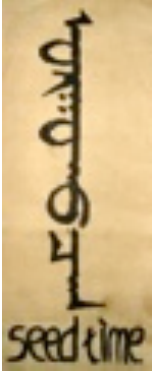


The Seedtime Christmas Appeal

Kick-start a Business in Mongolia in 2012!



Locally sustainable, local church It's what we are about in Seedtime. Of course, there is much more to it than that. But at the heart of our micro-enterprise effort in Mongolia is a vision to enable the local church to be the agent for godly change locally and beyond. For this to happen, the church needs to be locally rooted, so it is less dependent on the whim of outside financial support. And that is a tall order in many parts of Mongolia, where access to even small amounts of start-up finance for businesses is difficult or even impossible to obtain. But that is only part of the story.

Meet Tuya and Tsetsegjargal! These two are active members of their church in the town of Khurmen in the Gobi Desert. After training three years ago, they started a cafe, which soon became a focal point of hospitality in their community. The business did so well that they were able to purchase the bakery next door. And with help from Seedtime's South Gobi Loan Team, they purchased a new oven and other kitchen equipment. They got some additional training from a bakery trainer, and now the business supplies bread and other bakery products not just to the cafe, but to the local shops too.



The shops are getting an income from food locally produced by people who are well-respected in the town. Furthermore, following research into the needs of the local community, Tuya went on in 2011 to establish a hot shower business, the first in a settlement of 1,700 people, none of whom have showers at home.

Their senior pastor, Natsagdorj, who oversaw many of the new churches scattered across the Gobi until his tragic death in July, commented that the little church in Khurmen had seen its weekly offerings increase tenfold to make them the biggest donors in South Gobi. Gospel-based business, hand in hand with the local church, is helping to bring about change, but Tsetsegjargal and Tuya know there is much work still to be done.

Interface with increasing numbers of godly change-makers such as these has convinced us that where there is a will - and there often is here - a way can be found. Biblically-based micro-enterprise training sets the imperative of helping people out of poverty in a Gospel framework. People learn how to turn their God-given skills into business opportunities, how to be good stewards of money and other resources, and how to do simple business and financial planning. And they are taught proper attitudes to tax and other obligations - no small thing in a country where corruption and tax avoidance are so rampant. Furthermore, these businesses often find themselves living out these values in contexts where people drift through life without aim or obligation, and without the slightest idea how to handle money or to plan for the future.

This is transformation in action, and the reason for our appeal. Business finances ministry, and a number of our church planters finance their ministry this way - tent-making in other words. We know of several others who now have the skills, but not yet the resources, to turn their business dreams into reality. So what about the numbers?

- **\$300-500 (£190-320) provides the minimum for a business start-up loan.**
- **\$1000 (£640) provides significant funding for a business start-up or expansion.**
- **But any amount will help.**

Once paid back, the loans will be recycled to give a leg-up to other local businesses.

Please consider Seedtime in your Christmas services. Or why not adopt us as your business's Christmas Charity this year? All gifts can be channelled through Radstock, our international network partners. Further details about Radstock, including how to send donations, is available upon request. Thank you so much!

Paul

Paul Williams, Executive Director, Seedtime, & Eurasia Director, Radstock