



## Letters from the Mission Field

June 2016



After days of filling out grant applications and paperwork it's starting to wear on me, Is this what ministry has become now? Filling out forms and feeling like a bean counter?

I push away from my desk. When I start feeling discouraged I know it's time for a hike at Stone Mountain. Once we get there I strap Penelope in her back pack like carrier and we head up the trail.



We're about half way up when I feel it. One single raindrop hits. And then another and another until I'm forced to seek shelter under the trees.

I'm alone watching the rain flood down the steep granite side. Upset that I'd decided against bringing the poncho, when I see a Chinese lady coming towards us.



"Nihao." I say when she huddles under the trees with me.

Her face lights up. "OH! Nihao! I saw you carrying your baby and thought you could use this." She offers her raincoat to me. I look back at P who's enjoying the splashes of water but say, " Oh yes, let's see if she'll wear the hood." P's fine with the lady placing the protection over her.

"I'm Ashley and this is Penelope." I offer my hand.

"I'm Jennie." And from there we launch into conversation. By the time the rain has stopped, I feel like I know her life story. She moved to America in 2000 with her 16 year old daughter, Amy, after her divorce. She confides in me that she and her daughter both love to sing in the church choir but recently her daughter has moved back to China with her husband and says she doesn't have time for church any more.



"Amy is older now and she's not upset with me any more about the divorce. It was hard when she was a teenager but now we can talk like friends." Jennie pauses and shakes her head, " She was so excited about being baptized and singing in the choir but now suddenly she says she doesn't care."

"Can I pray for her?" I ask and we bow our heads together praying that the Lord will send someone to bring Amy to know Christ and His love. We pray for her safe travels as she flies back to the US this summer and I pray that Jennie says just what Amy needs to hear.

Jennie looks up at me and her face is wet with tears. "Thank you!" She grabs both my hands in hers, "Thank you."

Sitting in my car I feel the Lord tell me, "Ministry isn't about the paperwork, it's about the people work!" AMEN!



Love, Ashley, Miles and P



P is six months old ! She loves to go on hikes and swing at the park. We are going on our first family vacation Florida next week. I can't wait to take her to feel the ocean. She's sitting up by herself and is crawling everywhere! Her favorite foods right now are cornbread and cherry banana applesauce.

