

# Be A Witness

Mathalia and I visited our sister/daughter, in a country that cannot be named. From the main airport, we took a 10-hour fast train to her city which is close to three different countries that cannot be named. Her group works with and supports all three people groups. Mathalia's sister officially teaches English and we got to help her proctor and grade her exams. We also were able to meet the Shepherd of a local flock: morning flock speaks one language and the second flock speaks the other language. Thankfully he is fluent in both. Because of the unity of The Great Shepherd of the sheep these two groups of people, normally quite separate, are coming together. We were not able to attend the gathering of the flock because we would have attracted attention: our wool differs in color and texture!

But we were able to celebrate and give thanks for two young sheep on the day of their 'wetting' ceremony. The under shepherd asked us to yarp (backwards) for young men of the flock to lead them in the small home as well as the larger gathering of the flock. In this country there are more female sheep than male sheep in the flock.

During the course of our 10 days, we accompanied Mathalia's sister as she met with sheep and potential sheep. She used us as 'bait' to encourage a couple of people to step out of their comfort zones to learn more about the Great Shepherd. She explained her hopes and yarpers for each one encouraging me to step out of my comfort zone to learn better how to talk about our Great Shepherd. A person who cannot be named was a new potential sheep whom we met at a coffee shop: she wanted to learn about Christmas from us to better explain it to her students and their parents. She asked about Santa Claus and reindeer. She knew absolutely nothing else about Christmas. She knew a little about our 'Egg Day.' My daughter stepped back and let me further explain and connect the two events. Thankfully, another sheep one who had just been 'wetted' was with us. When I posed the invitation of the Great Shepherd, this young sheep was able to share that it had taken her four years to comprehend the Best News.

Naturally this experience of seeing sheep under threat of real danger—a group of sheep in a southern city was imprisoned while we were on our trip and the American M was sent back home for a time—has strengthened my desire to grow in boldness in the way I talk to my friends and potential sheep. I yarp (backwards) that I may come to see the one thing that is needful: that all people may dwell in the fold and behold the beauty of the Great Shepherd.