

December 24, 2011

Notes From Dan and DeAnn!



"There are other people in Asia who believe in this?"

A month ago I led a Vision Trip of students from Madison and Iowa to East Asia. Thank you for your prayers for that amazing trip. We were there only a week but I could write a book of how we saw God work. Since I only have one page let me tell the story that most clearly shows why we do Vision Trips.

Pictured on the right you will see Sarah and Lauren and an East Asian student named Lily between them. On our last day on campus Sarah and Lauren ran into Lily. As they delved into Lily's beliefs she told them that **"People in East Asia don't really believe in God."** Yet as the conversation progressed not only were Sarah and Lauren able to talk about God but they were able to share a simple Gospel message with her. Lily asked **"There are other people in Asia who believe in this?"**

Lily was shocked when she learned that yes, there are Christians in East Asia! She said that for her personally the first step would be believing that God even exists. Lauren agreed with her and then challenged her to pray everyday for a week and ask God to reveal Himself. Lily then asked, **"How do you pray?"** Sarah and Lauren suddenly were struck with how many things we take for granted. They then explained and showed Lily how to pray and said that it didn't have to be formal but just a conversation with God. Lily responded, **"You mean anytime, anywhere, I can talk to Him?!"** And Sarah and Lauren said that was right.

As Lauren and Sarah were about to leave, Lily stopped them and said, **"In all my life, nobody has ever told me this. Thank you, thank you, thank you for coming across the world to tell me this."**

A side note is that while Lily didn't make a decision that day—another did, Sarah. Sarah had come on the Vision Trip to decide if she should do a one year mission to East Asia but was having a hard time connecting with students. The night before she asked God for some encouragement. Then she had that conversation with Lily. At our closing dinner Sarah said, "Then I knew I had to come back."

Top: Team from the Vision Trip on the Great Wall.

Right: Jordan with a girl at our Thanksgiving party.

Far Right: Brandon and I on campus with students we met.



Sarah, Lily, and Lauren on campus that day.

