

# Tvrđik Family In Mongolia

July  
2009



Tuvsho and Shari

**“I’d like to learn more about the Bible”** was what Tuvsho said to us after spending an afternoon hanging out with our family. Tuvsho is 22 years old. She grew up in a small, one room house, just down the road from where we live.

I imagined that my time was going to be full here helping children and feeding the poor. However, God had in mind certain relationships that HE wanted to create. Tuvsho is one of those. I never asked her, “can I tell you about my faith?” She came to me. In fact, I’m ashamed to say, that she came to me three times before I realized how serious this young woman was about wanting to know more about Gods word. We began a weekly Bible study together and Tuvsho has grown so close to the Lord over the last six months. I have enjoyed watching her faith take flight. She volunteers her time by translating for me when I do extra work around the neighborhood. I see God working in her life and I am so blessed to call her my friend. When I look at her and see where she came from, and how she has made it work, I am filled with courage that all things are possible.

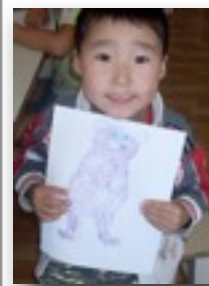


## Learning To Create

About a month ago I had an idea to start an art class in the community center. The problem was, I’ve never really considered myself an artist. Does this matter to God? No. I decided to learn to draw so that I could teach the kids in the neighborhood. They are tired, their lives are so difficult, and if we could give them an hour to “create” I felt it would be something they would love. Most of them have no paper, crayons or pencils at home, so just using these basic tools is a real treat for them. What started as an Idea



has become one of the best parts of our week as a family. The kids gather at 11:00 and we have a couple of hours to bring some light into their lives. Trevor became the “music” teacher and Sarah and Josiah work right along side of me as we teach them to draw. We have seen the kids really warming up to us and once again we have seen that God loves to move us out of being comfy into a new place that we can grow!



## *Your People settled in it, and from your bounty, O God, you provided for the poor. Psalm 68:10*

The streets around us are surrounded by poor. Behind most hashas (fences) you will find someone hungry, a child that doesn’t have enough, a mother who is broken and afraid, a father who has given up. Even the animals here walk around limping and fearful.

This does not describe all of Mongolia, but it does fit the ger district. Here in the ger district is where the forgotten live. This is where the Tvrđiks live also.

Every morning I wake up hearing the “Bottle Man” calling out, “I will buy your plastic bottles.” He is my alarm clock. Bottle Man walks the streets with a large

bag over his shoulder buying plastic bottles and then reselling them for a few cents more. His voice carries on the air forever. I wonder to myself, “He must be a beautiful singer.” I see people walking past my gate whom the world has called, “no good, used up, worthless” and yet I can feel Gods immense love for them.

We are experiencing life from a new perspective. It is a strange world to us, a broken place. I don’t know what the future holds for our family but for certain I know that nothing will ever be the same again. Our lives have been richly blessed by the Bottle Man and his customers.



## 1995's the year!

WE have wheels. (Old wheels...but good wheels) Our freedom is returning to us! I cannot tell you how fun it is to drive up our hill and not worry about getting stuck! God's blessings are abundant.



## Helping Families

Things are very busy here and my days are full. Some of the things that keep me busy besides language school are preparing English lessons, coordinating construction projects for volunteers, and visiting families. Visiting families is the most challenging. The first visit to a family is the hardest. We hear about these families usually from other people in the community who know we are here to help. Sometimes even the local government office will refer families to us. These families are in a desperate situation.

Recently I visited one family for the first time and when I entered their ger the first thing I noticed was there was no furniture inside. Upon further investigation I discovered they had no food in the house and to make a fire they would have to wander around the neighborhood gathering anything they could find to burn. This was a family with three young children whose father had not had a steady job in three years. The challenge here is how to help



### What is a sacrifice?

Is it turning 16 and not getting your driver's license because your parents moved you to MONGOLIA? Yeah... that qualifies. How about learning to call

"sheep dumplings" fast food OR maybe learning to call the muddy river your new "swimming pool."? Sure, all that stuff certainly counts as a sacrifice. However our family is learning that it's NOT easy to say "yes" to God. It wasn't easy for the big guys before us, you know Abraham, Moses, Paul..and it wasn't ever promised to be easy. I think 6 months into this we could all agree that the greatest sacrifice would have been never obeying in the first place...just staying put. What's God asking you to do lately?

without them becoming dependent on us but rather to give them just enough help to give them hope.

The parents may have made mistakes in the past but the children still deserve a chance. I immediately started giving them wood to cook with and put them on a basic foods program. I visited them regularly to check on them to see how they were getting along. We took the children clothes that had been donated and I urged the father to keep looking for work. On my last visit I really took the time to stop and notice how things had changed since my first visit. The look of desperation was gone from their faces, the ger was clean, and the dad had found a job on a construction site downtown.

Most of the families we help respond in this way. They just need a little help to gain back the dignity and hope that they had lost. I am so thankful to all of you who make this change possible.



## Tvrdik kids in Mongolia

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