



# China Vision Trip

**October 18-29, 2011**

Registration Deadline: June 30, 2011

Cost: \$3,250 + airfare

Airfare approx \$1,500 from Grand Rapids, Michigan

## **Tue& Wed: October 18 & 19**      **Arrival**

Depart the US and arrive in Beijing (we lose one day to time/date changes). We will settle into our hotel and get some much needed rest.

## **Thu: October 20**      **Beijing**

Visit the *Great Wall of China*. Stand with humility on a man made world wonder that is thousands of years old.

Visit the Olympic Stadium called the "*Bird's Nest*". The opening and closing Olympic ceremonies were held here, and were viewed by millions of people world wide. You will also have the opportunity to visit the *Cloisonne Factory*, famous for his handmade crafts.

## **Fri: October 21**      **Beijing**

Tour *Tiananmen Square* and the *Forbidden City*. Tiananmen Square is approximately 440,000 square meters (equivalent of almost 63 football fields) and has become a relaxing place for people to fly kites and walk. Here, we will see the Tiananmen Tower, Monument to the People's Heroes, Great Hall of the People, Mao Zedong Memorial Hall and the national flag raising ceremony.

Visit the Forbidden City or, Gu Gong in Chinese. This was the imperial palace during the Ming and Qing dynasties. It is the world's largest palace complex and covers almost 30 acres. After dinner, we will enjoy the spectacular *Acrobat show*.

If time permits, you will also have the chance to enjoy the Hutong Tour, a tour of "every day life" in China via rickshaw, as well as an acrobatic show in the afternoon.

## **Sat: October 22**      **Zhengzhou**

Depart for Zhengzhou.

Our morning will be spent with children living in the Jingeng Hospital outside of Zhengzhou. Bethany is partnering with this hospital in an effort to identify adoptive families for the children.

Our afternoon will be spent with foster families in Zhengzhou. Bethany is supporting this foster care program, and has already witnessed the positive impact it is having on the children and the community.

## **Sun: October 23**      **Xi'an**

Depart for Xi'an by bullet train.

Today we will tour Xi'an. Xi'an is the capital of the Shaanxi province and is one of the four great ancient capitals of China. As one of the oldest cities in Chinese history, Xi'an has been the capital of some of China's

most important dynasties, including Zhou, Zin, han Sui, and Tang dynasties. We will have the opportunity to tour the Ming Dynasty Wall, and do some shopping at local markets.

**Mon: October 24** **Xi'an**

Spend a full day viewing the spectacular Terra Cotta Warrior statues. The Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses are the most significant archeological excavations of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A group of peasants uncovered pottery while digging for a well nearby the royal tomb in 1974. It caught the attention of the archeologists immediately. They have established that these artifacts were associated with the Qin Dynasty (211-206 BC).

**Tue: October 25** **Chengdu**

Depart for Chengdu.

We will visit Changdu orphanage, as well as Bethany foster families. Bethany has been invited to begin a foster care program in Changdu in response to our tremendous success in other locations.

**Wed: October 26** **Chengdu**

We will visit the Giant Panda Breeding Research Base. We will see and learn about these gentle and endangered creatures. Over 80 pandas live at the base, including red pandas and the more famous giant panda.

Depart for Shanghai.

**Thu: October 27** **Shanghai**

We will walk along the *Bund*, a symbol of Shanghai, and will spend time at the Oriental Pearl Tower. We will then have a wonderful experience on the *Huangpu River Cruise*, enjoying the beautiful scenery and lights along the Huangpu River.

**Fri: October 28** **Shanghai**

Shanghai is best known for its cosmopolitan atmosphere. Shanghai has the best of both worlds. It will take us from one extreme of innovative progress, technology and a thriving financial environment, to the opposite extreme of thousands of years of tradition and architecture.

While we are in Shanghai we will visit *Xin Tian Di*, a popular destination among foreigners for food and shopping. Here, you will find anything and everything you need to bring home as gifts and souvenirs. We will enjoy lunch at the Xin Tian Di where you can select from multiple restaurants to fit your tastes.

After lunch we will visit the old section of Shanghai and the Yu Garden, both providing us with an historical perspective of Shanghai in its original state.

**Sat: October 29** **Return Home**