

Central Asia 2010

Happily, I am able to report to you that this Hard of Hearing School in Central Asia has been provided at least one hearing aid for every child except for the 20+ new students and the new kindergarten class. Those have also been tested and their ear impressions are in the process of being sent to the lab that so graciously provides custom ear molds for us. This work has been ongoing since 2007 when I was first invited to visit my friend who lives in this distant land. It was evident that I was to leave the audiometer with her and this dream began to materialize.

It is such a wonderful experience to be able to follow up on those each year providing them with more batteries, new tubes and repairs for the instruments that have become so much a part of their lives. The teachers eagerly look after their charges making sure none are left out as it makes their classroom so much more effective. The Director proudly told me how many parents from villages far away request that their children be allowed to attend her school. I'm told there will be a newspaper article regarding the hearing aid work soon and she will provide me a copy. We'll be sure and post it for you!

Other than the long distance, I have become accustomed to the journey and this last trip was the least taxing of late. I planned to obtain my visa at the airport upon arrival which was something I have not done before. To do this, I would need the address and phone number of my hostess there. Dutifully, I had requested she email it to me weeks in advance and I would write it down on my e-ticket.

I decided to carry my laptop with me at the last minute making it my "purse" as the rules for carry-ons are quite stringent now. I had not taken my laptop with me since 2005 and it had not been working properly for some time as it would work only for a short time and then suddenly go into hibernation. Nevertheless, for some unexplained reason, I wanted to take it.

In the second lengthy portion of the trip, I was seated in the bulkhead and I noticed the gentleman beside me engrossed in his laptop the entire trip. I also noticed the cord from his computer plugged into the side of the plane. I didn't know you could do that! About the same time, I also remembered I had failed to write down the information for the visa application essential upon landing. I quickly jumped up and retrieved my laptop from the overhead bin. Plugging it into the plane I could only hope I could possibly locate the information before it went into hibernation which might be just seconds. Quickly, I scanned my long list of emails from her and found the one I needed then.....hibernation. The laptop was of no further use to me on this trip. It had done what it needed to do!

It is a most rewarding task we have undertaken together and it would not be possible without your help. The work is being done even when I am not there and we are able to find couriers to bring broken instruments needing repair and ear impressions to us. We have arranged a courier to take back repaired hearing aids, new ear molds and 10 hearing aids in December and funds are needed for this. The hearing aids are \$100 and we are charged \$50 for each repair.

Thank you for journeying with me so ALL may hear.....STARLINGG

Janice