

Jin Ping English Teaching Missions Trip

Janet

Jin Ping, with almost two thousand turns before we can get there, with beautiful rice fields, banana trees, and red river along the way, with different cultures from various minority groups; with high school students fighting for their best; with English teachers trying their best to teach English to the students.

This is my 4th year coming to Jin Ping. This year we have two different programs going on at the same time: English teacher enrichment program and Summer Youth Program. I am one of the trainers in the English teacher enrichment program. This year we have around 50 English teachers participating in the program. Their teaching experiences vary from kindergarten to secondary high school.

The group of teachers that teaches kindergarten really attracted our attention this year. They were a fresh bunch just graduated from university. They were energetic, willing to learn and try new ideas. They were like sponges, trying to absorb every portion of the training as much as possible. During the whole 8-10 days of training, we can exchange our teaching styles, our way of life, our values and even our belief when they asked. We mingled and developed good rapport. A closer relationship was built and can be maintained after we returned to U.S.

Throughout these years, besides providing English teaching training, we also have a goal to reach the Mien people in Jin Ping. The Mien people are one of the minority groups in Jin Ping. They are hardworking, especially for women, they are talented with embroidery in their own clothes. There is a Mien village (八一村) that we have visited for years. We have developed good relationship with the village head and the families within the village. Unfortunately we cannot really communicate with them due to language barrier.

Since last year, the brothers and sisters in the Bay Area get involved with the English project. This year they even brought their young people to come along. That's why we can start the Summer Youth Program. Although the youth are American born, they speak Mien language. We sincerely thank them for their remarkable involvement in this English project.