

"Turning Your Dreams Into Reality"

November/December 2003

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Rolandseck, Germany

2003 will be a year many of us will never forget.

2004 holds so much more.

*It will be exciting to see
how it unfolds.*

*No matter what the challenge,
we can count on the Lord to
provide for our every need —*

see us through, bless and protect us.

Just ask Him and listen for His direction.



Scenes of the Season in Germany



Left: A Christmas scene in the Kaufhof Department Store window.

Below: A local band provides Christmas entertainment for holiday shoppers.



Left: Weihnachtsmarkt Hut selling Christmas treats.

Right: Weihnachtsmarkt in Bonn.

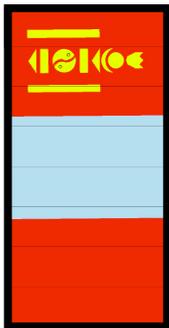
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Donations may be sent to the U.S. Office address.



The Prologue — Back to Mongolia

Right now, it looks like I am going back to Mongolia in June 2004 for another few weeks. It was a life-changing experience the first time. It will be interesting to see what develops during this trip. Besides being able to revisit the nomadic family in the Orkhon Valley and the children in the Village of Tumurbulag, I will be spending more time developing contacts in Ulaanbaatar and the town of Muren.

“The fields are white and ready to be harvested (John 4:35).”

It is time to move forward — using every tool possible.

Mongolian Radio

WIND-FM, Mongolia

I have been in contact with Mr. Batjargal the owner of WIND-FM in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. We are exploring the process of broadcast licensing in Mongolia. At this time, I am specifically looking at what it would take to set up or support another Christian station somewhere in Mongolia, but outside the city of Ulaanbaatar. Since the objective is to broadcast to the largest area possible, short-wave or AM frequencies are the most effective to use. They can reach the vast remote areas of the country and directly impact the nomadic families. On a smaller scale, there are simple low-power stations that can be set up for broadcast to smaller areas.



***The staff and management of WIND-FM
— Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia —***

Trans World Radio

My quest to find some quick solutions for Mongolian programming brought me to Trans World Radio (TWR), a worldwide Christian broadcasting ministry that specializes in using radio to beam language specific programs into target countries. I contacted TWR to request information about the possibility of broadcasting to Mongolia. They replied that beginning March 28, 2004 they will begin to direct their short-wave broadcasts to Mongolia for the first time.

Because of this exciting development, I have contacted my missionary friends in Mongolia to let them know about this outreach opportunity to their communities. The next goal is to determine what it would take to increase TWR's Mongolian programming and find a way to make the nomadic people aware of it.

Why My Involvement in Broadcasting?

Honestly, I am not exactly sure. Part of the explanation is that I spent over 15+ years in various aspects of commercial broadcasting or communications. It seems that the Lord is using this past experience again. It is still close to my heart. Broadcasting can have a positive impact on the Body of Christ and the local community.

German Language Radio Programming in Belize City, Belize Central America

While things are working towards Mongolia, I am also working with Jim and Jenny Duncan in Belize City, Belize, Central America. They operate a Christian FM radio station there and are exploring the idea of providing teaching to the German Mennonite community in their broadcast area.

The Mennonite community speaks Low German* and the programs must be in that unique language. Low German is completely different from what is commonly spoken in Germany. I am working on possibly producing that programming here in Germany and providing it to them in Belize.

Since very few Germans here speak Low German, the Lord opened an amazing door a few weeks ago. I met someone at our monthly inter-church Bonn Worship Night Concert. Lilly Rempel is from Kazakhstan. She immigrated to Germany fifteen years ago just before the breakup of the Soviet Union. Even though she is not a Mennonite, Lilly has close contacts with the Mennonite community in Kazakhstan. She knows a lot about that community and the Low German language they speak. She educated me on the details and differences of Low German and the Mennonites. Most importantly, she referred me to someone that can speak and read it, and possibly help me put some programs together.

*Low German: the German dialects of northern Germany — especially as used since the end of the medieval period.



Mongolian Children's Outreach

At the same time, I am also exploring the possibility of arranging, coordinating or doing some type of ministry outreach to the children of Mongolia. It is a bit vague right now since this is the exploratory stage.

Research and communication with various missionaries located in Mongolia are in progress. Some of the missionaries I met last June have offered advice and additional contacts. They have been kind enough to introduce me to others that might be able to help me. Because of their years of experience in Mongolia, they are providing valuable insights and information on what might be needed and how to accomplish it.

The first concerns are that there are governmental restrictions on having outdoor public outreaches directed specifically towards children, where they are exposed to something that the parents may not be aware. Since 96% of the country follows the Tibetan Buddhist Lamaism religion, this creates its own challenges.

Initial information seems to be that these types of meetings may only be held in existing church buildings instead of a public outreach venue — tents, parks or stadiums. The process needs a lot of prayer and direction. But, really nothing is impossible with God. I believe and know this.

If an actual children's outreach or activity isn't possible this year, it is still necessary to go back and do in-country research and contact development for 2005. Because the weather is incredibly harsh during the winter (temperatures and wind chill factors well below zero), summer is the only season that any activity of this type could take place. In short, it is a work in progress. I will keep you posted as progress is being made.



MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

— John Koehler Facilitates an Effective Christian 12-Step Program in Mongolia

Alcoholism is an incredible problem with the adult male population throughout Mongolia. The men of Mongolia face a seemingly hopeless situation of unemployment and lack of direction for their lives.

I had the privilege of meeting John Koehler last June on my first trip to Mongolia. John's ministry is to empower the local Mongolian church to be able to reach alcoholics in their communities through a Christian 12-step program. They partner with two churches that are running small groups for alcoholic recovery programs. John's goal by the year 2005, is to see five churches in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar and five churches in the countryside running their own recovery groups.

John and his team train Christian volunteers on how to minister effectively to alcoholics and their families. They also do prevention, education seminars, and collaborate with other ministries to provide job training to those members that are stable in their recovery.

Support Info for John Koehler

OMF International
10 West Dry Creek Circle
Littleton, CO 80120-4413



John Koehler (left) and his Mongolian 12-step team.

**Make your checks out to OMF International.
Please indicate in a separate note that the funds are for
"The Alcohol Rehab Project of JCS in Mongolia."**

Zoe Gospel Center — **Zurich, Switzerland**

During my trip to Switzerland a few months ago, I was introduced to Pastor Hasler at Zoe Gospel Center. We are discussing the possibility of helping him in the business and planning areas of his church. Zoe Gospel Center is the oldest faith church in Switzerland and has a little over two hundred members.



Pastor and Vivian Hasler and children.

Prayer Projects

Your prayers mean the difference in the work God is doing through First Step Ministries, Inc. Would you be in agreement with me for the following areas:

- ▶ My Trip Back to the States in March
- ▶ The Trip to Mongolia in June
- ▶ Wisdom for the Children's Outreach Programs
- ▶ Wisdom in the Broadcast Area and Favor with the Mongolian Government
- ▶ Additional Contacts in Mongolia (both Christian and secular)
- ▶ Protection and Provision
- ▶ Business Concepts Conferences for Pastors
- ▶ A Car for Me in Germany

Church Business Administration Conferences

A few months ago, I reviewed the types of help I have been giving to various ministries and churches. My heart has and always will be to work in planning and strategy, which is rewarding and productive for me. But the results of the review indicated that basic business skills and business office organization has been where most of the help has been needed.

Therefore, I am beginning to focus more of my efforts and work towards the broader area of business office organization instead of just planning and strategy. Currently, I am working on creating a curriculum to teach basic business concepts in a formal seminar environment. Upon completion, we will hold two pastor's conferences for Germany in September 2004.

These conferences will also give me the opportunity to "test drive" the material before I commit to printing it out into a text or workbook format. Please pray for me to have wisdom to include all the information necessary in a clear and precise presentation.

Children's Church — Rhema Bible Church, Bonn

I really want to title this, "You can run but you can not hide." After years of working in children's churches as everything from a helper to Children's Pastor, I still think it is the most fun and rewarding place to be. It looks like it is going to become a part of my ministry life again.

During the last eighteen months in Bonn, I have worked in various capacities at my home church. Recently, I felt compelled to help in the children's church area. They especially need men that are godly examples to the kids. Besides, once you have had the joy of working with kids, you really cannot stay away very long.

It is rewarding to see them grow and develop their knowledge of God and the Bible. My experience has been that if you teach them to pray, they will pray for you without their little minds being cluttered with doubt. If you need prayer, ask a kid that knows the Lord. You will both be blessed.

Have Laptop — Will Travel

I will be traveling back to the States this March 2004 to visit family and friends. During that time, I would like to present the mission, purposes, and goals of First Step Ministries, Inc. If you know of any one who might interested in what we are attempting to accomplish for the glory of God and the furtherance of His Kingdom, please let me know. Any help or referrals will be appreciated. You can e-mail me at: larry@firststepministries.net

— *Vielen Dank*

"I am so very grateful for the prayerful support from those who have partnered with me in this work." — Larry