

ASIA TWO

TEAM SIZE: 6 STUDENTS

TEAM LEADER: 2 STAFF

DATE: JUNE 2008



When the Asia 2 team returned to the States, some of their new Asian friends cried. In a culture where “saving face” and not showing emotion are highly regarded, this is unusual, and it’s a memory these team members will never forget because it showed them that Christ’s love really did shine through them despite the language barrier and restrictions.

The team served at an English language school. The first week they helped the instructors prepare for the upcoming classes by buying supplies, painting classrooms, and readying teaching supplies. The second week they led discussion groups and assisted in teaching the classes. Most of the students that second week were college professors who had a high-level grasp of the English language but who had little opportunity to practice speaking it with native-language speakers. Class topics ranged from U.S. healthcare/education to Western table etiquette, but one topic the Sterling students were not allowed to bring up was the subject of Christ.

Current junior Danielle Brocato said this wasn’t easy. “We weren’t able to share the gospel without being asked questions and we had to avoid certain ‘Christianized’ terms. All we could do was share Christ by sharing his love with the people, which is harder than it sounds.” But she found that some people would ask about Christianity, which then freed her to respond. Jerrod Adair, one of the team leaders, said that these opportunities came about because of the amount of time the team spent with their students. Not only did they talk in class, but they also shared lunches and dinners with them.

All that time paid off in close relationships, like the one they formed with Michael, a 21-year-old student who was excited to have such young teachers. Throughout the team’s time there, Michael engaged the team members in many conversations about faith and God, and, Adair said, “(W)e were able to show the love of Christ and help him get one step closer to the full knowledge of who Jesus is.”

Ashley Dowgwillo, current senior, was amazed by how quickly these relationships formed. “Most of the people we were teaching were high-level educators; it was an honor to be able to teach them. What was remarkable was their openness with us. They embraced us and were very hospitable. The bonds formed were so close that many could not hold back their emotions and began to cry at our final departure.”

Those tears showed the Sterling students that, even though they could not openly share the name of Christ, they had definitely shared His love, and it is their hope that the close



relationships formed will allow the missionaries who started the English language school to have long-term impact for Christ.

Asia 2 team members prepared for this trip by bonding themselves. They prayed and ate together, attended informational meetings about their destination, and raised funds. The end result of all this time was growth. Jerrod Adair said, “I believe all came back with a deeper understanding of who Jesus is in their lives.”



Team members included Jerrod Adair, Melissa Adair, Domingo Alonso, Danielle Brocato, Ashley Dowgwillo, Sarah Gardner, Marcus Mull, Jordan Ziegler.