

# SanMing, China

May/June 2011

Dear Friends and family at home,

Soon after I wrote in April, my sister Faith, my brother Howard, and my Friend Mike came over to see me. I had to go to Hong Kong for my visa anyway, so I was able to meet them at the airport.

We spent about 2 days in Hong Kong, and were able to see some very beautiful scenery. We spent one day around Victoria Harbor (to the right) including going up to the Peak: it is such a beautiful view. The second day, we were able to ride a big cable car that is unique because of it's going in between islands, and having a glass bottom in the car. It's almost scary looking down right into the ocean. :)



We all arrived in Hong Kong on Tuesday night and then took the night train from Shenzhen on Thursday. We arrived here in

SanMing around 11:00am on Friday. Just the train ride was a little bit of a cultural experience for my siblings and friend; but when it was pouring rain and the only taxis that we could get were two little three-wheelers that could barely make it up the hill.... that was a little better yet. Even though it wasn't the most accommodating to have to hold all our luggage in a crowded little 'putter' I think they enjoyed the early initiation to China life.

We arrived just in time for a 'nice' lunch (I put 'nice' in quotes for their sakes :) ) and then were able to get a little nap in the afternoon. We spent the next 5 ½ days here at the CV, interacting with the children, walking them to school, and putting up with a lot of rain!! Unfortunately, it rained all but the last day or two that they were here; but they got an idea of my daily life anyway. :)



One of the things we did was bake a bunch of cookies for all the children. They brought some chocolate chips, and butter from the US, and we made around 300 cookies.... My were they good!!!! :) Since then, the children have even asked me if I could make them again. Unfortunately, I don't have all the American ingredients, or I would love to. Faith and Howard also surprised me by bringing stuff to make cinnamon rolls.... we actually made enough to give all the children ½ of one too.

Anyway, that was a wonderful surprise Faith and Howard!! Thanks for all the work

you went to packing 150 pounds of luggage around so we could enjoy these great inventions.

On the Following Wednesday, We all traveled to up to Beijing together and were able to see the 'Forbidden City', Climb the 'Great Wall', etc. We had a very fun time together, and I was very glad for the little break.... not to mention just being able to rattle away in English again. :) It was a very great challenge on my language skills, having to be the only translator for 2 weeks; especially with all our travel. Our dear Father was with us though, and somehow we got along okay. Overall, it was a time of rich fellowship and blessing, and I thank our dear Friend, and the principle here for making it possible for it all to work. They left directly from Beijing back to San Francisco, and I returned here alone.

I have had some difficult times to work through with some of my boys over the last month and a half as well. Through a stage of rebellion and strained relationships, G has been working in me a deeper brokenness and dependence upon Him. He also showed me a little more of how much selfishness I have: a painful revelation.... but somehow it seems like I often learn the best through pain. Through much seeking for wisdom and strength, as well being willing to change some things on my end, things have been going very well. I appreciate so much all of you who remember me in p. How I long to be a vessel that He can flow through... to form, to bless, and to change lives! It's so exciting to see Him at work here, and it's exciting to be a part of that.

It has been extremely warm lately, almost every day reaching up somewhere around 90 with the humidity anywhere from a low of 55%, up to around 91%! Somehow I'm sure we'll survive, even though I know we haven't seen the worst yet.

Life is very busy here right now with the end of the school semester coming up. As staff, we have a lot of paperwork and inventory to do; helping the children prepare for exams; keeping the children who aren't in school occupied; and so much more. Recently Joyce has also been doing a lot of practice with the choir trying to get ready for they're Hong Kong trip this Fall. I've been trying to get ready for the



Summer program for 5 boys, as well as get some more signs made for our CV in Sichuan. On top of all the maintenance, language study, and other normal things of life for me, it has been a very busy time. Life is pretty much tied up with the the children... in one way or another. But as I look into their eyes, I realize that each one is special, and each one is unique. Each one too has their own special needs, hurts, and trials; and my heart fills with compassion, and a burden for for their long term future. Sure it's not an easy life, but I can truly say, it's worth it! Remember the children here in p, and us as staff as we work with them... that we would allow True Love, to shine through us and to minister to each hurting heart.

Many blessings to you all, Edwin