

Blue Asia Grace



God Was Willing

Months ago, after much prayer and careful consideration, we settled on leaving on August 2nd, if God was willing. From the deepest part of my heart I can joyfully say that God was indeed willing, and so here we are now. Here, some seven thousand miles from home. It was a grueling thirty-six sleepless hours of jetting across the globe, but God was faithful.

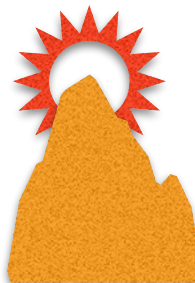
Through some kind of mix up, all eight pieces of our checked luggage was discharged in China instead of being transferred to the next plane. We had to pick it up and lug it, along with our carryons, onto a bus going through the city to a different and disjointed terminal in 105°F.

The kids traveled exceptionally well, and we all made it here in one piece, along with all our luggage. We were blessed to go from the airport, just after midnight, to a furnished apartment left vacant temporarily by some missionaries who were back home in Romania working on visas. We stayed there for two weeks! What a blessing it was.

Why Won't They Answer?

So we got here, now what do we do first? Well, we just had to do the basics. For some reason, we had no hot water. So with my first shower, I was initiated, unofficially, into the polar bear club. Grocery shopping, bus cards, and exploring were on the agenda, but the majority of the first two weeks was dedicated to apartment hunting.

We had a handful of friends who would make calls and translate for us, but many of our phone calls reached dead ends. They suggested that it may be because this is a popular time for people to vacation outside the city. Anyway, after dozens of calls and a small handful of showings, we found a great place in the part of town we were hoping for. (continued —>)





We were shown one place that was phenomenal. It was a brand new building, on the fifteenth floor with an extraordinary view, incredibly spacious; it was like walking into a dream, and the realtor said our budget made no difference. The building had a gymnasium, food court, and an outdoor playground on the second floor for security. So why didn't we take that one? We had a horrible feeling about it, and it took us awhile after some prayer to figure it out. We didn't spend the last fifteen years preparing for this mission to get all the way over here and then live amongst the wealthy 1/2%. Certainly God has called someone to minister amongst the wealthy here—they need the Gospel too after all—but not us. That apartment would have greatly hindered our ministry in so many ways. So we turned it down and decided on the place that we are currently living in.



*For The
Curious*

If someone steps on your foot, they will reach out to shake your hand as an apologetic gesture. This recently happened to me when the crowded bus I was riding made an abrupt stop and my foot was stepped on.



“This Horse Needs Ketchup,” And Other Such Misadventures

We really shouldn't have done it, but we were way too excited to have some fun new adventures—kids included. So we picked up some canned horse meat, easily identified by that large muzzled mammalian's mug slapped on the label. The smoked horse salami was a markedly good improvement.

We've been to the countryside twice now with a new friend in the church. He said he wanted to be my friend but he doesn't know how it works. I reassured him that I wanted to be friends too and I look forward to our time together. He's been a nominal participator in the church for the last two years, so i've been encouraging him in the Lord during our time together. Last week he took us three hours out of the city to a road side food stand where his sister works. The stand is snugly tucked away amidst cascading mountains. We got to feast on a pot full of roasted goat, potatoes, and cabbage.

One day, we were getting back to our first place when the front door handle broke off in my hand. That gave me the opportunity to meet the friendly building maintenance (continued —>)

man and the neighbor across the hall.

Our kids are constantly making friends at every park we go to. We were sad to leave the first apartment because of all the kids and parents we got to befriend. We were invited to go out to the countryside with one family for horse riding and relaxing. Unfortunately, we couldn't make it work.

We are all doing great with the food. One missionary here commented that she's never seen foreigners enjoy the food so much.



Our pastor here has it planned for us to be ministering to the families in the church this year. Once a month we will all be getting together for an evening of fellowship.

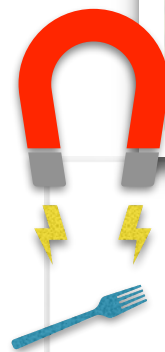
I will be preaching once in a while. I am scheduled to do so this Sunday.

I have my heart set on coming along side my new friend and helping him in his journey.

I will also be helping a young friend with his English as he's preparing for seminary.



Please be in prayer:



For S. as she picks up homeschooling again.



For S. and the kids to learn the language.



For my new fiend, as I hope to encourage and disciple him.



For our difficulties in parenting J. For our relationship with him.



For me, as I begin language school Sept. 3rd. Pray for comprehension and retention.



For us to find some cheap furniture. Our apartment was only partially furnished and we had to buy a fridge, which set us back a bit.



For the church here. It has been growing and we are looking for a new venue to meet in.



God Bless,
[Tentmakers Bible Mission](http://TentmakersBibleMission.com)