

EVERGREEN UPDATE

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SUMMER ENGLISH CAMPS A HUGE SUCCESS

By Judy Perry



Kevin Erickson teaches a sports class.

As someone observed recently, “Everyone and his dog want to learn English.” In order to help meet the felt need of every parent we come in contact with, and to provide the opportunity for short-term service to a few of the many wishing to volunteer in China, the

Yuci Evergreen Team

organized an English Camp for two weeks this July. A team came from Australia and taught college students and teachers for one week, and the next week teams from Canada and the USA came to teach high school and junior high age students.

Assisting the teams were the English student interns who have been working with Evergreen since April. The interns finished their

first project, a small book entitled, “Yuci for Dummies”—a guidebook for first time visitors, just in time for the visitors to use it during their stay in Yuci. The teams also served as guinea pigs for the interns, providing them with their first experience of dealing with foreigners who did not speak Chinese and who had no idea how to get around on their own to mail letters, change money, do laundry and buy chocolate. The revised version of the book is much better, thanks to the teams’ input.

The main distinction in these classes from others offered in the area was that we offered the students a fun and lively environment in which to learn English and culture, and also included games and sports. Unhindered by jet lag, the Australians, led by Suzanne Rowe, were always going, teaching actively from 8 am to noon, going out with the interns and

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WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE ENGLISH CAMP?

“This summer I was very happy to join in the English activity which gave me an opportunity to study with foreign teachers. As I improved my spoken English, I felt very happy. The teachers from Australia were very active. I found studying English in the environment they created to be very pleasant. They worked so hard that I was moved deeply. We also did a lot of interesting games and learned some English songs. I learned about the culture of Australia and about their lives. This activity is very useful to me. I now know how to improve my English in the future. I need to speak more. Before this activity I was afraid of speaking any English words. But now I have more confidence. As I think back on the week, I feel like the teachers are my friends. So I thank the teachers, and I even thank Evergreen. They made so much effort to offer so wonderful an opportunity.”

Student Zhang Xuejun shares her impressions of the summer teams.

“This has been a special experience for us, whether we have been acting as English interns with Evergreen, English students, or assistants to the visiting foreign English teachers. We spent our first week with the Australian teachers as their students. They were so extroverted it surprised us so much; their interesting way of teaching attracted everyone. As assistants of the Canadian teachers, we had a different role; we helped them to teach students, and in this way, we had an even different experience. They gave every student a piece of paper and on each paper were different situations. The student had to act out the situation by himself or with another student. Everyone used his imagination to act out these situations, and his performance was excellent. We had a very good time with the foreigners.”

The interns are in a special training program that the Evergreen Yuci Office is offering to young Chinese to help them improve their skills so that they can get better jobs.

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UNDERSTANDING MIGRANT WORKERS

AN INTERVIEW WITH HNGR INTERN JEAN TSAI



Jean (right) enjoyed her time getting to know workers in Yuci.

This year Evergreen is privileged to host an intern from Wheaton College's Human Needs and Global Resources (HNGR) program. Jean joined us in June and spent the past three months researching the needs of migrant workers in Yuci. She is now working on research in Taiyuan.

Q: Why research migrant workers?

The migrant workers make up a major social group in China. They are the people with a rural

hukou (household registration) that have moved to the cities to work and live. These people are a major concern to China because they make up the bottom rung of urban society. They are subjected to discrimination and prejudice, and a lot of services are unavailable to them because they don't have money and urban *hukous*. I wanted to find out more about their problems to come up with ideas that Evergreen can do to help them.

Q: Why should Evergreen care about these people?

There were 99 million migrant workers in China at the end of 2003 and the government is planning to move that number up to 200 million by 2010. They are and will be even more of a major social group in need of people to have compassion on them. Without

understanding their problems, how could we come alongside them and serve them?

Q: So what are some of the major problems they face?

They have problems adjusting to the city coming from a rural village. They have a lack of social support system unless they come in groups. One woman I interviewed stayed home and watched TV and was extremely homesick because she had no other friends to identify with her. The local urban people do not understand their problems and often look down on them. The Chinese culture of *guanxi* (connections) makes them feel as if they don't need to sign contracts so they may get their salary withheld from them by their employers. These workers also have to work long hours in bad conditions. Eleven hours a day, seven days a week is very common. Parents also have to work extremely hard to survive in the city, so the children are left alone for most of the day. Family members are separated from each other since only some go to make more money in the cities while others stay behind for a cheaper life in the village.

Q: What do you think Evergreen could do to serve these people?

Evergreen could set up support groups for migrant workers to have a safe place to build relationships with each other and form their own community. Evergreen can set up mentoring programs for their kids to give them some role models to follow. Setting up an affordable daycare for migrant children would also help the childcare problems. The most important thing is to build relationships with them and love them like Jesus would through these interactions.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."
Isaiah 55:9

Peter and Valborg Torjesen (Norwegians with China Inland Mission in Hequ, Shanxi Province) read Isaiah 55:9 on December 14, 1939. That same day, Peter was killed when Japanese bombed their home and church where at times up to 1,000 refugees and wounded were sheltered. In her grief, Valborg heard God say: *"You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."* John 13:7

Little did Peter's four children guess that 50 years later in 1990, they would attend the dedication of a monument honoring their beloved Far and be invited by Chinese officials to return to Shanxi to work in the spirit of Peter Torjesen.

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students in the afternoons, and teaching three evening classes during the week for the Young Adult Professionals Club members and other friends of Evergreen. The Canadians, led by Janet Sio and Brian Lim, though hindered by jet lag and illness, still had an energetic and varied program. The American team, led by Kevin Erickson, taught the youngest students with the most limited English, the most challenging class of all. The evaluations by the students for all three teams were very favorable though most felt that a week was too short. They wanted

more! Even the youngest students reported to their parents that even though they couldn't communicate because of limited ability, they actually wanted to be able to speak in English because of the camp. One of the most interesting responses was "You are good sport! Great job!" I agree. Our thanks to all those who participated and made this year's English Camp a huge success.

Judy Perry is a nurse and is part of the Medical Team. She lives and works in Yuci.

SHAN XI CITY PROFILE—TAIYUAN

City Population: 3.15 million (municipality); 2.39 million (urban center)

Main People Group: Predominantly Han Chinese

Primary Language: Mandarin with local dialectical variations

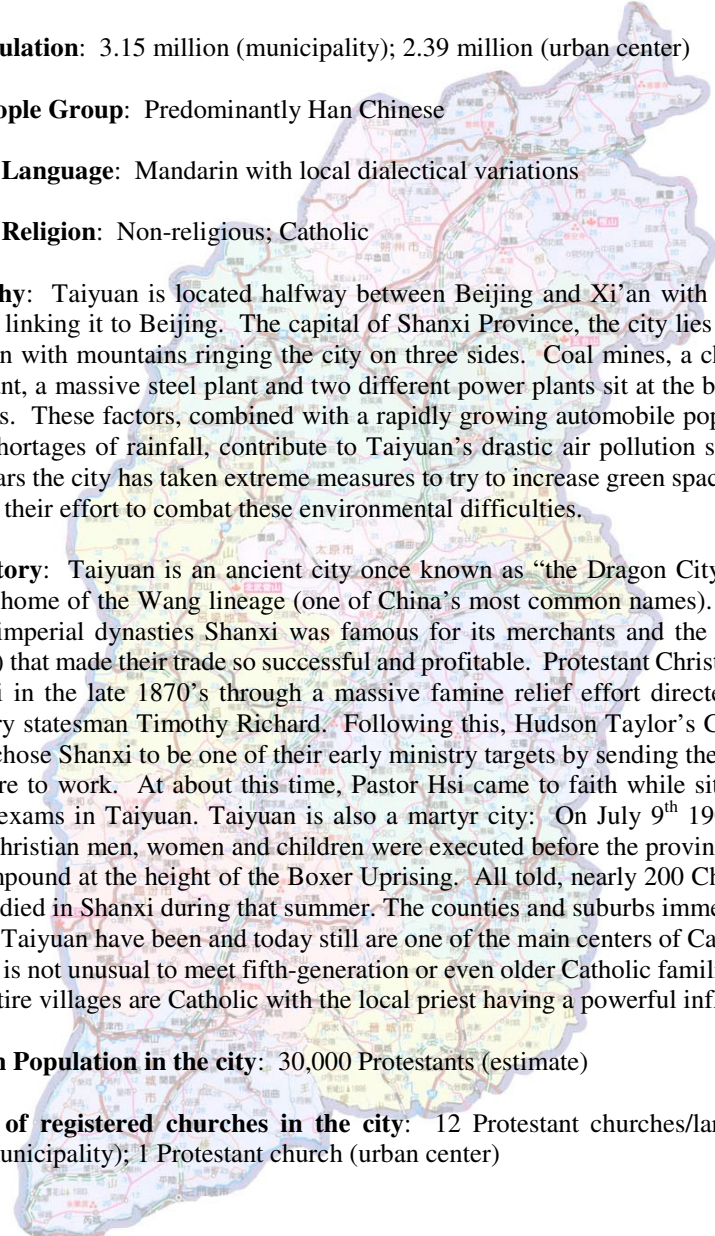
Primary Religion: Non-religious; Catholic

Geography: Taiyuan is located halfway between Beijing and Xi'an with a major expressway linking it to Beijing. The capital of Shanxi Province, the city lies in a narrow depression with mountains ringing the city on three sides. Coal mines, a chemical fertilizer plant, a massive steel plant and two different power plants sit at the base of those mountains. These factors, combined with a rapidly growing automobile population and general shortages of rainfall, contribute to Taiyuan's drastic air pollution situation. In recent years the city has taken extreme measures to try to increase green space in the city as part of their effort to combat these environmental difficulties.

City History: Taiyuan is an ancient city once known as "the Dragon City." It is the ancestral home of the Wang lineage (one of China's most common names). During the last few imperial dynasties Shanxi was famous for its merchants and the early banks (*piaohao*) that made their trade so successful and profitable. Protestant Christianity came to Shanxi in the late 1870's through a massive famine relief effort directed by noted missionary statesman Timothy Richard. Following this, Hudson Taylor's China Inland Mission chose Shanxi to be one of their early ministry targets by sending the Cambridge Seven here to work. At about this time, Pastor Hsi came to faith while sitting for the imperial exams in Taiyuan. Taiyuan is also a martyr city: On July 9th 1900 some 45 foreign Christian men, women and children were executed before the provincial government compound at the height of the Boxer Uprising. All told, nearly 200 Christian missionaries died in Shanxi during that summer. The counties and suburbs immediately surrounding Taiyuan have been and today still are one of the main centers of Catholicism in China. It is not unusual to meet fifth-generation or even older Catholic families; in many places entire villages are Catholic with the local priest having a powerful influence.

Christian Population in the city: 30,000 Protestants (estimate)

Number of registered churches in the city: 12 Protestant churches/large meeting points (municipality); 1 Protestant church (urban center)



The Evergreen Purpose is:

To assist Shanxi and other Chinese Provinces by:

- *Developing public benefit services for the common people,*
- *Continuing the good works of Ye Yongqing (Leaf Evergreen, i.e. Peter Torjesen),*
- *Acknowledging God's gracious calling in our lives and*
- *Reflecting the credibility of Christ.*

EVERGREEN WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

In August, Evergreen welcomed new members **Mike** and **Ashley Stern** to the China team. Mike is from Decatur, Illinois and graduated from Bob Jones University with a degree in political science and history. He is also working to complete a Masters in Public Policy from the Korean Development Institute in Seoul, Korea. Ashley is from Casper, Wyoming and graduated from Northland College with a degree in counseling. Mike worked as an English teacher in Taiyuan for two years from 1995-1997. He then taught history at an international school in Korea where he met Ashley who was teaching English. After they married, they went back to Korea

in 2000 and continued to work there until 2003. They have three children: **Drew** age 4, **Cora** age 3 and **Colin** age 8 months.

Please pray for the Sterns as they begin language study in Taiyuan and settle into life in Shanxi.



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Tax deductible contributions can be made in Australia, Canada and the USA.

18-minute NTSC format videos about Evergreen are now available for US\$5 or \$10 Canadian. Please contact the North America office.

Dr. Alice Chen returned to Yangqu in July from a year of home leave in Canada.

Thomas and Loni Dreyer enjoyed a short summer home leave in Germany.

Deborah Solberg resigned from Evergreen due to family concerns and returned to Illinois in August. She will be greatly missed.

This summer Evergreen hosted many short-term workers in addition to the teams teaching at Yuci's English Camp (see cover article, "Summer English Camps a Huge Success").

Jennifer Heffernan from Colorado spent the month of July in Yuci teaching English. Newlyweds **Raymond** and **Wendy Lee**, an agriculturalist and a middle school teacher from California, spent two weeks assisting various programs in Yangqu. **Ian Lau**, a public health graduate student from Canada contributed valuable work on the tuberculosis study in

Yuci. Two teams from **Maryland** led various English programs in Taiyuan and Yangqu including a special VBS program for the Evergreen kids!

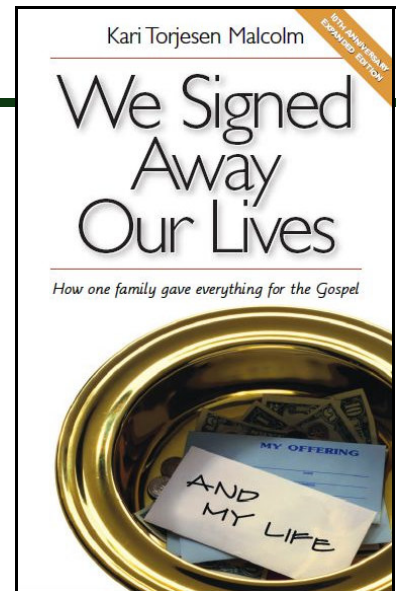
It is a delight of our small world that family members can visit the field. **Mark Strand's** mother, brother-in-law and nephew visited the Strand family in July and interns **Joel** and **Diana Davidse** welcomed Joel's parents **Jacques** and **Liasbeth** in August.

Petra de Ruiter along with Chinese staff have conducted health education seminars in nine villages this summer.

The Medical Team taught 120 doctors in an intensive three day training in Family Practice. **Dr. Andrew Perrett**, a British physician working in Beijing, was a special guest lecturer.

BACK IN PRINT!

We Signed Away Our Lives, the story of the Torjesen family in Shanxi, is now back in print! Kari Torjesen Malcolm's original story has been updated with a new afterword by Finn Torjesen and an additional chapter by Andrew Kaiser. This special tenth anniversary edition of the book is available from Evergreen's U.S. office for a price of \$15 including shipping within the U.S. and for \$20 Canadian including shipping to Canada (ask for details on how to order books for other countries). Please contact us at effs@pcisys.net or call (719) 495-1032 to order your copies. Your purchase through Evergreen further supports this work in China.



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