

## **STONES THAT OPENED DOORS** (Fall 2005)



In July, Norm and Vicky joined a team of 31 in our training program for rural teachers of English in West China. Norm had lectured in many universities in China and around the world before his retirement, but this was the first time he served in a rural setting. Their warmth and easy-going manner quickly connected them with the Chinese teachers in their class.

All went well until 2 a.m. on Day 5 when Norm woke up in severe pain. Kidney stones for the first time in his life! At the local hospital, he was well cared for. The Chinese teachers came to visit with beautiful dried flowers because fresh ones could not be readily found in those dry desert areas. Their sincerity and kindness brought tears to Vicky's eyes.

Over the next few days, there was an outpouring of love and care from our hosts. At the closing ceremony, Vicky went on stage and said, "Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you." It was a special moment that drew our hearts together.