

SEP Final Report for Chuzhou Team, Jiangsu Province 2008

Showers of blessing in China



Jane, George, Chris and Caroline have spent one month teaching English to 100 Chinese Middle and High School Teachers of English from the Chuzhou District of Hai'an City, Jiangsu Province in the east of China. The weather was very hot, very humid and very wet! The teaching programme involved each member of the Team teaching a class of 25 Chinese English Teachers for 25 hours each week- a physically demanding schedule in a 37 degrees C. heat on the edge of a typhoon storm that had struck this eastern corner of China. The heat was oppressive and the classrooms uncomfortable but the commitment and warmth of the Teachers exceptional. The Team have returned to the UK having experienced great blessing.

We have recently watched our Team GB of excellent athletes compete in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and admired their preparation, commitment and achievements as they take part in their events. In the Relay Race the athlete hands on the baton to a team mate who is prepared to receive the baton from him and in turn will pass that baton on to someone else. As we reflected on our time in China we were encouraged to consider what we had received and what we had handed on to our colleagues and our Chinese Teachers and what they in turn will hand on to others. We quickly concluded that we had received far more than we had given. We have given our Chinese Teachers the confidence and the encouragement to use their spoken English skills. We have introduced them to new teaching techniques giving them the opportunity to experience alternative teaching strategies and methods for themselves as an alternative to depending solely on their English Textbook. We have shared fun, laughter, songs and an

understanding of each others culture. We have offered friendship and meaningful relationships.



We have received a sense of fulfillment in knowing that we completed the task well and that we ran a good race. We have developed our skills in being “team together” as we worked with each other and with our Chinese colleagues. We have received insight into how the Christian church in China is growing and the role of Amity Foundation and The Bible Society in its amazing work of printing and distributing Bibles for China and 70 other countries. We have learned significant lessons about the generosity, humility and graciousness of our Chinese Teachers. We have received God’s generous blessing and an appreciation of His attention to the small details of our daily lives.

Team China-George, Caroline, Jane and Chris trust that we have handed on the baton securely and have been effective witnesses to our friends and colleagues in China. The race goes on!

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