



Project Shine

陽光計劃



Project Shine 2019

Esther Leung-Kong 江梁爾欣

Project Shine Manager & Outreach Ministries Manager

Place: Huan Jiang County, Hechi City, Guangxi 廣西河池市環江縣
Date: July 11-28, 2019
Team Members: 24 (From Vancouver, Toronto, California, New York & Hong Kong)
Students Taught: 160 (About half are CRRS sponsored students)
School: Huan Jiang Senior High School 環江毛南族自治縣高級中學



Project Shine Summer Trip is a two-week English summer camp program where our North American team members provide English cross-cultural activities for students in rural areas of Guangxi, China. This year, we were blessed with an intergenerational team of 24 members (including 3 CRRS staff, 8 alumni, 11 teenagers and 2 parents), coming from Vancouver, Toronto, New York, California and Hong Kong. During the short 2 weeks, we managed to teach a total of 160 students. About 80 students are from families with financial difficulties and are being sponsored by CRRS.

Count Your Blessings

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During our two-week trip, one of the activities of English Cross-cultural Exchange that the Project Shine team conducted was to visit the local school dormitory. Our team members were surprised to find out that 8 to 12 students have to share one small squat toilet washroom. They were shocked to know that the local students also have to bathe in that tiny room. "Is there a separate area for taking showers?," they asked. Truth be told, there was not - everything goes down the hole!

For half of our team that consists of teenagers and college students, this was an eye-opening experience. For lack of better words, they felt sad to discover that the local students, who are of the same age as them, live in such 'unacceptable' condition. It dawned on the Project Shine team members that they themselves have so many privileges. They started to realize how blessed they are with their good upbringing and fine opportunities.



We have seen pictures, videos or heard stories about the underprivileged, but deep feeling for them and transformation of our hearts only happen when we experience the real-life situation. Very often, we need some 'shocking' life experiences to force us out of our comfort zone to make us grow. Suddenly, many 'big and important' problems in our lives become insignificant when we learn that students in China have very little to enjoy but many family problems to worry about. Suddenly, we start to appreciate more of what our parents have done and provided for us. Suddenly, we complain and grumble less about our own lives.

Many team members have mentioned (in their reflections) that their lives have been transformed after the Project Shine summer trip. I pray that the life lessons and memories will continue to help these young members to grow as they pursue their dreams. My hope is each team member will realize they are blessed and privileged, and each will learn to count their 'blessings' and to 'serve' others with humility



Project Shine Team Member Testimonies

Toronto Team Members



Rebecca Lee (Teacher) –This is my 7th year volunteering at the Project Shine English Summer Camp in rural Guangxi. This summer, we were excited to connect with many hard-working and caring local teachers and 160 enthusiastic high school students.

The Project Shine Team was passionate about encouraging and mentoring the students in both learning the English language and building good character.

I was moved by how my students care for their families. This trip becomes the highlight of my year! I love telling others about how amazing these students are - their eagerness to learn is so inspiring and uplifting.

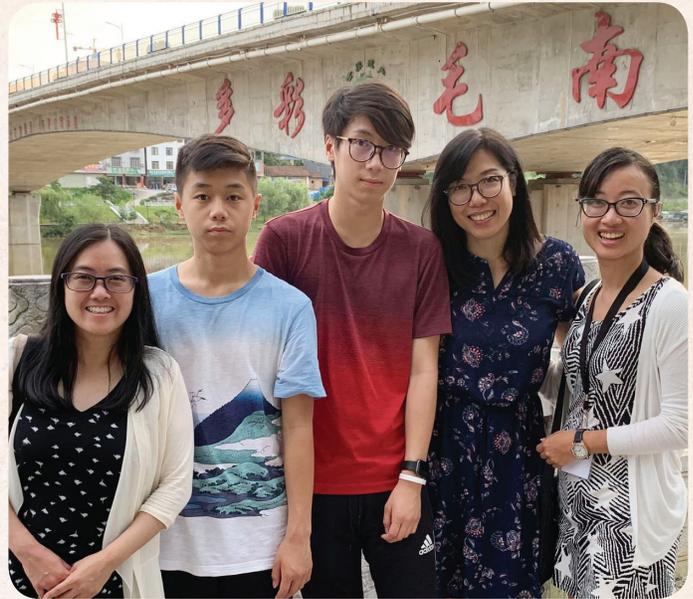




Alice Ma (Parent of Alan & Matthew Cheung) – A small token of love can have a big impact on a student's life. After witnessing the hard life of the students, I appreciate more about what I have and I realize that I should offer assistance to those who are in need.

Alan Cheung (High School Student) – I am going to practice the lesson I have learned during the Project Shine Summer Camp trip by loving and serving others. I also learned to be thankful and stop taking things for granted.

Matthew Cheung (High School Student) - This once-in-a-lifetime experience has helped me spiritually. I will try to be more positive about life and will try to offer help to those who are in need.



Rosanna Siu (Senior A/P Auditor) – I was deeply touched by my former Project Shine class 7 students who called me Rose. They came to visit and bought me a beautiful cake decorated with roses. We had a lovely time sharing the cake. It was the best cake I have ever had!

Jerard Wong (University Student, California) – While I had a deep appreciation of what God has blessed me with, my feelings grew stronger after I completed my Project Shine trip to China. It was an eye-opening experience for me to see all those kids being so happy even when they have very little material luxuries. They are so brave for having to deal with so many unimaginably difficult life circumstances.





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Melanie Choi (Recent University Graduate, Vancouver) – It was an amazing experience. I used to think I am a confident person but I have definitely become a stronger person after the Project Shine trip. The students' kind words and encouragements helped me. My most memorable and meaningful experiences are spending time with the kids in the classroom. I also believe that I learned a lot in our cultural exchanges.

Pearl Lin (High School Student, New York) – The students have taught me how to always maintain a good attitude. I am surprised to learn that I can be patient and outgoing when given a bit of a push!



Timothy Peng (Service Technician, Vancouver) – It was really memorable as I was teaching the students English lessons and watching their curious faces. Saying goodbye to the students was a meaningful experience - I didn't realize the extent of how much the team has touched their hearts until I saw their tears