

This was my 2nd trip with CRRS to 云南 as an English trainer. This trip was just as spiritually fulfilling, intellectually stimulating and culturally enriching as my 1st in 2008 to 文山. It was with much gratitude that the curriculum was matured with much preparation already in place so trainers such as myself were able to focus on our job of training and building our relationships with the trainees.

I was already impressed when I observed on the first day that the English comprehension level of the trainees as a group was much improved from the group back in 2008. The trainees continued to be impressive with their efforts in trying new teaching methods we introduced and willingness to be honest and open with their sharing and opinions. It was very gratifying to see that their efforts and hard work paid off. When the training program came to a close, their English speaking skills in all 3 classes have markedly improved overall.

Although I have taught English in various capacities in Hong Kong and in China, it has been at least 4 years since I last taught it. Hence, I enjoyed the challenge when the trainees asked thought provoking questions and presented grammatical errors that needed correction through thorough explanation. I am so thankful to have been teamed up with Geoff and Cindy on the red team. Their combined knowledge and excellent handle on English grammar was beneficial for the trainees in getting various native speaker perspectives.

As a matter of fact, I am thankful for the entire team of trainers. Laura, Susan, and Tony's well preparation of the curriculum in advance made the entire training experience less stressful and more relaxing for me. Elizabeth's beautiful voice in leading us through worship moved my spirit to feel God's love and a reminder that we don't need a church to experience Him. I am thankful for Irena and Erika's natural and effortless connection with the trainees enabling me to experience the trainees' hospitality, warmth, sincerity, and gratitude. Thank you Ann, my roomy, for your diligence before, during, and even after the training. Your coordination in overseeing the entire schedule made our daily transition smooth and untaxing.

Last but certainly not least, I am thankful for the Chinese government for letting me have this opportunity of cultural exchange with the local English teachers. I learned about the Chinese education of elementary and secondary students as well as local customs of the 苗, 壮, and 瑶 minorities. I left with the upmost admiration for the dedication and love of the English teachers for their students not only as teachers but also as nurturers, nurses, counselors and mentors in the dormitories. From this trip, I appreciate the renewal sense of kinship for my motherland and fellow Chinese that no matter where in the world we reside, we share the same dreams of betterment through diligence, pursuit of happiness, and values of love, honor, and kindness in the name humanity. God willing, I hope to return to China in 2013 to see my new Chinese friends again.

Thank you CRRS. It's been an honor working with you all.