



MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

Declaring God's Glory by connecting the Crossroads Family with lost and hurting people.



...I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and language standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. Revelation 7:9

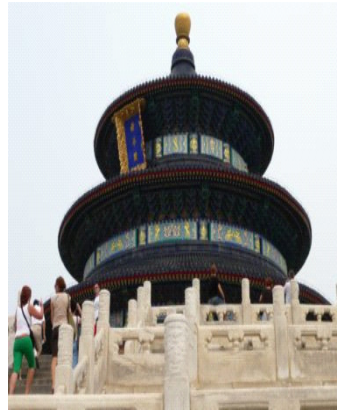
September 2008

THE CONNECTION

Short Term Missions: China

This summer we (Loren and Cindy Benson) had the unique privilege of participating in a Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association (TEBA) sponsored trip to China. What an experience at so many different levels!

As we reflect on the trip, several thoughts come to mind. First, it is incredibly encouraging to know that people are praying for you when you are in a cross cultural environment. On the Great Wall of China, Cindy had an opportunity to share the Gospel with a young Chinese woman named Judy. She admitted that she had an emptiness in her heart. So, after touring the Wall we went back to our apartment and after explaining the gospel to her she accepted Christ as her Savior. We connected her with some Workers in Beijing that will be able to follow up with her and disciple her. That certainly was a highlight of the trip! These opportunities can only occur as God's people fervently pray.



Also, the focus and commitment of the Christian workers we met was remarkable to see. The personal and family sacrifices they experience, especially due to separation from family and friends, are significant. The constant cultural challenges and language learning require daily persistence, energy and a deep love for the people they are trying to reach. One worker told me that he took Luke 9:57-62 seriously when he and his family "put their hand to

the plow". Yet, we saw the joy, peace and the "big picture" purpose in their lives as they talked about their work. I believe each one of the couples we spent time with would say they receive much more from the Lord in their work than what they have given up. We hope, in a small way, we "hand-delivered" encouragement to continue their faithful service for God's Kingdom.

Finally, let me challenge you to step out of your "comfort zone" and consider going on a Missions Trip. In 2009 we are hoping to help plan another China Trip. It would be a great opportunity to stretch your faith. Who knows, unplugged from the routines and comfort of Woodlands living, God may be pleased to change your life in ways you cannot imagine. If you would like more information about a possible 2009 China trip, please contact either Loren or Cindy Benson at benensonhome5@aol.com.

"Ask the Lord...to send out workers into his harvest field." Luke 10:2

Prayer Focus for China

- That God would raise up strong leaders to lead the House Churches and that the HCs would multiply.
- That God would give a hedge of protection from government persecution and harassment as the Gospel is shared.
- Pray that there is effective discipleship of the new believers so that they can grow in knowledge and obedience to the Scriptures and the Spirit's leading.
- Pray for the emotional and spiritual strength of the full time laborers in China as they learn the language and are far from family and friends.



CRBC: 2008 Outreach - Declaring God's Glory

At CRBC, a goal we work toward is, "Declaring God's glory by connecting the Crossroads Family with lost and hurting people". In 2008 God continued to open doors of ministry opportunity around the world. The Lord of the harvest was gracious to allow many people to join His work in places like Mexico, Costa Rica, Aruba, Ecuador, Latvia, South Africa, Cuba and China. Time and again as people returned from the trips we heard testimonies of hearts that were eternally changed because of the divinely arranged connections that took place.

As you think about your plans for 2009, perhaps

you would pray for God's direction in joining a trip individually or with your family. God may well use you to, 1) bring the lost to Himself; 2) disciple a new Christ follower; 3) encourage full time workers where you go that they are prayed for and remembered; and 4) bring needed Bibles and other resources required for training. It may be, that unplugged from day-to-day routines, God may speak to you about commitment and obedience to His work and Word. God has a place for each one of us in His global plan for declaring His glory to all Nations of the earth.