



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
国际专业服务机构



MSI Canada Newsletter 2008 WINTER

JANUARY 2008

“A Pencil in the Hand of ...” by Monica Fong

Mother Teresa referred to herself as “a pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world.” During this project, I felt that we were each given the opportunity to be “pencils” in the hand of God. And yet, how do we, in practicality, turn the attention of our students, who can only see pencils, towards our great Writer and His message of love? That was the challenge that each of us faced in the two weeks we had with our students.

We arrived on Friday, July 13th, after two sleep-deprived days of traveling by plane to Luzhou. After a week-end of orientation, planning, and prayer, we met our students for the very first time on Monday. Before beginning classes, I felt a mixture of the typical first-day-of-

school excitement and fear. Are we truly prepared to be servants to our students rather than teachers? Will our students be able to see the gospel through us? With no real answers, I could only trust that this



Monica teaching the Health School students from Luzhou,

project was God’s work, and that He, not I, will provide the strength, wisdom and love needed to complete it.

Despite the apparent favoritism our students had, we needed

to remind ourselves to be humble. We were sent as God’s messengers and we there to love them with the love of Christ. Mother Teresa said, “we serve life not because it is broken but because it is holy.” In serving our students, we were also served. In walking alongside these young adults, I received their friendship and their trust. I was privy to some of their aspirations, their hopes, and their dreams.

In saying this, I also recognize that we were not without our challenges. At the mid-way point of our trip, we were invited by the school principal to attend an overnight sight-seeing trip. We were physically and mentally tired from a week of tight scheduling, planning, and jet-lag.

God was showing me that

Special points of interest:

- Bobby Wawa: Barbie Doll
- The First Time for a Cross Cultural Experience
- Colorful Banner of the year

Conversation with a 5 year old by Bobby Park

(nicknamed by the children: Barbie WAWAW! meaning Barbie Doll in Chinese)

Guess who was waiting outside my door this morning? A former student, and two others. The youngest was five years old.

Kid: Bobby-wawal (Barbie Doll)
Me: Wo bu shi wawal (I am not a doll)
Kid (clinging to my leg): Wo de Bobby wawal (O my dear dollie.)
Me: Wo bu shi ni de wawal Ni shi wo de

wawal (I am not your dollie, you are my dollie)
Kid: Wo de Bobby wawal (My Barbie Dollie)
Me: Wo yao zou la! (I need to go!)
Kid: Bu yaol Wo bu yao Bobby wawa zou la!
(No, I don't want my dollie to go!)
Me: Wo bu shi ni de wawal!
(I am not your dollie!)
Kids are too cute to be strict!



Bobby Wawa had some cream on his face!

“A Pencil in the Hand of...” continued...

ministry is about seeing situations through His eyes and acting accordingly. No, I did not realize that I did not try to talk to the principal or teachers because I felt that I had no language to communicate with them. No, I did not see that the meals were provided with graciousness and that I should have eaten more out of consideration for my hosts. *“A new command I give you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”*

John 13:34-35.

“How can I turn the attention of people away from the pencil towards the author and His message?”

And there lies the answer to my question. How can I turn the attention of people away from the pencil towards the author and His message? We must love. And while this may sound lofty and sweeping on the written page, the actual act is often simple, involving the little things. It

is choosing to wipe the tables and sweep the floor for our students so that they could learn in a garbage-free classroom. It is meeting our students’ mistakes with a

kind word of praise and encouragement rather than rebuke. It is sharing a meal with them, and being a listening friend.



MSI Teachers and local students posing together for a group picture in Luzhou

For us then, who have been touched by the love of Christ, witnessing is allowing that love to be channeled through us to others. The act doesn’t have to be grand or noble. Sometimes, it’s very simple and humble. But when people encounter that true love, they will see God, because God is love. For, as Mother Teresa said, “No one thinks of the pen while reading a letter, they only want to know the mind of the person who wrote the letter.” *Thus, if our actions truly live out God’s message of love, people cannot but know the heart of God. They will no longer see the pencils, but they will know that writer who is writing through them.*

Colorful banners in Summer of 2007



Hair salon and blah blah blah...

We went to a hair salon to get a shampoo and head massage. 5 yuan, right? Sounds good.

After massage and my hair is cut,

Hair stylist: Blahblahblahblah

Me: Keyi (OK)

Hair stylist: Blahblahblahblah

Me: Keyi (OK) (yes, I didn't know what she was saying)

Hair stylist: Blahblahblahblah

Me thinking: Um, maybe I better get a translation first.

Me: David! Ni fang yi xia keyi ma? (David, can you translate

for me for a second?)

Other hair stylists: (laughing)

Me: Duibuqi! Wo shi hanguoren. / with a big smile. (Sorry, I'm a Korean)

Hair stylist: Blahblahblahblah

David: Ah, she wants to know if you want gel. Gel, ok?

Me: Hao, keyi. (OK, good).

Hair stylist: /starts cutting my hair

Me thinking: Uh, what is she doing?

Ruth: Bobby... ni xiang jien toufa ma? (Bobby... you intended to get your hair cut?)

Me: /nodding

Ruth: /puzzled

During post-analysis, David and I determined that when the hair stylist heard David say gel, she thought he said jien (cut). She then repeated "jien" to me, and I gave the OK signal to go ahead.

It's not a horrible cut, you know, even though I don't want to have it cut twice.

第一次 by Sherry Liu

這是我第一次去中國,也是第一次離開所有的家人和熟悉的朋友出遠門。在這兩個禮拜最常有的感覺就是完全的陌生、需要倚賴別人、還有神。雖然去的目的是教學,但令人比較印象深刻的是當地的生活環境。雖然瀘州已經算是個不錯的市區了,但想像嬌生慣養的自己若要在當地住上一年半載,大概是做不到的。在這樣住不慣的環境當中不由得對當地的同工感到敬佩。

在當地最令我深思的就是那些殷勤學習的學生,和當地的同工。其實兩個禮拜能學多少英文呢?但學生們卻不辭辛苦的走過泥濘、長途跋涉到學校積極的學習。反觀在富裕的環境長大的學生們,雖然有豐富的資源,完善的教育系統,但翹課的翹課,讀書變成痛苦的事情。再來就是當地那些為了神的國度默默的作工的人們。雖然說MSI的工作像是默默的耕耘—短時間不一定能看見功效的,但這兩個禮拜我看到的是充滿了愛心和盼望的生命。特別是在我自己發高燒的那幾天,他們像父母一般的照顧

著我,為我不斷的換冰毛巾。那樣愛的流露,是我還無法領受的,我也明白現在的我是無法為陌生人做到這樣的地步的。我不禁思考到底基督的愛是什麼,能這樣的觸摸到他們,使他們也能去愛別人。

這趟去中國學習到最多的是從我的隊員和MSI同工的生命見證。很奇妙的是神竟然能把七個陌生人聚集在一起

像一個小家庭一樣的和睦相處了兩個多禮拜。每個人都帶著不同的理由和不同的功課來到這趟旅行,但我們的不同卻成全了彼此—這都是因為我們在基督裡面。在離開之前,當地的同工,告訴我們,這裡不是我們的“field”。他要我們回去之後,把我們所經歷,所學習的用在自己的服事崗位上。因此,這一趟旅行並不是結束了,還有更多的事情等著我去經歷和學習。神讓我看到了自己的不足,因為這是一個重新認識神、經歷神的開始。感謝祂。

“但想像嬌生慣養的自己若要在當地住上一年半載,大概是做不到的…”



MSI Luzhou English Team 2007
Back row L to R: Monica, Eva, Philip, Joyce, Madeline, Sherry
Front row: Bea, Mingzhu, Miranda



Bobby with a new hair cut

MSI Canada

CHINA TRIVIA



What is this machine?

Answer at the bottom of the page.

Visit
www.msicanada.org

English Teaching Team

Teaching: local English teachers from county schools

Date: July 14—August 1, 2008 (3 wks)
(Dates might change slightly)

Need: ESL teachers, Certified teachers
Deadline for application: April 1, 2008

Medical Teams

Date: Sept 15-26, 2008 (1 or 2 wks)

Need: MD (Orthopods, Laparoscopic Surgeons, Internists), RN, Dentist, PT, OT, SLP, Dietitian, Pharmacist

Deadline for application: May 31, 2008

Youth Center English Camp and English Classes

Camp: teaching elementary and secondary school students—Yi minority in China

Classes: teaching elementary & secondary schools teachers

Date: July 15—Aug 13, 2008

Need: U students, Certified teachers and ESL teachers, Mandarin preferred

Deadline for application: March 31, 2008



Business Administration & Management Teams (BAM)

Teams: May 17-24, Aug 30—Sept 6, Oct 11-18, 2008

Need: Business background with practical experience

Deadline for application: Jan 31, 2008 (May Team), April 30, 2008 (Aug Team), May 31, 2008 (Oct Team)

2008 MSI Canada Short Term Teams

Donation:

Medical teams—\$3000

English, Youth, BAM teams—\$2000

Includes visa application (single entry), air ticket (Canada to China), accommodation, meals & transportation in China.

Contact:

info@msicanada.org

Or check our website

www.msicanada.org

Other opportunities are available. Please request at info@msicanada.org

Is God calling you to serve Him with your profession?



Beautiful faces

Answer to China Trivia:
Noodle machine