

## Water

You may have heard about the excessive rains in Beijing where dozens of people were killed by the storm. I see reports that the storm was the worst in sixty years. It was not quite as bad in Tianjin. We had lots of lightning all night. The intensity of the rain was not apparent until dawn. Then all the roads around the campus were flooded. There were islands of slightly higher ground. We struggled to find a pathway between the campus hotel where we are staying and the dining hall. Here are some photos taken in the early afternoon after the water had gone down many cm (inches) but was still about 20 cm (8 inches) deep in most roadways. The university provided cars to take us to and from the classroom building in the morning, noon, and early afternoon. The students had to wade in the water. A chorus of frogs in the nearby flooded field was intense.



Earlier this week we did an American wedding simulation. Unlike earlier years in which the Chinese “bride” wore an actual wedding gown (rented) and most participants were dressed up somewhat, we had only normal clothing for most. Our couple to be married was one of our own married couples. Our team leader was the minister. I gathered and dried a big bag of rose petals for the flower girl to distribute. It was good that I did so two days before the rain started. On the day of the simulation I clipped a cluster of rose buds as a real corsage for the girl who did a reading (from 1 Cor. 13). Everyone else had fake flowers made out of Kleenex. My role was to be one of the photographers. Afterwards I gave away



the remainder of the bag of rose petals for people eager to use them for tea.



On Friday we did a Christmas simulation. A Powerpoint program showed typical American scenes. Then we had a role play about a family celebration. That was followed by a role play about the story in the Bible. This time I could not take photos because I had to run the computer with the pictures and hymn verses being shown on the screen.

This weekend is for relaxation and catching up on various things. It is too hot and humid (from all that rain in the soil) to be outside. In another week (Friday morning) we go to Beijing. After Saturday meetings we start flying home Sunday August 5. Actually we get two Sundays of August 5 by crossing the International Date Line. My return to Denver will be that Sunday evening.

Here is a photo of my class of seven students in our classroom.

Ed Holroyd, 28 July 2012

