



二〇〇九年十月

Dear family and friends:

October has been a month of firsts! Below are a few of the highlights from my month. And, of course as you expect, pages of pictures will follow.

The first and probably the biggest event to me was the Fun English Day in a small town about 45 minutes away by bus, located outside the city. A crew of 21 from the Int'l Fellowship went to this small place to give support to the local registered Chrch there by giving a free English day to all children in the community. Close to 90 children came and loads of grandmothers and parents along with them. Volunteers from the congregation prepared a wonderful, tasty lunch for us before we began (a first). We had such fun!!! The grandmothers and parents learned English right along with the little kids...at times even competing for candy! ;) Our purpose for going was to actually teach English, but to also lift up the reputation of the church in the community. From what we've heard back from the leaders, we aced it!

On a similar note, the week following our Fun English Day, there was a province-wide free training for registered leaders by a new friend of mine. After the meeting I saw a list of some of the needs presented. You would be so touched to know their stories and hear of their sacrifices. I can assure you they would welcome any and all pry support you can spare. It is an honor to be connected, at least on some level, with these faithful servants of G and the people. They are truly special!

Another first "event" was my taking on a unique endeavor with three families from my school. Twice a week, I spend time (as in hours) playing with three boys between the ages of 3 and 4. No teaching required. We wrestle, chase, shoot, dig...and all the while they're picking up some of my English and perhaps other things. One of their favorite words right now is "stinky." Guess why? I'll give you a hint: boys will be boys! I don't know what's in store for them in the future, but I know the One who does.



And yet another first, I had a group of teachers over to my new house for snacks at the end of the month. I was pleased with the outcome! Best of all, I've been invited to join them for an outing. I've been hoping to have this opportunity for a long time! As I make headway in my language studies, I'm sure more opportunities will come. Thanks for all who have asked lately. It's encouraging to "overhear" parts of conversations and understand at least a little of what is going on around me. Just for fun, below are some Chinese phrases with their English translation. See if you can match them up (Answers below→).

1. Hello!
2. I am Teacher Wang.
3. Be careful!
4. Goodbye!
5. Delicious

- a. 小心
- b. 你好
- c. 我是王老师
- d. 好吃
- e. 再见

[1-b; 2-c; 3-a; 4-e; 5-d]

FUN ENGLISH DAY



Me with two of the leaders who benefitted directly from the Fun English Day.



All were welcome! This old lady in the purple vest tried her best to keep up with us singing, "Head-Shoulders-Knees-Toes" but after the third round of getting faster, she looked around like, "Are you kidding me?"



It was a nice jaunt through town and muddy walkways from where the bus dropped us off. At one point, we thought the bus would get stuck between buildings, but the driver surprised us all with his skill and STEADY nerves.



What a nice place for people to come to!

Yummy! This group served one of the best free lunches I've had in China!



The benches inside were handmade and I'm not sure how, but they could hold A LOT of weight. Before we started our classes some of the boys demonstrated their architectural skills by building a multilevel walking path out of the benches that nearly gave some of us a heart attack.



Our group with some of those who attended the fun day! What a great memory!! May there be many more Fun English Days ahead!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



It's interesting to see how some of our celebrated days are "translated" into Chinese events in my preschool. Halloween is one such time that is full of amusing practices.

Most all the students costumes were hand made...not purchased.

The older class has a pageant of sorts where children can strut their stuff!

Favorite mask this year...the orange Monkey King mask below.



This boy's "Lincoln hat" was made from a shopping bag. My hat was a noisy little horse that made me look a little like a relative of Daniel Boone! The teacher above right is demonstrating how to make a {black} ghost from trash bags.

ODDS & ENDS



Walking down "Fish Street" I saw these lipstick graffiti fish painted with Chinese characters...and of course, lipstick was applied to their "lips." LOL!! And this red fish...what was he thinking that gave him such a brain bubble?



For you nature lovers, this one's for you. Ever seen this kind of green plant? Pretty!
For all you interested in some of the foods served here, this is a rice/chicken burger. The "bun" is actually packed rice; and it's decked out with a dash of mayonnaise and a chunk of lettuce. I don't know how it tastes, but it's probably not bad – my friend seemed to think it was pretty good (I stuck with the spicy fried chicken).



Poor chairman Mao...still trying to catch that taxi. Recently my city was in the news concerning the major problem we have with transport by taxi – not enough taxis for the population...nor enough streets to run them on.



During the massive 60-year celebration of the PRC, the fountains in the main square downtown were turned on and set to music. Not quite the Bellagio, but pretty cool!



Summer family picture...minus Aunt Angle.

Aren't my brother's children getting big...and handsome...and beautiful?!

Can't wait to see them next month for Christmas!

