

Dear Pacesetter Partners,

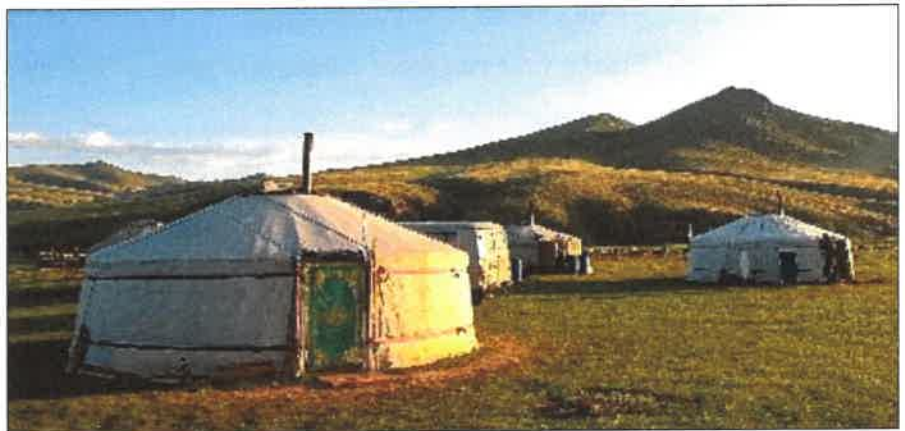
At this time last year, the COVID-19 pandemic was just gaining momentum around the world. None of us thought we would still be in these serious circumstances a year later. As we all scrambled to get oriented to Zoom conferencing with teachers around the world, we discovered some unique ways to teach online and maintain relationships built over the past 20 years of ministry in many countries.

**Keeping teachers encouraged via Zoom and other Media Apps**—Teachers found themselves in much more difficult circumstances than we have here in the states—became a lifeline, because they weren't sure where to turn for help. Over the months, they learned to encourage each other via Zoom and on social media apps available to them. They also organized to use the tools and ministry skills they were developing.

As a result, they found new boldness in sharing their faith and creatively looked for ways to reach out in their communities and to fellow teachers. Here are some ministry outreaches the teachers were involved in over the holidays—completely initiated on their own in their local communities.

**In MONGOLIA**, where we began working with teachers in the late 1990's, the teachers developed a virtual holiday outreach strategy.

- Teachers and ministry staff members sent short films and a "Four Spiritual Laws" video to **2,951 teachers and family members**. Many recipients viewed both.
- **564 people** responded to the materials that were sent.
- **206 conversations** took place about Christmas and the gospel.
- **144 people** engaged in a personal presentation of the "Four Spiritual Laws."
- We were so glad to hear that **58 people received Christ!**



**In RUSSIA**—where we originally started the teachers movement outreach in the early 90's—teachers are still committed to strengthening their relationships and helping each other look for and plan ways to minister to their colleagues.

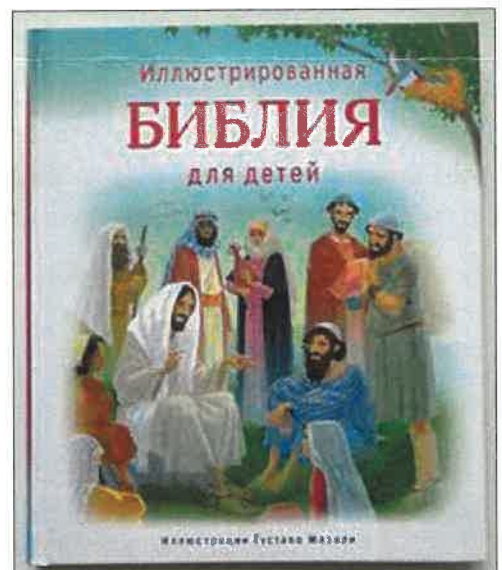
This past holiday season, they bridged the distance of *10 time zones* through Internet conferencing and social media apps.

One teacher reported:

*"Praise the Lord! On Christmas Eve, the children again heard the story of the birth of the Savior, made a nativity scene, and received a children's Bible as a gift."*

Another teacher said she gave a gift of a Bible to a fellow teacher.

*"It turned out that she had dreamed of getting a Bible. She recognizes what a precious gift it is and said that she would definitely read it. [I] thank God for this wonderful project that is leading us on the right path."*



**Currently in EQUADOR**, we are continuing to follow-up on our teacher conversations via Zoom. This past month, we have averaged about 70 teachers per week online, with different teachers sharing their pandemic experiences and how they have been able to cope with the teaching experience online.

This past week we were treated to a educational ministers perspective. As he encouraged the whole group, his biggest concern and words of encouragement centered around the *personal responsibility and priority of teachers to take care of themselves and their families.*



*“You cannot spend your whole life in front of the computer,” he said.*

*“Make sure you have a balanced approach to your lives and teaching.”*

With the encouragement of the Ministry of Education, **we are working on a plan to hold a 40-hour credit-enhanced conference for teachers** in the coastal regions of Ecuador. It will take place at the end of April, and will be counted as their Inservice Training for the coming school year which begins in May. While they do not expect to be back in the classroom until at least fall, the administration wants teachers to be encouraged and engaged in enhanced educational seminars.

It is challenging to get different Zoom groups working together, and using national interpreters and national teachers as group leaders. We will include break-out groups for discussions along with offline projects that will count toward their total hours.

We are encouraged that the whole driving force behind this has been the national teachers who encouraged their Ministry of Education to give them the time and backing to make this happen. **Please pray for the national teachers and for us as we continue to plan, train, and move forward with this big undertaking in April.**

Most of us had no idea we would still be dealing with COVID-19 at this time. Thank you for praying for us as we continue to look for creative ways to keep the teachers engaged with each other; and **please continue to pray for these national teachers as they minister to fellow teachers whose hearts are open to hear the Gospel.** We are glad the Good News has helped them cope with many of life’s challenges during these tough days.

God bless you, and thank you for your continued prayers and partnership with us.

*Bob Wilson*



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