks by vandals on more than 10 churches. The police has launched an investigation in this traditionally religious tolerant nation. All political parties have condemned the attack. Church attendance has not been affected.

<Open Doors USA, [www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org), 1/19/10>

**India:** In 2008, severe persecution of Christians broke out in Orissa state with 500+ Christians murdered, thousands injured and homeless, and homes destroyed. Recently, herds of wild jungle elephants have stormed 30 villages of homes of some of the worst persecutors. In one village the attack occurred exactly one year after the persecution. The herd seemed to single out homes of persecutors, sparing the Christian homes.

<Asia Harvest, [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org), December 2008>

**Philippines:** The typhoon severely damaged fishing villages and farms. One agency distributed hundreds of fishnets, released 1-million baby tilapia into the third-largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, helped hundreds of farmers to restore rice crop including training on green farming methods and distributing tools. They also launched 30 mobile medical clinics treating 4,000 patients, cleaned and sanitized some 500 houses filled with water for 2 months.

<Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, [www.crwrc.org](http://www.crwrc.org), 12/28/09>

**Zambia:** For generations people have practiced witchcraft, believing illness is due to curse from evil spirit. So, sick persons are taken to the witch doctors that place charms on them. This worsens the situation in a country already ravished by HIV/AIDS. An agency has set up nutrition seminars to teach mothers of proper childcare, healthy food, clean water and proper health care. Soon, mothers bring their children in for healing and get a chance to hear the gospel.

<Teen Missions International, [www.teenmissions.org](http://www.teenmissions.org), 12/17/09>

**Muslims:** Two best-selling authors traveled to 7 Middle Eastern countries for several weeks to write a book to help people better understand Muslims. They met political, religious, and social leaders also musicians, movie stars, etc. They interviewed with personal questions some 30 people including muftis, imams, top sheiks, royalties, and specifically Osama bin Laden's brothers, and leaders of Hezbollah and Hamas. The authors concluded that Muslims are regular people. Many of them like to talk about Jesus. Jesus is mentioned 80 times in the Quran. They believe there is a God and a person named Jesus of Nazareth. Christians should start and focus on that.

<Mission Network News/ [www.mnnonline.org](http://www.mnnonline.org), 1/11/10>

## GCCI International Board Meeting

The first 2010 International Board Meeting was held on February 23, 2010 at GCCI International Office in Sunnyvale, CA. GCCI International Board includes members from Hong Kong, Canada and other parts of the United States. They came together to review GCCI's ministries and financial situation in 2009 and ministry plan for 2010. The Board also reconfirmed GCCI's role in pioneer mission, mission mobilization and mission education. In order to have broader representation, the Board has resolved to invite Elder Manchild Yu of New Jersey and Rev. Peter Chung of Los Angeles to join the International Board. We are happy that both of them have accepted our invitation.



## GCC - Canada Board Meeting

Through the invitation of GCC - Canada board members, GCCI President, Dr. Sharon Chan and President Emeritus, Rev. Thomas Wang were in Toronto for a series of meetings at the end of February and early March. GCC - Canada Board meeting took this opportunity to have their first 2010 meeting on March 1 at the home of Rev. John Kao. GCC - Canada has decided to help theological training in Mongolia through the network established by Country Network since 1992. Some board members had visited Mongolia last September to review the needs and signed an agreement in partnership with local churches.



## Special Meetings in Toronto

GCC-Canada organized two special mission seminars on February 27 and 28 with Dr. Sharon Chan, Rev. Thomas Wang, Elder Ramsay Chan and Elder Kok-Swang Tan as speakers.

On February 27, Dr. Chan spoke on the topics of Today's World and The Diminishing Commitment of the Next Generation from a missiological perspective. She urged church leaders to emphasize mission education in their congregations and also introduced the World Mission Course (in Chinese), which was written and published by GCCI.

The theme for the special meeting on February 28 was "The New Opportunities for Missions". Rev. Thomas Wang shared with the congregation on the topic of "From Mount Heaven (Tian Shan) to Mount Zion" together with DVD presentation. He encouraged the participants to pay more attention to the Muslim world and the Jewish world. While Elder Ramsay Chan and Elder Kok-Swang Tan shared their experiences in Mongolia.



# Coming Events

## **To Jews With Love Conference in Macao**

Date: June 11 - 12, 2010  
Theme: The Past, Present and Future of the Jewish People  
Place: Christian Suen Tao Church  
Av. De Horta e Costa 100  
Macao  
Speakers: Rev. Tuvya Zaretsky (Director of Staff Training and Development, Jews for Jesus)  
Rev. Thomas Wang (President Emeritus, GCCI)  
Languages: English and Mandarin (with Cantonese interpretation)  
Sponsors: Great Commission Center International  
Christian Suen Tao Church Hong Kong & Macao District Union Association

## **Missionary Pre-Field Preparation Camp**

Date: July 5 – July 10, 2010  
Place: GCCI  
848, Stewart Drive, Suite 200  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085, USA  
Theme: Wholistic Development of a Missionary – Being, Knowing and Doing  
Language: Mandarin  
Instructors  
& Mentors: Dr. and Mrs. Titus Loong (over 20 years in missionary training),  
Miss Judy Tsao, Rev. Johnny Wan, Dr. Sharon Chan,  
Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Lai  
Fee: US\$400 (room and board included)  
Organizer: Great Commission Center International  
Co-sponsor: Chinese Christian Mission – USA  
Please download application form at [www.gcciusa.org/pdf/MPTraining.pdf](http://www.gcciusa.org/pdf/MPTraining.pdf)

## **2nd Internet Mission Forum**

Date: August 28, 2010  
Time: 9am – 8pm  
Place: Chinese Bible Church of San Diego  
12335 World Trade Drive  
San Diego, CA 92128  
Theme: Global Missions on the Internet  
Language: Mandarin  
Fee: US\$30 (including lunch and dinner), Full-time church pastors  
and wives \$15  
Sponsors: Overseas Campus Ministries, Jesus Central, Jidutuwiki,  
Great Commission Center International  
Co-sponsors: Chinese Bible Church of San Diego, The Home of Christ in Newark,  
China Soul, CCNTV, Chinese Christian Internet Mission, JGospel,  
FECA (China Ministry), Chinese Women

For more information, please go to [www.gcciusa.org](http://www.gcciusa.org), [www.jidutuwiki.org](http://www.jidutuwiki.org)