

## SHEEP DOGS

Endeavoring to build mission team unity

# February 2006

### VILLAGE PEOPLE

After a week of language learning in Mandarin, we packed up our gear (see picture) and headed out to the small villages. It was the Chinese New Year, so for over a week there were endless fireworks being shot off by anyone aged 3 to 93+. And, unfortunately there was also lots of drinking. Even Graham was offered cigarettes and wine along with a bowl that had slices of dog meat sprinkled with blood. With some help from our translators, we politely passed on all of those!

We also flew farther north to experience life in several other (even colder) villages. We had the opportunity to sit down and talk with village elders, while also being surrounded by 40 to 50 villagers. We asked and learned much about their culture, and we were even able to tell them some stories about our Father! It was amazing to learn that in three of the villages we visited, even the oldest people had never seen a foreigner in their village's known history. We have attached some pictures of our time in the villages. We hope pictures can really say a thousand words!

### CLARITY OF VISION

We spent this past week being in the presence of hundreds who are serving in Asia. It was an awesome experience. This next week is important to us, as we will be meeting with various people who may be catalysts to our purpose and vision coming into reality.

We will then spend a couple of weeks in Southern Thailand (in the area hit by the Tsunami), studying their worldview, researching possible redemptive themes in their culture, and making contacts.



*All packed up and heading out to the countryside.*



*She meets white people for the first time — making new friends!*



*Gathering together to tell the true stories of Jesus in a village.*



*This day was the first time that they heard about the unconditional love of God.*