

## Neil Lamm- Mission Trip to China

I was unsure about what to expect, not about the physical things in the country, how it looks, what type of food they had, but more about the spiritual side of things. This wasn't a short term mission trip necessarily so we didn't have specific plans. My friend is a missionary in China. He lives there and teaches at a university. I stayed with him for two weeks and spent time at the home of a missionary family. I wasn't sure what type of ministry we were going to be involved in. It turned out to be even more exciting than I had expected. Basically, my role in the week was to experience how long term missionaries live. It was so inspiring to me to see the heart that the missionary family had for serving God. In a place like China you are prohibited by law to openly evangelize so relationship building is essential for reaching others for Christ. You get to know someone and through your friendship you ease Christianity in. Eventually you get them involved in one of the underground churches. The underground church wasn't at all what I had expected. I was able to actually experience a church service the day I left. It was so inspiring to me. A service in English would be held in the morning for the missionaries and later an afternoon service would be given in Chinese. The church actually met in their apartment and during worship we all sang as loudly as we could. It was truly incredible. By spending my time with Chinese students, hanging out with other students in town, or even talking to restaurant owners I was able to really see the importance of long term missionaries. My heart and respect for them has truly increased. I've come to realize that long term missionaries are especially needed in countries like China. While visiting I realized the importance of building each other up as Christ's body. My friend thanked me for coming and kept saying what an encouragement I was, which was confusing to me because I was just hanging out with him. I began to realize how draining life can be sometimes. Our role as the body of Christ is to see when people fall and struggle we are to reach out and lift them up. This was an amazing trip and I praise God for every second of it.