

# ASIA ONE

**TEAM SIZE: 8 STUDENTS**

**TEAM LEADER: 2 STAFF**

**DATE: JUNE 2008**



Being asked for autographs and having your picture taken by passersby is not what you would typically expect to occur while visiting a country on a mission trip. However, for nine Sterling College students, along with their two team leaders, this was the case as they traveled to Asia at the beginning of June.

While in Asia, the team spent the first part of their trip at an orphanage playing with young children. They then traveled to a private school and taught English classes. The trip concluded with a trip to a mountain village where they visited the area schools and interacted with the children.

“It was different [from any other mission trip of the past] because we were not able to verbally share the gospel with people. It was all through our works and actions. We had to constantly remember that our attitudes, smiles, actions were our testimony while we were there,” Senior Natalie Gordon said.

With the country being closed to any and all evangelism, the team had to find creative ways to show the love of Christ.

“We were really struck with the reality that we didn’t want to just be another tourist that came through. We knew by brushing [the locals] aside and ignoring them that we would be acting exactly the same way that many tourists act. So we examined some ideas that would allow us to bless them in a different way” Jodi Fish said.

One method the team came up with was donating their plastic water bottles. The team had noticed how the locals would ask for their empty water bottles while they were being sold little souvenirs. Knowing they could not always purchase items, the team had decided to collect all their used water bottles and bless someone with them.

“We waited and waited [for someone to ask us for our bottles] when an older lady approached one of us and asked for a water bottle. We all crowded around her and emptied our backpacks full of water bottles into her bag. The look on her face was priceless. As her smile grew, our hearts were filled with such joy” Fish said.

Team members included Sean Atchinson, Fountain Valley, Cali., April Burns, Frisco, Tex., Naomi Dugger, Wichita, Kan., Natalie Gordon, Arvada, Colo., Jacob Kessler, Lakin, Kan. Adam Ray, Ellsworth, Kan., Megan Thomas, Ellinwood, Kan., Andrew Wolfenberger, Newton, Cali., and Brian and Jodi Fish, team leaders.

