

Christ Reaching Asia Mission Worldwide Inc.



God calls 'Okies' to China

January 2008

Eli and Kendra Pagel attended a meeting at their church in Tuttle, Oklahoma, where C. Y. Kim, missionary serving with Christ Reaching Asia Mission Worldwide, Inc. spoke. They recently shared the following thoughts with C. Y. and Patricia Kim ...

C.Y. Kim shared updates of the work of CRAM Worldwide and encouraged continued support of ministry outreaches in China and North Korea ... our church responded in a mighty way!

Within a few months after his visit, my wife expressed interest in taking a short-term mission trip. Through much prayer and seeking God's will, He placed within our hearts a deep desire to visit CRAM Worldwide outreaches in China and North Korea. Though we did not speak Chinese and had no special training to serve on the mission field, we knew that God had spoken to our hearts and we desired to respond to His call! We began to share with our family and church about our desire to serve ... and within a short time, our trip was funded, necessary documentation was processed, and schedules were confirmed. We packed our bags and, on Sunday, December 5, 2008, we boarded the airplane in Oklahoma City and headed for China!

After many hours of air travel, we arrived in Yanji, China, and were greeted by CRAM team members David and Yong Ae Riter. We gathered our luggage, loaded into the van, and traveled to Hunchun, China. We checked in at our hotel and then traveled to a location to meet with other CRAM workers for worship.

During our seventeen-day visit, we assisted with English classes, attended Chinese classes, and helped with the Christmas Program at the Hope Foreign Language School (I participated in the drama and worked as stage manager!). We visited an orphanage in Hunchun where we helped teach an English Class and helped to hang Christmas lights for the children to enjoy at the Hunchun Special Education School. On two separate occasions, we observed blankets and supplies being loaded into containers to be taken into North Korea by C.Y. Kim and Yong Ae Riter. While working in China, we found the words of Jesus to be so true: "the harvest is plenty, but the workers are few" (Matt. 9:37).

My wife, Kendra, and I went to China as vessels to be used of God to serve the people of China and North Korea. Though we were not allowed to travel into North Korea during our trip, we heard details of the work being done in that area. We saw our brothers and sisters in Christ risking everything to share God's love in northeastern China and North Korea. As we spoke with believers in the 'homes/churches' in China, we were made very aware of what it is to lose your freedom of religion and to be persecuted for your faith. Stories were shared of those serving who are at risk of being imprisoned for just carrying their Bible into North Korea. As we listened to and observed the circumstances and trials endured by those working in China and North Korea, our thoughts were flooded with a renewed appreciation and how blessed we are in America!

God called us to China ... and our lives will never be the same. Everyday God works through the hearts and hands of CRAM workers ... bringing hope to the hopeless, peace to the troubled, and joy to the burdened. Christ IS Reaching Asia through the missionaries and workers of CRAM Worldwide, Inc. We pray that God's blessing and protection will continue to be with them as they serve.



Eli and Kendra stand in front of "Broken Bridge" which separates CHINA and NORTH KOREA



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