

# **China Summer Team 2007**

## **Jane Coates**

This was my third Summer English Programme with BMS World Mission and Amity, teaching and serving rural Chinese Teachers of English, and the experience has continued to improve with each visit. The Chinese Teachers are a joy to work with. Chinese colleagues in the schools and Colleges go to impossible lengths to make the stay comfortable and memorable. Amity Staff are professional, efficient, wonderfully loving and supportive.

Amity's Summer English Programme is all about communication- language learning beyond the textbook, personal friendship and sharing, cross cultural communication and sharing life stories, but significantly, about communication where words are unnecessary-a silent witness-being the person you are in the place where God wants you to be.

It is the unspoken elements of daily work and teaching, walk and witness that speak the loudest to the Chinese Teachers.

"Wherever we go He uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the Good news like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a fragrance presented by Christ to God."

2 Corinthians 2 v 14,15.

This is the essence of the work in China on the SEP –as significant as the successful delivery of the programme of lessons. Our witness, where it is most powerful, is like a pleasant perfume-fragrant and attractive, effective and beautiful without the need for thousands of words. Our attitude, manner, body language and bearing are searchingly scrutinized. In our final session with Amity before leaving for home we were given a bookmark with this Chinese saying:

"In a crowd of 10,000 people, our hands touched. Three years later, your lovely scent still lingers on my sleeve."

Our hope is for our witness to have been effective and attractive, with deep and lasting memories-that will bear fruit in due time.