

# 當讚美祂！

記天鄰暑期兒童班

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「從日出之地到日落之處，耶和華的名是應當讚美的！」詩113:3  
這節詩句是我在河南教育隊最後一天服侍時湧現心頭的讚美。

兩年前，在教會差傳年會中聽到一位弟兄到中國孤兒院短宣，我深被感動，但想到要離開家庭兩星期，安排照顧仍在初中及小學的兒女，談何容易，於是只向父神作了一個簡單禱告：「主啊，若你呼召我參與短宣，請讓我清楚聽見你的聲音。」

沒想到，天父在兩年後回應了我的輕聲禱求，並且顯明祂的旨意是超乎我們所求所想的。原來，祂要呼召我們整個家庭一同投身短宣隊。丈夫、兒子(五年級)及女兒(八年級)在禱告後均確信這是神的計劃，就這樣我們便帶著戰兢興奮的心情作好各樣的預備。

我們的隊伍一行共有十六位隊員，分別來自港美兩地不同教會，更具有三代、三語的特色；三代是成員中包括老、中、青三個年紀的成員，其中有已退休及祖母輩的長者，以至最年輕的小學三年級成員；三語則是成員分別來自美、港、台，操英、粵及國語。多元的背景讓我們更學習靠著主恩配搭事奉。洛杉磯出發的隊員雖然與香港的隊員素未謀面，但在主的引導下，大家到達河南開始事奉時，便立即各就各位。整個星期的服侍見證著天父如何使我們彼此聯系，合而為一。

今次的服侍地點是河南省固始縣天鄰大營中心小學，對象是來參加暑期夏令班的小一至小六學生。

起程的首天我們便經歷了神的看顧。出發前一晚香港掛起了八號風球，那時部份美國隊員正由洛杉磯飛至香港，颱風可能令他們要轉往其他地方，甚至影響在河南的接載交通安排，延誤整個行程。但感謝主，八號風球在我們登機前的數小時除下，讓各人都能如期出隊。

今年若有一百三十位小孩參加夏令班，大多是來自附近村鎮小學。每個小孩都十分純真可愛，而且很喜歡學習，大清早便在學校等候上課。他們生活條件雖然非常基本，但也許這更幫助他們懂得珍惜及感恩，當我們派發木顏色筆、貼紙或簡單文具時，他們眼神中流露著感謝之情。該地大部份學童均是「留守兒童」，即父母因生計要遠赴外省，例如北京等大城市工作，小孩子唯有留守在鄉村給親人照顧，因此很多學生都是與祖父母同住，每年甚至兩年一次才能與自己的父母相聚。



我們十六人分為多個小隊，每天早上教授小一至小六英文班，然後分別負責十個不同興趣班，這包括繪畫、土風舞、衛生、美式運動、綜合科學、音樂、摺紙、故事、美國節日及營養。我們的團隊中，大部份成員並沒有專業教學經驗，要在一個陌生的地方擔任教師，負責整天的教學及活動，是極大的挑戰。但神是信實的，我們的日子如何，力量也必如何。神亦藉著我們每晚的靈修分享及代禱時間，用祂的話語激勵我們。隊員的真誠分享，叫我們彼此建立，更定睛仰望主，深切經歷著以弗所書3:20的應許：「神照著運行在我們心裡的大力，充充足足地成就一切，超過我們所求所想的。」

雖然我們不能直接向小孩傳福音，但我們盡量在課程裡加入聖經的道理及故事。此外，我們在每個英文課堂上都教授他們唱「愛的真諦」，小朋友都愛這詩歌，很快便背頌下來。看著他們天真的稚臉，我們心裡的禱告是盼望這些福音預工的種籽，往後能萌芽生長，終有一天，他們能親身經歷哥林多前書13章中那份從神而來，永不止息的愛。

在家訪的時間，我們有機會探訪一位該校老師。她獨自離家到固始縣執教，每月只有千多元薪金，生活素質非常簡樸，但卻無減她的教學熱誠，然而她也分享到學校現正面對收生率下降的挑戰。隨著經濟發展，很多農村學生改到縣城的小學就讀，所以請也為這裡的師生們代禱。

最後，在週五的結業禮當天，我們在凌晨時份被雷電及雨聲驚醒，團友們隨即同心禱告，求神憐憫改變天氣，因小朋友都排練了表演項目，一些家長亦安排前來觀禮，實在希望夏令班能圓滿結束。竟然在午後，天空不但陽光普照，連整個操場的地都是乾透的。我們的隊長於閉幕禮致謝時，也在眾人面前將榮耀歸給上帝。

踏足河南這片地土，心裡有莫名的感恩。我們每天乘車前往小學的路途上見到不少教堂，亦聽聞該地有不少家庭教會。其實，這些都是從前宣教士奉獻生命的果子，昔日無數來華傳道甚至殉道的傳教士，為愛基督，甘願犧牲自己開墾福音土壤；今天我們身為華人，又願意為中國擺上多少？

當我們執拾好行李，與大營中心小學的師生們道別時，我的兩位小孩問道：「媽媽，我們明年還可以再來嗎？」看著兒女熱忱事奉，願意被主使用，是父母的最大欣慰。回想我們一家四口膽戰心驚地參與短宣，卻在這信心建造的旅程中，獲得天父無限的祝福。誠願更多基督徒家庭能爭取一家到工場服侍，共同拓展神的國。

主的名是應當讚美的！



作者與五年級學生留影。  
Author and her fifth grade students.



作者兒子(右二)及女兒(左一)與另外兩位年輕的香港成員，他們合作無間，喜樂事奉。

The author's son (second right) and daughter (first left) worked closely and joyfully with two other young team members from Hong Kong.



團友家訪時為患病的學生及家人禱告。

At home visit, team members prayed for student and family members who were sick.



We divide up our team into various groups to teach English and interest classes including drawing, folk dance, hygiene, American sports, integrated science, music, origami, story, US holidays and nutrition. Most of us do not have professional teaching experience. This is a great challenge for us to take up intense teaching responsibilities in a strange place. But God is faithful. He promised that our strength will equal our days. In addition, we were renewed every evening through our group devotion and prayer time. The adventure simply drew us to turn our eyes upon Him. We can testify His promise in Ephesians 3:20, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."



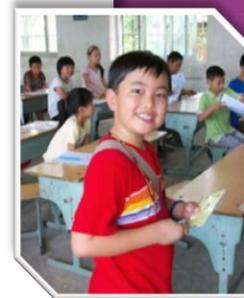
Even though we are not able to share the gospel directly with children, we try to incorporate some Bible teaching, and stories in our curriculum. Also, in each class the kids learn to sing a scripture song "True meaning of Love" (1 Corinthians 13). They like the song a lot and recite it soon. We earnestly pray that these gospel seeds sown will grow one day, leading them to experience God's everlasting love in person.

We went to a teacher's home during visitation. She has passion in teaching though receiving little financial reward and lives a frugal life. She shared her dreams and struggles with us in her extremely tiny rental unit. In fact, the school is losing students due to the economic development. Families prefer to send their kids to city school rather have them stay in the village ones. Let's pray for the school and all the teachers.



On our final day, we all woke up by the lightning and heavy rain. We have planned an outdoor closing ceremony that afternoon, which was the highlight for kids and parents. All we could do was turn our worries into prayers. Amazingly, God changed the weather drastically from thunder storm to sunshine and clear sky. The school playground floor in the afternoon was completely dry. Our team leader took this chance and gave glory to God in the closing ceremony.

My heart is over joy when I stood in the land of Henan. We passed by many church buildings and learn that there are numerous home churches in the area. This is the fruit of those early foreign missionaries who gave their lives to God for China. As a Chinese Christian in this time, what am I to give for China?



When we packed up and ready to bid farewell to teachers and students, my two kids asked, "Mom, can we come back again next year?" This is the greatest reward to a Christian mother when I see how God shape and use them. God has enabled us to step out from our comfort zone and pour down His blessing throughout this faith building journey. Pray that more Christian families will join the Mission trip and further His kingdom! His name is to be praised!



**EXALT HIM!**  
A MEMORABLE CHILDREN SUMMER PROGRAM IN CHINA  
YVONNE CHAN



Psalm 113:3 “From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.”

This verse resonated in my mind as I finished up my Henan mission trip this summer. I was deeply touched by a brother's sharing at my church's mission conference two years ago. He experience serving in a China orphanage was particularly inspiring. Yet I hesitated to respond when I learnt that I had to leave my family for two weeks. Who would help take care of my school age kids? Thus, I whispered to God praying, "Lord, let me hear your voice clearly if you want me to join mission trip."

Beyond my expectation, God answered my prayer after two years. He did not just call me, but my whole family! My husband, daughter (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and son (5<sup>th</sup> grade) all confirmed that God wanted our entire family to participate in the Henan Summer Class trip. The four of us hence fearfully prepared all that we could for the adventure. There are 16 of us in the whole team, joining from LA and Hong Kong, and representing five different churches. The team is diversified in terms of age and ethnicity. Our members range from grandparents age to the youngest one who is only in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Besides, we embody various cultures such as US, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam and more. We witness how God put together diversity in unity. Though the US team has never met the Hong Kong team, under God's guidance, we quickly took up our own roles and complemented each other in Henan.

Our serving location is the elementary school in Gushi, which HIS Foundation helped build in 2007. We served by giving a one-week summer class for kids of 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. God revealed His faithfulness on our first day. A typhoon signal no. 8 was removed right before our team's flight departure to Henan from Hong Kong. Otherwise, it would be hectic for the whole team to rearrange connecting flight and transportation in China.

There are about 130 children joining the summer class this year. Most of them attend schools of nearby villages. Each one of them is adorable and enthusiastic in learning. They came early to school every morning waiting for a new day of knowledge. The living standard there is very basic but might have made them all the more grateful. We felt a strong sense of thanksgiving when they received simple stationery such as colored pencils and stickers. Most of the kids in the area are “left behind” kids. They are left behind by their parents who need to go to big cities like Beijing to earn a living. In some cases, the kids can only see their parents once in every two years. Therefore, many kids live with their grandparents or relatives.

