

Day 2, May 19, 2007

Although the brightly colored red and orange uniforms of the soccer players were covered with mud the game continued silently. The deaf soccer team of



Soccer action at the Disabled Games

Kunming tried and tried again to penetrate the defenses of the other team. There were multiple shots on goal, but none went in. By half-time the weather had changed from grey overcast to bright warm sun.

I left the game to return to the Ramsey's home and complete packing so that I could move to the hotel. Leroy Ramsey and I laughed as we hauled the GO Peds suitcase down the steps. Weighing in at nearly 70 pounds, we have named

the bag "The Behemoth". Before the trip, Krista my older daughter had suggested that we call it "Goliath". Due to Chinese air travel rules, Behemoth will need to shed quite a few pounds before returning home.

After dropping my luggage in the hotel room, I quickly ran to the local grocery store to buy water for the team. After realizing that one large box was not enough, I cautiously purchased another not knowing how I would get both back home. Each weighed about 26 pounds. One of the assistants in the store indicated that he would help carry the extra box to the hotel. I praised God for his generosity. After lugging the boxes all of the way to my room, I tried to pay the young man. He refused and quickly returned to work.

With a new Chinese language book in hand, I approached a taxi and pointed to the word "airport" which was written in Chinese. After some Charades-like airplane wings and noises were acted out, we were on our way through the thick Kunming traffic.

At the airport, the team began to slowly emerge from customs and immigration. I was so happy to see them that tears began to well-up in my eyes. There is something about seeing prayers answered that is so humbling and joy-inducing. I had a whole team of 16 other talented and capable healthcare professionals with me in Kunming and they had traveled safely from nearly half a world away. After greetings from David and Shu Dai and Carolyn Zhang, suitcases were quickly loaded into the back of the bus and the team was heading through glorious spring-like Kunming with flowers blooming along side of the roadway.

After getting the team checked-in most headed to the bank to exchange money we had dinner in the hotel before the evening devotion. A tired, but very happy team, headed to their rooms to sleep.

Blessings,

Peter Yorgin, MD