



What could be better than shopping on 5th Avenue in New York City? Some of our students would say, "Nothing". Today the students spent most of their (parents') money on souvenirs and clothes. One of our students bought much of her next year's school wardrobe. Besides shopping, some of our students went for a ride on the subway, others took a carriage ride around Central Park, while others ice skated in Rockefeller Plaza.

While we were downtown, we were able to take a tour of the NBC studios. We learned how live shows were made and we were able to visit some of the sets for shows like *Dr. Oz*, *Sunday Night Football*, and *Saturday Night Live*. Four of our students had the opportunity to practice being newscasters and weatherpersons. We watched them live as they read from a teleprompter adding hand gestures and expression. Too bad their show was cancelled because they only had an audience of 28.

The third place we visited was Ground Zero. They are currently in the process of building a new structure, to be called "Tower One", which will commemorate the destruction of the Twin Towers. The finished structure will be 1,776 feet which will make it the tallest building in the world. We also had a few minutes to explore the World Trade Center Tribute. Inside there were videos and audios of the distressing sights and sounds of Ground Zero. We saw many artifacts of the destruction like twisted steel and personal articles that were recovered from the debris. This memorial tried to emphasize the personal destruction that occurred rather than just the material destruction. There was a large wall of posters with pictures and names of people who were missing after the assault. They reminded us of the posters people put up when they had lost a pet, only this was a person! Even more touching was a larger display of all the pictures of the people who died in 9-11. Certainly their relatives still miss them. May God bless them with comfort and grace.

From there we went back to the hotel to eat and get dressed up to go to see *The Lion King*. The most meaningful line was when Rafiki said to Simba, "Remember who you are: you are the son of the king." We know that she didn't mean the King of kings, but thinking of it that way is very meaningful to Christians.

We are safely tucked into our hotel rooms and preparing for a good night's sleep. We have another big day tomorrow. We are looking forward to traveling around Manhattan by sea and traveling across the country by air. Please pray that all of our travels will go smoothly and that all the parents are at RCS on time to pick up their kids.

Quotable Quotes:

"I am so hungry!! I did not eat the chicken at dinner, because I didn't know how." This was said by one of our honor roll students.

"Broadway was spectacular." Numerous students as they left the theatre.

"Where is the 'You are Here' sign?" Said by a distinguished science teacher as we were riding the subway. One of his students responded with, "We are moving, Mr. Boersen."

"Isn't it ironic that the guy with the 'Know it all' shirt kept getting questions wrong?" One student to another.

"Fifth Avenue reminds me of Citrus Plaza on steroids." One student to another.

"Your parents are serious!!! This is the first time I have had a parent carry a tri-pod throughout the tour." Tour guide describing our group.