

Update from Chore. *If you would like to skip the color commentary scroll down to page two and look for the* ★
Dear Brethren,

Thursday morning we, Pastor Eggi, Naraa, Carolyn and myself made the trip to Chore. It was absolutely the most miserable trip to receive such a wonder blessing I have ever been on. Wednesday we had purchased the radiators and items needed to repair their heating system. It had been loaded on a



In the middle of the road trying to knock ice off the brakes. Don't worry, we only saw four other vehicles the entire trip.



Picture from gate on Christmas Eve, Below picture taken from the same place on Christmas morning. It may look like fog but it is powder snow.



truck and was ready to leave for Chore at 8AM Thursday morning. Two of our members rode with the materials to Chore and will stay there until the heat is working. Our car left UB at 6:30AM loaded with food Christmas baskets which we had purchased for each member of Chore. It was -6F with a little snow falling. By the time we had made it out of town the wind was blowing and sweeping the snow across the road. In some places it was difficult to see, but Brother Eggi assured us that once we get past Narlac it will clear up. After we had passed Narlac it appeared to be getting heavier. As I mentioned this, Brother Eggi said I meant the cemetery just past Narlac. About 1 mile past the cemetery it continued to worsen and as I started the sentence "I thought it..." Brother Eggi confidently said, as soon as we get past these foot hills it will clear up on the steppes. We were then only 35 miles from home but it was never mentioned to turn around and go home, besides the truck with the radiators will be coming behind us. Ordinarily this trip would take 2 and half hours. We arrived in Chore at noon, five and half hours after we left. It is 135 miles to Chore we averaged 24 miles and hour. Upon arriving in Chore visibility was about 15 feet, most of our trip it had been less. There is no road nor road sign to the church property that is about 500 yards off the highway. We passed it and had to turn around hoping to see tire marks in the sand. No such luck so we took an educated guess and turned off the road in the direction we believed the church building to be. After several twists and turns we located the front gate. Several hours later the truck arrived with our men and materials.

Our arrival was a surprise to brother Aagii and sister Ulzii, they knew the material was coming but did not expect a visit from us.

After a short visit trying to encourage them we took them to a place that served meals. (I put it that way so you won't confuse it with a restaurant) At that time we learned the road had been closed because of blizzard conditions, so what was to be a quick trip to Chore and return had now turned into an overnight stay. We spent the rest of the day looking for a heated garage so our car would start Christmas morning, and locating a place to stay. The hotel would have been one of the best we stayed in if it would have had hot water in the bathroom and a way to make hot water for coffee. Oh, and if the room was warmer then 50 degrees, and if ...you get the picture. After preparing for the night we returned to the church property. I walked through the church building. Upstairs they had finish a room for the children's Sunday School, the last time I had seen it was two weeks prior. They had been so proud of the freshly painted walls, and bulletin boards, attendance records and CD player. Now the wall had stains from hands trying to remove ice from the pipes. The recently painted radiator lay in parts on the floor with ice everywhere. It was heart breaking for me, I could only imagine what this meant to those who had done the work. We left Aagii and Ulzii as they were preparing the place for our workers to sleep.

We woke up Christmas morning to clear blue skies, not a cloud to be seen. A slight breeze blowing from the northeast, and to my surprise no snow on the ground. The day before we could not see across the church property for the snow blizzard today there was no snow on the sands of the Gobi desert. There were some snow drifts here and there but the wind had carried the snow away. Oh yeah, it was -24F, and on the way home dropped to -31. We knew this was a bitter storm as we counted 4 cows by the side of the road who lost the battle with the weather.

★ God can use anything to bring glory to his church. We had come to encourage a pastor and his wife, but it was us who received the encouragement as they began to relay to us what had happened. Aagii and Ulzii said Saturday night when they arrived home and found both building frozen they did not know what to do. They were up until 3AM Sunday morning trying to figure out how to continue worship services and make a place to sleep. They wound up having the children meet in the ger on the property, but there were too many adults to do the same, so they met in the building and held services in below 0 temperature. This is with the few electric heaters they own on full blast. I could not imagine sitting through a class and a sermon in those temperatures, but I'm not a Mongolian. The young man who was supposed to keep the boilers working is related to a family who are members at Rich Heart. He had moved to Chore to get away from friends and influences that enabled him to drink. He had attended Brother Aagii's alcohol abuse classes and had accepted Christ as his Savior and was baptized and became a member of the Chore Church. Aagii and Ulzii had invested many hours with this young man, and he appeared to be growing. They were letting him stay on the property as a guard. Most of the Chore congregation had traveled to UB for Bible School and they felt confident in this young man to be responsible. A friend of his came by and convinced him to join him in town for just one drink. As most recovering alcoholics will tell you, after being sober for a time they believe that they can handle one drink. This is what this young man thought, but true to form he and his buddy stayed drunk the weekend.

When a building loses its heat it is big news. The town of Chore knew that the Baptist lost the heating in their new building and they knew how they lost the heat. Here is where our Lord and Savior receives the glory. Monday this young man came to Aagii and Ulzii begging them for forgiveness. According to them he showed a true repentant heart. On Wednesday he came before the church and begged them for forgiveness, they forgave him and accepted his apology. This has also become common knowledge in Chore and from what we could gather people are amazed that the Church accepted his apology for something so damaging. He has been there everyday working on getting the ice out of the lines and trying to repair some of the damage he had allowed. As we met him he would barely raise his head. Please pray for this young man.

The two men that we sent to Chore are experienced builders and were excited to be used to get the heat back on in the buildings. We had sent them there with instructions to get Aagii and Ulzii's home heaters working first so they could get back in their home. When Aagii and Ulzii heard this, they both refused to let them work on their home until the church building was working. They said we have to have special services Sunday to thank God for his blessings. Brethren, there is, and there will be a strong Landmark Baptist Church in Chore. Please pray for these people, their pastor and wife. This is an amazingly difficult place to live much less to serve God. The love these people have for our Lord is very evident in their daily lives.

Thank you to all the churches who have said they are sending money to help this congregation repair their building. This also is a testimony to the people of Chore, that American churches are concerned enough for the Mongolia church that they are helping them with money. Any extra funds will be used to help them finish this building.

May God bless each of you this Christmas, I know that we have received a special blessing this Christmas by God allowing us to be a part of such as work as this.

Thanks

Bill and the entire Mission Team