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Subject: To Family 9/5/10

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To Family 9/5/10

Judy returned from her visit with her uncle and then had contacted a friend who wanted to take us to dinner. Xu Ying, 39, is a famous Chinese poet, who has published quite a few books. She and a friend of hers came and picked us up to take us to dinner. This was more of a home style restaurant, but we still had to point out the food that we wanted to have cooked. Among other things we ate a rice porridge, a couple of seaweed dishes, sliced liver (!!), and two types of steamed buns. After the meal Xu Ying asked us to come to her apartment for coffee and fruit.

Xu's apartment is in a rather modern high rise apartment. The stairwell was completely dark and we walked up 5 flights of stairs (no elevator). Inside, her apartment was very nice and roomy. She is married and has a 16 year old daughter who lives at her school, even though it is only blocks away from her home. Xu began bringing out many Chinese art books, philosophy books, and poetry books. She is quite a talented artist herself. She served us strong coffee, peaches, apples and grapes. The night crept up on us and we didn't get back to the hotel till around 12 AM. The two ladies were really very delightful.

Xu had the photo book about Jiaozhou that is filled with Dad's pictures. However, this is a hardback book and has a book cover that shows the old map of Jiaozhou. It is quite beautiful! The Chinese text has been translated into English -- but the translation is horrible!!! Among other things they state that Farmor's name is Hed weige Lianel. (Should be Hedvig Rinell). ALL other names were also misspelled! They stated that Hedvig died in Switzerland!!! I believe this is the edition of the book that my new little friend, Liu Lin's father has published!!! I will try to get us a copy at some point!

This morning, Sunday, we were met by Dr. Gong and his niece, Martha. We entered the church around 8.15 -- and the church was filled and they were singing hymns. They had saved the front row for our group. I might add, that since Lally is not on this trip, I have been given the honor of being the "old honored guest", but am still introduced as Bebe (Baby!!!) or as Lally's meimei (little sister). These folks LOVE Lally!!!

Pastor Deng Jie preached and old Pastor Cheng Yu Xua participated with a prayer and the benediction. Pastor Deng was very animated -- and even if I could not understand his words, I

certainly felt his spirit!! He kept preaching for 55 minutes.

After the church service, in came the TV cameras!! Oh my! Two teams of Jiaozhou TV came to video this event. They followed us around as we took a look around the property. One of the stations asked me to tell why I was here -- which I did, standing outside with Dodo's house and the church in the background. I don't think they will really play this on TV, but someone said they were going to the school to film more tomorrow! I really don't like this attention!!!

We spent about an hour in Dodo's living room drinking tea and chatting. The group consisted of Pastor Deng, Martha and Dr. Gong, Judy, and the two Feng brothers. Then we all walked across the street to a restaurant where Pastor Deng provided another lavish meal for all of us.

In this restaurant, we walked past buckets and huge pans of fish, shrimp, octopus, etc. as well as vegetables, tofu and other meats. Pastor Deng chose our food and we sat in an upstairs room waiting to be served. The meal lasted from 11 AM to 2.30 PM!!! Every person had to "gambei" and speak -- most of them many times!!! They shared many things about our family and how Jiaozhou would not have known about Christ if it hadn't been for them. They spoke about the difficulties they had experienced during the cultural revolution. They discussed what the Trinity meant -- and who we really pray to when we pray (to God, the Father, the Holy Spirit or Jesus)! Even though I could not understand all the words, it was amazing to see their excitement and how they "preached" at each other!! The Chinese have a real tendency to shout and be very loud -- they are definitely heard!!! When we went downstairs into the large room where all the food was laid out in buckets on the floor -- the food was just covered up by cloth sheets! No refrigeration -- and I wondered what the health department would have said!! So far my stomach is great!

Judy and Martha walked me back to the hotel and then left for their trip back home to Qingdao. It was a full weekend -- and it feels good to be on my own for a few hours this afternoon and evening. I have a feeling that Liu Lin might show up!! She wants to shadow me at the school, but I think that's not a good idea for the first days when I start my teaching. I have enough to worry about not to have to entertain her!! But I know she means well!

I figure that I need to have a back up plan for tomorrow in case the power point or their computer doesn't work!!!! Not so easy to make copies of dialogs either. It'll be another interesting day tomorrow!

Love you all,

Mom/Meta/Margie/Margareta