

The Visionary

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OVERCOMING PLACELESSNESS

by Doug Lucas, President, Team Expansion

Landscape architects talk about "a sense of place." The phrase describes the reaction of the human heart to an inviting fireplace hearth. "A sense of place" implies a physical, tangible icon that symbolizes the ethos and identity of a family, group, or organization.

Movements can flourish, in the early-going, without a sense of place. But researchers have shown that organizations survive best, long-term, when they embrace a sense of place. (See, for example, McGavran's research in "Understanding Church Growth," Rev. Ed., p. 328.) This is of paramount importance in a missions agency. Missionaries, themselves very mobile, seem to breathe a big sigh of relief when they find that they have a permanent "homeplace." Watch a Wycliffe worker's eyes light up when he first visits JARS in Waxhaw NC, or when he settles into Wycliffe USA Headquarters in Orlando, FL. While you're there, check out the international HQ for Pioneers. These bases are large because the organizations are large. They're huge because they serve a grand agency doing a grand thing. And note that these bases haven't slowed down these organizations at all. Quite the contrary: These centers have consistently helped pole-vault their organizations to become world class leaders in their respective niches.

I believe part of the reason is because they evoke "a sense of place" for people who otherwise would have none.

Emerald Hills is beginning to provide that sense of place for a world full of cross-cultural workers. "I had no idea how beautiful it was." "You just have to see it to understand it." "Our kids love to come back here on Home Service. In many ways, now this is their home." "I put off applying...until I saw you had acquired property. Then I knew that Team Expansion was no longer a 'flash in the pan.'" "The training I've received here has saved me countless years of mistakes in the field. Can you please do a better job of getting the word out about Emerald Hills?" And at the door, as they were leaving, one couple turned to say, "Team Expansion sure knows how to take care of its own."

Team Expansion is transforming communities by planting churches among the unreached. Through your gifts, volunteerism, and prayers for Emerald Hills, you're empowering the transforming of nations to be more like Him. Thank you for your partnership and shared vision. Thank you for working with us to be on purpose, on mission, and on task for Him!

FIELD HIGHLIGHT: MONGOLIA

by Spencer and Pat Garner

We were blessed to be a part of Maranata's annual summer camp in July before returning to America. (This is the congregation in Songino, where we ministered nine years before moving to Gobi Altai.) We camped out with old and new friends, about 40 in all, ranging from two months old to 71 years. The fellowship, games and food were wonderful, but most wonderful of all was seeing 15 people baptized in the river.

Isn't God wonderful? We hope and pray that one day the people of Gobi Altai will come to know the joy and peace that these people have found in Him.

Thank you for caring for and praying for the Mongolians. Without your support, many of these people would never have an opportunity to hear about the Lord and His free gift of salvation.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Sale of the Hopewell House **soon**
- Only **one** more 29 partner needed!
- More Enlarge the Harvest captains and partners needed
- More people to Multiply the Momentum
- Pray that repairs on the barn floor can be taken care of quickly, and as inexpensively as possible.



PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?

At Emerald Hills you'll find a giant jar of pennies.

Why?

Each penny represents an unreached people group.

As of right now there are **6,836** people groups worldwide that have not heard the Gospel.

What are you doing to help lower this number?



Only One more Project 29 Prayer Shelter left!

For more information about how you or your church could claim the last one, contact us today!

FINANCIAL UPDATE: JULY 2010

	<u>Emerald Hills Fund</u>
Balance 7-1-10	-\$39,484.31
July Receipts	\$13,556.66
July Expenses	\$14,041.84*
Checking account Balance 7-31-10	-\$39,969.49
*Balance owed to First Cap Bank: \$1.575 million	

Receipts

Andover Christian Church	\$1,720.00
Center Pointe Christian Church	\$350.00
Coastal Community Christian Church	\$250.00
College Heights Christian Church	\$400.00
Fayetteville Church of Christ	\$250.00
Fern Creek Christian Church	\$400.00
First Christian Church, Sullivan	\$400.00
Heritage Christian Church	\$100.00
Indian Creek Christian Church, Indianap	\$3,401.00
Individuals	\$3,175.35
Interest Income	\$41.39
Kroger Inc	\$277.44
Lincoln Christian Church, IL	\$200.00
Network for Good	\$119.07
Northwest Christian Church	\$400.00
Okolona Christian Church	\$400.00
Poplar Creek Church of Christ	\$879.08
Team Expansion (Byrd)	\$20.00
Team Expansion (Richter)	\$40.00
Westerville Christian Church	\$733.33
Total	\$13,556.66

Expenses

Banking Fees	\$11.51
Misc	\$132.44
For more Support	\$195.00
Email	\$95.00
Concrete work	\$600.00
Kindle	\$200.35
Mortgage Payment	\$12,807.54
Total	\$14,041.84