



## Going away time

Thursday, January 27, 2011

At 6:30am this morning, we woke the kids up and headed out. We thankfully grabbed a taxi quickly and went down the road to our friends house. Today is the day that my kids bestest friends ever headed back to America. We wanted our kids to have some closure. We wanted them to actually see them leave and understand that their apartment was (mostly) empty and all their bags were packed and this was it until we see them in America in a few years. The last time some friends left there wasn't a formal goodbye for the kids, and they were unclear as to what happened. It took a few months for them to understand that these friends weren't returning. So this time we decided to go about it head on, and let the kids hug and cry and have a real goodbye.

It was not easy.

Elizabeth especially had a really hard time as she hugged Josiah and Asah goodbye. She is a very sensitive and emotional girl, so we weren't surprised by her tears, but broken-hearted for her nonetheless.

It was such a great thing, that several days ago we had a going away party, and it was 90% FUN! (10% sad). I was so thankful for Jessica planning such a special event... it was a time to say goodbye, while remembering the sweet fun times too!

The theme was "Chinese" and we all had to come up with our funniest Chinese outfits. My kids went in their Chinese clothes - and the girls chose to do their hair in a matching style. Nate also wore his Chinese outfit (although it was a little too small) especially with the 15 layers underneath - just like the Chinese kids!! Steve went with his Chinese shirt, and I wore somewhat normal clothes, but put my hair into the tightest ponytail I could stand, and only wore one earring. (It's a style among some students).

The best costume was Ross & Natalie wearing some thick Chinese style pajamas. The kind that are seen daily around here. Folks will shower and then put their thick pajamas on for the rest of the day - and go out like that. It always makes us smile.

Jonathan & Patience were giving matching sweatshirts - another style here! Too funny!

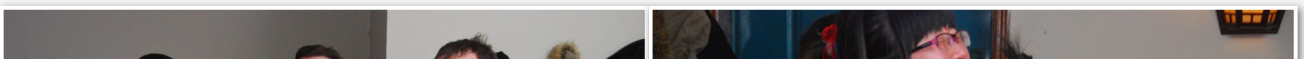




Eating game... (I could not participate... taking pictures of it was hard enough to stomach!)



Patience's red tongue after eating a package of kool-aid. We have an interesting kind of fun around here!!!







The guys...



A balloon popping game. It was hilarious.



Another game about slapping hands on the floor and putting post-its on your nose. I didn't follow close enough!

We played some games and watched a fun video that Steve made... (it was all of us making quotes from the TV show 'The Office' in reference to Jonathan & Patience) as well as a slideshow of pictures from their last 3 years. We had a sweet time of prayer, and gave them an American Wal-Mart gift certificate... in jello (another 'The Office' reference).







The kids of course, ran and got forks so they could eat the jello. Ha!



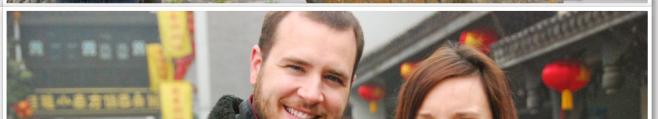
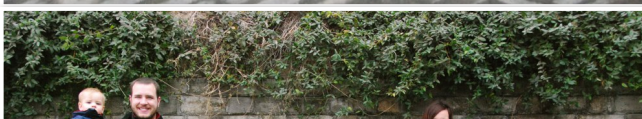
Everyone had a good time... there was karaoke and dancing and snacking too!







Two days before they left, I was able to go and take a few pictures of their family. I had a good time having those last moments with them!!







So while goodbyes are hard... sometimes they can come with really sweet memories! And the knowledge that the world is much smaller than it used to be!  
We will miss you LONG family!!!

1 Comment 

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Nana Susan 

You have the most fun parties! Yes, I know it will be sad without the Longs! Memories, memories, and many fun photos!

Monday, February 7, 2011 - 01:51 AM

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