

PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL ITINERARY
CW-WOV VISION TRIP TO MONGOLIA
OCTOBER 10TH THROUGH OCTOBER 22ND

Travelers:

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The following quotes are from the magazine that the Mongolian traveling team is using for their devotional book. The magazine is *Weavings - A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life* (July/August '98). The title of this issue is "Living on the Edge".

Wednesday, October 10th

Travel from the US to Mongolia

Travelers

Quote: "As the Spirit of God gradually conforms our hearts to the heart of Jesus, we begin to move away from centers of world and self to edges where God is doing a new thing."

Reflection: All of us are travelers in this life. We move back and forth between our comfort zone and our discomfort zone. God meets us in both places. Meditate on areas of your life where things are comfortable/uncomfortable, certain/uncertain, familiar/unfamiliar, known/unknown. When has God called you from where you thought your life should be to a new place?

Read Luke 19: 1-10 about Zacchaeus' journey

Thursday, October 11th

Arrival in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Transforming Journey

Quote: "We leave stability behind and head for the place where edges meet in order to find the heart of things."

Reflection: Our faith life is a life of movement. We learn, we grow, we "get it all together". Then God challenges us in a new way - moves us "to the edge".

Read: Luke 1: 26-38 about Mary's response to God's challenge. Mary's response is a wonderful example for us of obedience. She says "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said".

Friday, October 12th

Meet with WV Mongolia staff – orientation and overview of WV Mongolia work

Stand Fast

Quote: "It is only in clinging to the Cross of Christ, in finding our only true shelter standing fast beneath its arms, that we can hope to live either on the edge or from the center."

Reflection: It is with Christ at our center that we are able to move forward in obedience and with confidence.

Read: Psalm 62: 1-2

Saturday, October 13th

Sightseeing and evening cultural show

Moving On

Reflection: Some of you are "moving on" as you visit Mongolia. Some of you are "moving on" in a different sense. There are many things about travel that bring us "to the edge": distance, differences in cultures and people, challenged mental flexibility, personal relationships, gaining a different perspective about ourselves and others, allowing God to break our hearts. What are barriers that you put between you and God's transforming work in your life?

Read: Read through Exodus 3 and 4 about Moses' fear of following God's plan for his life.

Sunday, October 14th

Worship, rest and dinner with WV Mongolia staff

Arriving

Quote: "We cannot arrive at the perfect possession of God in this life, and that is why we are traveling. But we already possess God by grace, and therefore in that sense we have arrived. But oh! How far have I to go to find You in Whom I have already arrived!"
(Thomas Merton)

Reflection: God is always with us and always present to us. Sometimes it seems we have to go to great lengths to be reminded of that again.

Read: Psalm 139: 7-12

Monday, October 15th

Begin visits to Children of the Tunnels Project

Embracing Suffering

Quote: "Only by embracing suffering and becoming purified by it do we become secure in joy".

Reflection: As we embrace suffering, we have the opportunity to cultivate a greater sense of intimacy with Jesus. Jesus becomes our intimate personal friend when we SHARE his suffering for the redemption of the world. Perhaps only then can we also share his joy. All of us have opportunities to share in Jesus' redemptive work. Whether in Mongolia or at home, we do not have to look far to see the things that break God's heart. Let's accept the challenge to embrace suffering with the expectation of experiencing Christ's joy.

Read: I Peter 4: 1-2; 12-19

Tuesday, October 16th

Continued visits to Lighthouses, Informal Education and other projects

Secure in Joy

Quote: "There is an intimate relationship between suffering and joy. The nearer we get to the Holy One the more intense the demands made on us if our course is to be sustained"

Reflection: As we allow God to be the center of our lives, He fills us with compassion. That compassion moves us from where we were "centered" to "life at the edge". There we experience our own suffering and the suffering of the world. As we respond to that, we are filled with Christ's peace and joy.

Read: James 1:2-4 and 1John 1:1-4

Wednesday, October 17th

Continued visits to projects

Growth of Compassion

Quote: "God's redemptive work in us, especially the growth of compassion that comes through suffering, makes the idea of separation from one another unimaginable."

Reflection: God sees no separation between us even though we live in our own homes, in our own cities away from family, on the other side of the world from Mongolia. He challenges each of us to see the world in the same way. We are all children of God, needing his love and salvation.

Read: John 17: 20-26

Thursday, October 18th

Continued visits to projects

The Decentered Life

The apostle Paul thought that he was at the center of God's will. But then God confronted him with the fact that God did not want Paul to be persecuting Christians, but to become one of them.

Quote: "This was a moment of radical de-centering for Paul. In one traumatic moment, the center of Saul's universe had shifted. God no longer conformed to his expectations. God no longer worked in his way. God was no longer comfortably and firmly under Saul's control."

Reflection: How has being involved with WOV changed your view of the world, God's work in the world, and your part in that plan?

Read: Acts 9:10-19 about Paul's conversion

Friday, October 19th

Final project visits – debriefing with WV Mongolia staff

Agents of God's Grace

Quote: "God is not merely at the margins of our outer world. God is also at the margins of our inner world. God will never forsake us until our center becomes open to the margins and God becomes the healing, liberating, transforming God of our whole being

and, at the same time, moves us in that growing wholeness to the margins of our world as agents of God's grace.

Reflection: What safe haven is God calling you from? What marginalized area/people is He calling you to?

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Saturday, October 20th

Team debriefing, shopping, late night departure for Korea

Itinerant Living

Quote: "Itinerant traveling has been part of Christianity from its beginning. To be itinerant is to live on the edge, to have nothing of one's own. To claim nothing as our own, not even the knowledge of where we are going, is to be utterly dependent on God alone.

Reflection: How does the long-standing practice of Christian itinerancy challenge us who live settled in one place? How do we be obedient to God's call when our lives are so settled?

Read: Matthew 8:19-20

Sunday, October 21st

Begin travel home – Mongolia to Korea

Daily Journey

Quote: "To view our daily lives as open journeys, travels here and there without a road map, means learning the discipline of surrendering even our most important agendas to God."

Reflection: What is the part of your life/schedule that is most difficult to surrender to God?

Read: Jonah 1:1-3; 2 John: 6

Monday, October 22nd

Debriefing in Seoul, Korea and visit Seoul Office; Continue travel home

God as the Center

Quote: "The goal of the spiritual journey is the deep inner de-centering of self and the emergence of God as the focal reality of life."

Reflection: Where are you on this journey?

Read: Philippians 1:9-11