

My Trip to China!!

Written by Sarah Hamilton, age 13, May 13th 2004

After discovering about the trips to China at the age of about 9, I had a deep desire in my heart to go!

Through Zoe and the feedback from China, God showed me that China would be my first mission trip!! The problem was my age. The first time I queried going to China with Cyril and Gabrielle I was about 10 and they said they don't let people go until the age of 16. This was a huge disappointment for me but I still planned to go the minute I hit 16!!! Gabrielle then said she had a passion on her heart to start bringing youth out!! This was great timing for me, and thanks to my mum coming as well I was able to go!!

The orphanages in China are amazing places. The minute you walk in you see the great love and passion for the children. God showed me that however disabled, helpless or perfect the children are, every single one is loved and cherished! In our eyes these children have pretty much nothing, but being there surrounded by people they recognize and who love them, means the world to these children.

I also have a desire in my heart now to adopt a child of my own when I am older...this is something I will continue to pray about.

Before going to China God had told me that being a nurse and then going on to become a midwife is his plan for me. Visiting China confirmed this I guess and showed me that with these qualifications, and God's guidance I can help less fortunate children all over the world!!

Hephzibah's 10th Anniversary was celebrated with JOY!



October 12th was a day full of excitement and smiles, as we celebrated Hephzibah's 10th Anniversary with current and past supporters and staff. Speeches in the morning outside in front of the building were followed by visits to the 4th floor to see the children and their sleeping, eating, play and rehabilitation areas. Then the celebration closed with an all-you-can-eat BBQ style buffet lunch banquet in town and performances by children and 2 adoptive families (The Strong family and T.A., Grace and Joy)

It was special that Liz M. (former Childcare SEO on extended leave) was able to join the festivities, giving a speech in the morning and awards to the 2 local staff, T.A. (Manager of Foster Care and Support Services) and Y.L. (Group Leader), who have been with us for 10 years! (See photo with T.A., Liz M., Suyan L. (China Childcare Partnership Program Coordinator), Lori F. (former administrative staff) and Y.L.) Also Nick, Maggie and Sammy S. were honored for their work with us in Hephzibah's early days and it was special to see them again.

Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers for the event, which went so smoothly and even appeared in local newspapers and on television the following day! We hope that the publicity will raise awareness of how special and full of potential these children are and that viewers would be moved by Father's love and care which has transformed their lives.

Most of all, we give thanks for your support throughout the last 10 years. We know that bended knees all around the world have sown seeds which will last for an eternity. We all give thanks for being able to be a part of Father's eternal work, touching people's lives.



Challenging times ahead for Hope Haven

Written by Joy B., Hope Haven Nurse Health Care Supervisor

Internal Changes

The inception of restructuring the management of the Hope Haven Child Care Centre has brought with it the appointment of a team of three personnel for that responsibility. They are Sophie W., the Executive Officer in charge of support services; Joy B., Nurse Health Care Supervisor and Erica C., Administrator and Chinese Personnel Officer who will meet together with the other two childcare centre leadership teams monthly but who will be able to make autonomous decisions for Hope Haven. We enthusiastically welcome Sophie and will value her input and skills.

We would appreciate your supportive thoughts as we endeavor to find the 'mind of our father' in all aspects of direction and goals—long and short term.

We believe that autonomy will bring with it greater accountability and accept this challenge. It is an exciting time of change for Hope Haven. Please remember us in your 'quiet times'.



External Changes

External changes have, and will greatly affect our children and their futures.

The Provincial Welfare Department has implemented the 'Tomorrow Plan', which means that they take the responsibility of all the children's surgery in the future.

The first group of children for surgery from Hope Haven are expected to have operations in December and then possibly April 2005. The project already has brought with it a team spirit between our centre and the main welfare centre as we cooperate in this common aim.

Also, staff from the Main Welfare Centre have joined our staff for three day lectures in Child Development and one staff member in English lessons. This development will, of course, increase as we continue to move with changing opportunities and show love by offering education and encouragement to the staff and children in the Main Welfare Centre.

For this too, we would ask you to remember as we seek wisdom in all things.

“Until we meet again...”

Written by Ellen J.

Childcare publications writer and Correspondent with Adoptive Families

After going through the metal detectors at San Francisco International Airport, I remember looking back to give a reassuring smile to my parents, waving good-bye from behind the glass. Then I rounded the corner out of their sight and took a deep breath thinking of the exciting yet daunting journey into unfamiliar China, “Oh my goodness. I’m really on my own. Lord please stick by my side!”



It’s amazing how fast 2 years have been spent here in China and, unexpectedly, not once have I truly felt alone. He indeed has been my “faithful companion.” When things were unfamiliar, His presence was a home. When I felt afraid traveling alone to my ancestors’ villages without much language and no guidebook for that area, He reminded me that he created the roads on all the earth

Helpful Notes:

It is exciting that the 3 childcare centers are growing up and are now equipped to write their own updates etc. and will from now on correspond directly with adoptive parents using the following addresses:

Hephzibah (hephzibah@mail.edu.cn)

Hope Haven (hopehaven@mail.edu.cn)

Shekinah Shalom (shekinahshalom@mail.edu.cn)

However please understand that facilities are limited in terms of computers and personnel and be patient when awaiting replies. All overseas supporters should continue to go through your country coordinator to be added to any mailing lists.



and sent people to help me just when I needed it. When visitors and shorter term volunteers came and left China, he was my faithful husband. I knew he always understood me and that He was giving me one-on-one tutoring in the study of life.

After my first year here I remember repairing my city map, which had holes and tears on every major crease because I took it everywhere I went. I realized what a helpful and empowering tool a map is, how it had given me courage to explore a new city of more than 7 million people and how it allows us to “see” where we are from a wider perspective, making the “city out there” seem less big and unknown. As I carefully taped the tears, the Lord silently whispered, “Even better, I’ve given you the map of life-the Bible. With it you can see where you are and it can help you navigate which way to go. You can approach life with confidence and without fear because there is nothing unknown to me and you are not lost. I’ve given you (and everyone) my map.

There is no end to all of the things God has taught me in only my two years here and it’s hard to believe my season in China is now drawing to a close. As I’m headed back to the USA and know not what the future holds, I’ll cherish the lessons learned while in China, in His classroom of life. I’ve so enjoyed being a part of His work and people here and around the world- thank you so much for your visible or invisible partnerships. How wonderful that no good-byes are final in His Kingdom.

**To support the work and for further details and information about opportunities, please contact
Kathy Porowski – CFC Coordinator P.O. Box 10444, Santa Ana, CA 92711-9998. Caring for China is a 501 (c) 3
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send checks to: Caring For China 3300 S. Fairview St. Santa Ana, CA 92704**