

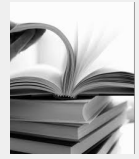


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The Educator

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The Elkhart Area Christian Home Educators



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Psalm 31: 24 “Be strong and let your heart take courage. All you who hope in the LORD.”

Hebrews 12: 2 “...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and the perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”



Teachers Heartlight

HOME SCHOOLING AND FREEDOM: WHAT I LEARNED IN CHINA

We’ve all complained about “the government” one time or another. Whatever your politics, it’s easy to find fault with our leaders, and for some, educating at home reflects at least a slight anti-government strain—a small protest of the state’s education system. But for all the things we may get wrong in this country, we do a pretty good job of protecting our freedom to speak out, to work at changing government, and to keep much of our lives private.

This June, our family spent a grueling, wonderful, exciting, and uncomfortable two weeks traveling China to conclude the adoption of our third son. We saw many beautiful sights, added a lively toddler to our family, and had a few adventures. (Ask us about shopping at a Chinese Wal-Mart). We loved visiting the country of our son’s birth. The long and rich history of China is part of his heritage, and I would be glad to go back some day. But I’m thankful we live here.

We are blessed with liberties the Chinese simply do not know. Everyone we met in China was surprised and impressed that we educate at home. There is no homeschooling in China. It’s illegal. The schools, whether “private” or public, are all controlled by the State, and Chinese parents are compelled to send their children to them. Openness continues to grow in China, improving the lives of its people, but the Communist Party still employs a robust propaganda machine that may be most active in the schools. We do not have government agents knocking on our doors to count the children or compel their attendance in schools staffed by Party enthusiasts. America is a long way from perfect, and some days, homeschooling may not feel like a blessing. Just remember; we have freedoms more than a billion of our fellow humans do not.

For me, the trip to China gave a little boost of encouragement to make the best possible use of our liberty: “Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV).

By Michael Hays

