

Various Events

In my previous report I mentioned the abundance of vegetables grown near our campus. The plots for each type are small, making the variety easier to illustrate. Many crops are growing on poles or arched structures, such as cucumbers and beans. Eggplant products are long and narrow here (shown next), rather than large and egg-shaped as in America. I like them cooked.



Many fields are covered by rows of tea bushes.



On Sunday there is a large Farmers Market nearby. There are also shops for landscape plants and pets of several types. We saw on a door in one shop the sign

with an important message, ending in ... Loves You. Speaking of that, we went again to the new church. This time I include views of the choir and us.



You may notice that I am in several of the photos this year. I have been letting others operate my camera, or I have been borrowing photos taken by others. Our regular classroom instruction is going very well, but photos there are not often taken. I am finding the curriculum excellent and easy to teach.



Our first Friday afternoon was a time to demonstrate some folk dances. I am at the left in the first view, operating the sound system. Our assistant site director, Jesse, is doing The Chicken Dance with her 4-year old daughter, Mia. I had to train a team from my own class to demonstrate The Virginia Reel. That was easy because of my square dancing background. The Chinese teachers seemed to like that dance the best.



This past Wednesday we demonstrated the Western wedding style. This year I had to take the role of the Father of the Bride, whom I met only a few minutes before the photo was taken.



Sunday noon we had lunch at a Pizza Hut. There were menu modifications to appeal to Chinese tastes, just like Chinese Restaurants in America have offerings that are usually different from what we are eating here.



Afterwards we visited the Xijin Ferry historic park. The shop buildings are modern restorations. Not being interested in shopping for souvenirs, Myron and I climbed the hill behind for interesting views of the temple and the lowland shops.



This area used to be a waterfront of the Yangtze River and a ferry for crossing the river was located here. Over the more recent centuries the river course changed and silted in the lowland area. An

archaeological dig beside a street showed its former levels over the past thousand years. A photo on the next page shows a street with steps and a center lane worn into a rut by one-wheeled carts. Our local leaders are at the left. For those who like blue, there is an attractive fountain.



Myron and Emily are viewing the fountain from the steps climbed by Marco Polo years ago.

Our leaders emerge from those steps. The street sign has the Chinese number 53 for the steps.



These are views of our table for all 3 daily meals, showing either dinner or lunch. My team members are shown with Mia behind.



Cattle Egret on shoulder, after dropping white spot.

Grave site in lonely woods, like I saw in Xining.



My hotel room has a huge glass wall between the shower and the bedroom. I always have the shade lowered and the curtain closed, except for these photos. During this past week I was returning to my room after a team meeting and immediately before dinner. We all heard a loud crash or bang sound coming from my room. I entered and heard continued crackling sounds. The glass had shattered but was still standing, as it should for safety glass. I suspect, from the design pattern, that a stress was too extreme in the lower right corner of the second photo, likely caused by minor settling of this building after construction. I have seen a decorative glass panel elsewhere in the hotel with a similar fracture pattern, but this is the first time that it has happened in a bathroom wall. So I had to move to a room down the hallway for the rest of our time here. A glass wall in such a location seems to be an unusual design feature.

Ed Holroyd, 20 July 2014