



Scotland Exchange 2012 Report – Dorothy Yu

***“How great it is to be in God’s Amazing Plan”***

Checking out the photos I was being tagged in Facebook, looking at my own photo album and watching all the videos bring me back to the moments we had in Scotland. All the laughter and the happy faces are appearing vividly in my mind. I am always telling people this Scotland Exchange is one of the best exchange tours for me so far. While reading my diary, I realized my mind was full of uncertainties while setting off – I did not know what to expect, I was not sure what am I going to do, whom will I meet when I reach Scotland. However, once I arrived Glasgow Airport, from meeting Mr. John Neil, Mr. Bill Stevenson, all the staff in BBHQ Scotland to all the cadets in KGV I leadership training course and Iain’s parents, I could feel God has already planned everything for Wilson and I. He has prepared everything that I would see, I would learn and I would experience in these 15 days. So why I should I be worried? In our 15-day stay, we visited some campsites, such as 6th/8th Dundee and Scott Lodge; we participated in the KGV I Leadership Course; we have a wee stay in Dundee with Iain’s family; we visited our Founder’s house and 1st Glasgow Company etc. The program has of course made our trip wonderful. But what make it spectacular were the atmosphere there and the people we met.

***“Oh.. Thank you Lord for KGV I”***

KGV I is a leadership training course that prepares cadets to become officers. (Well, it’s similar to OBTC or OC in Hong Kong.) There were 35 participants in total. Apart from Wilson and I, the remaining 33 cadets were all from different parts of Scotland. Youth Leadership Training (YLT), Exploring & Sharing Christian Faith and Physical Activities were the main training foci in the course. There were a 4-5 sessions for each focus. Other components were morning prayers, evening worship, leisure activities, introduction of badge system, event planning etc. It was a very practical, comprehensive and all-rounded training course that covered various areas of being a leader.

What I have gained most from the course is the discussion sessions. The discussion sessions focused on Company Section. There are 11 of us who intend to serve or are currently serving the Company Section. We discussed why it is so important to maintain relationship among the cadets, church and the company etc. What impressed me most were the enthusiasm and activeness of them. Everyone was so willing to express their views and opinions. They were taking the sessions very seriously as in they really wanted to come up with some measures to improve their own Company’s situation. Perhaps this is the cultural difference. In Hong Kong, we usually have 45-minute lecture, leaving 15 minutes for discussion. Yet in Scotland, they do it vice versa. The discussion went on so well that people were requesting whether the discussion can be continued. I really appreciate their attitudes and passion. In spite of the different places they are from, deep inside their hearts, they all share the same aim, they would like to “do something” for BB, to contribute back to the company which they have been to since they were a little kid. That is why we are there in KGV I.





To me, the most enjoyable moment in the camp is the Evening Worship. We stood on chairs; we picked our favourite hymns; we sang and we danced to praise the Lord. We became so hyper every night. Before I went there, I was told the young people in Europe do not go to church and it is true in real practice as well. Yet, after spending a whole week with them, I discovered they are indeed very curious in Christianity or religion. They are so willing to know more about it that they kept asking questions whenever they got a chance. Sadly there is very limited channel for them to raise their questions and there is no platform for this bunch of young folks to stay together and praise God in their own way. When we shared with them how common it is to have a service for young people only, they were amazed and wished they could have the same.

***“Work hard, play hard”***

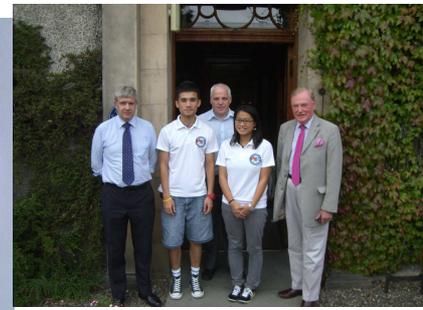
Apart from absorbing from all the lectures, trainings, deep discussions and reflections, Wilson and I were often asked to share with the folks about different situations in Hong Kong. We did a presentation about BBHK and BB Asia. We talked about our own churches and our own BB companies. This is why we were there in Scotland. We learnt from them and we introduced ours to them. We gave and received. Besides all these serious matters, the 35 of us were able to make so much fun in the rest of the camp. We screamed, we sang, we played instruments, we teased each other, we played games, we had tea, we ate chocolate and sweets. We lived like a family despite the very unique character of every of us. They taught us “Sco’ish slang” and we taught them Cantonese.

***“Being able to laugh at people, laugh at yourself and being laughed at.”***

Not only the 35 cadets in KGVI that were so bonded, we were also very close with the staff. I remember our course leader, Christine Johnston, has once mentioned “being a leader should be able to laugh at people, to laugh at yourself and being laughed by others.” Therefore, all the 7 officers played with us, make jokes with us and stayed up late with us. Yet at the same time, we have great respect on them. Roddy, the Chaplain, Christine, the course leader, Alan, Ian McCallum., Andrew McArtney, Mairi, the course trainers and Ian Brown, the adjutant, were amazing. Although they do not have the same motto as us – “life influences life”, their actions have certainly imposed great influence on each cadet. Their teachings, comfort, support, encouragement and, of course, sense of humour have lightened us up and empowered us for future contribution in Boys’ Brigade. They impressed me a lot.

***“Zip a dee do dah, Zip a dee ay, I am grateful for God’s blessings today”***

I am so grateful for God’s blessings. Without Him, I would definitely not have the chance to explore and





experience so much. Apart from the Carronvale House, Wilson and I have travelled to other places and met other young leaders in BB Scotland. All of them treated us so well and they were so eager to show us all the places and to let us taste all the traditional food there, such as Haggis :p. The warm welcome by everyone made me feel blessed. Andrew Kimmit, the exchange buddy who has come to Hong Kong before we went to Scotland, showed us around Stirling; Bill and Paul showed us around the BB campsites of Dundee and Edinburgh and a distillery; Iain, Liam and Andrew McArtney showed us around Dundee; Iain's parents provide the best home for us; John Neil and John Cooper showed us around Glasgow and we traced the past of Mr. William Alexander Smith... Though we had such a packed schedule every day, we have seen a lot, learnt a lot and experienced a lot. Thank you so much.

***“The light of Your love is shining”***

Thinking back, from the whole application process of this Scotland exchange in March till the end of our trip on 9<sup>th</sup> August, everything has happened in its own way and everyone has appeared at the exact moment. God has brought the 35 of us together to KGVI 2012-13. He has assigned different roles for us that suit us most to work for Him. He brings us together to stimulate each other and to learn from each other. Although Wilson and I are the pioneers from Hong Kong traveling all the way to Scotland, which we have no clue what will happen next, I am sure under the light of God's love, the connection between the two places will be re-established in the very near future, as the saying always goes “we are all one big family in the Boys' Brigade”.

What I have seen and experienced were too much. I could not simply use words to describe all the moments and feelings. But in short, the trip was just amazing.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who has taken great care of us throughout our trip, especially Bill, John and all the staff in Carronvale house as well as in KGVI. Special thanks to Iain's parents for letting us stay in their house which has given us such a spectacular homestay experience in Dundee. Thank you everyone in KGVI. I love you all and hopefully we will meet each other again in Scotland next year!

Last but not least, thank you Ka Fai and all the staff in headquarter of BBHK. Without your support, Wilson and I would never have the chance to have such an awesome and amazing journey. I am so grateful that I was chosen to be one of the pioneers. In addition, thanks must be given to my own company and church as well for their support throughout all the years. Thank you so much!

