



Umbrellas, Food, Fun, and Good News



This past weekend was the Borsang Umbrella Festival. It happens right on our road. They shut down the main street and all we do is walk out of our house into the festival.

There is Food, food and more food. There is classical music and dance, as well as contemporary settings of music and rock bands. The temple, our temple here in Borsang, is alive with activity. It is fun, tasty, and beautiful.

I am not sure if you realize but Borsang is one of the largest producers of paper umbrellas. The skills and arts required for the handmade craft is all through our neighborhood.

After walking a total of 5 km, I sat with 6 community leaders in front of one of the shops. We were chatting about all sorts of things when one asked me, "are you Catholic or Christian?"

And I said I respect all religious cultures, but I really am a member of none. Religion is good and bad. One good though is that it shows we are not the men we ought to be.

They all affirmed verbally and individually, that they want to be good men as they ought to be, not religious men. One said, they

can be very religious, do all the religious things, then go home and beat their wife. "We want to be men who love our wives, care for our families and strengthen our communities." Wow!

We discussed how religion can teach us, but only God can help us. Then it was time to go... We made an appointment to meet again.

We did. I said, this second night, that God gave us Jesus, his Son, and Jesus gave us a Helper. One man said something that really opened my eyes, "You mean Jesus doesn't just teach us He actually helps us. I mean I know what is good and bad, right and wrong, but I need help doing what is right."

Hebrews 13:6 "so that we may confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me."

Helper - One who runs to the Cry for aid.

My eyes were opened because I always think of "God's Help" as help in understanding, but real practical help, that was encouraging to discuss.

Living and Learning together.