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San Ming Times

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Greeting from the Unique City of San Ming, China,

Birthday in China,

This year I had the privilege of celebrating my 23rd birthday in China. As I look back on my life I can truly say I have experience a world of unique and life fulfilling adventures. I remember quite clearly my 15th birthday in Phnom Penh Cambodia. My 16th birthday I remember as also being a very important landmark in my life. My mother made a Volkswagen beetle cake to symbolism that I can now drive a vehicle. I also remember the Lemon pie my mother made for my 18th birthday. I also remember forgetting about my 20th birthday till someone at work handed me a birthday card. Wow that was quite the surprise.

Okay enough about the past...

March 20th start out rater wet and rainy. I woke up at 5:10, but decided today is my birthday I am going to sleep in. At 6:10 I unlocked the big door so my children can go sweep the outside walk.

6:15 I woke up the rest of my boys by playing a "Learn English Quickly" CD.

6:50 Breakfast

7:00 got a call from American some of my friends wishing me a Happy Birthday. "Thanks"

7:15 I have a 15 minutes English lesson with all the children before they go to school.

7:30 Children are dismissed for school I go play basketball with my 5 kindergartners.

8:15-9:15 Devotional time and staff meeting

9:30 Check e-mail

10:00 I decided to TRY to make an American Chocolate cake

10:30 went shopping for supplies to make my cake.

11:00 I think I made a cake. I put my cake in the oven. My cake came be taken from the oven at 12:20

11:50 Lunch time Cake still in Oven.

12:15 two of my boys got into a little bit a pushing match. I sit down to chat and find out why they are angry at each other, and why did they disrespected each other. Cake still in Oven.

1:07 my boys understand and are no longer angry at each other. I also set some guidelines for them regarding getting angry at each other, and set some disciplines. Cake STILL in Oven.

1:08 O No my CAKE is now as hard as a rock!!! OPPS!!!

1:09 now I am the one that is angry. I guess I will Try again next year!!!

2:00 the only other male (Jason) and his wife, and Tina (the nurse) take me out for a birthday meal. WOW!!! Good Food!!!

4:00 because my cake flopped I decided to TRY to make Chocolate chip cookies. (Maybe I will make enough for my 73 children)

5:49 pulled the last of my cookies out of the oven. The cookies were a success. 30 sec. till supper

5:50 Supper time

6:15 bribed some of my children to help me clean the kitchen

6:45 Evening homework time/ I start my English tutoring with the children

8:00 I taught an English class for my Kindergartners - 2nd graders.

8:30 Class is over

8:45 one of my boys is lazy and forgets to wash his clothes. I proceed to help him and make sure he does a good job.

9:00 Wops! Jack forgot to sweep the one study room. I stand by and watch Jack sweep the room. This then turns into a lesson on how to hold a broom when sweeping.

9:45 All Children FINALLY in bed "PRAISE GOD"

9:50 I start to read the many different birthday cards my children gave to me. This year I received a record number of 31 birthday cards. Each card is unique and different. I never know you could spell birthday with so many different ways.

10:15 Started writing this e-mail update.

11:38 done writing my e-mail/start my devotions, I prayed for my American friends and gave much thanks for a BLESSED 23 years.

12:30 Fall asleep! I have another big day tomorrow

Check out my pictures of the cards and the cool Chinese birthday song, O and sorry I am not Mary.

Thanks for Reading,

Stephen Burkholder

PS: John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.