

Dear Friends,

With the collapse of the Soviet Union the economic situation of Mongolia, a former ally, worsened dramatically. On my first trip to Mongolia in 1998 the need for newer books in schools and universities was immediately evident. Libraries there are the only source of reading material; private possession of books is practically non-existent. In the classrooms, no student has a textbook; photocopies are made, page by page, of well-worn, older texts.

Over the past six years I have established six „ **Swiss Libraries**“, with a total of almost 100'000 books in German and English, in Mongolian schools and universities in five different cities. Additional books have been given to other schools at which German is taught and to municipal libraries. Over 10'000 books, mainly English language teaching manuals, are at the moment on their way to Khovd, a province in Western Mongolia. Some are in a container due to reach Ulaanbaatar from the Chinese port of Xingang during the third week in August. Another eight cubic meters of books are with Yves Ballenegger, the Globetrucker from Vaud, who is now in Russia, en route directly to Khovd.

Over the past three years I have organised an exchange of teachers. Four Mongolian teachers of German have come to Switzerland for a summer of study with Swiss teachers. Their experience here is reflected in their teaching back in Mongolia, both in their more fluent use of the language and in the subject matter used for their courses. I have also placed 25 people to teach German or English in Mongolia for varying lengths of time. These people range in age and ability from Maturandinnen to older, experienced English teachers with higher degrees in Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

One of the teachers, Julie Strubel, an American who has been teaching in Khovd - one of the poorest regions of Mongolia, will stay on there for an additional year in order to distribute English books to the 43 public schools in the provincial villages, most of which are reachable only with great difficulty on often impassable tracks. This is an area 1450 kilometers from the capital which receives little international aid.

For the schools with which I am now in contact and for others which I visited for the first time in September 2004, **I continue to collect newer books in English**. These can be children's books, books for young people, for adults, textbooks in all fields. Especially welcome are books for teaching English at all levels of ability and age. But even novels and light reading books are welcome. I do not send cookbooks or books about the Christian religion. All of the books must be in good condition and not over 10-15 years old. National Geographic magazines are also extremely welcome. Class sets of school textbooks, perhaps replaced by newer editions, are also sought.

What is also needed is **financial support** to cover the cost of sending a container to Mongolia (SFr. 4'700) and of the transport and packing of the books here in Switzerland. I am extremely grateful for any and all contributions to my postal account used exclusively for this project: **PC 90-720949-0**.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I am very thankful for your help.

Anita Fahrni
Tel.: 052 375 1985
Email: a.fahrni@clinch.ch