

“Beyond the Barriers”

Project Salt & Light 2017

Cross-cultural Outreach Trip Project Highlights

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Have you ever had to communicate with someone who doesn't speak or understand your language? During this Project Salt & Light 2017 cross-cultural outreach trip the grade 11 Canadian student team learned how to break through the barriers of language and comfort zone, their action spoke louder than words can convey.

We have encountered many different cultural aspects during this trip, from the rural Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in China to the high density & urbanized Hong Kong, We've encountered and touched the lives of more than 500 people along the way including primary & high school students, seniors, churches, local ethnic groups and even local Community members we met on the street. I'm really proud of their courage and tenacity throughout the trip.

“Beyond the barriers” is printed on the back of our team sweat shirt. It has become the theme of this trip. During this trip when we cannot communicate with the locals in English, the sharing of song and games became the universal language that bonded us together. Sometimes the local Chinese students and even seniors were so inspired by our team's song presentation that they also responded by singing their local cultural songs back to us. Even though we do not understand each other's language at that point, but a connection is formed in our hearts which is beyond words.

This trip was truly an eye opening experience for the Canadian students learning how to serve humbly and gain a heart for other “people groups” in the world that is culturally different from their way of life in Canada.

Project Salt & Light

CRRS Canada partnered with Carver Christian High School since 2010 to conduct “Project Salt & Light”, in which CRRS lead their team of grade 11 students to experience a cross-cultural outreach trip during spring break to China or other parts of Asia. The school believes that this is an important part of the students' learning experience and self-growth.



Canadians learning Chinese calligraphy in Guangxi



Playing parachute game at school for children with special needs in Huan Jiang

Itinerary and Activity

Culture Encounters & Reflection

Day 1 - Nanning City 南寧市

Activities with children with Cerebral Palsy at Silver Lining Foundation

Communication with actions, Songs & Art

Day 2 - Du An County 都安縣

Cross cultural activities at Du An High School & Du An Yao High School

Local high school student culture

Day 3 and Day 4 - Huan Jiang County 環江縣

Cross cultural activities at Huan Jiang High School & Huan Jiang Primary School

Local high school and primary student culture

Conducted games and activities at the school for children with special needs Senior's Home Visitation, they sang local mountain songs from Mao Nan 毛南族 ethnic culture for us

Communication with actions

Local seniors & Mao Nan ethnic culture

Anneke Dresselhuis

Among the wondrous sights and diverse range of people we interacted with in China, I resonated most with the children with disabilities such as deafness, blindness and downs at the “Huan Jiang school for children with special needs”.

Through these children who could not hear, They began to cheer thunderously upon our entrance it was as if the aging concrete around them might crumble into a million pieces. But it wasn't just their voices that were loud. Their smiles exuded more than just joy, but a new and strange song, one that we don't take enough time to listen for in our “developed” society.

It was there that I connected most deeply with the people of China. There was no language barrier, because there was no audible language to muddle the beauty of human connection. For these kids, living in what looked like cages, confined by that tall Iron Gate, were more than content with the simplicity around them. And to them, games like parachute or balloons were nothing less than amusements of pure exhilaration.

After the games, they paraded us around their school with such pride because they were so grateful that it



Anneke Dresselhuis with a local child

even existed; its worn appearance did nothing to dampen their pleasure. It was then that I realized that maybe those outrageously bright walls covering the old buildings were not about these people covering up their imperfection, but acknowledging its inevitable presence in our fallen world, and making the best, most vibrant life with what they had. And perhaps we were the whitewashed tombs, with our western solutions to a problem that we had to travel so far- only to see within ourselves.

Those precious children taught me how to speak a language without words, and broke down walls deep in my heart. And after that, God began to rebuild me, this time with His own design, and He is slowly painting me in those same outrageously bright colors.



Nathaniel Cheng Primary Elementary School in Huan Jiang



Sharing a meal in school cafeteria with CRRS sponsored students in Guangxi

Nathaniel Cheng

In Guangxi, the most memorable thing we did with the local students was sharing a meal and having a great conversation with these people. We talked and laughed during these meals and in some cases, we would sing out loud in the cafeteria causing everyone else to give us a weird look. Visiting those high school and elementary school students were some of the high points for me on the trip. I wish I could go back and see some of the people I met.

Itinerary and Activity

Day 5-7 Hong Kong 香港

Culture Encounters & Reflection

Sunrise Christian Community Church: Prayer Tower	Prayer culture
Joined the Filipino service at Sunrise Christian Community Church	Filipino Christian culture
Filipino styled cuisine prepared by their congregation	
Cantonese Dim Sum Meal	Local food culture
Prayer walk at Temple Street 廟街	Drug & crime culture
Street Performance Outreach (Songs, Dance, Drama) in Mong Kok 旺角	Consumerism & public entertainment culture
Visited Grade 11 IB students at “Logos Academy 真道書院”	Local High school students & academic culture
- Made craft , share a meal of local cuisine	
- Participated in intellectual philosophical discussion	
Visited local church and prayer for local pastor in Hang Hau 坑口	Local church community culture
Presented songs, shared photos and gave gifts at a senior’s home	Hong Kong Seniors' culture
Visited wet market seeing how locals bargain and buy groceries	Local community culture
Dinner at “Go Inside Kitchen”, a social enterprise restaurant where deaf servers taught us how to use sign language to order food	Sign Language, Communication without words
Visited Wu Oi Christian Rehab Female Centre, fellowshipped with them and learned from their journey of recovery	Drug Recovery Culture



Filipino worship service at Sunrise Christian Community Church in Hong Kong



High School students in Du An

Isabel Garcia

As a Canadian born Filipino, I felt a deeper connection to the crowd I was sharing my testimony to at the Filipino service (Sunrise Christian Community Church) in Hong Kong, and although I knew that my chances of meeting these people again are one in million, I was glad to be able to leave behind a lasting story about the mystery of God’s works.



Isabel Garcia making a Chinese craft with students at Logos Academy in Hong Kong (Front left)

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Sheldon Tso

During our time in Hong Kong, we visited the notorious temple street, praying and singing praises out loud as we walked. This area was the grounds of many drug dealers, prostitutes, and gamblers. Altars to foreign gods lined the streets, and the smell of smoke and incense filled the air. However in this seemingly dark neighborhood, our group crossed paths with another Filipino church celebrating their third anniversary in a public park. Together we sang songs of praise out loud because unlike language, worship is universal.

On the same day at night we went to the busy street in Mong Kok, an area filled with street performers and shopping centers. We quickly realized we were completely outclassed by the other street performers. While others had elaborate setups and large speakers, our one amp stood no chance volume wise. However what we lacked in sound we made up for in passion. I believe what drew people to us wasn't the sound of the music, but the joy and energy in each of our faces.



Sheldon Tso(Right) & the team taking MTR in Hong Kong



Interacting with high school students in Du An



Attending memorial service at school in Du An



Temple Street prayer walk in Hong Kong



Primary School students in Huan Jiang



Wu Oi members shared their testimony and worship song with Canadian team.



Street Performance Outreach at Mong Kok in Hong Kong



Highschool students in Huan Jiang



Seniors Home in Huan Jiang

If you wish to know more about CRRS Ministry, please contact our staff at

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* Reflection from Canadian students of Carver Christian High School