

Last August, XiaXiufang and I were commissioned by Ms Tien to visit the candidates who would be sponsored by EGRC in LongXi County. On one hand, we want to know the families' actual situation; on the other hand we need to send EGRC' first well-wishing to the new families. We spent one week to visit 13 families in 7 villages which spread apart by far in the county. We traveled by bus, local taxi, hitch hiked, but most of the journey, of course by foot. We experienced difficulties, twists and turns; more than that it was the people – the parents and girls we met have touched our hearts again and again.

The first destination was Wang Ying's family at XueShan village. Xiufang and I set off at 8am by bus. When we reached CaiZi town around noon time, we quickly bought some food and caught a taxi. There were only 6 seats in the taxi, but the number of passengers was 12. The taxi took us to the foot of a big mountain and stopped.

Standing on the road, we could see nothing but mountains all around us. We started climbing. The winding path seemed to prove to us that the girl we were going to visit was really a "Golden Phoenix" and would fly out from the mountains. We encouraged each other as we walked. But this situation did not last long; we were so tired after few hours of climbing. Luckily, we met a kind man who was riding a motorcycle and he gave us a ride. Finally we saw a small village in distance that we knew that was our destination.

Wang Ying's mud house was on top of a big mountain. We were totally attracted by the view; so we no longer felt tired. The dark mountains were covered with lush trees and capped with a thick layer of mist. Shortly the steam jumped in the valley, just like a beautiful landscape painting.

From distance we saw Ying's mom walking back from the field. She waved at us and talked to us enthusiastically. She told us that the family has three children and the old one had married last year. The two others are all attending school. All the family lives on work land. Besides, the family is in fifty thousand yuan debts because of the wedding for the son last year. After a short conversation she started cooking and asked Ying to pick some apricot for us. When we were eating the apricots, Ying's mom had finished cooking. The food was very delicious. After a short rest, we had to go on to the next family. Ying and her mother stood in front of their home and waved at us till we were off her sight.

We did not have much luck on the way back. There were no taxi, and no motorcycle. It took us two hours to walk down the mountain to Caizi town. We got on a bus again and headed to the next destination.

When we telephoned Huo Wenjuan, her mother told us that she was working part-time in a brickyard during summer break. We met Mrs. Huo first. She works in a construction site on the road side. Because she was not off work at that time, she asked an aunt to lead the way for us. On the way to her home we talked with the woman. She told us that there are four daughters in Huo's family and Wenjuan is the second one. One sister is studying at university and she was working in the city in the summer. The other two are still in middle school. The father left home some years ago without any contact with the family.

The courtyard is small but has full of sunflowers and corns; so it felt very sweet. The third daughter was making a fire to boil water. While we chatted with her Mrs. Guo came back. She took us inside and poured tea for us. When the sky grew dark the house lights were not bright enough to see each other. Finally Wenjuan came back. She is a very petit girl and it is hard to imagine that she is working in the brickyard. I started telling them about EGRC. Clearly I saw tears in Mrs. Huo's eyes. As a single mother she is supporting four children by doing hard physical work.

Wenjuan is a bright girl. She chatted with us and asked more questions about university and EGRC. She even told us that she wanted to go abroad to study in the future. This idea was from a girl who grew up in the mountain and never even been to a city. What a courageous girl! I hope she would never lose her sight.

After a long day of travelling Xiufang and I were very tired. We crashed at Wenjuan's home. I prayed silently for the parents we met on that day and for all our parents; and preyed for all the girls, to wish their dreams come true.

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