

# Mongolia Exposure Trip



## Interserve Newsletter

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### [A Letter from Richard Piet](#)

National Director

Interserve Canada connects the church in Canada to the Kingdom work in Asia and the Arab World. One way we do this is by leading exposure and ministry trips to places our Partners serve. In January 2018, myself and a group of fathers and sons travelled to Mongolia and engaged in the ministry of Joint Christian Services (JCS) and joined with our faithful Partners, Sam and Anne Biro. JCS is a Christian organization who is working to serve the people of Mongolia by helping to meet their wholistic needs – physically, spiritually and intellectually – and to support their efforts to improve their lives and communities.

Our team went specifically to engage in JCS's Sports Ministries. Mongolians love sports! Whether it be traditional sports such as wrestling, archery, or horse racing, or basketball, volleyball, football or ice-hockey, getting younger and older people together to play sports is a wonderful opportunity to intentionally have a positive impact on their lives. Sports ministries offer youth a support system that develops skills, sportsmanship, and character of the players while the leaders show Christ-like care.

Our team participated in a hockey ministry, as each have excellent hockey skills. Every day we had a morning and afternoon session where we played hockey together and had times of rest to create connections with the Mongolian youth. Travelling all the way from Canada to spend time with young people and teach them skills communicated to the youth how interested we were in them succeeding. We shared life and cared for them. One child ask why we came so far from home to play hockey with them, which was a great opportunity to share Christ's love for him.

Though our team was only there for a short time, we encouraged the youth and showed an interest in their lives and connected them with Christians from another part of the world. We were also able to come alongside those who have dedicated their lives to sharing the Gospel in Mongolia and encouraged them in their work.

Let me share a bit more about Mongolia, our team and our time there...

# Mongolia

Mongolia, a nation bordered by China and Russia, is known for vast rugged expanses and nomadic culture.

## Area:

1,566,000 sq km

## Population:

3.01 million

## Population Unreached:

2.95 million (97%)

## Terrain:

Vast semi-desert and desert plains, mountains in west and southwest, Gobi Desert in southeast.

## Trouble en-route...

## But God was watching!

We had many times of relying on God and experiencing His good care. We had delays and trouble getting to Mongolia. In Beijing, we were to take out all our luggage (21 pieces), stay overnight and check them in the next day. Instead, God led us to a person who took us through immigration, found our luggage and checked it through to Mongolia the day before our flight – and for no excess baggage charge. It was a better outcome than we hoped and prayed for.

We also experienced exceptional care as we passed through customs in Mongolia and were waved through without paying duty on the equipment we brought in to donate. God led the way and granted us favour.

Once we finally landed in Mongolia, we took a local bus on a six-hour journey to Chinggis City. The bus driver refused to take our luggage. A couple of our team members were a bit anxious. We prayed together in the bus station. Minutes later we had a solution. The local pastor who took us to the bus station was willing to take our luggage all the way to Chinggis City. God had us under His care on every step of our journey.





## Growing experience for our team...

For our Canadian team members, some did not have previous overseas experience. Therefore, this trip was an education in crossing culture, traveling and experiencing a different environment.

The reliance on God and the outworking of the spiritual life had a significant impact on all, particularly the younger members of the short-term team. We faced many obstacles and relied on prayer as the solution. God is faithful and took care of us in every way.

Before the trip, the conversations amongst the team were all about hockey – how we could share skills and build up their team. After the trip, the conversations are about the Mongolian people, the incredible experience we had, and witnessing God’s provision. And, of course, we became good friends through the experience.



## Some take-aways from our group...

“Church was great in Mongolia. We came together and worshipped the same God. We are all one in Christ.”

“I saw God at work as we made new friends and built relationships without knowing the language.”

“Missionary life is tough. These people give everything, in a long-term commitment, for the sake of bringing the Gospel to the people of Mongolia. They live there and are part of the community. God has given them skills, talents and interests, which are all used for the Kingdom.”

“Sam and Anne have a deep love for the Mongolian people and to bring the Gospel to them.”

“We now know what it is like to be illiterate and unable to communicate in another language. Now I know how newcomers to Canada must feel when they first arrive.”

## Our Canadian Partners in Mongolia

Sam and Anne Biro have worked in Mongolia for 13 years.

Sam works for JCS as the Personnel Director. Sam was a huge help in organizing our trip to Mongolia as he connected us to the sports ministry in Chinggis City and gave us orientation when we landed in Mongolia.

Anne, a registered nurse, mentors and guides Christian nurses in Mongolia and other developing countries. Anne is highly involved in the Nurses

Christian Fellowship Mongolia and is the Vice President of the Nurses Christian Fellowship International. Anne mentors emerging nurses by working with them - particularly during their graduate education (Masters and PhD degrees). Anne teaches these nurses international standards for research, as well as how faith is integrated into research, leadership and nursing. Through Anne's discipleship, local churches are blessed to have these women leaders as part of their congregation. As well, the nurses are more respected in their workplace and communities, and are faithful witnesses in their various spheres of influence.



Sam giving us orientation before we head to Chinggis City.

If you'd like to hear more about Sam and Anne or want to support them in their ministries please email [donor@interservecanada.org](mailto:donor@interservecanada.org).

## Pearl Jane Yuill

Interserve sadly and with much love announces that Pearl Jane Yuill passed away on February 5th, 2018.

We asked Bob Morris, a long time friend and colleague of Jane to write a short message:

"I have known Jane for many years and she has been the epitome of the faithful Christian. While facing personal tragedy in the loss of both husband and son, she never compromised her integrity or the competence with which she discharged her responsibilities in the finance department of Interserve Canada. All those who visited the office were greeted with a warm smile and cheerful conversation. She was a friend to all who knew her and her quiet presence in the office will be sorely missed."