

China Mission News

In This Issue

[Making New Friends](#)

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Newsletter----September, 2013

MAKING NEW FRIENDS

Ellen Mao, an ICU nurse, from San Jose, California and I traveled from Los Angeles to Luxi, Pingxiang, Jiangxi China September 5-15. We visited over 100 children at the Refuge of Grace Christian Care Center for a week.



Jiang Xi (#93) and award certificate with Ellen Mao at lunch

During our visit, we became friends with many of the children. Some were as young as 4 or 5 years old and others were as old as 14 or 16 years old. A few children were shy at the beginning of the week but warmed up and became closer to us by the end of our visit.



Sweet girls wash the dishes

We ate delicious meals at the care center each day and enjoyed helping the children learn more English. Each night after dinner, we helped them with homework during their study sessions.



Lunchtime!

After school we played with beach balls, sidewalk chalk, and English

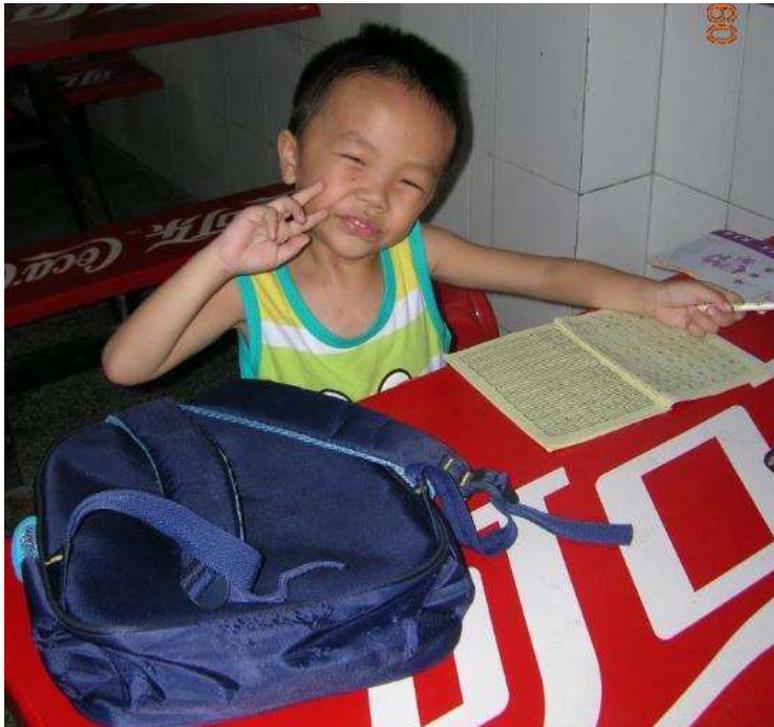
flashcards. Sweet young girls drew pictures for us or made us "bouquets of flowers" made out of local plant fronds.

The birthday party for August and September birthday children was held during our visit. My brother, Ron, who works and lives in China, and I also celebrated our September birthdays while we were there together. Glow-in-the-dark bracelets for the children were a huge success. We also gave out new pencils, headbands and hair clips. The children enjoyed cake, watermelon and special snacks. The birthday children received gifts selected specifically by Abraham, the care center director.



Wu Li Ping (#100) and me

I was also excited to meet my brother's wife, Gigi, who is from the Philippines, during my trip to China this time. She is a wonderful asset to Ron and his work with China Mission. We enjoyed birthday dinners together and had hotel rooms across the hall from each other. We went to the care center each morning together and spent time with the children each day. One afternoon we walked all the way back to our hotel in over 90 degree temperatures and shared ice cream across from our hotel once we returned!



Precious Gang Xi Jian (#6)

Many photos and close friendships later, we headed back to Shanghai to leave for the U.S. Ellen and I met with two friends there for breakfast and lunch. Sam McLean, American Airlines pilot and sponsor to a young girl at NTCC, joined us for a rooftop breakfast overlooking the Shanghai skyline. Judy Yang, a former China Mission employee in the U.S., showed us the subway routes and we enjoyed lunch and a little shopping in the afternoon before our return flight.



Rooftop breakfast with Sam

Ellen and I braved the subway again and took it from our hotel to the airport (with good directions from Judy). We headed back to Los Angeles and Ellen flew onto her home in San Jose. After one night in

Los Angeles, I came back to Atlanta a little jet lagged and sad to leave new friends and sweet children.



Ellen with sweet new friends