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Greeting from the Unique City of San Ming, China,
San Ming Times



I LOVE Beijing

Visiting many different children's ministries in and around Beijing area.

I had fun visiting many different children's ministries. It was encouraging and exciting to see other people's ideas as they minister to the children of China. I was really impressed by New Day Creations and CMC. For more on these ministries please visit their websites. I even found some time to visit the Great Wall and the Forbidden City.

I ate the garland

Friday May 21st I had plans to visit an another orphanage in the Beijing area, but at 10:30 last night I got an e-mail saying my visit was cancelled. Now I have a whole day without any plans. I decided I was going to prayer walk around the city of Beijing. Beijing is a large city encompassed by 6 different road rings. The first ring surrounds the forbidden city which is the center of the city. The 6th ring is miles away from the center of the city. I walked around the first ring and decided I would skip the second and walk around the third ring. Because of time and money I decided I would also skip lunch and eat a bigger supper.



At 6:30pm many miles later and only half way around the third ring my stomach decided it was time to eat. Where is Mc Donald's when you need them? I asked one of the locals to please help me find a good place to eat. He said down the road and to the left is a good place. I finally found the food place, but after I sat down I notice I had 4 different forks and 2 gold rimmed glasses. Oh, no! I am sitting in a high class restaurant in my sweat drenched T-shirt. At this point I was too embarrassed to leave so I decided I will order the cheapest item on the menu. I waited for what seemed like a long time for my food and all the while my face is turning redder because all the other people entering are dressed in suits and ties. When I finally got my food it was this little piece of food surrounded by a big green decorative piece of lettuce. While being watched by my 3 attending waiters I quickly ate my food and not knowing the lettuce was decorations I ate the lettuce. My waiter not knowing I understood some Chinese made some whispering remarks about me eating their decorations. Upon realizing what I did and I quickly paid my bill and

exited as fast as I could redder than a ripe tomato.

A long train ride

Monday May 24th I start the day ready to head back to San Ming china. I was trying to save money so I decided to take the train. It is a 25 hour train ride from Beijing to San Ming, but my train ride turned into a 40 hr + ride. This happened when another train crashed on the tracks because of a recent mudslide. My MP3 player batteries died and my limited food supply was exhausted and all the bathrooms on the train got clogged, after all this I decided next time I will be flying.

I LOVE SAN MING

Finally back in San Ming!

After a very tiring train ride my children welcomed me back home. Most of the children welcomed me back and were very glad to see me, but it was hilarious because they would welcome me back but it seemed in the same breath the children would list off all the things that have been broken since I left. I guess my job as fix it man has been very much missed and now has once again started. My 12 boys were glad to see me, but I could tell they also were a little bit sad because now they can no longer sneak playing games during the times when they should be preparing for their upcoming exams.

Thanks for your prayers and support,

Stephen Burkholder