

Shangrila (Shan –GREE-la). There is such a place! Nancy and I flew by Dragon Air to Dali. Today found us on a bus for 8 hours up the mountain to over 3000 metres. We followed the upper Yangtze gorge. The last couple of hours were in 'greater' Tibet. Many Tibetans live in this area and are transforming the high plateau mountainous area. It is spectacularly beautiful, as you would suspect from the name. We are feeling a little dizzy at this altitude and moving slowly.



'Improvise' is the theme these past few days. Several ministry leaders have been harassed and visited by authorities. We have to be careful in a larger group and especially as obvious foreigners.

We seem to be two of few westerners traveling in this area. The people we are traveling with are all Chinese from Hong Kong, Singapore and, believe it or not, a Chinese church in Rome, Italy. Stereotypically, Chinese speak loudly and combine that with the Italian thing of speaking with your hands, it is like being in a small room with several wheat threshers.

Partners supports several training institutions in the area. We have the opportunity of meeting students and teachers during our short visit. We fund holistic (small enterprise and development) projects, but the primary focus is to see communities of believers established in these remote areas.



Rural Chinese are very different from those in the cities. Economic development is proceeding at an astonishing pace in China but it is very uneven. Many areas, especially in Yunnan Province are left behind with their many tribal/ethnic groups. Traditions and belief systems have kept many of these groups out of the mainstream. The main people group in this area is Bai (white) and have a long heritage of ancestor worship and Buddhism.

Hi! Nancy here! It has been my privilege to travel with Phil on this most interesting trip. I was looking forward to this China leg of the trip and it is all that I envisioned and more. The drive today was actually fairly smooth because of fairly decent roads

but the driver did have to dodge some fallen rocks along the way. James Lai (from Singapore) and Jo (from Hong Kong) are the only two who speak any English. Jo is actually a woman. She volunteers doing PI work and travels to mainland China frequently. Tomorrow we will be going to the Bible School led by our Chinese brother. He not only picked us up from the airport and took us to the hotel last night at

midnight but has also accompanied us on the trip today. I really noticed today that Christians here speak in hushed voices. We were privileged tonight to listen to a Tibetan woman sing. She has been working in this area, considered Tibet, but controlled by China. What beautiful people who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ in this Lisu area. Thanks for your prayers. We shall be home in less than a week.

Phil & Nancy

[Return to Travelogues](#) 

[Ministry info](#) 