

Mission To China - The Great Leader

Min. Adam Jacob Lafleur

I give honor to Jesus, the Honorable James David Manning, and Elder Manning. I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It has been a great privilege to travel to **China**. I have learned so much that there is not enough time to talk about them. Some of what I noticed about China is that they honored their leaders, they knew their history, and they were well organized.

When we first entered China, we met our tour guides Flora and Eddie. Eddie was our local tour guide while we were in Beijing. He seemed to know so much about his culture and his nation. We introduced ourselves, and then everyone went to the bathroom while I stayed with the luggage. While waiting Eddie and I were talking. When I told him my name, Adam Lafleur, he asked me if the name was French. I told him yes and that my parents were from Haiti. He stated to me that he studied French and began to speak to me in French. I told him I knew very little French. I felt so embarrassed that he was able to communicate in at least three languages and I knew but one. Every child should be fluently multi-lingual.

On Friday, 15 July we visited **The Ming Tombs**, and once again everyone went into the restroom. There was a 5 star restroom there this time, and I was alone talking with Eddie. He told me about how they just elected a bishop for their church in China. He asked me what was the highest authority in the Protestant church. I replied that I believe it was the archbishop. He asked me about the churches in America and what do we call the clergymen here, what we preach and believe. I said they are called priests, pastors, reverends, fathers, etc. I said the Honorable James David Manning is our Pastor and that we believe in Jesus Christ. I told him we

follow the Honorable as God leads him. God tells him what to say to the people and we follow the Bible and not doctrines.

I asked him about the church in China. He said that the church in China pretty much is led like the protestant church. They elect their leader the bishop. They don't want to be under the Vatican because they didn't want another country telling them how to worship. Eddie said not only that but the Vatican still has ties with Taiwan, and that China and Taiwan are in conflict with one another. He then told me that Haiti has no ties with China because Haiti also recognizes Taiwan.

What amazed me the most was his knowledge and understanding of his country, and I, an American, knew so very little about mine. Most of us don't know much about our history let alone someone else's. Maybe it's because that is his job, but I remember hearing Flora, our national guide, say that the Chinese people want their children to be a very knowledgeable people many continue school long after college.

All of our guides knew their history extremely well. They always talked about their great leaders and emperors. Flora our national guide told us about her childhood, when she was a small girl growing up in **Shanghai** in the 1970-1980s. She took a bath once a week, she had to share communal toilets, and she lived in very tight quarters with her parents. They used to complain about the government because there were no jobs. They often thought the government didn't care. But later they saw the success and they changed their minds about the government and saw their leaders as a great success.

This is how we look at the Honorable James David Manning. He doesn't let us do what we want, but what is best for us as a nation. The nation of **ATLAH** is what we need to be about. He told us in a meeting that if we have our own agenda then we would not make it. We should consider dismissing our own ideas and honoring our leader, which is what the Chinese do. They honor their leaders. When **ATLAH** comes, will we submit then? Why can't we stick together as a righteous people now? We learned that under the **Ming Dynasty**, many Chinese trained their whole lives to present themselves to the emperors to serve. However, if they are not chosen, they are dishonored. Their family was dishonored and so many chose to commit suicide. What are we committed to as a people? Are we committed to **ATLAH**?

The most important value I picked up in **China** was the importance of watching the leader, and in doing so we will be fine. Many don't want to follow the Honorable James David Manning, or they believe he too hard on us. But when we receive our reward, we will thank God that He sent his servant to lead. *The Honorable James David Manning led us through China.* He straightened us up when he had to, made us see where we needed to improve ourselves, and our nation. We have to be about honesty, loyalty, obedience, and organization.

When we were walking through the streets of **China**, we seemed like orderly military soldiers, we all lined up behind the Honorable Manning. We would not make a move without our leader giving us instruction. *All of the tour guides called him "the great leader" because he led with strength, and this impressed them greatly!* We made an impact on the Chinese people by the way we conducted ourselves. We presented a good reputation of the African and African American people.