



INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.
REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS
 by
Rev. Dick Christensen
 February 2016
 TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
CHINA & ECUADOR BLDG UPDATE



I finished my traveling in 2015 by taking Vicky with me on a trip to China and Vietnam. It was her very first trip of that distance as well as over the Pacific. I had arranged for a young couple in Beijing to meet us at the airport and help us navigate the city for two days. We took some personal time at our own expense to see some of the sights and do a little shopping before we flew on to meet with our students in a remote farming village. Our only disappointment was that we did not have enough time to see some of the Great Wall.

We went to Tiananmen Square and walked through the Forbidden City before doing a little Christmas shopping. According to Wikipedia, the **Forbidden City**, declared a World Heritage Site in 1987, was the Chinese imperial palace from the Ming dynasty to the end of the Qing dynasty, the years 1420 to 1912. Located in the center of Beijing, the Forbidden City served as



1406 to 1420 during the reign of the Yongle emperor who was also responsible for the construction of the Forbidden City during that same time period. The complex was extended and re-named Temple of Heaven during the reign of Jiajing,

emperor in the 16th century.

In ancient China the emperor was regarded as the *Son of Heaven* who administered earthly matters on behalf of, and representing, the heavenly authority. It was extremely important for a person to be seen showing respect to the source of his authority in the form of sacrifices to heaven. The temple was built for these ceremonies, mostly comprising prayers for good harvests. Twice a year the emperor and all his party would move from the Forbidden City through Beijing to encamp within the complex, wearing special robes and abstaining from eating meat. No ordinary Chinese was allowed to view this procession or the following ceremony. In the temple complex, the emperor would personally pray to heaven for good harvests. The high point of the ceremony took place at the winter solstice on the Earthly Mount. The emperor had to perform the ceremony perfectly; it was widely held that the smallest of mistakes would constitute a bad omen for the whole nation in the coming year.

I find it quite interesting that the history of China shows a knowledge of a heavenly authority superior to that of man to whom those in authority on earth were subject. There are also many Chinese written language characters that demonstrate knowledge of a supreme being. Some even point to Biblical stories such as the flood of Noah and salvation through the cross. God always has a witness no matter the place or time period; He is everywhere present. PTL!

After our brief stay in Beijing during which Vicky quickly learned the art of chopsticks, mainly out of necessity, we flew to a city closer to our final destination. We arrived in the evening and still had an almost four-hour drive to get there.



the home of emperors and their households as well as the ceremonial and political center of China's government for almost 500 years. The complex consists of 980 buildings and covers 72 ha or 180 acres. The

palace complex exemplifies traditional Chinese palatial architecture and has influenced cultural and architectural developments in East Asia and elsewhere. UNESCO lists the Forbidden City as the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world.

The next day, we saw the Temple of Heaven, literally the "Altar of Heaven" in Chinese. Wikipedia states that the temple was visited by the Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties for **annual ceremonies of prayer to heaven** for good harvest. The temple complex was constructed from



Temple of Heaven main complex area. Wikipedia photo taken from same steps of RevC & Vicky above

Though there was a GPS in the car, we were so deep into the interior of the country that even the GPS was struggling to find the location. As the weather was much colder in Beijing than we came prepared for, we were hoping for warmer weather at the CTC training site. That was not to be. We were both wearing multiple layers to stay warm and looking forward to a much warmer time in Vietnam.

On the way, we stopped for some dinner with our driver and translator. Note they are wearing plastic gloves. Part of our dinner was some portion of a pig that had much fat and little meat. It was so messy to eat you had to wear gloves. Yuck, I think it's gross, but the Chinese love boiled fat. Vicky joined right in with them. I stuck to what I could eat with the sticks!



We finally arrived at our destination in the early morning. They welcomed us into a family complex that had a living area and a large meeting room detached from the main house where they had a "house church." This location was a change from where I met with this same group on my last visit. Breakfast, pictured here, was similar each day: some meat, green beans, vegetables, eggs and tomato, and steamed Chinese bread.



Most of you realize that Vicky has been learning to speak English as her second language, attending classes and practicing with me. Sarah became fluent very quickly by attending school each day. She is doing very well. Her mother has struggled more with our language, however. I

told Vicky that if she were to come on this trip, even though I flew her to China and back on my own miles, she would have to work and help me teach. In advance, I had given her the material she was to teach so she could prepare. As you can imagine, it was a stretch for her to stand in front of a group of Chinese men and women and teach in English so that a translator could translate. I am very pleased to report that she did wonderfully!

Every time she got up to speak the class applauded her, something they have **never** done for me! At the end of the week we took parting photos of



the class. All the women in the class and several of the men wanted photos with Vicky. She was definitely well received! I'm afraid the students will be very disappointed when I return in May and Vicky is not with me. I have two more visits with this group and should graduate them in October or November of this year.



Vicky and I flew to Vietnam. I will report on our visit in next month's newsletter. To finish this report, I want to show you some photos of our progress on the renovation of the sanctuary and the addition of the second floor to Light of Life Church in Portoviejo, Ecuador. The church now holds services in the completed first floor! The youth ministry area, the second floor, still needs the false ceiling, ceiling lighting, paint, bathroom fixtures, and air-conditioning. Upon completion, we are planning a "Grand Opening Ceremony". We still need your help as we near the finish!

There were some nice gifts given for projects last year which has helped us except for the remaining work in Portoviejo, however our personal support



New sanctuary from platform



Sanctuary from entry foyer



Media area & air-cond



Front of "Light of Life"

suffered; we would appreciate your prayerful help! TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A DIFFER-

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE: There are several ways to give: To support RevC or a particular project you can either donate online at www.rev.c.org by clicking the "RevC Support" button or the "Project Support" button, or send your gift to **Indigenous Training Ministries, Inc. (ITM, Inc.)** and mail to **P.O. Box 958, Oldsmar, FL 34677** and put "Preference Project Support" or "Preference RevC" or "Project Gideon" on the check memo line. The IRS does not allow donors to designate a gift, but you can indicate your "preference" for its use. Questions?? contact RevC at: RevC@rev.c.org **Thank You for your prayers and support !!!!**

Notwithstanding any other statements in this communication, please remember that any contributions to MVI or ITM are under their full discretion and control as is required by IRS regulations. TM REGISTRATION: CH43132 "A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFO MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN FL. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY FL."