

Mongolia Wrestling Tour

Wrestling Camp

After getting settled in, we spent five days out in the countryside at a camp with 80 Mongolian kids. Our daily routine included early morning workout, late morning practice, afternoon games, and evening program where we shared testimonies and the gospel.

Tournament

After returning from camp, we went straight into an all-day tournament. This was the 20th year of the “John Peterson AIA Tournament” in Mongolia. All five of our American wrestlers competed and four of them took home a medal.

Culture Learning

We sprinkled in things like horseback riding, visiting museums, and trying different foods. The guys loved it!



A highlight from camp was seeing how sport builds bridges across culture and language. The American guys were able to quickly bond with the Mongolian wrestlers. There is a mutual respect that comes with sharing the commitment and sacrifice it takes to compete in the sport of wrestling. That respect can be utilized for the advancement of the gospel, which was one of our goals during this tour.

We also spent time just as an American team learning what it means to glorify God through sport. We call this an “Audience of One” mentality. It means the Lord is the only one I’m seeking to please with my effort and attitude. That perspective brings renewed freedom and helps you to compete at your highest and best level. It also frees you from comparison.



Sunday Worship

Christians make up only 2% of the population in Mongolia. We visited a new church plant in Ulaanbaatar to worship with them and encourage them with stories of God at work.

Prison Ministry

One day we traveled 2 hours outside the capital city to visit inmates and play basketball with them. We had a fun time and they even beat us! We also shared the gospel and they were listening closely.

Buddhist Temple

Our last day in country we visited the national Buddhist temple. It was helpful to learn how it shapes their worldview. It’s sobering to see how far they are from God and relying on their self-effort to reach God. It reminds us of the goodness of Jesus and what he’s accomplished for us on the cross.

A highlight from the overall tour was working alongside AIA Mongolia staff to accelerate the work they’re already doing. Suhkee (pictured below) is the national AIA leader who is doing an incredible job. He’s a former wrestler and has gained tremendous respect over the past 20 years of professing faith in Christ. Being on staff with AIA has come at great personal cost to Suhkee and his family, but they have counted the cost and believe Jesus is worthy to be trusted.

The AIA Mongolia staff team is growing! Two new staff recently completed their training and are trusting God to raise their financial support. Pray for the AIA ministry in Mongolia to flourish and be effective in reaching fellow Mongolians!

