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Subject: I'm standing on holy ground!

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Hello!

I had the best walk today that you could ever imagine! I was on a mission to buy hangers so that I could hang up my clothes. Never did find any, so the search continues! But I found other much more important things!!!

With map in hand I decided to walk north from the hotel to see how close I am to "our" old mission properties. Can you believe that the church and Dodo's house is within about a 10 minute walk! One long block north and then a few steps to the east is where the church is. The church is surrounded by tall apartment buildings. But right to the east of the church is the Jiaozhou Hospital. I think that's a pretty good use of mission property, don't you think? There are still some old hutongs around the church which are from the old times. I was wondering if old Feng still lives in his old house. I'm sure I'll find out one of these days. If he still lives there, I could walk to his house!! I will have Judy (one of our Chinese friends) help me call the Fengs tomorrow when she comes here from Qingdao.

Across the main street is the only remaining old school building. I took some pictures of it. Across from there is the "field" which is now filled with apartment buildings. As I walked up and down these streets and alleys it made me realize that this was home -- and by chance or providence the school decided to put me up in this hotel right near our home! Isn't that cool?!

I pulled out the old map of Jiaozhou that Lally had made for us a few years ago -- and I will go and see if I can figure out where Siguan (Farmor and Farfar's house) would have been. It has to be within a stone's throw from the hotel! I think that old Feng could probably help me identify the approximate location of some of these places.

You know the song "We're standing on holy ground"! Well, today I felt that I was walking on holy ground! That melody kept ringing through my mind and I found myself humming as I walked along! "I'm standing (walking) on holy ground, and I know there are angels all around.....for we are standing in His presence on holy ground"! Never have I felt it so strongly -- that THIS is where we lived and played as young kids. I truly felt the presence of "those who have gone before us" -- Farmor, Farfar, Mother and Dad, Oscar and Hellen, and, of course, us kids.

I will send you a few pictures of my day's explorations in a different email.

Love you!

Mom/Meta/Margie/Margareta