

### Hephzibah



### INTRODUCTION

Hello everyone! This month the whole of the update is devoted to all things Hephzibah! We hope that you enjoy hearing all our news and that we can encourage you to pray for the issues currently on our hearts and those things happening within our walls! Thank you so much for thinking of us and praying for us.

**ADOPTIONS** for our children and them joining wonderful families is always a high priority for prayer for us at Hephzibah but we do have request that you pray for our older children in particular. We'd like to introduce you to some of our children who are getting older and are still waiting to be matched with their 'Forever Families'. We are confident that our Father is preparing special families for them but please can you pray for them all? Thank you.

**John** is nearly 7 years old and arrived at Hephzibah when he was only 2 weeks old. He was born with water on the brain and was fitted with a shunt (a tube to drain away the fluid) to help relieve the symptoms. John has overcome such a lot to be the independent little boy he is today, he did not walk until he was 5 years old and did have some learning difficulties. Now however he attends kindergarten; walks and runs with the other children; talks very well (he can even copy some English words) and is a wonderful little boy. John is full of fun and loves the other children, his carers and overseas volunteers. He loves to laugh and be tickled – he will be a delight in the family God chooses for him!



**Pippa** is next. She is just over 5 years old and came to Hephzibah when she was 1 month old. Pippa was born with a heart defect but this doesn't bother her at all! She

is a wonderful little girl and is always laughing and chattering away. She can speak a little English and loves to sing songs in both Chinese and English. Pippa is an absolute delight to have around; she loves kindergarten and is very clever. She likes to play with her friends and helps out the children who can't do as much as her. She is very much looking forward to having a family of her own!

**Sonny** is a very lively little boy who is just over 4 years old. Sonny was born with a problem with his genitalia – this causes him no problems now however. He arrived at Hephzibah when he was 8 months old. Sonny is a typical little boy – he loves to play with his best friend Thomas and likes to cause mischief! He does like to be cuddled though and will make sure he is the first onto his carer's lap – because he is so lively he usually makes it there first too!



←Sonny Thomas ↑

**Thomas** is Sonny's 'partner in crime'! He is 3 and half years old and was born with a cleft lip and palate which are now repaired. He arrived at Hephzibah when he was 8 months old too. Thomas started kindergarten not so long ago and is thriving there; his speech has improved a little and he is proving to be very smart.

Thomas is very loving and is always the first to help if another child falls over, he also loves cuddles from his carers – he is a wonderful little boy. Thomas is looking forward to having a family of his own and loves to spend days out with one of our overseas volunteers.

**Emily** is a beautiful little girl who is nearly 3 years old. She has scarring from previous burns down the left side of her body and came to us when she was almost 1 year old. Emily initially was very shy and scared when she arrived but is now very loving and outgoing. She loves to cuddle and always greets her carers by running to them and giving them a hug. She loves to play with the other children and smiles a lot!

Her speech is a little slow to develop but she can make herself understood – we have high hopes that it will improve when she goes to kindergarten in September.



We ask you to pray for these special children. Please ask Father to provide 'Forever Families' for all of them, we have every confidence that He is preparing just the right families for each one but can you please ask that they come soon. None of these children are matched yet and it is very upsetting for them to see their friends being collected by families – John in particular gets very upset. Thank you for joining us in prayer for these children – we pray that Father will not only prepare their families but them as well.

### WHEELCHAIR PROJECT

In the last couple of months we have become aware of and made contact with a project that promises to provide wheelchairs to those children that need them. The wheelchairs are custom-made in China and the project provides specialists who will assess the children and ensure a correct fit. Best of all they promise to provide the wheelchairs for free to orphans with Cerebral palsy! Four of our children need new wheelchairs at the moment:

**RUTH, DAVID and JONATHAN** are getting so tall now that the wheelchairs we have are getting too small. They have also been given so much use that they are almost worn out!

**LAURA** has never had a wheelchair before and the hope still is that she will eventually walk but she will have some independence if she has a wheelchair of her own.

So, you can see that, yet again, Father's timing is such that at exactly the time that we need new wheelchairs for our children a project comes to our attention that will provide what we need (and more!) for free!

### BETH ISAAC PROJECT

In a previous update we were very excited at Hephzibah and reported that we had found a location in the south of the city to be a new home for our children with special needs. The courtyard surrounded by small units is to house 4 'family groups', rehabilitation rooms and special needs education rooms, a kitchen and group activity area. Well, when we reported initially things seemed to be moving very quickly and we expected the renovations to have been completed and the children to have moved in by September 2005. Father has other plans however!



Although things are still very much going ahead the contract signing has been delayed and still hasn't been completed. Finer details are still being negotiated and things will move on as soon as they are sorted out and everyone is happy.

### TRIBUTE TO SIMON (17th May 2002 – 24th June 2005)

We at Hephzibah would like to share some thoughts and some memories about little Simon. Simon came to Hephzibah on 24th May 2002 – he was approximately 1 week old. He was so small when he arrived but from the beginning Simon really caught hold of people's hearts. He was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and carers remember him being so tiny and that it was very difficult to feed him. He would only take 10-15mls of milk at a time and they would have to use droplets to feed him! Carers here remember overseas nurses carrying Simon around inside their clothes just to try to keep him warm!

Even though Simon was so tiny staff here soon started his therapy and he would be put through his paces regularly so that he wouldn't develop any deformities. When staff came from other rehabilitation projects for training they were given Simon to practice their skills on, all agreed that he was a special little boy.

Carers here have special memories of Simon. They remember his first smile at age 1.5 years, his wonderful face, his tiny body (Simon was always difficult to feed and didn't grow much in his 3 years) but most of all they remember that he was a fighter. Simon was sick a lot and was hospitalized several times with bronchial conditions but he would fight every time and somehow pull through. Many staff and overseas volunteers recall sitting with Simon for hours expecting him not to make it only to be surprised when he, again and again, pulled through.

This time however it was not Father's plan for him to get better. Simon became very ill and after a short time in the Healthcare Centre he passed away. We miss our little treasure very much. The other children know that he is with Jesus now and seem very content about this.

Simon was a little boy who, on first sight, seemed not to be able to do very much but those who knew him will say that he could touch people's heart in a big way. His smile could light up a room and he will be missed very very much.

We give great thanks to all those people who have visited and cared for Simon, to the staff at the Healthcare Centre who cared for him so well but most of all to the carers in Beth Isaac and Rose Rooms who loved Simon and cared for his everyday needs for over 3 years. These carers gave him the best of care during his final days and are feeling the loss right now.



### TOMORROW PROJECT

Recently the Chinese Government has launched a project that enables us to apply for money for any surgery or equipment our children may need to make their lives more comfortable. We have taken full advantage of this project and many of our children have had essential surgery and equipment has been provided to help children in their daily lives. The following children have received surgery to repair cleft lips:

**LUKE** had surgery about 4 months ago – you can see the result is very successful.



**VANESSA** had only just had her bandages removed when this photo was taken – but she's still smiling!

**HOWARD** had just returned home from hospital – another success story!



**PETER:** Unfortunately sometimes things beyond anyone's control happen. Please pray for Peter, his repair became infected and he will need more surgery in 6 months.

Other children also received benefits: **KIM** received surgery to fit a shunt to drain fluid from her brain. We have seen such an improvement in her mood and independence since!



**RUBY:** We were able to purchase a brace to help Ruby's stooped posture using money provided by the Tomorrow Project.

**LAURA:** We are waiting for money to come through to purchase custom-made ankle braces for Laura. They should enable her to stand independently, improve her posture and prevent her leg muscles from tightening.



So, as you can see, many of our children have benefited from this project – we give thanks and praise to Father for providing for the children in this way!

### FOSTER PROGRAM

As some of you will probably be aware, we ask for a lot of prayer for our foster program. We are constantly on the look-out for suitable families to foster the children so that those who may not be adopted (often due to them having special needs) can experience family life and the love of a family of their own.

TA is currently over-seeing the foster program and approaches local churches for potential people to foster the children. She and XL, her assistant, will visit families in their home, ask friends and church leaders for references and generally get to know the families to check out their suitability – then, if suitable, they will be matched with our children.

We have three children with foster families at the moment: Robert, Lillian and Stephen.

We are currently looking for more families and hope to match them with Katharine, Celia, John (until he is adopted) and Hannah.

**To support the work and for further details and information about opportunities, please contact**

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