

This is Steve's Story...

In the summer of 2012 after having bought airline tickets and getting my visa, I received an email from my missionary friends in Texas stating the university summer English camp in China had been cancelled for political/ (unknown) reasons. The previous year I had spent a very happy two weeks at a teachers college near Chongqing teaching a class on public speaking and job applications. I continued to be in Skype and email contact with many of those students and I was looking forward to seeing them again in 2012. With the departure time supposedly a couple of weeks away I felt disoriented and confused. I couldn't understand how God had allowed this ministry to end. With great disappointment, I was forced to get a ticket refund.

It was then that I started looking for alternative ways to be used in China. I prayed, and I asked God why was it that He wasn't cultivating my love of

China and using my desire to share his word with the students I had so much cared for? In my frustration I began searching the Internet for other opportunities.

It was during this time that I received the CCSM newsletter that I had subscribed to for more than a year. In this mailing I noted there was an article concerning short trips to teach English in China. My response was to send an email of inquiry. I



wasn't sure how it would be since I was in the U.S. and rest of the team members would be coming from New Zealand.

I missed my friends from Texas and I was disappointed that I wasn't used by God that summer in the way I wished. (I frequently cling to

Jeremiah 29:11. I know that God has plans for me, but being in my late 60's I am prone to think He sometimes works a little slow).

But by April of 2013 I found myself in Xian, sharing whom I was, learning more about China and

Chinese students, and sharing what I know what is important in life. I also had new friends that called themselves "Kiwis". I found that Kiwis are multinational, that they are often fluent in Chinese and that being American; I could usually understand their version of the English language (If they spoke slowly). I also learned of their great level of compassion for the people of China. Those two weeks came to an end far too quickly. I had experienced a level of evangelism that I thought I

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was incapable of reaching.

I found myself wishing I could have gone another week before leaving. I knew I was going to miss my recently acquired friends. God directed me through that trip. I will never forget the Chinese graduate student that asked me how God could love her, since her mother was telling her that she was a failure. I related to her my feelings from my own life and how God had shown He loved me. We both had tears in our eyes. God also provided just the right Bible verses for me to share with her that day. Many others students have asked me about issues of, faith, hope and love. So many are looking for hope, but they don't realize the need for the faith, that brings the hope.

In addition I developed a great appreciation for the teachers who have dedicated themselves to a life in China. I often find myself wishing to stay longer. Last year with money I earn from substitute teaching, I was able to join different teams in China for three short trips. I have seen the efficiency of the programs CCSM has in place and I

like their ministry. This year I plan to return to China for yet another trip with CCSM. I have also learned that it is up to God to allow me to return. But I know He has plans for me.



I cannot avoid mentioning the many farmers and minority groups I have become acquainted with during these visits. The many diversities of China give opportunities for ministries of all types. My wife Caryl will retire in two years. I hope she will be able to join with me on a medical team experience, or to try orphanage work or perhaps to join me on yet another English Cultural Exchange team.

God's work done in God's way will always have God's provision." (Hudson Taylor)

Would you like to join a CCSM English Cultural Exchange Team in 2014?
For further information and an application form contact CCSM New Zealand

Visit www.ccsm-nz.org/english-cultural-exchange-teams to find out more.



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