

WINDOW TO CHINA

Highlights of CCAI's First back to China *Heritage Tour*

A journey that began with adoption led nine families to an adventure in China. On October 1, 1999, twenty three adults and twelve children, age two and a half to five took off with Joshua on October 1, 1999 to start an around China Heritage Tour. The next twelve unforgettable days took us to the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, the Terra Cotta Soldiers in Xian, the West Lake, Soul Hiding Temple and Six Harmony Pagoda in Hangzhou, Elephant Trunk Mountain, Flute Cave and Li River Cruise in Guilin... and, of course, a lot of shopping in Hong Kong.

We had the wonderful opportunity to watch an Acrobatic Show, Beijing Operation, Tang Dynasty Dance and Ethnic Traditional Dance. We were served with the famous ten-course Beijing Duck and the twelve-course Dumpling Banquet, plus eight-course dishes for lunch and dinner every day! We ate so much Chinese food that we could not wait to rush to McDonald's when we landed in Hong Kong!

The most life changing experience for all of us was our visit to the Xi'an Orphanage. We had the rare opportunity to walk through every child care rooms from the 1st to the 4th floor. Adopted children in our group distributed toys and candies to their new friends. They taught them how to give hi-fives. We touched, hugged and kissed every infant in all the cribs. Our visit brought so much laugh and joy to the 200 children there. Our group donated \$500 worth of infant formula to the orphanage. The two hours visit went so fast that no one wanted to leave. We wished to bring all these children home with us...

By the way, all the children were absolutely thrilled when we paid a visit to half a dozen cute pandas at the Beijing Zoo. Some pandas were showing off their skill, some were running around, and some were sleeping and simply ignoring all the visitors' "Hello" and "How are you doing".

"This is the trip of a life time. It gives us and our children a much better understanding and appreciation of the Chinese culture".