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2010 Greeting from the Unique City of San Ming, China,

A New Facial Configuration

It happened one weekend when some energetic boys wanted to do anything but something productive. Okay, so let's go play some basketball. It was hot we were sweating but we were having fun. Oh! The rebounds, the defense strategies, etc... being taller than my boys I had a pretty good advantage

One of my boys goes for a rebound grabs the ball and prepares for a shot. Unfortunately I was a right on him with big D covering him from the shot, but the boy decided he was going to jump and try the shot. Up, up, and up, he jumps! Oh! Contact is made between his head and my mouth. Ah! pain courses through my body, as blood and calcified particles start floating around my mouth. I spend the rest of the game in the bathroom trying to get a look in the mirror to see the damage, but I decided it was not bad enough to go to a Sanming dentist. I guess, I will lose more weight as the next several days It hurt too much to partake of any food particles.

Working with a purpose

Thomas, Jonathan, Sam, Karl, Michael, and Kenny these 6 boys have signed up to participate in my Summer Learn to Work program. My goal is to teach basic woodworking skills but also to teach my boys how to work. Starting Monday July 19th my boys will have to punch the clock. They must work 8 hours a day, 40 hours a week. I will give each boy a salary. This salary is to pay for items like food, snacks, shampoo, toilet paper, etc...The boys can purchase and eat whatever they desire so long as they have enough money from their weekly pay check. The boys must learn to budget and make their weekly pay



check last all the way until the next pay check. They must learn that it is not smart to go out to eat on Saturday if they are not going to have enough money for Wednesday supper. I hope through these next 6 weeks my boys will learn that work is rewarding and that they will learn to comprehend the value of money.

Goals and visions for the Program!

- To teach the boys fundamental working skills. A student's woodworking skill could be expounded on and can be used for other purposes like carpentry, concrete and metalworking.
- To promote a discipline and orderly lifestyle by being punctual in work ethic
- To learn a life skill while working with their hands
- To take more responsibility for their own actions

Painting walls

In the last 3 weeks we have been painting, and painting and painting walls. A missionary maintenance team called MMM came from Hong Kong, Australia, and New Zealand to help. Together we painted over 140 gals. of paint. We also hung and lacquered 8 new doors. It was very hard work. While we were working we were having very hot days with temperatures and humidity in the upper 90's. This means that when we would walk about 20 feet we would immediately become drenched in sweat. I felt bad for the team because it took a lot of energy out of the volunteer workers, but in the end it was fun and I enjoyed working with materials and paint. It was great going to bed with aching muscles instead of the norm of working with teenagers and going to bed with headaches and emotional exhaustion.

Thanks for the prayers and the support,

Stephen Burkholder

