

The word "expansion" is certainly a key word this year as the work continues to grow and develop with a heavenly momentum that keeps us all moving forward and looking upward to our great creator God, the One who sustains all things by his powerful word. All three children's centres are embarking on programmes of upgrading facilities, increasing accommodation, developing new locations and improving training. Wonderfully more and more of the diverse responsibilities are being handed over to local Chinese colleagues who are becoming less and less dependent on overseas professionals. We are excited too by plans to open a new children's programmed in the arid North-West of China next year. In other areas of the work too the momentum continues this year with more teachers than usual joining us and taking up positions in universities and colleges where their influence and witness will be significant; three short term summer teaching teams will soon be starting as well. Our drug rehabilitation programmed is making an impact as those with great needs respond to loving kindness and the good news; the need is enormous and we are actively considering developing a residential programmed. In the Southwest of China the Special Needs Education programmed is continuing its unique work of training parents of children with special needs and looking ahead to future expansion. Our healthcare department is undergoing a period of consolidation with a view to future growth. Expansion naturally means a lot of extra work as contracts, finances, legal documents, staff recruitment and building projects are prepared and often need to be discussed with local officials. We are so grateful for our committed group of local professionals who handle all the complexities of administration which become more onerous with each new development.



the Administration Services team after lunch together.

We give thanks to God for the growth we are experiencing and count it a great privilege to be working alongside a growing number of local professionals who have an ever increasing involvement in the overall work. It continues to be such a joy to be in partnership with our local brothers and sisters and a real privilege to introduce those who are new.

Last year Laura was a welcome addition to our Administration Services team as a part-time translator and interpreter. She is a very active co-worker in one of the local groups. She is also a very happy, bubbly young lady, wearing her engagement ring on a chain around her neck and anticipating marriage in the next few months!

YR was introduced to us last year, just as we were considering how to develop the Training Department. As a qualified and experienced accountant YR was the ideal person to join that team, thus releasing Rebecca into a new training role. YR has a lovely voice, often leading in worship. She is quiet, thoughtful and very conscientious.



YR and Janet in the accounts office

As we were continuing to seek God last year on the way forward for the Training Department and were also working on updated wages systems for the many local employees, Dana was introduced to us. Amazingly she had just the right business background to help in both areas and as a new believer wanted to be in an environment where she could grow spiritually. She is a very mature, gracious lady with a young son.

Sharon's work continues to expand and as office manager she prayed for more assistance, so Josephine came on a free lance basis this year. This increased the number working under Sharon to 7 people including Cherry who has moved over from childcare administration, Lydia who also gives IT training and Hannah, Ruth and Annabel's sister, who helps in hospitality by preparing daily meals and cleaning.

With the continual demands resulting from legislative changes in China there is an ever increasing workload for Lily who provides legal services. She is now joined by WJ on a free lance basis.

A number of the office staff are now involved in sub committees which require the honing of their decision making and also relationship skills. It is a privilege to witness their growth over the months in providing loving, professional and prayerful support to the other departments and to see some developments in godly leadership.

Tim and James both celebrated their weddings last year and Tim and his new wife now have a baby girl. Jerry our driver expects to marry Christina (Health) this year and Cherry is expecting a baby. Simon and Lily enjoy their young son. There is much to rejoice in!



Tim and Simon at the bowling alley

It is also a great pleasure to welcome Stacie (US) who has rejoined us in the role of overseas personnel support. We want to increase appropriate and relevant care for overseas personnel and eventually also for local personnel.

As our vision for the future of the Special Needs Education project grows please join us in lifting to the Lord these proposals and for his direction and guidance.

Proposal: Enlargement of the program through further training

Training plan

- Commencement: September 2006 for a 2 year period
- Format: Modular
- Involvement: current local Chinese team and overseas specialists

Continuing objectives of programmed

- Continuing to reach out into the community including into non-believing families
- Prevention of abandonment by working with families with special needs children
- Supporting the foster program enabling more children to be released from the relevant orphanages into community care.
- Encouraging those believing families with special needs children in their walk with God

Requirements

- Larger ground floor apartment plus funding for the rent for an enlarged activity centre.
- Additional local staff to assist Deborah who is the translator and administrator.
- An overseas couple to join the team to assist professionally and pastorally plus an apartment for them
- An apartment for short term overseas specialist staff who join in the training programmed
- Suitable local trainees for the expanded programmed



Deborah writes:

It's a great blessing for me to be one of the team members. Father put this trust in my heart that He is the one who gave me this job and He would make me able to do it. He also put into my heart His promise from Isaiah 40:31 that those who waited on him will be refreshed in their strength and will mount up with wings like eagles. He taught me how to lift up everything into His hand and keep my eyes upon Him and not the situation. Every time that an unexpected situation happened, He made me see another chance of growing, and if I submit, I do grow stronger! And I see all the issues just sorted out in his perfect timing. I do think the way our teachers help special needs children is just how He helps us to see our value in His eyes, helps us to discover our potential and brings them into full play step by step. This gives me much encouragement. Thank you so much for remembering our team and me, please continue to pray for us. Without your support and love we could do nothing.

Drug Rehabilitation – Bethesda Drop-In Centre

What God has done up to now.

Out of 29 recovering addicts who have attended Bethesda, 7 have prayed asking the Lord Jesus into their lives; we have regular contact with 5 of them and have the joy of seeing lives wonderfully transformed. In addition, 2 teenage street children have been born again and are now being cared for by a local family.

Jerry was a heroin addict, fighter, driver, gangster, one who one of us was strictly warned not to have anything to do with because of his bad reputation. He has become a new creation and now has an almost permanent smile on his face. His response when he began to read the Bible was that he needed to be “clean”. He now knows he is.

Michael, rejected by his stepmother (his mother died when he was a small child), often unfed and left outside the house, turned to stealing in order to eat... and eventually to drugs. Physically not very fit, with low self-esteem and feeling he had no hope, he contemplated suicide but has now found hope and freedom in the Lord Jesus. He loves to sing and shows a remarkably deep understanding of Scripture. He's very humble and thankful.

John used to use words such as “no way”, “it's impossible”, “life has no meaning” in almost every other sentence. He has found that life does have meaning, that there is a way. An ex-business man, property/car owner, he lost everything due to heroin addiction. A gentle man who cares for others, he has expressed a desire to help those recovering from the same addiction.

King and Queenie, a married couple, both recovering addicts, have been born again and baptized. They live in a very small community of people who know all about their past and don't believe they've changed. However, they're “pressing on” and some people are beginning to soften as they both reach out to serve and help others.

The 2 teenage street children had been coming to the drop-in centre for several months and were watching a Moses video one day, when one of them said he wanted to pray and ask Jesus into his life. He did so. They are both minority nationals and are now living with a local couple where they are receiving good teaching. They're good students; they recited 14 memory verses to us on a recent outing!

Where are we now?

“We” are 3 full-time and 1 part timer working together to help drug addicts rebuild their lives. Just recently, we have had a few enquiries from people in other provinces who want to quit using drugs and have heard of Bethesda's work. At present, we have no residential facilities. Therefore.....

Our hopes for the future

.....are to be able to provide living accommodation in order to better facilitate full recovery / rehabilitation. This could be either a kind of half-way house in the city or a residential centre outside the city (or both?!)

We'd also like to resume presentations at local detox units; we did several at 2 units last year and several “inmates” have come to Bethesda as a result.

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.

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