... Go Trips

children so hungry and starved for attention.

As I became aware of each child’s situation, I struggled with the question Why? Why would a God who is fair and just allow such innocent children to suffer? Why am I so blessed while these children have no choice but to live in such environments and suffer such circumstances?

Because God is an awesome God, as each day I spent with these children passed, the Lord began to explain things to me. Every day I was overwhelmed by the pure happiness and joy these children expressed as they loved on each other and us and as they absorbed the love and teaching of Christ like sponges.

These children, who in my blind eyes had nothing, in some ways had a better understanding of Jesus than I did. How exciting it was for me to hear the prayers of children who truly understood the love and joy that can only come from Christ.

Take Shae-Shae for example—a little girl who had nothing, but who insisted that I take her ring because she wanted me to have it. What if we were all so giving? Can you imagine what our world would be like if we could give our possessions so freely?

Shae-Shae’s action revealed to me that she truly understood the concept of John 3:16. Just as God gave his most valuable possession for us his son Jesus Christ—Shae-Shae was willing to give one of her most valuable possessions, her nickel ring from the vending machine, to a complete stranger just because she wanted me to have it. What a humbling experience!

A few days ago, I came across a little girl who truly understood the value of our prayers. These children from a different perspective this week. I noticed the beauty, innocence, and hunger that the Lord places within each of us, especially vulnerable children.

I thank God for the examples that these kids were to me this week with their eagerness to learn and their ability to understand something so complex and so simple.

My time in Arlington was indeed a humbling experience as I came to the realization that as long I have my Savior, I lack nothing. Everything aside from Christ is relative.

I came away with more from this trip than I can possibly explain in words. The children of Arlington reminded me what it means to have joy and happiness. They showed me sacrifice and perseverance in ways I could never grasp on my own and challenged me to keep things in their proper perspective.

“We are all so blessed and it is our job as Christians to share those blessings with others. I’m sure that I speak on behalf of all of those who participated in GO Trips this year when I thank Christ our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. (1 Timothy 1:12).

Christ created life to be so simple, yet each and every day we make it so complex with extraneous worries, concerns, and selfish desires.

If I walked away with anything from my experience in Arlington, it has to be the words echoed in Ephesians 3:20-21, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever.”

challenge you to think about your blessings and to become a proactive Christian as each of us is commanded to do.

On April 11, after continuous talks of a release and a final agreement, the 24 Americans held in China for 11 days, were on their way home side before the Easter holiday. There was a welcome ceremony in Washington for the crew members and their families.

President Bush sent his greetings but did not appear at the ceremony because “he does not believe that politicians need to always insert themselves into tender moments,” said Ari Fleischer, Bush’s spokesman.

The 24 Americans were held for extensive questioning by the Chinese government and were not returned unless President Bush apologized and took fault of the incident. Bush refused to apologize but did offer his condolences for the death of the pilot.

The only form of apology came from a statement by Secretary of State Colin Powell saying, “Washington was ‘sorry’ that the spy plane entered Chinese airspace without permission to make an emergency landing after the collision.”

Republicans and Democrats believe that the tension of this incident and the trade relations between the two countries may be difficult to know the circumstances for trade in the future.

This could be a speed bump or a stalling block on trade, but it’s really too early to tell,” said Dr. Terry Leadle, associate professor of history and political science.

Dr. Sean Evans, assistant professor of political science, has a different opinion about the trade issue. “I don’t think this incident will effect trade, I think a lot more has to happen before Congress revokes trade.”

If the Chinese government refuses to return the plane to the United States, relations between the two countries will further strain.

Chinese leaders have stressed that they still blame the United States pilot and that Beijing will demand an end to the surveillance flights near its coasts.

Talks of the incident began April 18 between the Bush administration and China on the issue of proposing trade benefits and how it will effect further relations.

The incident occurred April 1, when a United States Navy surveillance plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet over the South China Sea. The American plane, with 24 military men and women, made an emergency landing on China’s Hainan island.

The EP-3E surveillance spy plane was flying outside China’s territorial 12-mile sea and airspace radius when the pilot of the fighter jet, Wang Wei, launched the spy plane causing an emergency landing, and Wei’s plane crashing into the sea. Wei has been missing since the collision and is assumed to be dead.”

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