

## Picnics

This past weekend was a time for picnics and similar meals with friends. On Friday the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) hosted an annual picnic for international students. I baked my usual fruit cobbler. The recipe that I followed said 6 apples for use in a pan about 20 x 20 cm in size. That is too small for such a large crowd. So last year I used three of the large pans shown in the photo and 6 times what the recipe specified. This year I tried again to prepare 6 times as much, but the apples that I bought were very large, and I used their size for substitute amounts of peaches and grapes. That made too much fruit for the three large pans, so I had to use 2 round pans in addition and boost my other ingredients to 8 times the recipe amount. Last year my cobbler pans were placed near the other foods and all of it was eaten at the international student picnic. This year I had to place the pans on a bench at the opposite side of the gathering, and so fewer people noticed them. Therefore I had the equivalent of the two round pans left over to use at the other picnics of the weekend. It was not possible to get the entire crowd in one photo, so here are four different views of the international students and hosts.



Friday evening I went, as usual, to the Chinese fellowship and shared some of my dessert at their



pot luck dinner. There I received a copy of the TV program that was made of our English teaching classes in Zhenjiang, now with Chinese and/or English subtitles for what the narrator was saying in Chinese. Late Saturday afternoon I briefly visited the picnic for the Chinese students at CSM, most of which do not attend the Friday evening gathering. (Right photo) I had to leave before everyone had arrived. I needed to attend a pot luck dinner with people from our church.



That dinner was held indoors at the home of one of the group members. Each family brought something to share, and there was food left over. After eating we broke up into smaller groups for different conversations. American homes are larger than Chinese homes, so these photos show only the kitchen and living room areas and an outside balcony.



On Monday evening we met with a smaller group from our church, though some group members were at both dinners. Our hosts this time had many varieties of apple trees that were covered with good fruit, and two plum trees. They asked us to pick as many apples as we could use. The first two photos are of some of those fruit trees, then some boxes of fruit, apples then plums.





This dinner was specified as a “salad bar”, with each family bringing some form of salad. The first photo shows our hosts and the salads. The second shows most of the people attending.



The colorful quilt in the background was made by one of our host’s three daughters. After dinner I showed the group the Chinese TV program and then a Powerpoint about the highlights of my Summer in China.

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