

2011 China Mission Trip Report

“Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love which shows itself in action.” (1 John 3:18)

This verse summarizes our team’s efforts on First Baptist Georgetown’s first mission trip to China ... where all eight team members poured out His love every day through every interaction with the Chinese people. Although we couldn’t overtly share Christ, we could—and did—share and show His love to many people we encountered throughout the week. Although several team members came back to America with stuffy heads and sensitive tummies, everyone gave 100% every day in every ministry.

Several team members were more knowledgeable than others about the Chinese culture when we arrived ... but all of us left China with a new appreciation of the Chinese people. We learned never to lump together an entire people and make judgments, but to look at each individual as some-



one Christ loves and for whom He died just as He did for each of us. From the cigarette smoke everywhere to the massive amounts of traffic, all our senses were engaged “BIG TIME.” We ate many Chinese foods...and some team members were much handier with chopsticks than were others ... but, no one went hungry while in the country.

Upon arrival in Beijing and after a “good” night’s sleep, the team enjoyed a touristy day ... Tour of the Great Wall,



Tiananmen Square, The Forbidden City, a Tea Room experience and eating/shopping at the Jade Palace. What a great entry into the rich culture of this centuries-old country. Team members didn’t hesitate to share

Christ (and answer spiritual questions) with our English-speaking Chinese tour guide. On our final day in China, we had unexpected extra time which we used to tour the Brocade Museum and the Japanese Massacre Museum both in Nanjing. What a great opportunity to continue learning about the culture and the history of this country...a country that will never be the same in our memory banks.

Our team was in China participating in a Service Learning Project through the Amity Foundation, a Christian group working to promote education, social services, health, and rural development throughout China. The majority of our time in China was spent in serving others and interacting with the Chinese people in small groups. Upon arriving in Nanjing, we attended an English-speaking Bible study which included singing praises to God and small group discussions on the Bible lesson. We attended another English-speaking Bible study in another Chinese church at mid-week. In both situations, God used our team in mighty ways to encourage Chinese believers and to share insights

and applications of the scriptures. Sunday morning in China was a huge blessing as we joined Chinese believers at St. Paul’s Church in their English Worship Service. What an awesome opportunity to stand with Chinese believers, in this packed auditorium, in the middle of China, and sing praises to the same God. Wow! All of these worship services and Bible studies are held in officially registered churches, not underground churches. When you attend for the first time, you are asked to stand and introduce yourself ... which we did. It was very interesting to hear the Chinese, after introducing themselves, state why they had come. Many came because they wanted to learn English and many were college students seeking to know more about God. As in America, others had been invited by a friend.



Our three days spent at the school for migrant children doing enrichment activities in English was an exciting challenge. As you would expect, some classes were more of a challenge than were others. Each small classroom had

Let’s all pray for Chinese Christians, that they will continue to be faithful witnesses, and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to draw Chinese people into the Kingdom.

Missionary Lynn Yarbrough, Amity Foundation

50–55 students, some of whom were just learning English and others who had been studying it for several years. We



used music and favorite children’s songs to teach them about the parts of their body, the alphabet, and numbers. They loved coloring the American flag and the Chinese flag. When asked to repeat a phrase of a song, they responded enthusiastically...and loudly! Although we don’t know much about their home life, they seemed to enjoy life and the silly Americans who spent time on their campus. The principal was so appreciative of



our time spent enriching the lives of “her” students. She was very excited when we presented the school a soccer ball with University of Texas colors and designs totally covering the ball. The 600 children in grades 1–6 do not have much room for playing during their ten-minute recess, but we hope they’ll remember the team from America when they play soccer with “our” ball. One day, we used inflated beach balls to play with the children during recess. The rowdy Americans stirred things up so much that the principal got on the loud speaker to try and calm things down.

Our other major interaction with Chinese people was our time spent at the University in conversational English small



groups. Each day and each group was so different. We learned much about the Chinese people, both their country and their culture, while answering their questions about life in America. Most of them were studying to be English

teachers while a few wanted to be interpreters. Our teaching assistants at the migrant school, also students at the university, hold a special place in our hearts. We spent much time with them both in the classrooms and around their campus and the city of Nanjing. They were great informal tour guides. Our contact continues as we connect via e-mail. We look forward to sharing Christ as our hope for living with them through our electronic connection. They are the future of China, and it is an awesome privilege to now include them as special Chinese friends.

Another chance-of-a-lifetime opportunity was touring the Amity Printing Company and watching in awe at all the Bibles coming off the presses in the middle of China! Ami-

ty’s annual production capacity is about 18,000,000 Bibles. Last November, the APC celebrated the production of the 80 millionth Bible. Their production lines, all automated electronically, were amazing to watch—with Bibles in many languages and versions and bindings coming off the presses at amazing speed—then being wrapped and boxed for shipping across China. Our team watched in amazement at the process, and before we left, we made a small contribution to them for printing Bibles in China.



We may never know the Kingdom impact our team had in China; but we do know that we were the hands and feet of Jesus to the children at the migrant school and to the college students with whom we interacted in small groups. Much time was spent in praying for the Chinese people and encouraging the believers, too. We continue to pray for the Chinese people with many names and faces imprinted on our minds. May all that was done and said bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ. Thank you for your prayers for our team. Even though you didn’t endure the 20+ hour trip, you were a huge part of this year’s mission trip to China as you prayed for us as we served God faithfully in this country located half way around the world.



2011 China Team, left to right: Charlotte Watson, Marguerite Overs, Jeannie Simpson, Allen Palmer, Virginia Kreimeyer, Rae Oakes, Julie Krueger, Marty Krueger

