



Sept/October China Trip: Priceless!

Hello Dear Friends and Partners! As I sit on the plane coming home from Singapore, I sit here with very warm feelings in my heart. I've spent the last 3 ½ days with our good friends Tim and Sara Betsch in Singapore, who were completely perfect hosts and are some of the dearest people that I know. There is something powerful about the meaningful fellowship found in good Christian friends. It was the perfect 'nightcap' to my trip, which took me to four major Chinese cities and a dozen smaller villages in Hubei province and nearly four days in Singapore, exploring and meeting the people of this ultra-modern Southeast Asian city. Here's a recap of the trip for you all, the people who made this trip possible and the people who have, by your financial gifts and prayers, contracted us to impact China for Christ on your behalf.

The Team

This was a unique trip for me out of the many trips to China that I make because it was the first time that I had led this big of a ministry team in China. With myself included, we had five people on our team this time. It presented a new set of challenges, which were fun to try and meet. Being the only Chinese language speaker of the bunch, I did a lot of translating and coordinating as we went from city to city. With me this time were Mike Benaquis, a credit-risk manager from Denver who is a member of the same church that Sherie and I attend. He wanted to come and observe first-hand what our ministry does in China. Also with us were two men from the ministry of Voice of China and Asia (VOCA), Jonathan Brooks and Wendell Rovenstine. With over 100 years history in China, the last 40 years have seen VOCA's work in China decrease. With new leadership, excited to restart VOCA's work and with a deep heart for China, they were coming to see how God may want them to re-engage in China. What a privilege it was for me to serve these men in this way and show them in a new way, the China that I know and love. As Jonathan, who is the new



The Team: Wendell, Jonathan, Mike B., Mike F., With Gary Hopwood

President of VOCA wrote in an e-mail to his partners, *"We found such an open door for the Gospel here. This has been an eye-opening, myth-busting trip concerning the status of the church in China."*

Beijing: Learning New Things about China

My time with the team started by taking them to visit with Western Christians living in Beijing who are breaking paradigms about what is possible in China of the 21st Century. It is my hope that these 10 day vision trips help people see China with new eyes and through new lenses. A day-trip to see Bao Jia Yin (www.goodnewsinchina.com) and ZDL Books (www.zdlbooks.com) were really valuable to the team. We heard from Bao Jia Yin's Gary Hopwood about his online Christian bookstore in Beijing and learned of the 500 titles they have available for sale and how they can ship the Chinese language Christian books to any address in China. We also heard from David Wright's ZDL books about the process of getting a Christian book published in China and how they work with many organizations to get their publishing projects completed in China. The team members felt that the time in Beijing was very valuable and helped them greatly in their understanding about China.

Hubei Bible Distribution: The 'Wow' Factor Overwhelms Us All

After an overnight train from Beijing to Wuhan, which was the first Chinese overnight train for all but me, we arrived in Wuhan and were greeted by our gracious Wuhan hosts. After a day of relationship building with the Wuhan Christian Pastoral Team, we commenced the latest of our Bible Distribution Events. To say that the Bible Distribution Event went well would be a gross understatement! While this was the first Bible Distribution Event that we've ever done in Hubei, it was a very special event for all. For two long days, we visited five remote locations that were designated as distribution centers. Although I've experienced Bible Distribution in rural China many times, it never gets old to see people who are literally craving God's word receive a Bible for the first time. It was



A celebration of a lifetime: God's Word for all!

also very special to see those on the team experience the magic of rural Bible Distribution. As Jonathan wrote to his constituents, "At each of the five locations we visited, there was such a spirit of joy among the people. After receiving them, so many just sat there and thumbed through the pages of their new Bibles. Old people held them so close and thanked us over and over. Mothers lovingly showed their Bible to their little children. Some placed their Bible on their heads and smiled. These moments were priceless." I never tire participating in this project and I truly believe that the impact of rural Bible Distribution is far and wide. What a joy to see those who had received a Bible of their own walk away from the distribution site with a tear in their eye and a joy beyond description, knowing that their ability to follow Jesus and serve Him just went up a thousand times because they now

have the very words of God and will read, study and cherish it for the rest of their lives. End result: 5000 Bibles distributed, 25,000 impacted for Christ, and the rural churches around Wuhan city strengthened for Christ.

Nanjing: Boxes of Bibles ¼ Mile Long and 50 Feet Deep

After our wonderful Bible Distribution Event, we then took a morning train to Nanjing, where we visited the Amity Printing Company. This is normally a stop on the trips where I'm leading a team because after seeing rural Bible Distribution at work, there's nothing better than seeing where those very Bibles are being printed. The staff at Amity is always so kind to take us on a tour. We had a wonderful time seeing the high-speed Timson presses cranking out Bibles and other Christian materials. But the highlight of the trip had to be when Jonathan asked if we could see the Bible storage warehouse at the back of the press. He had asked to see it because of something that I often tell people about the Amity Printing Press. Every time I've been to Amity, I've always been told that at any one time, Amity likes to keep about 200,000 Bibles in the warehouse to always make sure that they can meet the need for Bibles in the Church in China. But until this trip, I always just took their word for it and had never actually seen the warehouse for myself. I'm so glad that he asked because we got to see first-hand the boxes of Bibles that seemed to go on for a mile! While we were there, we saw about 50,000 Bibles being loaded on a truck, fulfilling just one of the many orders for Bibles that come to Amity daily.



At the Amity Warehouse: Chinese Bibles as far as you can see!

Singapore: The Lion City

After a brief stop in Shanghai, I flew south to Singapore for meetings and deep fellowship. As many of you may remember, my recent book, *The Chinese Puzzle*, is now being used by several missionary sending agencies as a part of the new staff training program. Buoyed by the enthusiastic response to the book by these agencies, I set up a series of meetings with representatives of additional organizations to see if we may be able to serve their training needs in the same way. Those responsible for training with these agencies told me that they too needed this type of resource and would look at how they could use it to be more effective in China. In addition, a large Christian bookstore in Singapore told me to expect a large order for books to be sold at their location, since they often have Singaporean Christians who are coming to China and are looking for resources as they prepare for their trip to China! I praise God that we may be a part of the push to help Christians coming to China engage most effectively in what God is already doing!



The Merlion of Singapore greets all who come to her city.

You Can Help Us!

While each Bible Distribution event is incredible, we'd love to get Bibles to all who need them! Your contribution to our Bible Distribution project impacts many for Christ in China! The Bibles are available for \$3.00 each, nearly what you spend at each Starbucks visit! Each Bible impacts 5 people for Christ! Visit our website at ChinaResourceCenter.org or use the enclosed envelope to partner with our work in China!