



幼稚园新闻

kindergarten news

二〇〇八年七月

Dear friends and family:

July has been a fun, relaxing, and "critter-full" month for me here in China. Pictures will tell it best this month, so I won't waste space getting started. Sorry to be running a bit late. Enjoy!

A



My friend visiting from America helped make the month fly by. It was fun to team-teach with her again, even if it was short-lived. Check out this girl's paper glasses – they are a reminder that somebody sees her all the time, and it's not "big brother."



This is a special English school set up for after regular school hours, including weekends. Our topic this particular day was "clothing." A fun game was having as many students as possible tell me "I want the hat and skirt," or "I want the t-shirt and shorts." Then they had to race to put them on. It was a lot of fun, but very, very HOT!



Here I am receiving my order of chicken and fish in our make believe restaurant...I ordered something entirely different. © My friend caught these guys in the act of enjoying their English class – sometimes just getting the little ones to smile can take a while – to get them to laugh (which makes them look forward to the next English class) is as much a part of my “teaching English” job as actually teaching English. I am really enjoying this aspect of my job...can you tell?



Beautiful Mt. Emei (Um-May) is considered one of the one of the most beautiful and sacred mountains in Sichuan province. During a few of my days off, my friend and I took a bus...or two...or three to travel to the highest peak.

The picture at left shows part of a crowd of hundreds of people who got up before dawn, trekked up several hundred stairs in the dark, took a cable car to the peak and waited in the cold for the sun to rise. Just as surely as a cheer erupted around us when the sun finally peeked through the fog below, someday, a cheer will arise from this province for the one who makes the sun rise in all it's splendor.

NOW FOR THE CRITERS...



Here I am feeding a “Rescued Moon Bear” a dried piece of mango – yum. At right is one of the most famous of the rescued Moon Bears, “Jasper.” It seems like he’s smiling, doesn’t it? He is known as the peace maker among the rescued bears. Why “rescued?” Because Moon Bears are “milked” to make medicines, potions, and elixirs in traditional Chinese medicine. Unfortunately, their living conditions in captivity would turn anyone’s stomach so they are being systematically rescued with government approval. Their farmers are compensated and taught new ways to grow crops or use other means to supply necessary ingredients for the traditional medicines. I had never heard of Moon Bears or why they were needed for traditional medicine until I went to the rescue facility. Silly me, I thought we were going to a zoo or “reserve.”



At left is a "Red Panda," – my first time to ever see one at the world famous Panda Reserve located in my city. I could have taken a picture with it for only USD\$50 – a little too steep for my budget. And while I'm mentioning it, I could have taken a photo with a small panda for only USD\$150 – way over my price range. So if you ever come to visit and want to get your picture holding a panda, you're gonna hae to spend some mooo-la.



The picture at left is probably one you'd expect to see at the Panda Reserve...but the picture at right? Well, as it turns out, pandas like to climb (of course, slowly – they do everything slowly), so sleeping in a tree isn't unusual for a panda..

MODES OF TRANSPORT...



No need for a U-Haul trailer here!



Mobile fruit stand!



Thought I would end this update with a very common sight that often makes visitors smile.



Thanks for visiting...that's all folks!

P. S. – All my best wishes Timo and his family, my buddies from Zimbabwe. Timo, I smile every time I think of "Elephant Ivory," and Summons 2006 – because of you! **Thanks to all our mutual friends who mobilized for times of remembering him and his family during the past few weeks.**

Having a blast, but looking forward to my trip home, October 1-24, 2008. Hope to see you...