

Beijing Training Week

This is the Ruyi Business Hotel in the Haidian District of Beijing, in which we have had our initial training every Summer.

Next is a view of us teachers before another session got started.



Light-vented Bulbul

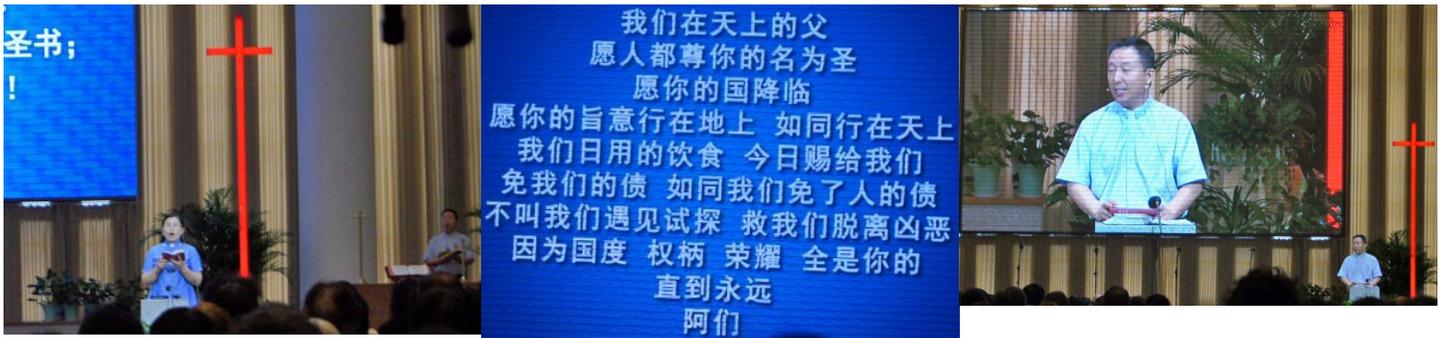
The bird and flowers were in a canal-side park nearby.



This is the church our team went to on Sunday morning. It is a new structure built on the site of a smaller building that I may have visited in the past. Next is the choir.



Between the outer and inner entrance doors was a large store for books on many topics, including various editions of the Bible. As I learned last year, the costs for a simple, bilingual, or study Bible are about a quarter of the cost in America for the same book. They are printed by Amity Press in Nanjing, perhaps the world's largest source.



This day a woman lead the readings and a man gave the sermon (on Joshua 3:5-6). The hymns were likely of Chinese origin, being of unfamiliar tunes. The anthem by the choir was several sections of Handel's Messiah with Chinese words.



Notice the relatively young faces. This church is in a university and technical and professional part of the city.



Thursday morning I went alone by subway from the west side (red marker on the route map) to the northwest corner of the system to the Summer Palace. I had been to the Summer Palace two other Summers, but always with a group. The middle photo shows people waiting for the subway train shortly after 8 AM on this work day. There was less than standing room only as we were all pushed together inside the subway cars. Later the crowd thinned enough that I could raise my camera above the heads for a view inside the subway car. The trip took more than an hour each way. Coming back there was plenty of room and I got back to the neighborhood of our hotel near noon and had lunch in a park.



I found a patch of purple loosestrife in the Summer Palace park and some lotus plants. Loosestrife is normal in Europe and Asia, but it is a beautiful noxious invasive weed in North America because it has no natural enemies in America.

The lotus seed head is good to eat.



These are the main temples at the Summer Palace, then a view from the top. Next are closeups of a temple and of a roof corner. The boat is made of marble and cannot possibly float. An unwise empress squandered navy money on it, preventing the country from adequately defending itself.



I was able to photograph a tower that appears in a hundred-year old photo given to our family long ago. There are many more trees on its hilltop now than in the old photo.

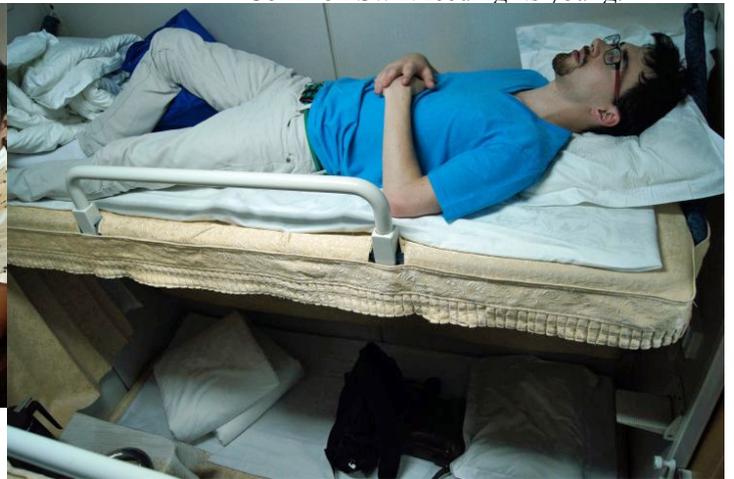


The walkways had thousands of pebble patterns.

Common Swift feeding its young.



Our Anshan team and Chinese hosts from Anshan. The teacher on the right will be the student monitor (leader) in my class.



Our beds on an 8-hour overnight train to Anshan.