

Pastor Taylor's Mongolian Journal



Thursday, August 20, 5:15pm

Okay. I did say I was going to be in touch every day and some of you have been already checking to see if I had posted a message. Well, I will begin by telling you that we have been traveling for nearly three days to get here to the Warner home. This is my first chance to get my fingers on a keyboard. Be patient.

We flew from New York to Seoul, Korea. That flight took about 15 hours. They took good care of us. I filled my 15 hours with reading, watching a movie and a bit of sleeping. From Seoul, after a 3 hour layover, we flew to Ulan Bataar, a flight of just under 3 hours which seemed like a quick flight after our previous one. We arrived at about 10:30pm on Tuesday night (9:30am Tuesday morning in PA). We stood in the lines for customs as might be expected. We hit just a bit of a snag at customs since we were carrying 11 bags packed full of such things as bandages, toothbrushes, toothpaste and - well - 11 bags worth. The officials began to wonder why we were carrying such things. We were able to bring Rick in who was able to explain in Mongolian what it was all about. In the end they passed everything through and we were on our way.

We spent the night in Ulan Bataar after making a stop at the center square to view government buildings. By it was getting to be 11:30pm and we were beginning to fade. We spent the night at an apartment which is available to missionaries and missionary parties. We talked for a while and headed for our beds.

I should introduce my companions to you. Our leader is Nelson Randolph who works with the BFC Board of Missions. He is a mad shopper and is driven passionately to find bargains that he can share with missionaries and use to support them. He buys clothing, medical supplies and other things too numerous to mention, often getting them for pennies on the dollar. Joel Alderfer, is from the Quakertown BFC, a carpenter by trade. He is one of the brains of the team. Chris Merrick is known to most who will read this because he leads the numerous projects of the BFC all over the place. Joel and Chris are the leaders of the work. They know what they are doing. Nelson and I will be doing whatever we can to help.

To return to my story, we spent the night at the apartment and I can tell you gladly that I slept like a baby. We were up by about 7am after about 5 hours sleep. Joel cooked some eggs which we combined with some delicious German bread and had a great breakfast.

Rick needed to get more supplies for our projects so we were off shopping. We went to a newly built hardware store which was beautiful. And, we got what we needed. We bought some food for our trip to the Warners. Sometime after 12 noon, we started on our way.

Ulan Bataar is like many a busy city that you have seen; too many cars and lots of noise. Driving through the city is an adventure and I would not have traded places with Rick for all the tea in China, as the saying goes. Rick said he still hates driving there. You can see a lot of building going on and money is beginning to flow through Mongolia as a result of the growing Chinese economy. China is beginning to increase their purchases from Mongolia.

Finally, we are ready to head for home (the Warners). Let me prepare you. The drive from Ulan Bataar to the Warners will take you the same time it will take you to drive from Wallingford to Indiana. No, I am not exaggerating. It is not the same distance but because of the some of the roads and the fact that we were so loaded with baggage and people, it took 10 hours. So try to imagine how good it feels after spending nearly 18 hours on a plane to spend another 10 hours driving in a heavily loaded Land Rover.

Once you leave Ulan Bataar, you are in the Mongolian countryside. The vast part of Mongolia very sparsely populated. You are surround by rolling green mountains which have no trees, just grassy meadows. You begin to see flocks of sheep, goats, cattle and horses (I know some of them are herds - don't get technical on me now). The scenery does not change. It all looks the same. It is very beautiful, but all the same. This year has been wet so everything is very green. Rick says that ordinarily everything is very brown at this point in the year. We passed a herd of camels, drove off the road and drove among them allowing me to take a lot pictures of them.

We drove nearly the last three hours in dark. At points, I had no idea how Rick knew where the road was. We said good bye to the macadam and hello to ruts and dust. I still find it hard to believe that these were real roads. They did lead us to the town where the Warners live. Today, Rick told me this little town of 2500 people is actually the county seat but there are almost no towns in the county.

We unpacked and moved into our quarters and again found sleep to be sweet. I should mention at this point that I have not had a shower since being in my own shower on Sunday night. No one has walked away from me in disgust. Our choice for a shower has included either cold water or cold water. We have all decided to hold out for another choice and the fact is we have not been sweaty or dirty.

We spent much of our day in what might be called orientation. We spent a lot of time talking and praying this morning. We enjoyed getting to know each and sharing prayer needs. We especially prayed for our families back home.

We have just returned from visiting the town where we saw the foundation of the home we will be building. The Warners are very appreciative of Chad and Jered who worked very hard to get things ready. Pastor Byron Widger left earlier but also made a tremendous contribution.

That will give you some idea of what has been going on. We are all grateful and are praising the Lord that our travel went so well. No one has shown any dramatic effects of jet lag. I think a trip was great when it was uneventful and ours was.

I will end. I ask you to keep praying for us. Tomorrow we will begin the preliminary work on the house we hope to build. Pray that we rest, encourage the Warners, do a good job and grow in the Lord.

My special thanks to all of you for your encouragement and praying. I am feeling great now and have had no problems sleeping.

I will share more of my personal impressions about things tomorrow or whenever I can get to the keyboard.

Let me end by saying we have had a great time together.

Pastor Taylor

Friday, August 21, 6:40pm

In Pennsylvania, your day is just starting. Ours is ending. We are all a bit weary. I will get back to that.

The Warners need no introduction for most of the people who will read what I write. But for those who might be reading but not be in the know, let me bring you up to date.

Rick and Donna are now veteran missionaries who have served in Mongolia for a lot of years. Donna came first and has lived here for 19 years. Rick joined her and has been here for 17 years. Rick had the original vision and later he and Donna married. They are blessed with two daughters, Alayna, now 15, and Katy, 12.

Rick and I have some common roots since our families come Susquehanna County in Northeast Pennsylvania. Where we part company is that he is part cowboy who isn't Rick if he is not decked out in a broad brimmed hat and cowboy boots. Donna was a teacher and has been used in teaching English. Alayna loves reading and has been our cook making delicious desserts and a delicious oatmeal breakfast. Katy regales us with stories and just has interesting stuff going on.

They live outside of a little village whose name I cannot pronounce and you won't even begin to find it on a map. Rick told me it is the county seat but there are no other towns in the county. There are a couple of stores. Of course, there are no paved roads. There are approximately 2500 residents. During the day, you see the flocks and herds moving out on the hills to graze. That is the most important occupation.

I have heard Rick talk about the Mongolians and their horses. Periodically, someone rides by. I love to watch them because it is as though the horse and rider are one. It is so natural and beautiful to watch the flow of the horse and rider. I am trying to snap a picture but every time someone rides by I have to run for my camera and I am too late.

I should bring you up to date on our activities. Last night after supper (and after I sent my report), we visited the neighbors of the Warners in their ger (pronounced gare). The husband is named Jargal. He is a herdsman though he served three years as a policeman. He works for the Warners as a security guard which means he is on call. Because he is a tall man and a former policeman, he does well. He keeps his eyes out for trouble and will even stay up at night if something is going on. He is also looking out for his own flocks.

The ger we visited was actually his summer ger. It is a wooden frame covered with felt. The top is open allowing the heat to escape and creating a breeze. We were offered mare's milk but because we heard too many stories. I was going to drink some because Chad wrote that he had some but I think good sense prevailed and I (and everyone else) passed on it. We enjoyed chewing some cream and had a cookie or two. I asked questions but everything had to be translated.

Now, for some really significant news. I will try to be delicate about this. Our toilet facilities are a dual outhouse. Back in my younger years, our family did not have indoor plumbing and used an outhouse. I thought I was prepared but in fact this is what is called a Turkish outhouse which means the outhouse has a hole in the floor. Well, I have heard that certain females get disturbed because of the poor aim of males. You will never complain again. But the fact is, it is tough to go through a hole in the floor. Our brilliant carpenters, Joel and Chris, have remedied the situation by building a seat over the hole. I wanted to kiss

them but realized that would be in appropriate. At any rate, now we actually have something to sit on while trying to get lined up with the hole.

That is not quite the end of the story. The woman who works for the Warners does cleaning. When she saw the contraption, she ran to call for Donna to come and look what was in the bathroom. She could not understand why anyone would want such a thing. Okay, I am done with outhouse stories.

Our work of building began in earnest. Today we filled around the foundation and put the boards on the foundation and began to put the joists across. It was slow because everything had to be laid out and thought out. Chris and Joel are the brains who put it together. Nelson and I help where we can and do what we are told. I actually came back for a time to help Rick water their huge garden because the weather is warmer and water will really help his crops.

I would say we are all tired and will sleep well tonight. We plan to work until 1 or 2pm tomorrow because the weekend is a time when Mongolians party and it might become hard to work.

Keep praying. We want to be safe and positive. Some of the Mongolian men who are helping are not believers. They are very good workers and good learners and a very big help in what we are doing.

Thanks for your interest and prayers.

Pastor Taylor

Saturday, August 22, 2009, 4:30pm

I have some spare time. Because it is Saturday, we ended work at 1:00pm. We did not end because we wanted to take time off but because the Mongolians tend to party hearty on weekends and we might encounter problems if we stayed in town. So we returned from our work. We have done some small tasks around the compound but are for the most part done with them.

Chris and Joel, the guys with the mechanical know how are involved in a very significant project. They are installing a water heater for the Warners. Up to this point, the water heater has been a pot on the stove. With this new addition, you will be able to take a shower of sorts though there are still significant limitations on how much water to use.

It is time for revealing more of what is going on here. I went for 5 days without taking a shower. Okay, get it out of your system. Yuk!!! Well, it isn't really as bad as you think. Because we are at a high elevation (5400 feet) and very low humidity, you just don't feel dirty. We wash face and hands and refresh that way. But, you just don't feel like you are getting dirty. I can't even remember the last time I went 5 days without a shower. It would probably take me back to when I was a boy at some camp when like all boys I had an allergy against having to shower. All of this will end with the news that I took a "shower" last night which means I had a tub of hot water available and a shower stall. And yes, it felt good. Donna is afraid that such stories as these will scare people from coming to Mongolia. You can add my stories about the shower to the stories of the outhouse. The fact is we are having a wonderful time and enjoying the wonderful hospitality of the Warners and Donna's mom, Arlene, who helps with the cooking and washing dishes.

I should say that I have not been reading much because we have not had much time. I like to read when I settle down for bed. Chris Merrick is sleeping in the same room as me and falls asleep whether the light is on or whether a bomb goes off so I am free to read but I fall asleep pretty quickly.

We are making very good progress on the house. People who know something about building would go crazy to see the boards we are using. Nothing is straight. We twist and nail and somehow it comes out. Chris and Joel are masters. The Mongolian carpenters are very good as well. Nelson and I are able to do some of the jobs that don't require great skill and are making our contribution that way. Today, Rick was not feeling well and so I even became the driver between the job and the compound.

I would be hopeful that this will arrive before Sunday morning and someone will communicate for me. When you are meeting at 9:00am, it will be 9:00pm here. I want you to know that you will be in my heart and prayers and you will know that I will miss you all deeply and wish I was there (not because of showers and outhouses) because I always enjoy Sunday mornings with you. A special greeting to my Sunday School class who is in the more than capable direction of Enoch Stevenson. I know that you are all praying. My special thanks to my prayer partners (you know who you are). Continue to pray for our safety on the job and for a testimony to ring out from what we are doing.

Our worship tomorrow will be here at the Warners. They have no church because there is no church. Guess who they invited to preach. Rick has

promised me that the attendance is going to be up by 100% because of the preacher. It is hard to imagine not having a group of believers around you to meet with each Sunday.

The Warners send their greetings and keep telling me again and again how much the Wallingford Church has meant to them.

Pastor Taylor

Sunday night, August 23, 7:30pm. (7:30am PA time)

The Lord's Day in Mongolia is beginning to close down. The Warners have special activities they do to set the day aside and make it special. They have their own church. That is not because they don't like the others. There are no others. What if you had no church and only knew a few Christians? That is how it is for them.

After another delicious breakfast, we met at about 9:30 for a Sunday School class based on the devotion I had prepared for breakfast. We then moved to the worship time.

Of course, today they had a special preacher and the attendance was nearly doubled. We gathered in their classroom and sang hymns that most of you would know but they picked one that about 5 of us had never heard. The singing was great, anyway. Donna's mom played the piano and did a great job. I shared the story of David and Goliath and got them to see what God was showing about Himself. After we worshiped we prayed and of course we prayed for some of you.

We ended at about 11:30 and relaxed before enjoying our lunch. They have knocked themselves out to feed us well. After lunch, we watered some plants (one of the few tasks that needs to be done on the Lord's Day). After that, we just relaxed. A couple of the fellows napped. I chose to read and enjoyed being sprawled on my bed.

At about 4pm, we decided to hike up into the mountains. We set our goal on a single tree that did not seem so far away as we looked up. Donna told us later that because it is a single tree, it is a place of animistic worship.

We started up through the valley that led up to the mountain. The mountains looked like they are covered with greenish brown carpet. In fact, a very short grass grows there which is grazed by the animals. The effect is that you see miles and miles of what looks like a well manicured lawn. And it goes on and on and on. Find a website on Mongolia and look for the pictures. You will see exactly what I am talking about.

We made it all the way to the top. If any of you are wondering about how my heart is doing, wait until you see the pictures from the top. We left Rick and Donna's mom about half way up. When we looked down at them, they were just white dots. The top of the mountain is rocky with sparse vegetation. I did my best to video the panorama. I tried to zoom down to the valley with the town and the Warners compound but with the zoom everything gets shaky. I did take a lot of pictures. We walked through a herd of goats and sheep on the way back.

One of the skills one must develop is how to look where you are going while at the same time looking where you put your feet. While I have described the mountains as a manicured lawn, in fact, they are manicured cow/ goat / sheep / horse pastures. Cows, goats, sheep and horses leave calling cards all over the place. There's a reason why the Warners prefer that you remove your shoes when you come to their house.

After we returned, we began another baseball game. Baseball has come to Mongolia. Chris got Katy and Alayna and their friends going two nights

ago. Last night, nearly everyone got into the game. I became steady pitcher (saves me running and making a fool of myself) and Joel was able to talk his way into steady catcher. Everyone else hits and runs bases. Remember, we are including 4 Mongolian friends who have never played before. Chris has been known to be a little enthusiastic when he plays sports. It is obvious that everyone had a great time with lots of laughs, few rules, almost no outs and lots and lots of runs scored.

We had a supper of left overs and are settling into some evening games. Rook has been the game of choice for the last two nights.

I think we were supposed to rest today. The walk to the mountain left some tired legs. We are reminded again of our high altitude and we probably hiked up another 1000 feet. Add in the baseball game, and we are a bit tired but we loved every minute of it.

Everyone in the team is well. I am enjoying everyone's company immensely.

We are gearing up to head back to work tomorrow. I think we are all excited about the progress we are making on the house. We hope to finish the joists and pour a footer for the heating system. But that is tomorrow.

It is now 8pm and I am done. But, in Wallingford, the Worship Team is meeting to get ready for your special morning. I am thinking and praying for you.

Pastor Taylor

Monday, August 24, 8:30pm

So, you ask, what are you doing every day? Since we have been at it for a bit, a normal routine is developing. Let me give you some idea of the routines.

The team has been waking up at about 6:00am. We, of course, try to pretend it is not morning and try to lay there for a bit. We get to talking and then get out of bed. We can make some tea and then we clean up a bit and sit and enjoy our tea. The normal stuff of shaving and other routines start to happen as we get closer to 7:00.

We show up no later than 7:30 for breakfast. Donna and her crew have been knocking themselves out for us. Alayna has become the special treat chef so she makes sure we have coffee cake or brownies or some other treat.

After breakfast, someone shares a devotional and we pray. We talk a bit about the day and what we will be doing. I should mention that meals are more than just time to eat. I have introduced the concept of dining experience which my family will quickly recognize. Dining experience is the time after you eat when you stay to talk and share stories. Sometimes, our dining experience gets extended. Often, Alayna reads us a story from a magazine she has.

After breakfast, it is time to begin. Today, we did not get at it until 9am. Tomorrow we plan to load the cart with wood and tools for the day before breakfast and be on the job by 8:30.

Today, we nearly finished the joists which are the boards which are attached to the foundation. They will support the floor. We also were able to pour concrete which will serve as the base for the heating stoves. The house we are building will house two families and be divided in half. I have been taking pictures of the progress and when (and if) I get to make a report you will see pictures of the house from the ground up. I have taken a few videos which show even more of what goes on.

I must add that I have been given special assignments. I am now becoming the driver. I got an international drivers license so I can tool about town like a hot shot. That assignment is occasional. My other assignment today was to water the garden. Now, you might not think much of that but in fact it took well over two hours. Rick collects rain water and has a pumping system that can reach the garden. Much of their eating depends on the garden and right now is a prime growing time. They want to be sure that it is well watered so that was how I spent most of my morning.

The team came back to the home for lunch today. So we not only enjoyed lunch but had our dining experience even though it was shortened. We were back to the job installing more joists and making sure the concrete was okay. My own particular task has been helping Nelson install spacers to keep the joists at the right distance. The wood has to be cut and then nailed.

We worked until about 5:15 and began to clean up. We cannot leave anything at the job site because anything left will be gone when we return. We were able to get back and sit down to eat at 5:45. Once again, our dining experience was shortened because we had things to do. The girls wanted to play baseball again but I told them I did not think it would happen because

there was much to do.

Because it will be colder and may even rain tonight, the greenhouses need to be closed in to provide protection for the plants that are growing there. It all takes time.

Chris and Joel are working on the water heater they installed because it had a leak that they just could not seem to get. They are still working on it now.

Rick, Nelson and I set out on water duty. The Warners have no running water. Their well is a few hundred yards down the road. All the water they use must be put in cans and brought to the house. We are using lots because we have doubled the normal occupancy of the compound. We had to make two trips to fill everything up again. We finished just about 8:00pm. We had a little clean up to take care of.

If we were not so tired, we might have played some baseball or a game of rook. I have put in an order for a game of Phase Ten but that will wait for another night.

So, perhaps you will have no trouble understanding when I say we are all a bit tired tonight. But, we sure did get lots done and that sort of thing feels good.

I know that some of the families of the other team members are checking out what I am writing. I will just say how much I am enjoying working with everyone. The Warners have their hands full taking care of us and coordinating all the work that goes on. Chris, Joel, and Nelson are pure delight. We have enjoyed each other and have not yet run out of stories to tell. If there has been a cross word, I have not heard it.

More tomorrow. Keep praying for us. Pray for success and safety. More people seem to be stopping by the work site to see what is going on. Rick says they just can't understand that we have come to do this for other people. Keep praying that all of this will lead to open doors to sharing the eternal good news.

Pastor Taylor

Tuesday, August 25, 8:30pm

A very brief report tonight since the power is off. The house is being powered by a generator and the computer by a battery. Obviously there isn't much power to spare.

We have put up three walls of the house and it is taking shape. I am taking lots of pictures.

It is turning colder. The temperature has already dropped into the 40's and we will need our covers. The vegetables that Rick and Donna depend on are going to be affected by the cold.

Pardon the short report.

Keep praying for us. We often have people watching what we are doing. Pray that no one gets injured and that we continue to make progress on the house. Pray that we will all keep growing.

Pastor Taylor

Wednesday, August 26, 8:30pm

Last night's report was brief because the power was off. I did not want to add to the problems so I stayed short. Shortly after messages were sent, the power returned and we had lights in our guest house / bunk house.

The plan was that we would take a day this week and go to the state capital. For some geography, the Warners live in the province of Arhangai whose capital is Tsetserleg. Tsetserleg has about 25,000 people. The town which is near the Warners is Tuvshrulik which has about 2500 people. You won't find it on the map. I looked.

Because the weather called for rain today we decided to make our trip today. We would have preferred to work today so that the longest part of the week was past before we took a day off. So, we rose, the decision was made and we were off.

Tsetserleg is about 30 miles away but it is a trip that takes over an hour. I will try to describe what it is like. We traveled on 2 lane highways for a good bit of the way and at one point were on a 5 lane highway. I will need to explain that what I mean by a 2 lane highway is that there are 4 parallel ruts that are called a road. 5 lanes need no explanation now. These "roads" are not unlike the tractor roads that I knew on our farm growing up, two ruts with an occasional mud puddle.

What remains a mystery to me is how Rick and Donna know which set of ruts to follow. The ruts come and go all over the place and, as you might suspect, there are no street signs. We felt we were in a bit of a traffic jam when we saw 5 vehicles at one point. There must be some rules for who takes what side of the road. Mostly, the trick is to avoid the potholes and hope you don't wind up on the same side with a truck or a motorcycle which is also trying to avoid the potholes. I should say that some of the road is being improved and paved. When you hit one of those sections, travel becomes easier.

I should also tell that 8 of us were packed into the Warner buggy. It was a titch crowded. (I used the word titch because Donna used it tonight and had to suffer my abuse for using a word I had never heard. Her mother verified that it was a word. We compromised by translating it into the word "tad" as in, "I was a tad tired.")

While in the big city, we stopped at the Fairfield Café which is a restaurant / guest house that caters to westerners. Colleagues of the Warners run it. We had a great lunch. I had a steak sandwich which should not make you think of a Philly steak sandwich but it was very good. We even had French fries and coleslaw.

We then visited the market which was not as crowded as I expected but still pretty full. Do not think of your nearby shopping mall when you picture this market but you could probably get anything you might get at your mall here in the market. There were booths out in the open. It was raining so we avoided the edge of tarps that could dump water on you. We needed to get nails for the house so the guys set out to go nail shopping. The ladies got some other things. I snapped a lot of pictures and enjoyed watching people. We stopped again at the Fairfield and got

our supper which I think Donna called pasties. They are British and like a pocket sandwich. That was our supper and they were good.

When we returned, the brains (Joel and Chris) began thinking about how to build the roof supports and the next phase. For a house report, yesterday (Tuesday) we had rain off and on. Though the power went off in the afternoon, we hooked up the generator and kept sawing. As a result, at the end of the day, we had finished the joists and have put up three sides of the house. Tomorrow, we will finish the fourth side and put in the middle barrier that will divide the house in two. I can't offer you too much detail because I am a preacher, not a carpenter. Nelson and I are the go-fers, nailers, sawers, watchers, whatever and feel good about being able to help.

The weather is turning colder. I wore a jacket most of the day and will move to my hooded sweatshirt tomorrow. The Warners are concerned for the effects of the cold on what is their winter food.

I have probably given you enough today. We were not able to play baseball tonight. I know that wild Rook games have been going on with all sorts of noise coming out of the kitchen as I type.

Keep praying for us. Safety and success. Things are going well. Everybody is great and doing a great job, at least in my mind. As I said before, if a cross word has been spoken, I have not heard it.

Donna said that if you are interested in finding out the weather here, you can go to the weather channel and check on Tsetserleg which puts you within 30 miles of here. It is colder here than in the city but you will come close.

Thanks to all for your interest and support.

Pastor Taylor

Thursday, August 27, 8:00pm - 50 degrees (for your interest)

Today I want to introduce you to some of the men who are working on the house with us. They see us and we see them every day. Of course, because they speak Mongolian, I don't pick up a word. It is not like French in which you hear a word every now and then that you might recognize. So I only know them by watching and seeing their personality.

Loavsendorj is the senior man. He is 68 years old, retired, and living on government pension. He retired when he was 60 but does not want to sit around and likes to work. So, he walks 1 ½ miles to work each way to the job site. He was by trade a carpenter and is looked up to by the other workers. He can do some fine work with a hatchet and was our chief planer when it came to trying to straighten some of the crooked boards we use. He made nearly all furniture and cabinets in the Warner house. He and his wife have 7 or 8 children (Donna is not sure). Loavsendorj has been exposed to the gospel and was part of a study of Proverbs but has tended to hold back his interest.

Inktaiven is also a carpenter and happens to be deaf. He reads lips (not mine - remember I am Mongolian challenged). He lives alone though he has children from a previous marriage. He has a truck and does most of the hauling in addition to being a valuable part of the carpentry crew. He has a great smile and a wonderful sense of humor which even breaks through the language barrier. When I take his picture he will pose and then want to see it on my camera screen.

Byanmunk is on vacation this month from his job as a guard at a club. I have heard that he also sings on occasion. This may sound like we are in a real swinging town but the club is really more like a meeting place for whatever meeting might happen. It was formerly the cultural center when the Communists were governing. I have watched Byanmunk drive nails and he is good. He is short like many Mongolian men but you can see that he is very strong. He is married and lives near the job site. He carries home our scraps of wood to burn for cooking. He used to work regularly for Rick and Donna until he began to work at the club.

Tumerhoyag is the other worker. He is no stranger to many of those who will read this. He is single and lives alone. He will 29 in a couple of weeks. He has worked for Rick and Donna for nearly 10 years. About 3 ½ years ago he became a follower of Jesus and was baptized in June. Rick and Donna included a picture in their most recent report. He knows some English and seems very pleasant and enjoyable. He is good worker who does all sorts of things and tends to catch on to the jobs he is assigned. He does a lot of the saw work that we require for the house.

These men have all been exposed to the Gospel. Each day we begin with prayer. Rick prays in Mongolian and often follows it up with English. We have no idea what kind of impact we are having on them. I know that no one has said anything they shouldn't when there is the occasional hammer on the thumb and nasty splinter. These men are pleasant and easy to work with. Of course, because of the language barrier, I am not even sure how we would manage to have an argument if we wanted to.

The last wall of the house was finished today so we have four complete walls and have begun to build the rafters and roof supports. It actually does not look like much was happening but in fact the brains (Chris and Joel)

were really cranking out the plans as they laid out the design put up the end trusses and laid out all the cuts that needed to be made. My apologies to anyone who knows anything about building houses because you have to listen to my ignorant explanations. While it seems we did not get far, in fact, the work they did today in laying the plans means we will move faster tomorrow.

So, what did I do today? Thank you for asking. I spent my morning helping Rick work around the compound. Remember that a great of time goes into surviving. We were folding up and drying the tarps and plastic sheets used to protect the garden which the Warners depend for much of their food. (I should remind you again that when they have to go to buy things, it means a trip nearly the equivalent of traveling from Wallingford to Indiana.) I then spent a couple of hours watering their garden which is very important right now because the various plants are growing to maturity and need extra water.

I spent the afternoon on the job site where I was helping here and there by grabbing a board or a tool or carrying some somewhere for someone. We do have a good time working together. You will hear some singing on the job site, mostly from Chris who starts a hymn but never finishes it. Tumerhoyag can be heard singing and has a much nicer voice than Chris's but we don't know his words.

That's enough for today. Keep praying and thanks for it. Safety and success. Tomorrow, we will be working on the rafters which increases the danger of falls or having something fall on our heads. Of course, for some of us, if something falls on our head, we don't even notice. Actually, Rick insists that we wear hard hats on our hard heads.

Pastor Taylor

Friday, August 28, 9:00pm.

I am a little bit late tonight. We have had a long day and accomplished a great deal.

We were all working on the house nearly all day. We are building the rafters and the roof supports. In America, you can buy materials that speed up the process. We must make everything by hand. We were able to build 9 of the rafters and looked like a beehive of activity. The wood must be cut at odd angles and then nailed together. My particular job was to glue the plywood pieces that fasten the wood together. After the rafter is built we must lift it by hand and set it in place. It takes 5 - 6 people just to lift the rafter into place. We are praising the Lord that no one has been injured and today we were especially conscious of the fact that we were all safe.

We were slowed a bit by some rain which required us to cover everything and then head for cover ourselves. We can find shelter in a vacant building next to our job site. We might have been able to build one more rafter were it not for the delay. As it was, we did not get back to the compound until after 7pm. And the day was not yet done. After a pretty quick supper, we set out again to be sure that the vegetables were covered and all was protected. Rick and I went for water and finished about 8:30pm.

I will take a few moments to shock you. If the Warners come to your house for dinner, don't be surprised if they lick their plates. They do it at every meal. This is not a way to avoid doing the dishes but rather a Mongolian custom. It is a way to show that the meal was good. They are trying to get me to lick my plate but I have not yet surrendered. My sense of manners keeps me from licking off my plate but I can assure you that the food we have been eating is great and plate licking good.

Forgive me for being brief. I admit to being tired. We are going to work tomorrow as much as we can. I think I explained before that the Mongolians do not usually work on Saturday and those who party too much can become a problem. We are going to do as much as we can at the job site and have work to do here at the compound. So we are looking at another full day.

While we are tired, it is a very satisfied tired since we are making real progress on the home.

Keep praying. Pray that we are safe. Pray that we accomplish our tasks. And pray that we grow in the Lord.

Pastor Taylor.

Saturday, August 29, 7:15pm

Greetings again from Mongolia. Saturday has arrived. Last Saturday we only worked half of the day but today we worked until nearly 5pm. The rafters have been installed. A few boards need to be nailed at the end of the house to complete the work. What comes next is the roof. Boards will be nailed to the rafters. The roof will be closed in and covered with tin. The walls will then be closed in. A fire wall will be installed. The goal is to get the outside done. The inside will be finished during the winter. Rick says they can work as long as the temperature is above -10 degrees. At that temperature, the extension cords snap. If the walls are done and a fire can be built, they can work inside. The building looks crude but it is well built. Sawdust will be used to insulate the building and make it comfortable.

The building is under the direction of the mayor in the town who decides who will live there. The house will accommodate two families who are picked by the mayor. The Warners have done one single house and one duplex. This house is the second duplex so they will have provided for 5 families. The families who are picked to live in the houses are given three years to live there.

My day was divided between helping to build the rafters and watering the garden. I think Rick selected me to be the garden waterer because I made the mistake of talking about how I used to garden. In reality, the Warners are very careful of their gardens. The cold weather can kill what they are growing so a great deal of their day is spent in protecting and promoting their garden. They will feed not only themselves but others from the area.

We have been told that our adventure tomorrow (Sunday) will be a trip to the countryside. Some of us were confused because we thought we were in the countryside. I mean it must be the countryside if you have to travel an hour to get a steak sandwich and 8 to 10 hours to purchase almost anything significant. So, you can understand our bewilderment when we were told we were going to the countryside. We have been advised that we are really suburbanites. In the countryside, there is no electricity. When you look up through the valleys, you see these trails and know they lead somewhere. People live out there but it is hard to imagine something more remote than this little town in which you can't really shift into third gear on the main street because of the bumps.

Rick has said to me several times how hard it is to communicate what life is here. Survival is tough. It has been interesting to notice that twice Rick has been giving medical treatment to young men with cut fingers. One lost the end of his finger on a saw. The other cut his finger on a scythe. There is a clinic in town but the treatment is so elementary that they would rather that Rick help them. He was able to use hydrogen peroxide and Neosporin antibiotic salve to help them. For your interest, both Rick and Donna have been trained as EMT's (Emergency Medical Technicians).

I do not think I have said much about Donna's mother, Arlene, who has been staying with them for a couple of months. She will be returning with Chris and Joel who are returning by different flights than Nelson and I. She has a wonderful dry sense of humor and helps with the big task of feeding and taking care of a work crew like ours. During the week, a woman works for Donna (Tstetsema is her name - spelling doesn't count for anything). She does our laundry. She laughs because I wear white t-shirts. You can

imagine how dirty they get. But, they are white again when she is done with them. I wear my clothes two days because she washes Mon. Wed. and Fri.

My last shower was Tuesday. I am not sure I understand it but because of the low humidity and high altitude, you don't feel dirty though your clothes are. I am looking forward to a Saturday night clean up like the old days when you took a bath on Saturday night. Because we have the new hot water heater, we can get in the shower and rinse off pretty well.

I should mention that every drop of water that is used, whether for a bath or for drinking has to be carried. So, we do all we can to conserve water. When I say we are taking showers, that means you wet your body and turn off the water. Then you soap down and then you turn the water on again and rinse it off. When you go for a few days without a shower, let me assure you it works. It is routine for the Warners.

We are looking forward to tomorrow and a day of rest. I think we are all tired from pushing hard on the work. But I assure you we all feel good about what we have done and feel good that we are on target to complete what we need to complete. The brains, Joel and Chris, keep making things work right. Nelson and I do whatever we are asked to do and think of ourselves as being absolutely invaluable. The brains could not function without the brawn. By the way, a number of you don't know Nelson. He was born and raised in West Virginia. That becomes obvious. But Nelson, at 6 foot 5 inches, is able to do stuff that the rest of us shorties cannot. For instance, his hands were often on the ends of the rafters when we placed them because he could reach them.

Keep praying. We are down to one week. Chris asks that you pray about his tasks on Monday when he will try to do plumbing work at the Warners. The adventure is to try to do the work without having proper tools and materials. Pray for safety and success. Each of us knows there are bunch of you out there following our adventures and praying regularly for us. Thanks!!

Pastor Taylor

Sunday, The Lord's Day, August 30, 7:30pm

I think I have already told you that I don't type out the time of day without thinking what time it is in Pennsylvania. Because we are exactly 12 hours ahead, the calculation is easy. So, I know it is 7:30am for you as I type and you are getting ready for your Sunday to begin while ours is ending.

We began as we did last Sunday with a Sunday morning time together. We sang a couple of songs. Rick asked that instead of calling on the famous preacher in our midst that each of the team members would share either how they came to the Lord or how they came to Mongolia. Between sharing, singing, and praying, we met for 2 hours.

We were joined by Tumerhoyag and another missionary, (best not use name). Tumerhoyag often comes to meet with the Warners on Sunday morning. He joins the singing. Donna played a Mongolian hymn which the Mongolian speakers sang. I was able to capture many of these moments on video. I was reminded of the significance of Tumerhoyag's prayer during our prayer time. Of course, I have no idea what he prayed but this man who was baptized a few months ago did join in the praying.

The missionary came to Mongolia a couple of years ago and lived with the Warners while she was learning Mongolia. She worked in Russia for a while. This missionary and a close relative are now living in China in Inner Mongolia. Did you know that there is an Inner Mongolia and an Outer Mongolia. Inner Mongolia is a province of China. Nearly 4 million Mongolians live there which is more than live in Mongolia. They are largely unreached. Any ministry is carefully watched by the Chinese. This missionary is learning Chinese and plans at this point to work among Mongolians there. The missionary has been visiting in Tuvshrulik and will return to China in a few days.

We had our normal delicious lunch. Men are to do the dishes on Sunday. Last week Joel and Nelson did the duty. This week, it was Chris and I. When we were done, we had some of the rare free time that we have enjoyed. The other three men were sacked out and snoring. I grabbed my book and relaxed and even dozed a little bit.

At about 3:30pm, we set off on our latest adventure which was our trip to the countryside. If you will recall, I did not think you could get more country than where we were but guess what? Yes, there are much more rural areas. Rick says it is where the electricity stops.

Our adventure was a visit to the Sharie family (remember all spelling is relative). We picked up the Warner's friend and her son. The woman is a daughter in law of the Mr. Sharie. We drove for about a half hour following the roads and the mystery of which one is the right one. At a couple of points, Rick had to be told to go right or left. Out here the roads are not even ruts, just tire marks that seem to go nowhere. We went over mountains and through valleys. They are all very similar with short grass and clear evidence that animals have been there.

When we arrived at the Sharie home, we found three gers and were ushered into the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. Mr. S. is 69 years old and looks like a man who has spent his life out in the sun taking care of the livestock. In fact, he has over 200 horses, a large number of cattle, and 1500 sheep and

goats. He probably qualifies as a wealthy many. We sat for a couple of hours. Of course, all conversation has to be translated which lengthens the conversation. He is a pleasant man and his wife just as nice. We ate some of their yogurt and a piece of dough with cream. I got up my courage and ate some. It had a pretty plain taste. I kept asking if it was okay in the hygienic sense for us to eat and Rick and Donna assured that it was. Later, we ate a dish of soup with mutton and noodles.

I was able to ask questions of Mr. S. through Rick. He is a herdsman because that is what his family does. He wanted to know a little about what my family's farm was like.

While we were there, we were able to watch as they milked the mares. I have never seen horses milked. They bring a foal which begins to suckle to start the milk in the mare. Then the mare is milked. I captured it all on video so perhaps at some point you will see it. I also videoed the inside of the ger of Mr. and Mrs. S.

The contrast of technology and the rural area is very interesting. While they have no electricity, they have solar panels which were given to them many years ago through a donation from Japan. So, one ger has a television which was showing Mongolian news and a dvd player. Cell phones were being recharged.

When it was time to leave, the livestock were making their way back. It is hard to imagine how many animals they have. Rick says that under the communists, farmers were very regulated in the number of animals they could have. Now, herdsman can have as many as they want and herds are getting larger and larger. That means the value of the individual animal is decreasing. The grandchildren of Mr. S. will leave for school meaning that he will not have the help of his grandsons in caring for the many animals. That will make it hard for him.

He will be selling some of his horses soon. He will either truck them or drive to the capital, Ulan Bataar. In case anyone has forgotten, that is nearly a 300 mile trip.

So much for adventures in Mongolia. I will mention Mongolia nights. Sometimes nature requires that I visit the outhouse. A look up reminds me how beautiful the sky without light pollution. I don't linger long because climbing out of a warm bed to visit a cold outhouse keeps you moving.

Keep praying. We begin our final push. Tomorrow, we nail the last few boards to complete the roof structure. We will move to nailing boards to the rafters after which we will put on the tin roof. The goal is to have the roof in place and at least the north wall sided. Chris will spend the day working on plumbing at the Warners. He asked you to pray because he does not have the right tools or the right materials. This may lead to some sort of miracle if he is able to pull it all together so pray for him. Remember, pray for safety and success for all of us. Our team is still having a great time and enjoying each other and the Warner hospitality.

Pastor Taylor

Monday, August 31, 2009, 8:30pm

Big news today at the Warner house. They have lived here for 11 years. Today they finally got hot water at their kitchen and bathroom sink. I told you that Chris and Joel installed a hot water heater which has allowed us to do showers (actually rinse offs) and them to have hot water. Up to this point, however, dishes were washed in hot water heated on the stove. Chris (with yours truly as the assistant) ran lines that bring hot water to the sinks. The Warners are delighted.

I have told you about the significance of the water because every bit that is used in the house must be carried there in cans. It is a bit easier now that they have a vehicle and a cart. For years, all the water had to be carried on a wagon that they pulled from their well by hand. While they have their own well, the logistics of running water make it impossible to have running water. It is just one more thing that speaks of the difficulty of life in Mongolia.

This morning it was light when I awoke. While making my morning run to the outhouse, I noticed again the beauty of the sun on the mountain sides. We are treated almost constantly to the beauty of these hills which are often covered with livestock. The herds just wander to find their grass. Everybody seems to understand who owns what flock. There are no fences and no one owns the open areas. So, the animals just roam. Periodically in my driving duties, I drive through a herd. You lay on the horn and they get out of the way.

I have mentioned the amount of time and care that goes into the garden the Warners maintain. I am not sure that I have mentioned that at nearly each meal we are able to eat fresh vegetables like beets, carrots and potatoes. They are fresh from the ground when we eat them. For those who are not vegetable lovers, this probably produces some sort of "yuk." But for people like me who just love these fresh vegetables, we are living high on the hog. The meat dishes we eat contain yak meat. It is no different than regular old beef to my taste buds.

I have been taking pictures as much as I can. Tonight, I snapped some shots of the neighbor's yaks. There are animals everywhere you look. As the sun starts to set, you can see the horsemen out rounding up their flocks and bringing them close to their ger where they will be safer. Yes, there are wolves who will come after the flock. Of course, there are human wolves who will snatch away animals as well.

The progress on the house continues though it was not so obvious today. Up to this point, you could see the house rising on the foundation. Today, boards were being nailed that are the foundation of the roofing so a picture does not show much difference. We were also working on fastening the rafters to the house using metal straps. It is slow work but is necessary because of the high winds which whip through the area. Everything must be fastened well. So, extra effort is needed. Because the house is itself a testimony, it must be quality. But, it is slow.

Chris asked especially that all would go well when we tried to run hot water lines. Trying to complete a job without all the tools you might want is tough. From my report above, you can see it went well. Chris is praising the Lord that it went well and thanks those who prayed for what might have seemed insignificant.

I think I would say that we are all tired from long days. We did not return until nearly 7pm again tonight. Nelson, Chris and Joel, and of course, Rick, are such great guys that it is a joy to be working with them. The Mongolian men who work with are also a pleasant bunch but conversation is limited. I have already commented on the wonderful hospitality of the entire Warner family. All of these things are important because we are starting our third week and could easily be tired and crabby. I think we would all say that God is wonderfully blessing us through the people around us.

I will sign off again by thanking you for praying for us and asking that you keep praying.

Pastor Taylor

Tuesday, September 1, 2009, 8:30pm.

We had another busy day. That might sound like what I have said on previous days. We are making great progress on the house. The structure of the house is complete and we began to put up the tin roof that will cap it off.

It is hard to describe how difficult everything is. While I am not a builder and know little about how houses are built, I know that much of what is used in building houses is pre-fab. Nothing is pre-fab here. Whatever you have must be made and hand cut or hand nailed. It is a slow process calling out measurements and making cuts. Fortunately, we have electricity and power equipment.

Putting the tin on the roof is an adventure. You must not bend it. Of course, you don't want it to slide down on someone because it would seriously cut or injure the person below. As you lift it to the roof, you must be careful not to let it be caught in a gust of wind. When it is put on the roof, it must be held down by a rope. With all of this, the house looks is beginning to look like a house and the roof is like icing on a cake.

Unfortunately, Nelson was sick today. I will not give you all the details but he visits the outhouse quite often. He spent the day in bed and seems to be improving. We missed his help but were able to press ahead.

Tonight, we went to the home of Tsetsgee, the woman who works for the Warners. I took pictures and even some video. It is great to visit the home of someone we know. Tsetsgee does live in a building, not a ger. Her husband is a combine operator and is away now harvesting crops. We were served milk tea (it tastes like milk tea), Mongolian pastry (it is dough without a lot of taste) and a Mongolian dish with noodles and meat which is very tasty. Mongolian food is not spicy and works well on my tastebuds. I have tried a couple of things which I did not care for but nothing I have tried had a strong taste.

Today was the first day of school for Mongolian children. Unfortunately, I did not have my camera handy to catch the students in their uniforms. When we were going to the job site, the children were gathering at the school.

Most Mongolians are animists and Buddhists. It does not seem like religion shows up a lot. The homes we have visited have God shelves where they place their religious objects. You can see various objects that speak of their fears and superstitions. On hillsides, you can see piles of rocks that are worship places. On our drive from Ulan Bataar I saw many of them. What was interesting is the fact that many of these sites had crutches on them. Rick had no explanation.

We have not yet begun to think about going home because we are so focused on working on the house. Yes, we are tired but still feeling good.

I am going to take a shower after I finish. Remember, this is a big deal. We carted the water in and the heater has been warming it.

Keep praying for us. We want to finish as much as we can but we want to work safely. We are grateful for your interest and your prayer support.

Lord willing, more tomorrow.

Pastor Taylor

Wednesday, September 2, 2009, 7:30pm.

Greetings from Mongolia. We have had another beautiful day here. For the most part, our weather has been great. Periodically, we get rain showers which have interrupted our work but have not stopped us completely. We have had no day on which it rained all day. Most often, the sun is shining brightly. It does not seem to get too hot and we don't sweat because we are at high elevation and all is so dry. By the way, we are careful to carry bottles of water with us to make sure we stay hydrated.

I spent the morning helping Rick again and then watering the gardens. It is important to get a lot of water on the garden since the various plants are growing so fast. Today was the last day we will water so I not only was watering the lawn but also trying to empty the tanks. I succeeded but put lots of water where it needed to be. I see some pretty big carrots, beets, and potatoes and I know we have been eating good. I believe Rick and Donna are planning to harvest the "harvestable" vegetables this weekend.

I discovered that I was a bit confused about when we are leaving here. I thought we were to fly out of Ulan Bataar at 12:30am on Monday morning but realized today that we don't fly out until Tuesday morning at 12:30am. We will arrive in New York on Tuesday morning at 11:30am. I am sure that if I think about it long enough, I will figure out how we arrive on the same day in which we leave after flying and laying over for nearly 24 hours. You travelers, who are smarter than I, can explain it to me later. I know the earth is spinning and we are flying. I do know that it was daylight for the entire time we flew to Seoul.

We are making great progress on the house. We started running the tin for the roof yesterday. Today, that was nearly done. We were a few pieces short to complete the cap. Rick had to calculate a couple of months ago what he would need and missed it by about 2 or 3 pieces which is a pretty good calculation. The sides were also started. This is significant because it means that what needs to be done now is almost there. With the roof on and the west and north wall covered, the workers can work with some shelter from the wind after we leave. We are not able to complete the house. When we are done, all the interior work will remain. A fire wall (part of the heating system) will need to be built. The inside walls and insulation will need to be done. Rick says the work slows down a great deal after a team like ours leaves.

On the good news side, Nelson woke up feeling better and went to the jobsite this morning. He came back just before lunch and rested a bit more. He felt better after lunch and appears to be back to normal. He was troubled by aching joints in his hip and back but we praise the Lord that it has passed.

I have been told to tell you the story of a very nice pastor and a girl whose name begins with Katy. The very nice pastor asked what would happen if, while he was watering the garden, he should happen, by accident, mind you, to squirt the girl or her grandmother. The girl indicated that it would be a problem. Soon, the very nice pastor received a cup of water over the back while he wasn't looking.

The last story gives you an indication that we are a fun bunch. The stories and banter go on all day. We are treated to the singing of Joel, Chris and Tumerhoyag while we work. I have to be careful not to give much of a

critique of the singing.

I have been somewhat frustrated by my picture taking. I have taken a lot of pictures and will probably come home with 400 or more. But it is the pictures that get away that bother me. The other day, 8 boys came riding down the street side by side and I could not get to my camera in time to get a picture. I love watching the Mongolians ride their horses. It is a beautiful sight.

Thanks for your prayers. We are praising the Lord again that no one was hurt. Today's roof work offered lots of potential for falls or cuts from the metal. We have the constant presence of power equipment. We pray for safety and are not taking it for granted. So, keep praying that we will be safe and that we will complete the work with excellence. Pray that God will use our testimony to help the Warners in their ministry to Tuvshrulek.

Pastor Taylor

Thursday, September 3, 2009, 6:30pm

Another day has flown by in Mongolia. Yesterday, I told you how nice the weather has been. Today, it was overcast and windy for part of the day. We had just a bit of rain so what we were doing was not severely interrupted.

I spent almost no time at the job site. I was assistant to Chris again as he tackled a whole bunch of odds and ends jobs that Rick and Donna asked. We (I will use we in this discussion but Chris is the only one who knows what he is doing. I do what he tells me and hand him what he asks for) fixed some small equipment and repaired the wiring on the trailer that the Warners use. It needs to have working lighting. The power was off for a while so we were stalled. Later in the afternoon, we began a re-wiring project to hook up an outside light which will allow the Warners to light the compound at night when the Jack (Jack is their dog) alarm goes off. Chris has it set up so a switch will be downstairs and in their bedroom. Anyway, I am convinced that Chris knows a little something about everything. He can help to lay out the house, do plumbing, do electricity and if he doesn't know how to do something, he will figure it out. He needs someone like me who does not have a clue because I never argue with him. We are actually not quite done with the project so I came to the computer to start typing and told him to call when he needs me.

The men working on the house were home a bit earlier. It is hard to see the progress even though significant things are happening. I did not even take a picture of the house today like I have done every day. The siding on the walls is going up. Today was a good indication of why the walls are so important. The north and west walls, which we hope will be completed, help to block the wind which can whip at a pretty good clip. They are also building the partition that will divide the house in two and make it a two family dwelling. Joel supervises there. He understands all of that carpentry stuff and knows where boards need to be placed and what adds strength and so on.

I was pulled off the job to go with Donna, Alayna and Arlene (Donna's mom) to the government building for a special event. Nelson was able to bring several suitcases of gifts that could be given to children. Today was the day that the children were gathered to give out these gifts. The girls worked the last couple of days putting the gifts into individual bags. Several different items were included. Some were practical like underwear. Some were trinkets and toys. One of the big hits for the boys is the match box cars that Nelson was able to get. The 70 or so children who received the gifts were chosen by the social worker of the town. It was all quite orderly. I saw several supervisors writing names and being sure that the children received their bag. Mongolians are apparently quite stoic and do not show emotion. I could see nothing on their faces when they received their gift but after they turned and started to walk away, I could see the grins and delight. I was at the occasion as the photographer and did my best to get both video and snapshots. Unfortunately, the lights were not working in the room and video is very dark. I was able to use my flash for the pictures so the pictures show a bit more.

Tomorrow, we are only working ½ day because a special treat is being prepared. The Warner's neighbor, Jargal (that's what it sounds like) is killing an animal and roasting it for us. I have heard it will either be a sheep or a goat so you will have to wait to hear. Jargal is a herdsman whose house (ger) we can see right outside of the compound. You will see

the top of his ger in a number of my pictures. At night, you can see the light of the ger shining through the top. Jargal served as a policeman for 3 years but did not like it. His brother is a policeman and his grandfather decided that one policeman in the family is enough. Jargal is a herdsman and prefers that. He has been a good friend to the Warners and some of their children play with Katy and Alayna.

We had honeydew melon for supper tonight. You will not think that unusual or strange but this is the first that melons have been grown in this province. It seems strange to observe but they simply are not grown here. In fact, it requires a good bit of work to be sure that they have enough water and are sheltered from the cold in the evening.

Last night a bunch of us gathered to watch a Roy Rogers movie on the lap top. We did not eat any pop corn but enjoyed the movie trying to guess who was the bad guy. It was a nice cap to the day.

The Rook players are at it again. There have been some pretty wild games and the players go head to head. To my knowledge, score hasn't been kept even once but you would think we were observing some Rook world series.

Our time is beginning to wind down. I am sure that one of the impressions we will carry with us of this interesting land is the difficulty of living here. Chris and I discussed it a number of times today when we commented about how hard it is to get materials to do even basic jobs. You look around and see if there are any parts. They laugh at me now when I put it in perspective by reminding them that the place they get supplies is in Indiana which is nearly the equivalent of the trip to the capital. Try to imagine driving to Indiana to just to get a new power saw. You can get limited items in the state capital which is an hour away. So, it is tough and you can't go to the local supermarket for fresh vegetables.

As always, keep praying for us as we wrap up the various projects that are under way. We are still very conscious that God has protected us and kept us going. We are all resting well and keeping at it.

Pastor Taylor

Friday, September 4, 2009, 8:00pm

Our time in Mongolia is drawing to an end. The weather is turning cooler. I had a sweatshirt and a hoody on tonight. We sleep warm so that is not a problem when we snuggle down.

Last night, as I was settling down for the night, Rick knocked on our door and asked one of us to help. Since I was the only one awake, I was elected. It was 10:30pm and the frost was settling in. I bundled up and helped him by loading all the melons and squash in a wheel barrow to get them out of the frost. Again, it shows how tough it is to grow these vegetables. As I type, more things are being brought from the garden because tonight promises to be even colder. It may even be that we will see snow before we leave. I am not sure that I have any desire to see snow if it is at 4am and I am making a trip to the outhouse.

Today, Joel came down with something. It appears to be a flu similar to what Nelson endured. It does not appear to be from something consumed even though we have done some visiting. He is beginning to feel better tonight after spending most of the day in bed.

This was our last day for working on the house. The north and west walls are nearly covered. The rest will be completed by the Mongolians who work for Rick. I took pictures of the work that has been done. Later, we had group pictures of the whole team. Our new Mongolian friends were a delight, hard working, and enjoyable company even though we do not share the bridge of a common language.

Because Joel was sick, Nelson was the only one of us at the job site today. Chris and I worked at the house doing electrical work. The most significant completed task was the installation of a light to light the front of the compound with switches upstairs and down. If the Warners hear a noise, they will be able to see the front and side of the house to see what is going on.

We ended our work today about 2:00pm because a special event was planned. Rick and Donna bought a sheep from their neighbor, Jargal, who cooked it with potatoes and carrots. We sat down with Jargal and his family and enjoyed the feast. It was wonderful and I know that I was stuffed when we were done. The meat was wonderful and you could eat the fat (or not if you choose). After, we sat for a while and did some talking. Rick and Donna said it had been some time since their neighbors had come to their house. We listened as they tell stories and laugh. Donna translates as much as she can but it is tough to carry on a conversation and then tell us what it is about.

We had time for another baseball game. We feel that we have successfully introduced baseball to Tuvshrulik. I cannot describe how the games go. There are few outs and lots of laughter. We have to be sure footed since our baseball field is also a horse / cow/ yak / sheep / goat pasture. Both children and adults had a wonderful time.

Tomorrow, a light day has been planned. I suspect we may do a project or two here at the compound but we will not work on the house any more. We are beginning to think about getting ready to reverse our journey and come back. We will travel together to Seoul. From Seoul, Joel, Chris and Arlene will travel to Atlanta and then to Philadelphia. Nelson and I will go from Seoul to New York and be picked up and returned to Allentown.

Sometime on Sunday morning, we will leave for Ulan Bataar. We will sleep over Sunday night in two apartments. Monday will be a shopping day. Monday night we will go to the airport and are scheduled to leave at 12:30am on Tuesday morning.

Rick and Donna will stay in Ulan Bataar until Thursday. When I asked Donna if that would allow them to relax, she told me that it was actually a very busy and somewhat stressful time. She will do food shopping and Rick will do purchasing of materials. She said shopping is very demanding and requires going from place to place which takes a lot of time. Remember, this shopping center is 8 - 10 hours from their home. They must get everything while they are there. There are no neighborhood supermarkets nor hardware stores nearby. I keep this in perspective by thinking what it would be like to drive to Indiana every time you want to go shopping.

I know that the Labor Day weekend is beginning. Labor Day is not a holiday in Mongolia so you will have to go on without us. We will enjoy our Labor Day in Ulan Bataar.

I am not sure whether I will be able to send out a report tomorrow. If it happens, it happens. If it does not, it does not. I guess I have been in Mongolia too long. Flexibility is a key. I have learned to wear clothes that did not get washed. Most mornings, I climb into wranglers that might be able to stand by themselves. We have limited ourselves to a couple of showers a week. We have lived a different life for three weeks and I suspect we will all say we have been changed just a bit.

Pastor Taylor

Saturday, September 5, 2009, 7:30pm

I will brief because we are in the process of getting ready to leave for Ulan Bataar tomorrow. We are leaving at about 5am. The travel is better at that time. We are traveling in two vehicles, one a rented taxi. We will spend Sunday night in the city. Monday will be a shopping day. Monday night we will go to the airport and leave for Seoul at 12:30am Tuesday morning.

Our agenda tonight is to get a shower, get packed, get to bed a bit early and be ready to be on the road at about 5am.

Last night, the temperature dropped to 20 degrees. Just about everything was ready in the garden. Today we spent a good bit of time putting things in order in the garden. Because the Warners will be away, they want to make sure everything is okay.

Chris was a bit sick today but he was feeling better tonight.

We are all looking forward to our brief visit in Ulan Bataar and then getting home. You have been so faithful in praying for us all. Pray for safety as we travel.

I look forward to seeing you.

Pastor Taylor