



Since the time that my parents served in China back in the mid to late 1940s, literacy has increased tremendously. This positive development is due to the valuing of education for girls, as well as boys and to the fact that a basic education through the ninth grade is, at least in theory, required. However, sometimes conditions in the poorer, rural areas of China make fully achieving this goal a challenge. Sometimes families need the children to be helping with the farm work. Sometimes families may not have the small amount of money needed for the school fees. Sometimes a village may not have its own primary school and children may have to walk quite a distance to a nearby village, or sometimes only a few grades can be offered within the village before students have to walk long distances to continue their education.

Before The Amity Foundation (our Chinese partner) helped the people of Gong Sa Village in southern Yunnan Province near the border with Myanmar (Burma) to build and equip a new primary school, the village children only had the first three grades in their village. For fourth through sixth grades, they had to walk a long way to a school in another area. Now, the all six grades of primary school are available in this new facility right in their village, and children from neighboring villages come to school here, too.

1. If you could not go to school because of the poverty of your family or of your village, what would you think, feel and do?
2. If you were a parent in Gong Sa Village, what would you think, feel and do?
3. If you were a child in Gong Sa village, what would you think, feel and do?
4. If you were from a nearby village, what would you think, feel and do?
5. In what ways do you think building a school for public education is an expression of Christian Witness?