

Rev Hung Kwan → Daily Log of the Sichuan 2nd trip 10-17/1/2009

10/1/2009 Setting off for Sichuan

I got up early in a coldest morning in HKG, walking against the chilly winter breeze of 8C with my luggage heading off to Sheung Shui the assembling point of my second Sichuan trip. I arrived much earlier at Sheung Shui, watching the cross border traders to start their busy daily routine.

Finally Lau Sir and Debby 彭瑜婷 arrived and we set off to cross over to China via Lo Wu. The custom officer gazed at me with a funny look after looking side way on the computer for my personal details. Some thing must have drawn his interest as such he asked me a seemingly senseless question if I am JUST doing sightseeing in China. I of course have to say yes. This possibly has set the note for my new venture of China ministry – you are being watched over, by the authority of the secular world, but trustfully I should also be protected by God the Almighty.

The trip to Huang Tian 黃田機場 Airport in Shen Zhen took 45 minutes. It gave us time to chat along knowing more about each other. The custom clearance at the airport was much relax. We got through swiftly and boarded for departure. Two and a quarter hour later, we already landed Chengdu. We took a cab to get to Tian Yu Guess House 天宇賓館 behind Hua Mei. 華美 My connection with outside world was cut as there is no internet connection in the hotel.

After settling down, Mr Lau took us for a walk at the Shopping Arcade 購物步行街, a very busy place in the CBD. I bought a few books about tourism in Sichuan. The prices are much cheaper than in Hong Kong.

On returning to the hotel around 6 pm, a welcoming group was already waiting for us at the lobby. They are key members of the Thanksgiving church 感恩堂 as well as the staff of Hua Mei. Rev Tsai and Mrs. Helen Tsai, Pastor Charles Kuo 郭存武 and wife Mary, Jane 張虹 the PhD and Katherine 段麗菲, the all rounder and pianist. We went to have Korean BBQ dinner and got to know each other.

After the meal, the whole group except Rev Tsai and wife went back to the hotel room for a sharing gathering. Each took turn to share about something that we thank God. We could see the hand of God guiding each one to experience his amazing grace and life transforming work in our life.

Pastor Charles is from Ya An 雅安 leaving his mother church that sent him to receive theological education to come to head up the Thanks Giving Church about one year ago. Here, he received much support from a group of younger people of good education and professions. Mr Lau encouraged them to think and serve outside the box for the greater glory of God by being a training hub for more pastors. Jane expressed some worry, but eventually we have to take risk by faith to follow God's plan.

Debby made good sharing in Mandarin. The way God led her to embark on this trip is also amazing. Sisy had not yet arrived as her flight was seriously delayed. We still failed to get in touch with her till midnight. Hopefully we will see her tomorrow.



Mr. Lau Chi Ming 劉生 and Debby Pang 彭瑜婷
at the boarding for Chengdu 10/1/2009, 深圳



ShenZhen 黃田機場



Hung & Debby



Chengdu 雙流機場



Chengdu 雙流機場



Shopping Arcade 購物步行街



Book Stores at the Arcade
購物步行街內之文軒書店



Leaders of the Thanksgiving
Church 感恩堂之領袖同工

Katherine, Debby,
Hung, Rev Tsai

Mr. Lau, Helen Tsai
Charles, Mary, Jane

11/1/2009 Chengdu Church Services and visitations

We got in touch with Sisy early in the morning. But we decided to let her join us in the afternoon so that she could sleep over to compensate for mid-night arrival. Since Lau sir had to have meeting with Rev Tsai, we were suggested to visit a traditional three self church with good attendance. The church was full with around 400 to 600 people. But the worship atmosphere was not good. People kept coming and going and some still took phone call despite they were warned to switch off the phone. The preacher was also interrupted twice causing him to lose temper and resorted to expel some children or adult who kept disturbing the service. The service last longer than 1 hour but the feeling of the presence of the Holly Spirit was absence. We headed off for the hotel without being greeted by anyone.

Taking a cab without smaller exchanges would be quite troublesome. The female driver compelled us to get smaller changes but it presented to us some hick up as both local shops expressed great concern on the fake Ren Mon Bee.

We waited for Sisy at the hotel. Her father took her to meet us and left without much greeting and friendship. We later learned from Sisy that her father also does not want us to visit him. So, we could only pray for another chance may be together with her Mum. We went out to have our first team meeting of four together with Brenda, a spiritual daughter of Lau Sir since the Summer camp few years ago. Getting to know and identify people with potential and coach them to grow is a specialty of Mr. Lau.

The feeling of attending service at the Thanksgiving church was very nice and close. The opening in low level praise and worship style was smart. It served to soften the members' heart for the sermon. The church service finished right on time, but the fellowship last 2 hours. God had some amazing work here helping Sisy and Debby to build up personal connections possibly for future ministry in Chengdu.

We had dinner with Anna, a spiritual fruit or spiritual daughter of Lau Sir. We had good fellowship both during dinner and later on at the home visit to Anna's Father in law. We could witness the grace of God upon this family with majority of members having received Christ.

Katherine was going to join us for the excursion to QuangYuan, Ba Chung & Nan Chong. 廣元,巴中和南充 The three girls would have good company. We had to rest earlier and Katherine even came over to stay with Debby. A long driving trip is ahead tomorrow.

思光堂第二堂崇拜樓下大礼堂



The atmosphere of worship was spoiled by mobile phone calls & endless human movements in & out

思光堂閣樓電視轉播禮台情況



崇拜過程中收發電話有之,穿梭出入有之,崇拜氣氛蕩然無存.



Sisy 彭小雪

Brenda 呂韻暉

Debby 彭瑜婷

Hung 關子鴻



First Team Meeting & Fellowship Lunch



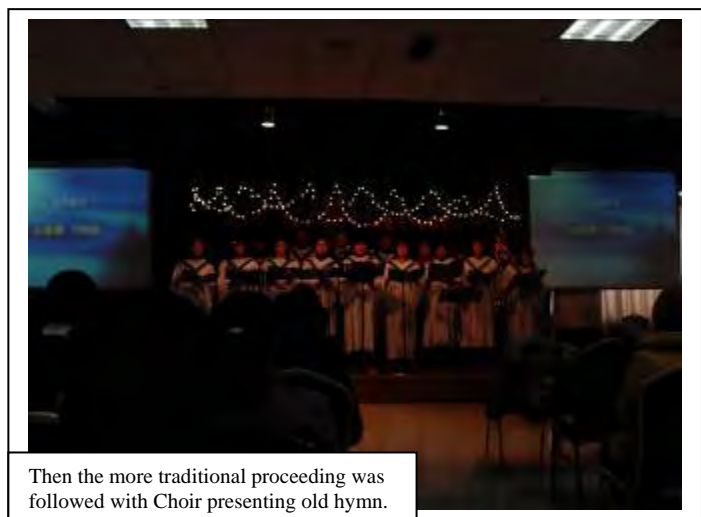
Approaching the Thanksgiving Church 感恩堂 at the 家樂福 Shopping Mall



Being greeted at the door step of the Thanksgiving Church 感恩堂



The service began with a mild style of praise and worship in contemporary hymn



Then the more traditional proceeding was followed with Choir presenting old hymn.



Albert 陳國源

Meeting new friends for future networking

David Jian



Dinner with Lau Sir's another spiritual daughter Anna, a doctor and vice president of a hospital, who herself becomes a mother.

12/1/2009 Quang Yuan Ronshan

Finally the chosen five, Lau Sir, myself the two oldies; accompanying by three vivid flowers Debby, Katherine and Sisy met together to set off for this God led trip in the early morning hour of 8am. My own known agenda is to implement the Student scholarship scheme, and exploring the needs for rebuilding of the Ronshan church. But by faith, I sense and trust God that there are yet other purposes and a plan greater than ours in store for us to discover it.

The trip from Chengdu to QuangYuen was very smooth. Lau Sir taking the driver seat in the first part of the route and Katherine took over after passing Mianyang. 綿陽 We arrived at Quang yuan in a record breaking time of about three and a half hours while both drivers claimed that they did not committed speeding. On arrival to Quanguan, a hiccup occurred before we enter the car park of the Hotel Phoneix 鳳凰酒店. The car appeared to have crashed on the tall concrete road kerb. Yet it only sustained minor scratching underneath the chassis and bottom of the front bumper that the slight damage was almost invisible. This special event had set the tone of our mission trip to Qunagyuan being a journey of grace by faith.

Pastor Wu 吳傳道, the wife of Rev Suen came to meet us at the Hotel. With a quick update of the Ronshan rebuilding progress and the feedback on the usefulness of the scholarship scheme, we mapped out our visitation plan for the afternoon.

Pastor of the Ronshan church arranged us to visit the newest site for the rebuilding of the church. It was a piece of 3 acres land adjacent to an elderly home. The mayor of the Ronshan Village 范學洋 came to explain to us how he had been supportive for the church. The costs of the building may be as expensive as Yen\$2,600 per square meters, which is much higher than another estimation by an Architect at Chengdu, i.e. Yen \$ 1,300. We believe the price of rebuilding at the rural area will be more expensive but the difference appeared to be too great. Lau Sir anyway has a lot of friends who are professionals in building to verify the costs for us before any commitment of help is made.

We then were led to meet the staff of the Ronshan school. They themselves have great need in rebuilding one of a teaching building block. And they also tried to appeal for assistance to rebuild another student hostel. Anyway, they were very supportive to the student scholarship, indicating that 70% of their student families are below the poverty lines. The living costs for a student is about Y\$300 per month or Y\$3600 per year (A\$790 P.A.) This is again much higher than we expected. A suggested list was given to us for consideration. We anyway will work out the qualifications with Pastor Ng representing us to screen and offer the available scholarships to the Ronshan School.

In the evening, we had a very spirit filled sharing meeting with a group of members of the church including Xiao Yu and Wang Chuan. They were excited to see me again and were thankful for the gifts of special bibles for them. Anyway, our trip members were all given chances to share about the leading of God on us to come and join this trip. We sang a lot of songs and had sharing intermittently. We all felt the greatness of God in drawing us together with an invisible plan. We ended the meeting by separating into smaller groups to pray for each other for mutual edification purpose. I

encouraged my group(謝敏,母春林,趙徐(旭) &孟泉宇) to pray for their own church and pray for themselves to be used by God to bring changes for improvement rather than for ever reliance on external help. This applies also to their own personal needs and problems that prayer is aimed at asking God to help them to change rather than asking God to change other first.

We held a wrap up meeting and we all felt that, God must have a greater plan for each of us to play a role in the revival of the Ronshan church. I thank God for this special trip helping both Sisy and Debby to grow in spiritual maturity ready to be used by God as Katherine(段麗菲) was.

Still felt fresh after 3 and a half hour drive arriving at the Phoenix Hotel in Quanguan



The three vivid flowers, Debby, Katherine & Sisy, bonded readily as one spirited phoenix during the long car journey.



Pastor Wu greeted us and met with Lau Sir at the hotel room debriefing the visit arrangement.



Hi, our little Stephen Sun (Caleb) was overjoyed to meet Katherine and the 2 lovely new lady friends.



Gaining access to the Ronshan Government Office Complex symbolising an open door to the relief work at Ronshan community.



The Mayor of Ronshan 范學洋 led us to the new church site to show the Government's support.



The new church site is located on a 3 acres land subdivided from the property of an elderly home. It is nearest to the Ronshan School.



The extension of the elderly home which is subject to rebuilding on the site or else where depending on amount of financial aid received



The mayor was once the head of the Religious Councils. He so great support for the church to be rebuilt at the best site possible.



That are the two existing houses on the land of the new church site. Both are classified as unsafe that needed to be dismantled.



Sign of accountability, letting the public to monitor the where about of the civil servants. It shows that the mayor & his assistant are out to the village with us.



The external view of the existing earthquake damaged house to be pulled down for rebuild.

The mayor accompanied us to visit the Ronshan school meeting the headmaster 贾校长. Seemingly they are all aware of the scholarship scheme with support.



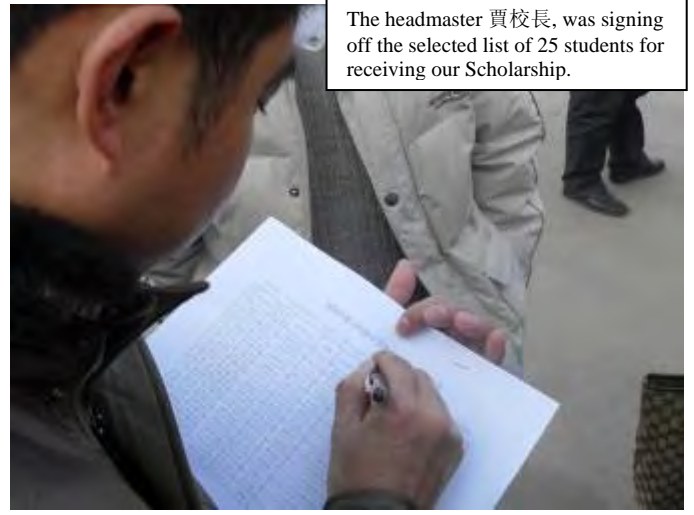
Back roll from left. headmaster 贾校长, Hung Kwan, Mr Lau, School student registrar, Mayor 范学洋, Ronshan church rep. Front roll, Sisy, Debby and Pastor Wu.



The only damaged teaching block was dismantled with 6-8 temporary class rooms erected around the campus. The rebuilding will start in February scheduled to be finished by September. All money has been secured.



The headmaster 賈校長, was signing off the selected list of 25 students for receiving our Scholarship.



We were recommended to have a look of the students hostel which they are very proud of the self-managed ability of the students showing their good characters.



A cosy local meal in a restaurant in an ancient inn setting. I was once forbidden to take photo for copy right protection reason. We anyway took several as customers enjoying our meal. Debby was happy to give us treat.

A small gathering at the Quanguyuan church in the evening. I was overjoyed to meet Xiao Yu 小宇 and Wang Chuan 王川. They were very happy to receive my gifts of special study bibles for them.



Debby was sharing the reason she joined this trip for making one of her dream come true. The dream of being a play group helper to give joy to the children.



Lau Sir led the group to learn new songs with gestures. Stephen was challenged to join Lau Sir to lead the group to sing the "Hands of God"



Members of my prayer group : 趙徐(旭), 孟泉宇, 母春林, 1 unknown member, 謝敏, & another unknown member join us afterwards.

13/1/2009 Yuen Shan 運山

Before the trip, Lau Sir received a SMS message from 統戰部宋部長 to go to Yuen Shan 運山 to have a look of a primary school there. It is a small rural primary school. The building was seriously damaged that it has to be pulled down for rebuilding. Currently only 72 students are left behind to continue class at a rented place. Many more quitted or are transferred to other schools.

We spent 2 and a half hour drive to go there with the company of Wu Ming Hua 吳明華科長 and 陳科長. This is really a very poor area with situation worse than the Ronshan area. Lau Sir already has a plan to support a certain amount of money for rebuilding. He also asked me if our scholarship scheme can be allocated here for this school. After understanding their situation, I think it is right to assign some to this school. The final allocation would be worked out in collaboration with Pastor Wu of the Qunag Yuan Church.

All the key officers of the Yuen Shan town government came to meet us and have lunch with us at their town office. They used the tradition of serving small cups of wine with the guests to express their respect and gratitude for our help. Even Sisy and Debby felt the sincerity of those government officers including particularly 吳明華科長 and 陳科長 from 統戰部. They repeatedly thanked us coming from afar to bring them love and hope. Perhaps that is the different between rural and urban people.

We took another long trip back to Quang Yuan. We lost our way by disregarding an instruction by the GPS system as such we took a longer time of extra 1.5 hour to get back to Qunag Yuan. The trip was very tiring but we felt warm after all these personal contact with those rural people.

We had another kind of water bowl eating with a few key personnel of the Quang Yuan Church who are supposed to head up the new kindergarten. Although we finished the meal late, but we still went back to the hotel room for planning discussion. Lau Sir invited Xiao Yu 小宇 and Wang Chuan 王川 to come. He asked me to greet them and seek out Xiao Yu's vision of work. I took this chance to have sharing with Wang Chuan encouraging him to embark on growing and to consider committing on baptism at the earliest convenience. I pray that he got the message and will devote himself for continuous growth. As for Xiao Yu, she was a bit hesitant to take up full responsibility especially the Kindergarten job. Praise God that even Sisy and Debby were moved to give Xiao Yu their support. We also invited her to join our trip to Ba Chung, so that the three ladies could exert some influence on Xiao Yu finding her own role to serve God. We ended with a hands holding prayer for Xiao Yu & Wang Chuan.

The structural damaged Primary school looks well from the outset.



Road leading to the entrance of the school is bumpy and dusty reflecting the poor condition of this rural village.





The structural damaged Primary school looks well also from this view.



The name of the school, the village and the township and the prefecture.



Katherine was taking photo of the structural damage to the roof.



The wall is not up to standard with only one layer of brick which should have been three layers. That was all because of the short-sightedness to save some money to get the school built quicker.



Group photo with the government officials from Ronshan & Yuen Shan & the school master, an unsung hero saving all the students during the earthquake.



Resources of the school is poor. All students share only one make-shift table tennis from stone tablet.



We were invited to the town government office to have lunch



The seating was important. The girls were led to another table.



We learnt a lesson on the culture of serving wine to guest to show respect. The Mayor of Yuen Shan was serving wine to Lau Sir with well wishing words.

It was Debby's turn to receive wine serving treatment by 吳科長 of Ronshan .



The girl normally would be ignored, but because of their guest status, both Sisy and Debby received the same courtesy treatment by 吳科長 of Ronshan .



吳科長 didn't forget Katherine. This was a display of equality for lady.



Lau Sir and the School headmaster of Yuen Shan



Lau Sir and the Mayor of Yuen Shan



Lau Sir found a village bearing his family name



Back to Quangyuen to have dinner with Ps Wu & her co-workers for the "kindi"

14/1/2009 Chung 巴中

Xiao Yu decided not to join our trip to Ba Chung but meet us at Chengdu on Thursday. I pray that she could take up God's challenge to serve Him in a complex role by faith without fear and worry. Pastor Wu, Zhao Hsu 趙徐, and Jian Qi 咎琪 they all came to see us off, perhaps in the role of the churches' ordained group of organizer for the kindergarten.

The trip to Ba Chung was much relaxed. The girls chatted along the way about almost anything but particularly their dating experience. It kept us all well awoken during the monotonous trip which was only made interesting by encountering heavy fog. Before long we arrived at the hotel in Ba Chung and took a 1 hour nap before meeting Pastor Chang. We headed off for the Ba Chung Church which was made an unsafe house by the earthquake. There we met Elder Chang, the uncle of Pastor Chang. He still had a dream of rebuilding the church to become a magnificent Baroque European look church, accommodating 1,200 before his time is done. Mr Lau tactically tried to make way to help him by renting some spaces for kindergarten or Bible Books Shop to pay off some loan from the bank. He enthusiastically brought us to the building site which has yet to remove/resettle some diehard residences who do not want to move.

We then went back to the church to attend an examination session of a Guitar class specially organized for the youth group of the church as well as the three full time pastors. Mr. Lau introduced this idea of training the Youth group to play guitar for their fellowship as well as worship in his last trip. Now, it bears 12 fruits and life transformation is witnessed. Mr Lau was skilful in cheering up and motivating the youth by calling his wife who was also the initiator of the Guitar Class to give compliment and encouragement by giving each one a new uniform. Mr Lau awarded them with snack and a water bowl meal. We could see much hope in the growth of youth group for the long term benefit of the church.

After getting back to the hotel, Mr Lau held our daily debriefing. Debby and Sisy queried the necessity of helping Elder Chang to build an expensive new church. A lot of discussion and exchange of view were made. It became a great lesson for the two first timers to understand the art of advancement of the Gospel work in China, especially in the three self-church camp. The tactic is not to change their long time practice and culture immediately, but to find a foothold and room for sowing seeds for the growth of new ideology of church ministry. The Guitar class is a good example. But the challenge to make some things positive from the extravagant church rebuilding is yet to be handled by Mr. Lau.

Mr Lau then held deep discussion with Katherine about her own vision and expectation of ministry. She affirmed that sacred music and cross church influence is her burden. I suggested her to explore developing sacred music ministry to change the culture of worship and spiritual life transformation of the old fashioned three self churches. We all encouraged her to think outside the box and overlook all the obvious barracks but seek the will and strength of God to do what God has put on her mind. Tonite would be a memorable night for Katherine in transforming of her ministry.

The student project appeared a bit too expensive in comparison to CRRS and Sower action. But Mr Lau has a most updated version of similar help by 福民 the Free Methodist Church. It may need a lot of follow up to decide what we should do.

Pastor Wu, Zhao Hsu 趙徐, and Jian Qi 管琪 they all came to see us off, perhaps in the role of the churches' ordained group of organizer for the kindergarten.



Wow, preserved wild bird with feather on for proving their genuineness. Even Lau Sir was attracted to ask me to take a photo with those preserved wild bird.



Arriving at 江北賓館 of 巴中市 in good shape, thanks to the ladies' light hearted chatting along the 3 hours car journey.



What made the funny look on the faces of our three ladies was unknown. For sure they were all in very good mood.



Debby and Sisy posted for me to give me the reason to take a photo of the open kitchen of the food store.



We were having a simple lunch at a local food store. I watched on while the other were checking out the menu. The kitchen is at the left.



The Ba Chung Church now accommodating 400 is at a very central location but has been classified as unsafe due to earthquake & lack of maintenance. They are still using it anyway.



Elder Chang, the virtual leader of Ba Chung Church was showing the grand project plan of the church new building worthing Y\$7 Million to Lau Sir. Yet they are still in short of money to move forward.

We were invited to inspect the site of the new church building. Rev Chang was briefing the current status of resettlement for some residents who are not willing to move out.



The blue print of the Baroque European look new church building costing Y\$7 Million.



We held hands to pray for the Ba Chung new Church site to be a consecrated place for God

12 of them including the three pastors did the test individually first playing 1 to 2 hymns



Back to the Bachung Church, the Youth Guitar group was waiting for Lau Sir to test them.



Then, all of them play together those songs that they have practiced.



They were first awarded with a group uniform each by Mrs. Lau and then snack from HKG



They were also awarded a feast of hot water bowl meal that they don't usually could afford.

15/1/2009 Ba Chung to Chengdu.

The three Ba Chung church pastors came to have breakfast with us and then held discussion in our room on the loan for the rebuilding, the kindergarten proposal and the Bible book shop.

This is typically the tactical way of Mr Lau to grasp hold of every opportunity arises in helping out a three-self church to make change for adapting to a new ideology of church administration.

The loan arrangement is designed to put accountability back to the three self church who wants to acquire a much bigger new church building than what is needed now or even in few years time. A Y\$500,000 moratorium loan of 5 years is arranged. For the first two years, the church only needs to repay interest at a favourable simple rate of 3% p.a. i.e. Y\$15,000. Then The church needs to repay both principal and interest starting from the 3rd year. The income for repayment of loan is supposed from the offering which is not reliable and the Kindergarten project. If there is still not enough money in the first 2 years to repay the interest, LISAC International will try to raise money through offering.

The second proposal is to make use of the space of the new church to generate revenue as well as outreach ministry opportunity. Again the structure of the investment is designed to generate motivation from the three partners, i.e. the church (25%) LISAC International (25%) the Operator (50%) that all three parties with vested interest will work together to make the kindergarten a money earning business while achieving the ministry objective of building up the image of the church and the kindergarten to exert positive influence in the community. It was suggested that for the first one or 2 years, the kindergarten does not aim to earn quick money by starting too big immediately. Rather a more cautious manner was suggested to start small but well to earn reputation and develop edge against other competitors.

The third proposal of Bible book store would be a join venture project with overseas interested group. The site is preferably not at the church but at a place with large human flow. We went to inspect that site after our meeting.

Before joining the Ba Chung planning session at our room, I hastily went to check email at the business centre of the hotel. Larry had a counter proposal on the student scholarship. We keep the commitment per student at A\$200 per year roughly equal to Y\$1,000. Then we pay monthly Y\$100 for ten months leaving two months out during school holiday without pay. Lau Sir admitted it is not good to change the commitment amount once we started the appeal. On the other hands, he already committed 25 students each with monthly payment of \$150.00. So, we worked out a compromise using an excuse to the school that we would like to support more students with the same amount of Y\$3,750.00 intended to be assigned to Ronshan church by reducing the monthly subsidy for each student to Y\$100. It increases the number of students to 37.5 but we would round it up to 40 students. So now each will get Y\$1,000 per annum. We decided to issue payment quarterly in the amount of \$250.00 The first payment in 2009 would be made during the next earthquake relief trip in March 19-26 in a public ceremony at the school. This is to ensure that each student received the Y\$250 as a quarterly payment the first time directly from us rather than through the school. Thereafter, we may channel the subsidy quarterly through the school.

It has left about Y\$6819.30 or roughly 7 more scholarships to be offered to students of other schools in Ronshan or Yuenshan. Hopefully, we will continue our appeal when the desired number of scholarship is known.

Actually, the student scholarship scheme can be extended to the kindergartens to be run by the Quang Yuan Church 廣元 and Ba Chung Church 巴中 when they start their operation. In order to help them to build up a healthy base of enrolment for the first 1 to 2 years, scholarship/subsidy could be considered for really poor families that need the service but could not fully afford the school fees.

In the afternoon, we have another round of political lunch with the Religious Offices 宗教局彭局長 together with another missionary group who wants to gain foothold by conducting English class at the Middle School through the coordination of Hua Mei. The same ritual of serving wine with each others saying word of praise and appreciation was gone through once again. Even the missionary representative from America had to adapt to this local customs no matter how un-natural you feel. With my cold and hot food allergic throat, I had to be very careful of what I ate. The meal was rich but not enjoyable for me at all.

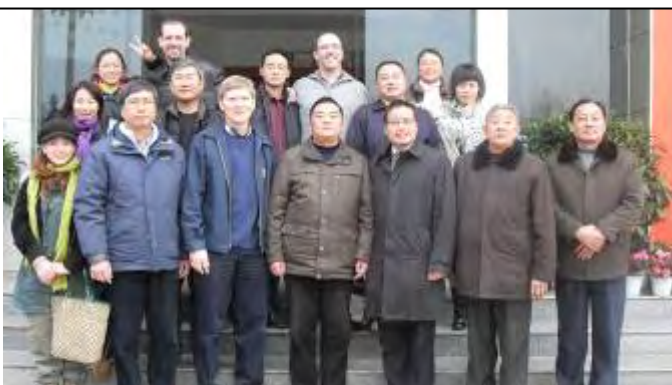
We then set off for the long trip back to Chengdu via Nan Chong 南充. Originally we planned to have dinner at Nanchong visiting the church pastor there. But this dinner meeting was aborted as the pastor could not be reached. We anyhow still made a detour to visit that church. Though it was already dark, but we were still impressed by the grandeur look of the church with a standing out front view structure projecting the image of trinity. No wonder the Ba Chung church also wants a new church as beautiful as the Nan Chong one.

My cold got more serious after that late visit to the church site in cold evening air. I could barely hold myself in a piece throughout the long trip from Nan Chong to Chengdu. On arriving back to Hua Mei, I was at the blink of a complete body heat loss caused by the inlet of chilling air enroute driving. Anyway, I got better now to finish this fifth day log.

Early morning meeting with Revs Chang, Wu and Li to firm up the loan arrangement for church rebuilding & the project of running a kindergarten at the new church premises.



The mixed group from Lisac International, Hua Mei, Food for Hunger, Ba Chung Church and the Ba Chung Religious Council. All meeting with own agenda but same goal of serving God & the community.



Front: Sisy Peng, Lau Sir, Mark, Councillor Peng, Rev Tsai, Elder Chang, Secretary He
Back: Debby Pang, Rev Wu, James, Hung Kwan, Hua Mei staff, Jerry, Mr Ding, Rev Chang, Chun Lan.



Rev Chang led me to the possible site for the book store, a land amidst the heart of the Ba Chung local market place with high human flow throughout the day.



An late evening visit to the Nan Chong church, a role model for the Ba Chung Church to catch up in term of the grandeur out look.

2009-1-16 Peng Zhou, Xi Fang

I started the day very badly. I got up with shear head ache. After breakfast, my situation got worse. I felt dizzy with cold sweating on the forehead. My neck felt stiff and sore. The unexpected long trip to Peng Zhou 彭州 due to loss of direction aggravated my condition. I fell almost unconscious several times during that 3 hours trip which should have been just a one hour drive. When we got to Peng Zhou, my body was so fragile and weak that I could not stand eating in the open air and I didn't have appetite at all.

Despite my health condition was so bad; I was still impressed with the development there since my last visit in June, 2008. The ceiling of the old church hall was fixed. Temporary Church hall, Library & reading room as well as staff dormitory have been built ready for the dismantling of the old church hall at where the land will be used for rebuilding a new church cathedral and other facilities starting in February. The appearance of the new church again is superb. By now, I could understand that this is the culture of all the three self churches to put emphasis on appearance of the church building but not so much on the operation and maintenance. They would think a data projector is too expensive for them but a 7 millions church building is a reasonable spending. They also have no idea what will be the maintenance costs for such a big building. Anyway, missionary from outside is not to change their mindset overnight, but rather we could only subtly put accountability back to them that not all help are free, they have to repay for it partially, if not hundred percentage.

In Peng Zhou situation, The Pastor Chung couple 鍾牧師夫婦 emphasize not only on the need to acquire a big building for future development, but the spiritual growth. We went to two meeting points in adjacent area. The first meeting place has just been rebuilt. The meeting had yet to start, but the sister in Christ insisted to fill up the pockets of all our members with peanut that was originally for the bible study. We really appreciated her love and hospitality in serving guests with whatever best stuff they have. The second meeting place was in a rural village near Xi Fang 什坊. Almost more than half are old ladies with only a minor group of youngster and middle age sisters. The way of leading the Bible study was a bit too formal with insufficient spirit led sharing. And obviously the oldies did not pay much attention to the bible reading and sharing. Nonetheless, the willingness to gather for bible study meeting is still an encouraging sign for advancing the discipleship in Christ. Lau Sir was invited to say a few words of encouragement and to lead them to sing a devotional song. In return, they sang a hymn for us and we said good bye to them returning to Chengdu.

We had a gap of 1 hour to do a bit of sightseeing and shopping at Wen Shu Fang 文殊坊. I finished my shopping duty to buy Sichuan local tea leaves there. The tea shop is a specialist shop and offered a tea tasting routine for us. I was unexpectedly introduced to buy Kwai Hua Tea 桂花茶 which is good for an allergic throat. I could go to our dinner with a MSI PS missionary in better shape. This dinner by far was the classiest and expensive meal in Sichuan thanks to Sisy. But what clicked in our memory was the service manner and positive attitude of the waiter Li Lou 李路. He is a high school student of 17 years old from Dujiangyan 都江堰 suspending his study due to the earthquake. He did his job not just for earning money but to develop his professionalism manner in discharging his duty to the best as a waiter as well as in whatever future job he might do. Debby first volunteered to write a few words of appreciation in English and Mr Lau added in the Chinese version. Katherine was wise

enough to build the link to invite 李路 to the Thanks Giving church. Hopefully God will make this link work in his time.

After the dinner, we went to Brenda Lu's 吕韵暉 home. Her Mum is a Christian and had invited two of her friends, one a new convert 李秀蓮 and the other a non-believer doctor 夏映萍 to come. We had good sharing and fellowship and hopefully, God may listen to our prayer to draw 夏映萍 and Mr Lu to Christ.

Finally, all our activity in Sichuan came to an end. We said good bye to Katherine who had been a blessing to us especially to Sisy, Debby and Brenda during the whole trip. They made good company in both the "spiritual" and "not so spiritual" discovery journey of life. We are leaving early morning tomorrow 6am. Sisy will stay till March 8 then return to Australia. Hopefully she will help out the Sichuan earthquake relief appeal in Australia through her uni students network. I don't know when I myself or Debby will come again, but part of our heart and passion had obviously been kept here that some day, this sense of belonging and tie will be triggered by God bringing us back for His plan and purpose.

NB. There is unfinished business. We could not have chance to meet with Rev Suen of Quang Yuan to firm up the Ronshan Church Rebuilding Project. But Mr Lau and I both agreed to suggest a plan to help them while holding them accountable for their own church ministry. We will channel our help for the training centre of Y\$600,000. Half will be love gift offering, while half will be in a form of loan that they have to repay but not to us yet to a develop fund for future church project development. A detailed proposal will be worked out by Rev Suen with the help of Mr Lau to elaborate on project including the building plan, the functional use of the training centre, the building schedule and the financial aid pay up schedule as well as the repayment schedule for the loan portion. With this as our target, we will pray to appeal for help by faith through the planned May 9 Sichuan Earthquake anniversary relief appeal meeting and other longer term appeal work.



Lau Sir getting receipt from Pengzhou church for their love gifts.



Inspecting the drawing of the Pengzhou new church building at the pastor office

The artist drawing of the Pengzhou new church building, the same grandeur style amongst all three self churches in Sichuan or China.



Bird's eye view plan of the Pengzhou new church building. Spaces are reserved for community centre and kindergarten at the rear of the land.





Home cooked lunch for us at the court yard of the church net to the old church hall to be dismantled soon making way for the new church.

The old church hall, still in good condition with all the minor roof damage fixed.



The pilgrimage group with Rev Chung



The pilgrimage group with Rev & Mrs Chung

The temporary church worship building, good enough for us in Australia



The temporary church worship hall with a capacity of 220. The sound system is donated by HKG group which is too sophisticated for them to use.



A dreamed church hall coming true in a year time.



A newly rebuilt meeting place.

The host eagerly filled our pockets with peanut originally for the bible meeting.





Leaving the house for meeting



The church members were excited to greet us, mostly were elderly.



Approaching to another meeting place near 什坊



Lau Sir shared a short message and led the group to sing "The Hand of God".



Brother Tsai is the local leader leading the bible group.



Lau Sir shared a short message and led the group to sing "The Hand of God".



Sisy helped serving sweet to the local members.



Farewell to the living church functioning in the Kingdom of God in all rural area in China.

One hour shopping at 文殊坊. My coughing was miraculously healed by the tasting of many teas particularly the Kwai Hua Tea 桂花茶.



The farewell dinner to ear mark this memorable mission awareness journey. With Debby, Sisy, Myself, Lau Sir, Katherine, Brenda and Tracy.

