

2008 February-March China Trip
Jim Hester

It is good to be home after an exhausting but rewarding trip to China. I continue to be amazed at how Father God is opening the doors for us in this land of great spiritual needs.

I flew into Beijing and immediately went to work by giving Melody, with Children's Hope International (CHI), a substantial contribution from so many people who contributed to the winter ice storm orphan's relief fund. The winter storms had left many of the orphanages in the south without water, electricity, food and adequate clothing. The donations were immediately distributed to the hardest hit areas of need. Melody was so appreciative of the instant help!

Miller and I flew out to Jiamusi which is located in the northeastern part of China. When we arrived the wind was blowing and it was 30 degrees below zero. From that city we drove a couple of hours to our final destination which was near Russia. Most of the population, in this rural area, relies on farming for their income which averages about \$500 per year. In our first meeting, with the leaders who gathered, I could see the oppression and lack of hope in their eyes. For the first time I was seeing Old China and the reality of how they live. My heart was filled with compassion, and my teachings centered in on Father's love, the hope of his promises in daily living and faith.

During this time we could literally see the Holy Spirit transforming their lives. The major breakthrough came when we organized them into a circle and had them quietly pray "Come Holy Spirit." Within a matter of minutes the Lord sent the Comforter and people began to weep and cry out in prayer. For the next 2 1/2 hours Miller and I prayed for all 70+ leaders. I cannot express in words how powerful and remarkable the work of the Holy Spirit was. The next day a strong move of the Holy Spirit came when we gathered in a circle again. We gave no instruction except to pray and forgive all offenses. I could not believe what I was witnessing; again, Jesus went deep into their hearts and began to repair, rebuild and restore relationships! This session went on from 1 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.!!! Every day we taught and ministered from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. and the Lord was so gracious and faithful each day to meet their needs. It is exciting to think these leaders' lives that we touched will go out and touch thousands more!

Miller and I then flew back to Beijing and took a 12-hour train ride to Hohhot in Inner Mongolia. This is the city where seven of our leaders had been arrested, questioned and then released in October. The weather was even worse and the added security problem tempted me with some fear. I had determined the week I arrived to eat lunch only and fast. This proved to keep me focused in prayer, worship and peace! We lived in some rather harsh circumstances and taught three different groups of leaders. The first four days were spent with leaders from the University which I thoroughly enjoyed because they were so open and hungry for the Word. My major portion of teaching was on their true identity as the children of God, how to grow in relationship to God and follow the Pattern Son, Jesus Christ. I also taught from Ezekiel 47, Rom. 8:12-17, and I John 2:12-14. It was very exciting to see them engage in theme which became: The Pace of God, The Place of God, and the Grace of God. Prayer time began every morning at 6 a.m. and teaching sessions were from 8 a.m. till 12 noon; then 1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. which kept me teaching and Miller translating for hours. The evenings were spent in group

sessions along with questions and answers until 10 p.m. I was so exhausted but so invigorated on the inside! Many times during the teachings, weeping would occur and we would immediately stop and minister to these students. Perhaps you will catch a glimpse in the few pictures I have sent. My words cannot adequately describe what the Lord did with the hearts of these students.

Our second group of disciples was Mongolian leaders along with some underground Bible students. It would take many pages to summarize all that happened with this group. I do want to tell you about one Mongolian evangelist who at one time was a Buddhist priest for most of his life. In his late forties he became paralyzed from shoulders to his toes. His wife and mother-in-law were Christians and prayed for him. Though he rejected, his wife continued to read the book of Acts and Ephesians to him. These were the only books of the Bible she had at the time. After three years, healing began in his feet and in a matter of a few months he was healed and walking! He accepted Jesus as Lord and began preaching in his village, but the people feared him! After a few years the police began to chase this couple; his wife was caught and imprisoned for one year. She has been out for one month now, and they brought many of their co-workers with them to this training. Last October Miller brought them the complete Old and New Testament Bibles in Mongolian. They are so happy and so hungry for the Word of God! Miller and I taught from 8 a.m. until midnight with only breaks for them to eat. I could literally write a book just on these four wonderful Christ-filled days.

I rode the train back to Beijing. I taught the CHI staff and worked at the Foster Home. The new building is four times larger than the old building and is very nice. I was honored that they delayed the grand opening so I could attend. I was able to teach the care-takers from four different foster homes from my new Medical Booklet I wrote and published. My heart is always happy when I am with these little orphans. Please pray for them daily! Pray for their health, their hope, and their futures!

I have hundred of pictures and many power points of the trip to share.

Thank you for helping make all of this possible with your prayers and financial support. We truly thank the Lord for such faithful partners! I will be returning to China in April. This is OUR MINISTRY.....you send and I go! The seed you are sowing is being planted in fertile soil and our God is giving the increase!!!! Matthew 9:35-38

Love in Jesus,

Jim Hester
II Corinthians 13:11-14