



ULANBAATAR

had changed a lot since I (YK) last visited in June 2008.

Now, there are more 'foreign' restaurants and shops (I spotted a Mango. and a Kenny Rogers).

Supermarkets seemed to be better stocked: with Wella, Dove, Clean and Clear, even Ayam sardines. In a larger supermarket downtown, I saw a Mongolian Bible on the shelf!

But this is still one of the most physically, and spiritually, needy countries of the world.

An NGO worker told us at least 10,000 kids live on the streets, hiding in sewage pipes at night for warmth.

One day I spoke in the *ger* districts (where 80% of UB's 1 million people live). The largely "unsewered and waterless" living conditions, unpaved roads, black coal smoke puffing from chimneys - all reminded me that despite the fashionably clad people and swanky new buildings, half of this country's 2 million people still live below the poverty line.

"I'm 31 years old; can I be a baby again?"

BATTSINGER said when I (YK) shared the gospel with her.

The manager of the GoldStar Hotel, where we stayed during our 10-day trip in Ulaanbaatar (UB), was my "man of peace" (Luke 10:6).

Every day, she would check if we had enough hot water (temperature was between -3 and 20 degrees C). One evening she prepared for us Indian curry (she's married to a Pakistani). Another day, she surprised me by doing all my laundry, and at no cost.

Though she didn't receive Christ through my sharing, I know Battsenger's salvation is near. "You have something special," she told me.

When I replied that the "something special" is Jesus in me, she nodded. "Yes, I know," she said. "My maid, who's the purest person I'd ever met, has the same thing."

"She's also a Christian."

On our last evening, I introduced Battsenger to Boggii, a local worker who would follow her up. Here's the amazing thing: when the two women met, they realized they were neighbors 20 years ago in Hovd, a village 1,500 km from UB.



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Highlights in Mongolia

Experiencing God's grace and provision every step of the way. Four days before we left Singapore, a friend sent us S\$2000, exactly what we lacked in support.

The warmth and diligence of the 52 Mongolian staff and disciples we trained. Roland and Jeremy (our colleague) taught New Testament Survey, and I conducted newsletter writing and team building workshops.

For me, speaking to 100 teachers in two schools. Most of them were non-believers but they listened to my talks attentively. I'm grateful.

Being in UB as the country voted in its first democratic president, former Prime Minister Tsakhia Elbegdorj. As we watched people celebrating on the streets, we felt their deep longing for change.

Horse-riding on our day off (I screamed silently throughout the ride up and down the valley), and watching snow fall silently on our final day. We were exhausted and missed our daughter immensely; but it was snow, we were in one of the most beautiful countries of the world, it was magical.

Roland & YK
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we truly enjoyed the Mongolian staff workers and disciples