

God Uses the Prayers of Children: Hope Smith

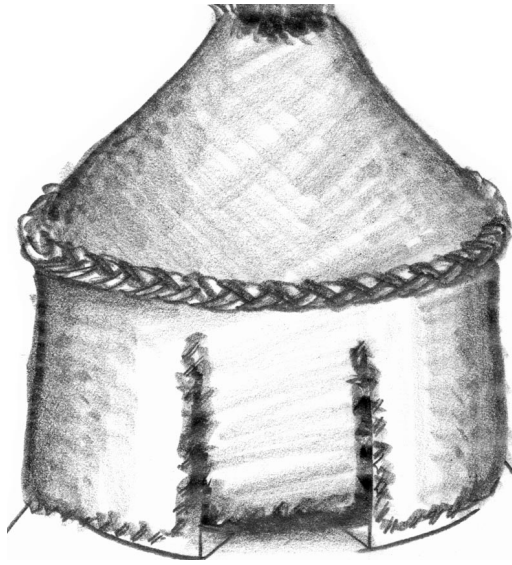
In 1997, Hope Smith was 9 years old. She lived in Virginia with her family. Hope was in 4th grade and she was home-schooled by her mom. Like most teachers, Hope's mother gave her some homework. Hope was supposed to learn about another country and write a report about it. Hope chose the country of Mongolia. She checked out books from the library and researched Mongolia on the computer. Hope even read articles about Mongolia in magazines.

Here are some things she learned. Mongolia is between China and Russia. It is about the same size as the state of Alaska.



In 1997, Mongolia had 3 million people and 30 million animals. Many people in the country raise animals like cows, horses, goats, camels, and a funny, shaggy haired animal called a yak.





Since the people travel with their animals, they live in tent homes they can move. The Mongolians call these portable homes "ghers."

Hope found out that Mongolia had lots of animals ... but only a few Christians. She was sad to learn that in 1990, there were only 5 known believers in Jesus in the whole country – imagine that – 3 million people and only 5 of them knew about and followed Jesus. In fact, most people there had never even heard of Jesus. They did not worship the true God, but prayed to little idol statues in their tents. Hope also read that the people of Mongolia did not have Bibles.

Hope wanted to do something to help. She began to pray for the people who lived far away in Mongolia. She asked God to send Christians from other countries to Mongolia. She prayed that inside their tents homes, Mongolian people would have Bibles instead of idols. Hope did not just pray once. She prayed every day. She prayed for one year. She prayed for 2 years.

In 1999, after Hope had prayed for Mongolia for 2 years, she read another magazine article about Mongolia. The title at the top of the page said:

HOPE FOR MONGOLIA

The article reported that 500 Mongolians had believed in Jesus. God had answered Hope's prayers.

Today, thousands of Mongolian people believe in Jesus and worship him instead of idols. There are churches where people can read the Bible in their language and learn more about God. The largest church in Mongolia is in the capital city. Would you like to know the name of that church? It is called Hope Assembly.

God used Hope to pray for the people of Mongolia ... and God can use you, too. Your prayers are powerful because you are talking to the God of the universe – the wise, and mighty, and loving one. God uses prayers to change the world. Who are you praying for?

Background information from PrayKids magazine Vol 1 No. 1,(2000), *Kids Making a Difference* by Pete Hohmann, (2004), and *When Children Pray* by Cheri Fuller, (1998).