

Caring For China

Shekinah Shalom

Dec 2006 & Jan 2007

One year has passed since the last Quarterly Update about Shekinah Shalom (SSh) was published. During the year, there were many changes and developments, especially for the disabled youth, so the focus of this issue will be on developments in special education services. Without your support and prayers, it would be impossible for the team to cope with the daily work and such enormous developments in SSh.

EAGLE'S NEST RESIDENTIAL TRAINING CENTER (RTC)

The RTC is a year old now, and September 25th was the start of a new term with some new courses in the curriculum. DYC (vision impaired) is learning Chinese Braille for the first time in her 29-year life. She & DM are in a new independent food preparation class. Before they can claim mastery of a

dish, they must know all its ingredients, prepare it on their own and pass a staff taste test. These ladies,



at the same time, are learning the steps of opening and running a small convenience store on the ground floor of SSh. Customers were eagerly awaiting the opening on November 10th.

GR & ZXH are continuing to polish their shoe shining skills and doing some simple shoe repairs. Both of them (lame because of cerebral palsy) are getting stronger in their arms



and torso as they do daily exercise on their hand-powered tricycles. Their personal goal is to ride all the way into the city (about 20 mins by car). They are

already able to go one quarter of the way and back.

JN (learning disability) now walks to and from work (20 mins each way) on her own. Every afternoon she does her cleaning job with a minimum of supervision. DXT (learning disability) continues to work in the laundry and is, little by

little, getting better at following her schedule. LL (also learning disabilities) has mastered a 150-pcs jigsaw puzzle and is happily engaged on her new 250-pcs puzzle. The otherwise happy girl only gets angry when someone tries to help her with it.



December 4th, another teenage girl with learning disabilities, Deborah, will come to live at the RTC. She is currently in a foster home and ready to begin training in adult life and work skills.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

A major goal is being realized. Children with mild to moderate disabilities, ages 2 years old to adult, have opportunities for special education in Zhao Zhai village (ZZ); this is also where the Blue Palace and Bethel are located.

Last year, Amy, an overseas volunteer, set up a pre-school and kindergarten at ZZ, paving the way for local staff to take it over when she returned to England. At the same time, the Eagle's Nest RTC for disabled young adults was set up. But the disabled youth in the middle, ages 9 to 15, had only the promise of a school for them.



Now the promise is a reality. On November 7th, Sunrise School (an Eagle's Nest project) opened in ZZ. There are 8 students, 6 full-time and 2 (with severe disabilities) for only one hour a day. Four boys who are physically disabled but intellectually capable are enrolled in academic courses. It is hoped that computers can be obtained for those with disabilities that make writing or speaking difficult. The other 4 students (learning disabilities & autistic) are enrolled in practical skills courses according to their individual needs.

REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

Rehab continues to provide high quality services to all the special needs children. A year ago, a training course on "Ponseti Method of Clubfoot Manipulation" was organized in SSh and all 4 rehab ladies were diligently applying this method to three clubfoot children. This year when one of the children was adopted, his orthopedic surgeon in the US gave us an A+ for clubfoot management.



Because of the availability of training funds donated from overseas, all the rehab ladies have opportunities to attend outside professional conferences / seminars this year, and are looking forward to hosting more workshops / seminars in the coming year.

ELIM (FOSTER CARE REHAB STATION)

Several foster children required changes in placement due to ageing foster parents or changing family dynamics. All the children have adjusted well in the new homes. Two children enrolled in the local kindergarten and are doing well. A few accidents occurred in the foster families in the last year.



A foster father suffered a stroke in April; another was drowned in the river. A foster mother's foot was cut by a butcher's knife in the wet market in September; another mother was bitten by a neighbor's dog in October. Please ask for special protection for those foster families.

MOVE OF SHEKINAH SHALOM CHILDCARE CENTER

The nursery located in the SSh will be moved to ZZ at the end of this year. There are now only 25 children in SSh (a stable number since January 2006) while in Bethel 40 children are in the care of 9 House Mamas. The SSh building is larger than current needs require. In order to economize and provide more efficient management, after discussion with the Main Welfare Center, and their mutual agreement, it was decided to move and centralize services in the ZZ Children's Village.



The move is quite a big project; however, the total cost for renovation & move won't be too much. In addition, after the move at the end of the year, the general expenses of running only the ZZ complex (instead of 2 sites) will be much reduced. Please remember the move; especially ask for safety and speedy adjustment for the children and the carers as well.

Shekinah Shalom 10th anniversary
celebration is on **OCTOBER 11, 2007.**

You are welcome to come
and celebrate with us
the Lord's faithfulness
over the previous 10 years.
Please put the date in your diary!

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

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