



# INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.

## REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS

by

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September 2016

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

## CHINA UPDATE



We are now living in our new location\*. Our former house has yet to sell so please pray! Back in April, there was a lot going on in our lives and travelling to China was something I really wished I could have put off. However, I always try to buy my tickets well in advance to get the best price; timely or not, I needed to go.

We had wanted to downsize our home for almost a year and had placed offers on a couple of places that didn't materialize. Then earlier in April, we found a nice location just into Pasco County where home prices were less expensive. Once our offer was accepted, we started preparing our house to sell. We had to go through everything and decide what to sell, give away, or keep. It is amazing how much one accumulates! It seems the more space you have, the more things you collect. I imagine in heaven we will have small apartments as there will be little else that we will want or need. PTL!

Next, Vicky and I decided the kitchen in our new home needed to be remodeled. I knew the best time to make any changes was before we moved in. So we set about, on top of everything else, to find appliances and new kitchen cabinets that would fit into our very modest budget. This took a lot of research, time, and effort! I felt we were in a crunch time-wise as we were leaving June 9<sup>th</sup> for a couple months of ministry in Ecuador and Peru. To say the least, I was a bit stressed with the China trip closing in and many other ministry related issues that needed attention.

The stress and my allergies were beginning to take a toll on me physically. By the time I left for China, I was beginning to get a chest infection. Knowing from previous experience that I would probably need antibiotics, I took a "Z-pak" with me. This trip was only to be one week long with the weather forecast predicting temperatures in the 70's. The weather turned out to be much cooler than expected, however. After 25 hours of travel from Clearwater, I spent the night in Beijing then flew to Hefei in Anhui province the next afternoon. As I rarely get any sleep on the plane, I had slept only four hours since the time I left Clearwater. I was too stressed to sleep more than a couple of hours then was on Skype discussing with Vicky everything that still needed to be done in Clearwater.

Jenette, the young woman who was my translator for the week, met me at the airport. This was to be her first time translating. Her English was not the best, and her knowledge of the Bible was that of a new believer. I could tell right away the week of teaching would not be easy. To



her credit, Jenette really did her very best. Over the course of the week, not only did her English improve, she learned a lot about the Bible! From Hefei we drove about four hours to a small farming village. We had class there the first week I was with this group but had met in a different location the last two times. It

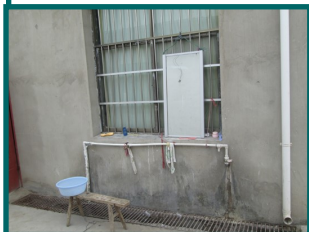
was Sunday evening and I was tired. I tried to sleep but again for only about four hours. Unfortunately, I was up from jetlag in the middle of the night because China is twelve hours ahead of Florida!

At the beginning of the week, the weather began to turn colder! Instead of a comfortable mid 70 degrees, it was in the 50's and low 60's. I was wearing two shirts and my light jacket and was still cold. My chest infection had worsened, I was on antibiotics, and my voice was getting weaker each day. Despite the weather, difficult accommodations, and my health, the students were excited that I was there. Some of their leaders wanted to discontinue the classes because they felt it was too dangerous. Because many of the students wanted to continue, however, they changed back to the original location. Some of the students decided not to return, probably because of the danger that word might get out that a foreigner was in the area teaching. As long as I had students willing to put themselves at risk, however, I felt I needed to be there. Not only did twenty students return, we actually had a couple of new people sit in on the teaching!

The week went well even though the accommodations were not as good. The students were hungry to learn! Their only disappointment was that Vicky did not come with me as they had enjoyed her teaching last October. I missed Vicky even more this trip due to my being sick. I stayed with the local elder who pastors the church compound where we held classes. His home, a three-story farmhouse, was about a twenty-minute drive through the countryside. I stayed in a second floor bedroom and had the whole floor to myself. Because there was no heat, I drank lots of hot tea to keep me warm! I was able to stay in contact with Vicky each evening and morning via the internet until five am Wednesday when the local government turned off the power! Not only was I not feeling good, now there was no water or light. The power came back on at the farmhouse at eight pm, and to my surprise went off again the next morning at five. I managed to wash my hair with some warm water that was in a thermos for my tea. Not wanting to take the chance of not having a

good shower, I got up at four on Friday and had a nice hot shower. As you might expect, the power did not go off.

Although the students, bless their hearts, had electricity, their conditions were still less than I enjoyed without power! They slept on the floor and didn't have a nice comfortable private bathroom either. They did their morning prep at some faucets on the side of the church building. Naturally, I don't have



a photo of the women's restroom, but it was adjacent to the men's, which I can show you. I can only add

that the appearance doesn't hold a candle to the smell! The food was great, however. They asked me for the food list they knew I carried whenever I'm in China. Though



they never made anything on my list, and other than a couple dishes of tofu, I had plenty of delicious Chinese food to choose from.



The students and I were happy that they were able to finish their tests on Thursday afternoon. We graded the exams that evening and recorded their grades so those who lived nearby could head home. I was even more pleased when we finished because my voice was all but gone. We set a date in late October for my return for their last week of training. Students who complete everything will graduate.



I pray out of each group there will be those who will use the CTC materials to teach others. In addition to the four books the students have, I have offered to give them everything that I use when I teach in digi-

tal form both in Chinese and English. In October, several students will bring either their computer or a flash drive in order to take advantage of the opportunity. This is multiplication, making disciples who go out and make more disciples.



Thankfully, the weather began to improve Friday afternoon as we drove back to Hefei. I spent the night there, flying to Beijing early Saturday. That same afternoon, I boarded Delta 188 back to Detroit and down to Tampa. Not completely over the chest infection but on the mend, it was great to be home, back in my own bed and enjoying all the comforts we so often take for granted!

Most of you are probably not aware of the fact that when I first began ministry in China, we were raising funding in the US to help the local Chinese government build elementary schools. These schools were located in the rugged mountain areas of the Yunnan province where many of the tribal people had never heard of Jesus. While we were doing this, I was paying translators to translate over 4000 pages of the CTC curriculum into Chinese. US churches gave money, the local government gave what it could, and a school building was erected. In exchange for our help, they allowed us to do a "cross-cultural" presentation where we presented the gospel and how to know Jesus. They shared some of their culture with us as well. During this time, I set aside, in a separate account, excess funds left over from what the government needed that were given by churches and visiting teams. This separate account was to be used for what I believed God wanted me eventually to do in China. **So far those funds have supported all of the work we have done in China, without any support from ITM or additional help from donors.**

I had been thinking about backing off of the work in China. It is so physically difficult and more so each year. Every year, when I apply for my annual Chinese visa, I usually get a one-year multi-entry visa. This year when I applied, I received a **ten-year multi-entry visa!** I didn't even know they had such a thing! So I think God is saying we have much more to do in China. Please pray for HIS direction!

**We stand in need of your support, personally we have been down over \$1000 each month this year, and for the first time I had to cut back support to a project that I know is doing a great work. Please, please, do what you can!! Earnestly, we can use more help!!! TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

**\*Our new address is: 1644 Orchardgrove Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34655 Ph: 727-494-7412**

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