



China - Mongolia

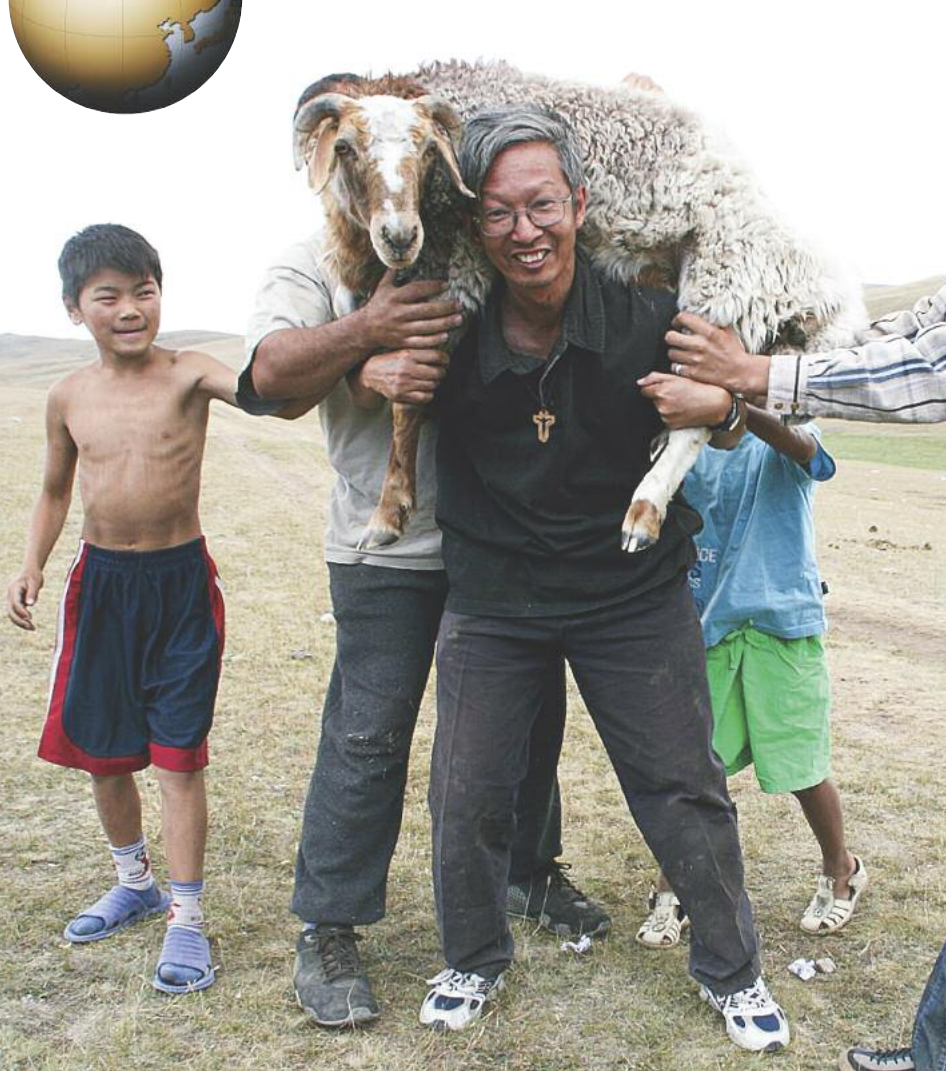
Don Bosco had a missionary dream in Barcelona during the nights between 8 and 10 April 1886, which included the future of the Salesian work in China. It is a dream which is being realized over different stages of history.

In 1906 Fr Louis Versiglia, together with five other missionaries, was sent to Macau by Don Rua. From there the Salesians then set up in Hong Kong and other cities in China. In 1946, Fr Mario Acquistapace arrived in Beijing, believing that it was the city that Don Bosco had seen in his dream. There he founded a House for orphans and poor youngsters and rapidly spread devotion to Mary Help of Christians among the faithful. After only a few years, the Salesian work was also developing rapidly and vocations were flourishing.

Suddenly, in 1949 the communist occupation of China dispersed the dream and Salesians were expelled from Mainland China; the work was reduced and entrusted to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. The number of Salesians dropped to the present one hundred and ten with the majority being now quite advanced in age.



Don Bosco's Dream in a Chinese Woman's Son



by Fr Pedro Leong, sdb

In 2006, despite a shortage of personnel, Father Paul Leung, a young priest holding several important posts in the province, obtained permission from the Rector Major to be a missionary to Mongolia where he began work for poor boys in Darkhan. When he was asked why he had insisted so much on going to the missions, leaving behind many important tasks in Hong Kong, he replied simply: "If I was baptized and came to know God, it was because there were good missionaries around. Now here in Hong Kong many of my fellow citizens have plenty of opportunity to hear the Good News, enjoy the rich fruits of evangelisation. How can I be so selfish as not to share what I have received with so many others who have no chance of hearing anything about God, and have nothing at all?"

In fact, when the first group of Salesians