

## Second Week

During our second week in Anshan six teachers from my class took me to dinner and then for a walk in the park we visited last Sunday. This time it was evening after sunset rather than just before noon. The photos at the right are of the main entrance. The daytime image shows a monument with an interior that is a map of the Anshan area and its main roads. The nighttime image shows people enjoying themselves in the evening air.



These are the teachers in my classroom in Anshan.



Late Friday morning we all gathered in the lobby of the school for a time of singing together. There was much enthusiasm. I heard that Chinese teachers rarely, if ever, get times to have fun together. We will likely do this again next Friday morning.

On Saturday morning some of us went on a trip to a museum in the nearby city of Liaoyang. It was well equipped to display archaeological artifacts from the Stone Age up to recent centuries. It covered Bronze and Iron periods as well as pottery styles. As one of my interests was in coins, I took photos of the molds used for making the old Chinese bronze coins with the square holes in them. I also took photos of a large pile of old coins that had been found in a pit. 36 different coin types were found among those coins that were examined. Of course, the interior of the pile was still intact. Some of the photos are on the next page.



Saturday afternoon one of our American teachers, Joni, and her Chinese friend Yang Miao Ting went into some nearby mountains. They saw this young owl, a Northern Boobook (*Ninox japonica*),



surrounded by a crowd of people taking photos of it. Miao Ting took these. I have not yet seen this species.



My good find was on Sunday morning when this Beijing Babbler was singing and giving me many good views. It is sparrow sized with a long tail. (*Rhopophilus pekinensis*) It is now species number 1179 on my Lifetime List of birds that I have seen and identified in the wild. (There are about ten thousand species in the world.)

One of the interesting fruits here in China is the dragon fruit. It is soft and juicy like a giant strawberry or tiny watermelon. The photos show the outside and interior. It tastes like a melon.





On Sunday we happened to arrive at the church at the same time as another team from our organization. They were 7 young college students in the Engage program. So we chatted and then went inside, climbing the stairs to the main level. It was too crowded there, so we went further upstairs. That was also crowded, but we fit and did not need to climb to the third level. Video from the main level was projected onto three screens with full sound. The talk was on John 1: 19-42. There were also small rooms in the rear of all three levels for additional people. The ground floor had offices and study rooms. There was a small bookstore at the rear of the ground level.

Afterwards while waiting outside the front of the church I eventually noticed a pattern in the tiles covering the ground. The Chinese character at the top center of the view to the left is "an" meaning peace. So I took several of these photos, all at an angle to the ground and none showing the entire pattern. Since I had the computer software to distort the photos to simulate the view as if directly down from the sky above, I did so and assembled the pieces into a mosaic.



The other Chinese character appears to be "ping". If so, then "ping an" means safety, peaceful, quietude. That seems appropriate for a church entrance. The words are "TANG HUA LU", but I do not yet know the meaning. There seems to be a dove at the bottom.

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