



Bill Harris (US)



"Helping ignite culturally relevant heart worship, especially in places where Christ-followers are restricted, persecuted or unknown."

HeartBeats

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Twin Festivals in Siberia!

New Song Festival in Ulan Ude, Siberia

HSI team members Bill and Robin Harris have just returned from nearly a month in Siberia. Part of their trip involved speaking at a conference in Ulan Ude that Robin helped organize. The conference was well attended and culminated in a first ever Buryat new song festival; Robin was asked to serve in this festival as co-MC.



The Ulan Ude festival was inspired by the Sakha new song festival held two years ago in Yakutsk where the Harrises worked for many years among the Sakha people. The Buryats were inspired by the Sakha festival, creating *their* festival on a scale that was very impressive. Ulan Ude's local community

came to watch over 40 participants proclaim Christ with local music styles, costumes and national instruments.



Some of the original songs at the Ulan Ude festival were from Buryat traditions. Some were of other ethnic traditions from around the world. The music covered a huge range of styles -- everything from Altai throat singing to a Christian Buryat rap song and dance performed by a local youth group.



A highlight for the Harrises was the performance of an original Mongolian song ("God bless my Mongolia") which had been recorded several years ago as part of an HSI song-writing seminar and recording in Mongolia. Bill and Robin were amazed to hear this song performed by a young Mongolian missionary serving in Ulan Ude!

"Sounds of the Heart" Festival Opens in Tuva

From August 2-15, HSI team member Robin Harris is leading a Heart Sounds International recording team to Tuva. Their goal is to support and record the first ever Christian Tuvan music and arts festival held in the Tuvan capital of Kyzyl.



One public portion of the three day Tuvan festival will be held in a park, another in a large hall. There will also be a music and arts workshop for Tuvan Christian artists in the days following the festival. Festival organizers have high hopes that by sharing the gospel using local cultural music and art forms, Tuvans will see Christ in a whole new light and that the event will help spread the gospel throughout Tuva.

Please pray especially for the festival from August 7-9. Pray for the leaders as they coordinate the efforts of the churches in Kyzyl to support the festival. Pray for a oneness of spirit among local Christians and readiness to respond to the





opportunities God will bring to them.

God is doing an amazing work in the hearts of ethnic people groups. It's our privilege to record this progress and encourage them!

Warmly yours,

Frank Fortunato

Heart Sounds International Coordinator

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