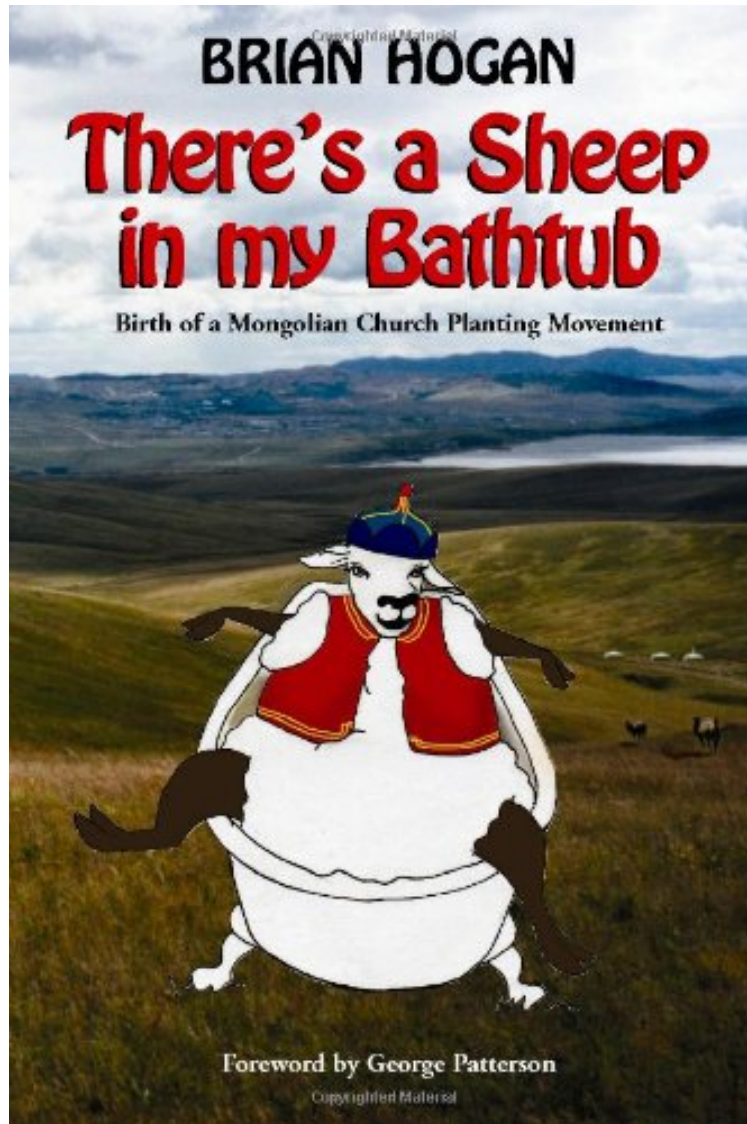


(Mobile library) There's a Sheep in my Bathtub: Birth of a Mongolian Church Planting Movement

There's a Sheep in my Bathtub: Birth of a Mongolian Church Planting Movement

Brian Hogan

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Brian Hogan : There's a Sheep in my Bathtub: Birth of a Mongolian Church Planting Movement before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised There's a Sheep in my Bathtub: Birth of a Mongolian Church Planting Movement:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. There's a sheep in my bathtub: my reviewBy Laurie DreherWhat an eye opener! My son has recently become a missionary and it has been very hard with him and his family being gone

from my life! I miss my grandsons, son and daughter-in-law tremendously! But through the story of Brian Hogan and his family, the Holy Spirit has opened my eyes and heart to a whole new world of missionaries and what they are all about. It's not about me. It's about those precious lost people in the world who need to know Jesus. God bless the missionaries who are willing to give up their comfort and go for the sake of the kingdom! This true story brought laughter, tears, and much awareness into my "tunnel vision" mind. I even found myself praying for the Hogan Family as I read of their struggles in Mongolia. I had to remind myself several times that these struggles are long gone as the book was set in the 1990's. However, I feel like I know them and still want to pray for them as they work for The Lord here in the states. May God bless their current work and continue to bless the Mongolians they served 2 decades ago. Great story, great book!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Learning Church Planting and Church Planting Movements from Real Life By Dr. Robert J. Vajko The amazing growth of a church planting movement in Mongolia is recounted in this amazing study of starting and growing not just a church but multiplying churches. George Patterson, who is a missionary that God used to multiply churches in Honduras writes the preface and explains one of the reasons this Mongolian movement was effective. "Many church planters follow such a long list of things to do to start a church that they fail to give top priority to the few essential activities, and end up doing so many things that the key, pivotal elements of church planting are buried in the plethora of work items." This simplicity of church was a key to the growth and multiplication of house churches in this difficult area. The author, Brian Hogan, shares the two reasons why church planting movements do not take place: "One, what we are doing is too complex" and "Two, we don't trust the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer" (251). This prioritizing of the basics is seen throughout the book. Here are some examples: First, they effectively disciplined the new believers which led to growth by multiplication. Second, they trained leaders in the local church and thus avoided separating them from ministry in an ivory tower academic context (210). Third, they passed the baton to Mongolian leadership at just the right time. Some would say that they should have never passed the baton but let the locals carry the baton from the beginning. However, this did lead to solid growth both in doctrine and life. Part of their problem was the fact that the initial conversions were among teen-age girls (95). Fourth, they were able to transition from the teen-age girl substance of the beginning church to whole families in a way that made the church much more reflective of the Mongolian culture as a whole. Fifth, they understood the importance of small holistic small groups for solid growth rather than large "celebration" type gatherings. They learned the importance of contextualization and avoiding cultural baggage from the Western approach to church. This led to the multiplication of churches rather than one large church and penetrated the culture and made discipleship more effective (124-126). As a missionary family they went through some very difficult situations including the sudden death of a new born son. Even this terrible suffering was used by God as they modeled for the Mongolians "Grieving with Hope" (title of the epilogue 247-50). I would recommend that all church planters read this book even if they are planting a church in a more urban or western context. Lessons learned through real life history are a powerful means of church planter training.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Funny, informative, and inspirational By Eva Winter I enjoyed this book on several levels. It offers a fascinating, and often funny, view of life in Mongolia. In addition, it is inspiring to read how God is working there. I loved seeing the New Testament principles of church planting being successfully implemented in such a foreign culture.

What happens when you drop an American family with three small children into the post-Communist chaos of Outer Mongolia? There's a Sheep in my Bathtub chronicles the adventures of the Hogan family as they try to follow God's leading into one of the world's most remote and mysterious enclaves. Brian and Louise meet during their college days at Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo and embark on a pursuit of a calling to the nations that propels them from the Navajo Nations painted desert in Arizona to the wild steppes of Central Asia. Along their way five children join the cross-cultural roller coaster. Disarmingly honest and charmingly humorous, their tale will thrill you and bring tears to your eyes. An intensely personal memoir, this book still manages to pack a powerful dose of missionary insight and Biblical principles for seeing the Church explode into life among peoples that have never even heard of Jesus. Get comfortable. You will not be able to put it down. From the very first page this book jerks you irrevocably into the outrageous, the uproarious and the impossible to imagine. It has got to be one of the most absolutely fascinating tales to ever prove that the truth is stranger than fiction. Nevertheless, it throbs with a sobering and relentless sense of calling and purpose that is truly inspiring. --- the late Dr. Ralph D. Winter, Founder, U.S. Center for World Mission I wept, laughed and was stirred by this book. I love a good story, and this is a really good one! You won't be able to put it down! --- Floyd McClung., author of Living on the Devil's Doorstep Brian Hogan's apostolic passion shines through with an incredible combination of raw honesty and witty humor. A gripping real-life parable unfolds that will have you laughing, weeping and rejoicing at the amazing testimony of God's grace and power revealed through ordinary people facing extra-ordinary obstacles. I wholeheartedly recommend this book as it not only tells an amazing story, but also becomes a discipleship tool that reveals to us a whole new paradigm of church and missions. --- David Broodryk, Kingdom People Network, South Africa If you want a radically cross-cultural journey without leaving your favorite easy chair this book is your ticket. If you desire to plant churches that reproduce among the least reached this is your training manual wrapped up in a most delightful, brawny and instructive story-box! I

laughed I cried and wrestled through the realities of what it means to leave the easy chair and watch God prove Himself faithful - accomplishing His dreams for a people through one ordinary and obedient family. Brian Hogan is courageous, practical and real. Focused in the same direction for many years, he is a pioneer, church planter, mentor and model. His journey is a challenge to all those who want to be used by God. Brians thinking will stretch and grow you; his passion and lifestyle will confront every comfortable corner of your life. There's a Sheep in my Bathtub will be top on the reading list for those I train. --- Carol Davis, director of LeafLine Initiatives
Brian Hogans Erdenet-story had been told to me a number of times as a real and astonishing exception and a true, powerful secret. I am thrilled to see it in print. Brian experienced church history in the making in 1993-1996. May his insights multiply like an epidemic and grip an entire new generation of an apostolic people, so that this planet will never remain the same. --- Wolfgang Simson, author of Houses that Change the World The Starfish Manifesto

It is my delight to endorse my dear brother Brian Hogan's book. I have known Brian and his family for a long time. Without pioneer missionaries like Brian and Louise Hogan, the great awakening Mongolia experienced would have been impossible. With great sacrifice they laid down everything for God's Kingdom in Mongolia, but their sacrifice wasn't in vain. Erdenet Assembly, which their team established, has been a model to young Mongolian churches, and a great encouragement to indigenous believers to step up and take on leadership within their churches and in their communities and country as well. Brian has a heart for Mongolians. His great skill, biblical knowledge, respect toward Mongolian tradition, culture and history, and his sense of humor were easily embraced by the locals. His actions were louder than his words, for which he was loved not only by local Christians, but by non-Christians as well. No one can tell the story of Mongolian church birth, growth, and struggles better than Brian Hogan. His first hand experience is helpful to not only missionaries who are about to start their journeys, but also to local believers who are writing the history of Mongolian Christianity. That's why I am offering my support and if he wants to publish his book in Mongolian, I am honored to ask him to finish this task. --- Baika Puntsag, pastor, Amazing Grace Mongolian Church, Denver, 1st Mongolian church in USA. A great read. I was drawn in by the struggles and victories experienced by the Hogan family as they dreamed the impossible: to see a church planting movement established in Mongolia. This book is stuffed with powerful New Testament Apostolic church planting principles-something woefully absent in today's missionary literature. Brian writes from "hands on" practical experience and not theory. Excellent!! I highly recommend There's a Sheep in my Bathtub to anyone who dreams of the impossible. A must-read for any future church planter on all continents! --- the late Jeff Gilbertson, church planter to the Tajiks Brian keeps the story rolling. You won't put this book down easily. But while you're having fun turning the pages, you'll find yourself amazed at the God who puts the move in Christ-following movements. You'll find yourself coached without realizing it, learning all kinds of wisdom about how to over-achieve in seemingly impossible things. Mongolia may be one of the best laboratories to learn about how Christ becomes famous and followed throughout an entire people. And this could be one of the best bundle of lessons learned. Brian is transparent about his misgivings and mistakes, and at the same time he is disarmingly clear about the principles that he was proving true. It's hard not come away feeling that you are ready to attempt something great yourself. --- Steve Hawthorne, editor of Perspectives on the World Christian Movement
I've known Brian and Louise for many years, and have been deeply impressed with their extraordinary commitment to the Lord and to His eternal purpose of spreading His love, mercy, tenderness, compassion and forgiveness to the ends of the Earth. Their lives truly demonstrate the Lord's Father Heart made flesh in a winsomely genuine way that is incredibly attractive and deeply compelling. I was unable to put this book down. This masterful and engaging story of their joys and sorrows, overwhelming challenges, perseverance in tribulation and astounding successes in Mongolia is a testimony to both their undaunted spirit and the unwavering faithfulness of God to accomplish His word with great power through normal people just like you and me. The timeless spiritual principles embedded in these pages will both inspire and instruct those who want to know and understand the Lord and His vision for the world in a deeper and clearer way. I can't recommend it to you highly enough! --- Fred Markert, director of the Center for Strategic Initiatives
About the Author
BRIAN HOGAN earned his Master's in Intercultural Studies/Ministry from Hope International University (Fullerton, CA) specializing in World Christian Foundations. He is a sought after speaker, trainer and coach. Brian serves full time with Church Planting Coaches, a global ministry of Youth With A Mission. He serves YWAM on the Frontier Mission Leadership Team. He enjoys being a catalyst, hanging out, reading books, traveling and trying anything new, novel, and different. Brian has participated in, led, and started organic expressions of Jesus' Body in the USA, Malta, and Mongolia both inside and outside the traditional wine-skin. He coaches those involved in these movements on five continents, especially focusing on where the church isn't. Brian and his wife Louise and their backyard chickens make their home in the northwest Arkansas Ozarks.