

Teaching English in China

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CARING
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CHINA



Challenging Times

Dear Friends,

If you are reading this update it may be for such a time as this; to stop and make you take stock of what you are doing, to challenge you in the here and now and to envision you for the future.

CFC has been sending men and women to teach English in China for over 20 years, in this life we will never know fully with what impact. What we do know is that many have gone in obedience to Jesus' command to "go and make disciples" and that through their faithful witness and work countless Chinese men and women have come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

We live in an age when the demand to communicate in an international language is crucial for trade, business and education. In the first century, Greek was the language of the known world and helped the spread of the gospel. Today English is the language 'everyone' wants to know. This has produced a huge demand for English teachers. Teaching English brings you into daily contact with students of all ages who are eager to learn and find out about the teacher and the teacher's culture. The possibilities for witnessing are enormous. With over one billion Chinese people yet to hear of the love of Christ, it is probably one of the greatest mission opportunities that this world has ever seen.

Jesus said "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you". The Apostles took Jesus at his word and brought the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the whole Roman Empire. Are we ready to take on the challenge of China with that same confidence in our generation?

David & Celia

On the Border with Inner Mongolia



A mission abroad, especially in China, was not something I had really considered before Teachers for China came to speak at my University Christian Union. As I heard about the opportunities for mission in China I really had a desire to

go, but felt I wasn't enough of a Christian. Despite it being the children's work I was particularly interested in, I began to feel quite excited at the thought of the 3-week summer school and decided to apply for the year and see what happened. Before I knew it, I had been accepted on the team and plans were going ahead for the trip.

God taught me so much while I was out there, especially about sowing seeds and working like the links in a chain, each inputting to have a joint impact on someone's life. I was amazed at the way that the 10 people on the team of such diverse ages, personalities and backgrounds, could bond so closely by God's love, and do things seemingly impossible.

OUTREACH TO STUDENTS TESTIMONY

Returning to our own country, we've been amazed at the number of Chinese students pouring into major cities. We visited a northern England University city and startled many mainland Chinese undergraduates by chatting with them fluently in Mandarin Chinese –they hadn't met any other Brits who could do that! The large numbers of Chinese now attending the church saw God's love tangibly in action through one of the students who suffered from terminal leukemia. The support which the congregation gave to him and his parents during the final stages of his illness really impacted the student community. As the reason for such compassion has been explained, people are beginning to respond to the good news! One wealthy businessman and his family host a get-together for about 40 Chinese each week, providing a delicious Chinese meal, and are praying for helpers to befriend and disciple these

BEFRIENDING CHINESE STUDENTS OVERSEAS

Are you a prayer supporter for the work in China? Do you actually know any Chinese people, what they are really like?



This is an exciting time; immigration and finances are no longer insurmountable barriers to those determined to leave China and study overseas. More students than ever before are enrolling in English courses and business management, often trusting advertisements they've seen on the Web, which are not always reliable. They tend to seek the cheapest lodgings possible, as the dollar represents enormous purchasing power in China - study costs as much as \$2,420.00 per year. We've heard stories of unscrupulous landlords offering inadequate heating, plumbing and furnishings creating degraded and filthy living conditions.

Many cities organize outreach to overseas students. Have you ever considered taking some time to get to know Chinese young people living near your home? To offer a meal or a chance to visit the countryside would be appreciated so much.

TEFL courses are available for those of you with more time to spare as we notice that currently classes and informal 'free talks' are being swamped with eager students.

Some have heard about Christianity and are really eager to know answers to questions which cannot be asked freely in China, such as 'Why did Jesus die?'

The following year, CFC was invited to hold a Summer School near Inner Mongolia and I applied again. I left England knowing

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Summer Team Feedback

On the Border with Inner Mongolia (Continued from page 1)

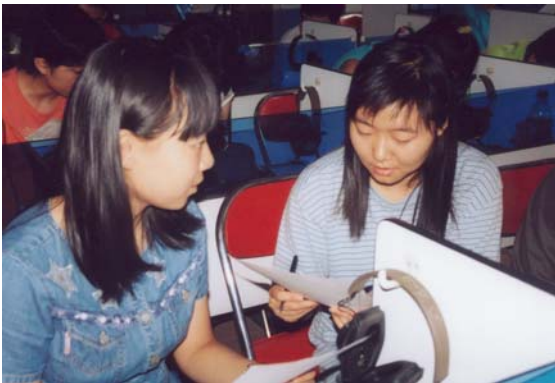
we were to expect the unexpected and I was excited at the thought of such a challenge, but also quite apprehensive. From the moment we arrived I knew it was going to be tough, both emotionally and physically. As we walked around the area, people seemed quite cold towards us and we were stared at wherever we went! I was reminded of the verse 'What is impossible with men is possible with God' (Luke 18: 27)

I felt as though I was at a turning point in my life; I had just graduated from the university and was unsure what the future held for me. In a way, I had lost all the things that gave me stability in my life and felt quite vulnerable. I had a sense however, that God was stripping me down to prepare me for what he had planned for my future, and that my time in China was re-building me for this. He had removed all my distractions in order to concentrate fully on him and the work we had to do.

About halfway through our time there, there seemed to be a dramatic change; the people around warmed to us and we had more opportunities to share our faith with both students and staff. There was an overwhelming sense of God working through us as people were keen to take Bibles, and conversations freely cropped up. There seemed such openness to Christianity and such a thirst for it in a way I found difficult to believe. I began to feel as though we were a light walking through the town, and people were drawn to the Holy Spirit that shone out of us.

I have come away having seen the incredible openness the Chinese have to receiving the gospel. Language needn't be a barrier, but the way that we relate to people can demonstrate the love of God and there is amazing potential to make an eternal difference to people's lives.

Gill H.



What they said in 2002!

"It was particularly good to meet some long-termers..."

"I've been really encouraged to see God at work in the students' hearts..."

"...feel truly blessed by the love that some of the students shown me..."

"The students have given me so much love in return for very little..."

"I feel I have grown in my faith, God's presence has been constant..."

"It has increased my love for the Chinese people and made me more aware of God working in my life..."

"It really touched me and changed my life. I grew closer to the Lord..."

"It was great to see how God had been preparing hearts ahead of us, and we were able to have many good opportunities to have meaningful conversations with the students. We often invited students round to our accommodation in the evening for 'free talk', or sometimes went sight-seeing (or shopping!) with them in the afternoons. Sometimes we were sowing seeds, sometimes watering..."

"By the end of our time, we were encouraged to find that team members had had conversations about the Gospel with about 20 individuals. In the classroom too we were able to include 'Christian snippets' a bit about Christmas and Easter, in the context of festivals; 1 Corinthians 13, in a lesson about family life; and we even taught the children's class a Christian song."

"One student came to the class wearing a T-shirt with the words 'Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord' written on it! (in English). She didn't have any idea what it meant, but was very interested to hear it explained. Subsequently she asked 'what do Christians believe?', and wanted to know how she could get a Bible. We gave her a Chinese New Testament, and pray that God will continue to have His hand on her."

"On an outing, we got talking to an English teacher from the university. She was very interested in finding out what we thought about American presidents, ethnic tension in America and the UK, and all kinds of other things.... including what we believe. For her, having a communist education and an atheistic mindset, belief in God was something which, although appealing, was still intellectually too much to accept. However, it turned out that she had many extended family members who were Christians and whose family life had made a very positive impact on her – and her grandfather had known many missionaries in the pre-communist era. We discussed many things with her, and gave her a Christian book written by a Chinese intellectual to help her think through some of her questions."

A SMALL STEP OR A BIGGER STEP?

We hope you will be encouraged by what you read in this update and even challenged to take just a small step or perhaps a much bigger step to serve the Lord in China in 2003. If you have never been to China, CFC's Summer Schools provide a wonderful opportunity to experience China's culture and to get to know Chinese people while at the same time helping Chinese students improve their spoken English. God is doing amazing things in China and the program provides plenty of opportunities to share God's love. This year CFC is planning to send a team to China in July and if you are interested, do get in touch with us as soon as possible as places are limited. If, on the other hand, you feel the Lord drawing you to China for a year or more and you are a teacher or are willing to acquire a qualification in teaching English as a second language our "Year for China" program might just be for you. In whichever way you feel the Lord is leading you it will be a privilege to help you discern the Lord's plans and purposes.

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