

THE ORPHAN AFFLICTION

GLOBAL MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: MONGOLIA

"THIS IS YOU, AND YOU ARE FINDING A GIRL FROM THE STREET."

Session after session, Enkhmaa* was completely closed off and uncommunicative.

Traumatized and timid, she was unwilling to even explore inside the bag of toys her counselor presented at the government orphanage in Mongolia where she lives.

Driven by devastating poverty levels and intensified by alcohol abuse, the dissolution of the family in Mongolia is leaving thousands of children abandoned and traumatized.

Hongoroo Tuya, Executive Director of Focus on the Family Mongolia, explains,

"Many of the children in the orphanage are not parentless. Instead, their circumstances at home are so toxic that living in an orphanage is actually a better life for them."

Facing the orphan crisis head-on, Focus on the Family Mongolia is conducting *Trauma-Focused Integrated Play Therapy* (TFIPT) trainings for counselors. This is to help provide mental health care support for orphans like Enkhmaa; a necessity they severely lack.

During TFIPT sessions, children engage in play activities that are designed to help them express and process their emotions, thoughts, and experiences related to trauma.

As the days unfolded in the counseling room, the pair began building trust. The little girl handed her counselor a finger puppet during a Play Therapy session,

and finally breaking her silence, Enkhmaa said, "This is you, and you are finding a girl from the street."

As Enkhmaa played, she acted out as the adoptive parents she is hoping for, asking "Where is my girl?", then nudged her counselor to respond, telling them she found the girl from the street for them. Enkhmaa then united the girl with the parents. She took a deep breath and happily put the puppet family to sleep, saying from the parents to the girl, "We love you", and smiled.

Focus Mongolia is improving the quality of care provided to vulnerable children like Enkhmaa every day. Children are close to Focus Mongolia's heart, just like they are to Jesus. We thank God for the work they do every day.

RELATED: MONGOLIAN FATHERS

BORDER PROTECTION UNIT

Mongolia is a vast and sparsely populated, landlocked country in eastern Asia between Russia to the north and China to the south. The BPU protects these borders at all costs. Watch the video for a glimpse into their daily lives.



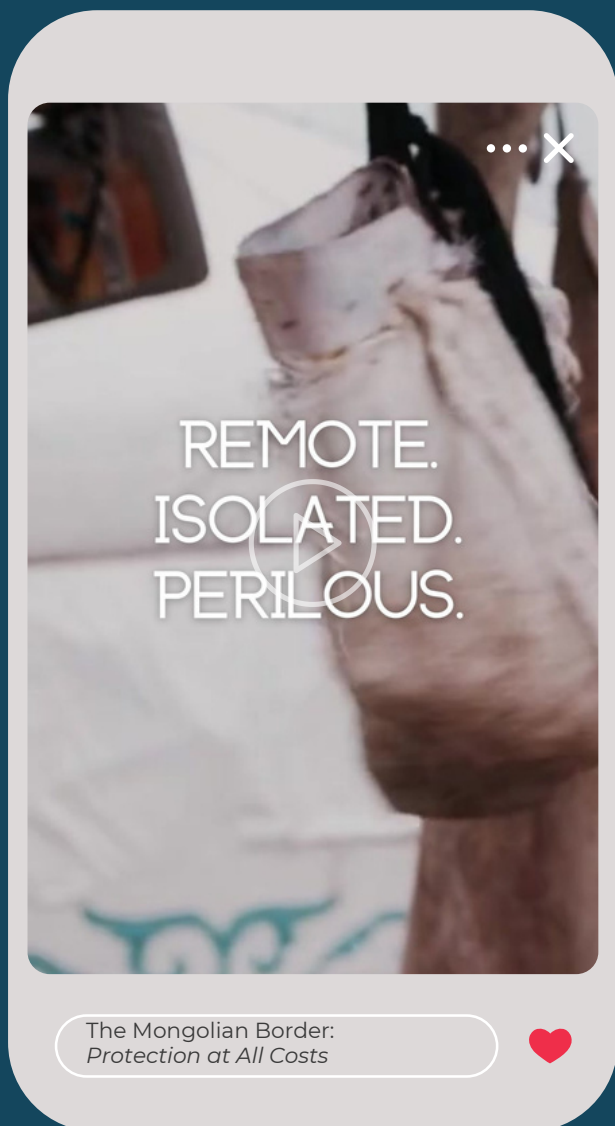
Figure 1

The BPU works in remote, harsh environments, such as the Gobi desert or the Altai mountains, which can be isolating and limit access to family.

These men are typically on the border, far away from home, for 20 days per month. Many are newlyweds, who lose their wives and families because of the distance.

Focus on the Family Asia Regional Director, WeeMin Lee, spoke to 300 men to practically encourage them as husbands and fathers.

CLICK THE VIDEO TO SEE MORE.



"We don't always know what fruit will grow from our outreach efforts, but from the look in their eyes of the men who attended, I could tell that Focus on the Family's message hit home for these soldiers. Pray with us that the seeds we sowed will bear much fruit for these struggling families."

-WeeMin Lee, Focus Mongolia

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