

theboisvert update



“The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps” (Proverbs 16:9).

THE TRUTH OF PROVERBS 16:9 has been made very clear to all of us beginning about a year ago and continuing now into 2021! COVID-19 has challenged our creativity and discernment of the Lord’s leading throughout the past 14 months, and as I keep in touch with our overseas co-workers, I am assured that we are not alone in these challenges.

FEBRUARY MONGOLIAN MODULE POSTPONED

Doug and one of our regular adjunct teachers had been scheduled to teach a Mongolian module in mid-February. The fourth group of Mongolian church leaders was within nine courses of completing the training when the pandemic hit last February. As we reported in our last *Update*, Doug was able to teach by Zoom when these students gathered last September with two Mongolian leaders teaching in person. There was great excitement at the possibility of all of us getting back on track this year to finish the training and to open it back up for a new group of 25-to-30 church leaders to start.

HOW TO CELEBRATE

Tsagaan Sar

MONGOLIAN LUNAR NEW YEAR



Tsagaan Sar, or “The Festival of the New White Moon,” which marks the beginning of the traditional “Lunar New Year,” is a particularly important holiday for Mongolians. They traditionally celebrate with large family gatherings for three days starting February 12th, but this year, because of the pandemic, the government has declared a complete lock-down for at least two weeks to keep the gatherings from inadvertently becoming virus-spreading events—which in turn has postponed our scheduled February teaching module. We are not expecting travel within the country to reopen until at least mid-

March, at which time we will try again to schedule a module.

The Mongolian leaders are discussing the possibility of forming regional “cell groups” of students as a way to reschedule teaching modules without having to worry about potential travel restriction delays. Please join us in prayer that communication between regions will be stable enough to enable leaders and students to creatively make alternate plans in this way so that the Mongolian training can move forward.

ENCOURAGING NEWS!

We have received an encouraging word from one of Doug’s fellow doctoral study classmates, Dr. Simon, from Cameroon (whose flag is this issue’s title backdrop). He is currently the president of a Scripturally-sound Bible seminary that has been able to offer degrees up to the Doctoral level in partnership with an American university. However, Dr. Simon was also burdened for village pastors with no secondary education, which prohibited them from pursuing Bible training at his seminary. Tri-M missionaries Dr. Steve Nunemaker and Doug intro-

duced Dr. Simon to the Tri-M type of training for those village pastors, and after only a few visits from us, Dr. Simon has begun his own “mobile ministry,” modeled after Tri-M—and it continues to this day! Dr. Simon has even demonstrated to some of his Cameroonian seminary professors that these village pastors are able to successfully interact in deep theological discussions. It has actually been easier keeping Dr. Simon’s mobile ministry going than it has the seminary throughout the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. We praise God for both seminary and mobile ministry teaching!

A NEW PEACE INITIATIVE IN SOUTH SUDAN



Graduates of the South Sudan Evangelical School of Theology (S.S.E.S.T.), a Tri-M model training program, have come together to seek a new initiative for peace in South Sudan. They write:

“Church Alternative Corridor for Peace in South Sudan

“I am sharing an idea our Tri-M and S.S.E.S.T. graduates pushed to me to have united churches’ concern for peace in South Sudan because all peace initiatives have failed, resulting in political factions both inside and outside.

“The different factions have tried GUNS, and it has failed.

They have tried NEGOTIATIONS—both inside and outside—all is a failure.

“These, our graduates, ask, ‘Can there not be an alternative?’ All the churches in the refugee camps could come together and pray to God. Since the transport is not easy between the camps, this could be divided into six group centers where the leaders come to intercede for South Sudan with the spiritual goal that God would bring peace to South Sudan. Let us lead in showing our hope is in God alone!”

The former students shared their idea with leaders from other churches, and it seems to have been positively received, generating a spark of hope. They will spend 24 hours in prayer on Saturday, March 13, 2021 and call it “A National Day of Prayer for Permanent Peace for South Sudan.” Will you consider joining us on that day to pray as well? The government and a few churches in Juba had a National Day of Prayer, but it ended up just being a dinner for government officials followed by a 10-minute prayer time.

The South Sudan training module is scheduled to restart the following Monday (March 15) with two new groups. The timing is purposeful and designed to minimize the travel expenses of those who plan to attend.

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

✦ Bukeeka Evangelical School of Theology (B.E.S.T.), in Uganda, is still struggling to restart under the country’s pandemic restrictions.

- ✦ Cheryl received an e-mail from one of her Ugandan former students, who is now one of three teachers in the B.E.S.T. ladies classes and is still involved in individually discipling them. What a blessing it is to hear 2 Timothy 2:2 at work!
- ✦ Tri-M Tanzania plans to restart regional teaching modules throughout Tanzania this year, as internal travel has officially reopened. Pray that travel will remain open within their borders and that Pastor Michael stays strong and healthy in spite the hundreds of miles he will be traveling this year.
- ✦ Pray that Doug and Cheryl will be able to secure the second COVID-19 vaccine shot for future international travel.
- ✦ Pray for Pastor Daniel in Myanmar, that he will continue to sense the Spirit’s leading as he works within current government restrictions to minister to villages and train church planters. Doug has had intermittent contact over the years consulting and encouraging this pastor but has been unable to visit him since before the pandemic hit.
- ✦ Pray for Cheryl as she leads a Women’s Bible Study at our local church here in Texas.

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