



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Fast Facts ~ May 2010

Indonesian Inbound: Impressions, Images, and the Improbable

When our Indonesian guests departed on April 27th there was unanimous agreement that this home hosting experience was a resounding success for all involved.

Their six-day visit was filled with various activities including a visit to Old Salem and Lowe's Motor Speedway (favorites of the teachers in the group), but the most favorite activity by far was the Greensboro Grasshopper baseball game and shopping (and shopping and more shopping!) New foods were tried and loved such as turkey sausage (the favorite), pancakes, grits, Doritos and Pop Tarts. Four North Carolina colleges were visited with UNC CH being the most popular.



The group poses at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

Many aspects of America made an impression on our young guests including the fact that we drive on our highways for free, our public high schools are free, we are very tolerant of all religions and, noted by several students, Americans are much friendlier than they anticipated.

When the students first learned of the opportunity to travel to North Carolina many of them and their parents were very surprised to learn that Americans would open their homes to strangers, but this is what we did and it produced images that will not be soon forgotten, many of which were “firsts”: a picnic lunch, catching a fish, baking peanut butter chocolate pies, observing a US court hearing, Moslems attending church and temple, a sleepover with Nepalese Salem College students, swinging in a hammock, petting a goat, bowling, taking prom pictures, and many, many more.

And the improbable: One of our host families moved to the Triad from Pacatello, Idaho, home of Idaho State College. Imagine their surprise to learn that the father of their Indonesian guest attended Idaho State College!



*Rizky Akbar Haeruman and his “brother”, Hal Tuch.
For more photos, visit http://www.fnc.org/Photo_Gallery.php*

Many Thanks

Our inbound exchanges require much planning and they would not be successful, nor even possible, without the help of many members and, in the case of our Indonesian exchange, many non-members as well. So, our thanks go out to.....

Our host families: Martha and Dale Brown; Peter and Nancy Peiffer; Ophelia and Robert Jones; Ray and Doris Kiszely, Kit Ravenel; Marvin and Linda Scherl; Sue Schoch; Ralph Cauthen for referring the North family – Rod and Alice and their daughters, Elizabeth, & Emily, as well as the Williams/Laidlaw family – Ron Williams, Ann Laidlaw, and their children, Alice and Ryan; Donna Lambeth for referring the Oliver family – Cheryl and David and their daughter Sallie; Martha Brown for referring the Richards family – Robin and Jane and their niece, Lindsay; Peter Peiffer for referring the Choiniere family – Ruth and Leval and their daughter, Anna; and Marcia Meis for referring the Tuch family – Gail and Steve and their children, Hal and Rose.

Our drivers and additional chaperones: Charlie Finch, Nancy Peiffer, Doris and Ray Kiszely, and Linda and Marvin Scherl.

Judy Greene, Valerie Stokes and Scott Freese who helped plan several of the scheduled activities.

Cheryl Oliver, Lindsay Richards, and Anna Choineire who made it possible for several of the students to visit local high schools.

Dennis Ayers who conducted the tour of Old Salem.

Robin Richards who obtained North Carolina state maps for every student and Charlie Finch who gave every student a George Washington dollar.

Your time and generosity made a very positive and lasting impression on our guests.

Exchange Directors

Peter Peiffer and Martha Brown

Reported from the Regional Presidents' Roundtable

One of the most interesting sessions during the Roundtable focused on our “competitive strengths”. Here is a summary of the points made:

- We have been lower cost than our competitors; however, that gap has been narrowed with recent economic pressures.
- We are unique in that we offer homestay—whereby one can learn about living in another culture (values, lifestyle) and make new friends. This is not an easy, cursory, viewing-out-a-bus-window experience.
- Generally we travel as a chapter – which promotes community friendships and multiplies the learning as we share our different experiences as ambassadors.
- There is comfort and security in affinity group travel—especially to countries where language, religion and the standard of living are different.
- People you know and trust are the EDs – which takes the burden of travel arrangements off members of the group.
- Frequently an optional tour is available in addition to the homestay. None of our competition offers the “best of both worlds” on one trip.

The entire summary will be posted on our website (www.ffcnc.org) if you would like to read more. There are a zillion ideas for membership recruitment/ retention. It will be chewed on by our board and others for some time!

Aussies Arrive May 21st

Plans are nearly set for the week of our 2010 inbound exchange from Brisbane. A welcome party Friday evening for ambassadors and hosts will showcase NC barbecue. After the weekend with their host families, our guests will explore various venues (Guilford Courthouse Military Park, Libby Hill Seafood Restaurant, Replacements, Reynolda House & Gardens, Deacon Tower Grille, International Civil Rights Museum) in the Triad Monday and Tuesday—and enjoy a “small group dinner” one night. On Wednesday we will travel with them to Seagrove...prior to the farewell party/picnic at Triad Park that evening. Thursday is reserved for host families, shopping, etc. They then embark on the long flight back to New Zealand Friday the 28th.

If you have time Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday and would like to day host—or just hang with the group—please contact Val Stokes (273-7205 or levels@triad.rr.com) or Paul Meis (724-9540 or pmeis@triad.rr.com). Travel will be by car...so we need to know if you will join in. Val is taking rsvp's for the "potluck picnic" on Wednesday in Triad Park...please meet us there in Shelter #4 at 5:30 p.m. with fare to share.

Directions: Triad Park is a beautiful new facility on the border of Forsyth and Guilford Counties. It is right on Route #421... just west of Colfax in Kernersville (9652 East Mountain Street...or 9652 West Market Street!) Take Exit 16 off Business #40 coming from Forsyth County and turn right. From Guilford County, take the Sandy Ridge Road (Triad Farmers Market) exit and turn left on #421. Once past the Park office, turn right .2 miles to Shelter #4—there will be Friendship Force signs just beyond the volleyball courts.

New Zealand Outbound Exchange Has Eco-Cultural Theme

Join Ambassadors from Friendship Force of Central North Carolina (FFCNC) and other parts of the globe as we travel to New Zealand on 25 October – 16 November 2010 for a unique eco-cultural experience hosted by Auckland-North Shore and by Otago Friendship For

- 6 days Auckland-No. Shore homestay
- 8 days excursion of the South Island
- 6 days Otago homestay



Cost: \$2380 for the two exchanges and coach tour (single supplement \$343) Price includes the two homestays, airport shuttles, a day trip to Rotorua, and the 8 day coach tour of the West Coast of the South Island. 8 nights tour lodging is Double Occupancy. Excludes most meals on tour days, incidentals. Airfare is not included.

Space is limited to 21. To reserve your space(s), please contact Jim or Barbara North at 643-0985 or woodnotes2004@yahoo.com - and send your \$200 deposit to them at 5700 Tanyard Court, Oak Ridge, NC 27310. Checks may be made payable to FFCNC.

2010 Calendar Highlights

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| May 21-28 | Inbound Exchange from Brisbane, Australia
ED: Val Stokes, 336-273-7205 |
| May 26 | Farewell potluck dinner & celebration for Australian guests.
All FFCNC members are encouraged to attend.
5:30 – 9 PM at Shelter #4 at Triad Park, Kernersville. |
| June 26 | Let's Eat Out (LEO); 12:30; NOMA Urban Bar & Grill; Winston-Salem |

July 17-29 Ben Franklin Fellows Homestay – call Scot Freese at 972-6237

Aug. 14 Club picnic at home of Marilyn Baird on Lake Norman. (Date tentative.)

October 16-18 FFI International Conference in Washington, DC

October 18 – 22 Post International Conference home hosting.

October 21 FFCNC Annual Meeting - Main Street UMC, Kernersville
Activities Chair: Ralph Cauthen, 336-299-2089

Oct. 25 – Nov. 16 Outbound Exchange to Auckland & Dunedin, New Zealand
EDs: Barbara & Jim North, 336-643-0985