

# HEALTH FOR CHINA

UPDATE FOR MAY 2008

## Australian Volunteers International:

We recently received a visit from Tam Anh and William – based in Hanoi, Viet Nam. They came to see the medical work and talk about possible links between our two organizations. AVI works with placing volunteers in a number of countries around the world, including China.



Hospice care for YY goes on 24/7 with Jan B.(UK) and Dr X.(PRC) and our Chinese staff, all having input into her health care. She even gets a game of cards occasionally – (see the above card sharks!!!) Laurie sometimes gives her an English lesson, or reads from a book. Others sit and talk. Always we try and make each day, varied and enjoyable. Administering blood transfusions and IV drips ensures that YY remains strong enough to enjoy a reasonably comfortable life.

YY amazed us by asking if she could possibly come on the Children's Day out . So four of us carried her down in her wheelchair and pushed her around the park. For some of the time she walked. She smiled the whole time and said she really enjoyed it. Although exhausted from

the half day's activity she was fully satisfied with the time spent at the Big Goose Pagoda Park in Xi'an. An example to us all and a reminder that we need to consider a variety of activities for her!

The "Big Day Out" for the children, with their carers, parents and friends was a huge success in spite of the threat of wet weather which held off until we were ready to go home again.

Everybody did their "bit" to help and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There were games, like pass the parcel, plus food, and drinks, and songs from the children.

The Big Goose Pagoda Park is certainly a beautiful place to come to for activities like this.



# RURAL VILLAGE TRAINING PROGRAM

As part of our ongoing work in the rural village hospitals, Dr Chris S. and Mary S. (UK) presented more training modules on hypertension, CPR, etc. Dr.X. (PRC) also presented additional information on Hypertension and CPR from a Chinese perspective. These were very well received and were supplemented with practical CPR work and Blood Pressure testing around the room.



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It was reiterated that cutting out saturated fats in the food and maintaining a high level of exercise can drastically lower the high levels of hypertension in a body.

## RURAL SCHOOL VISITS:

As part of our rural health work we were invited to a local village school where Dr Chris and Mary were able to talk on topics of First Aid, and Choking. The children sang us a song of welcome and we responded with a family song of our own. The children listened intently, asked lots of intelligent questions and answered all our questions extremely well, which showed they had listened carefully to the topics. The first aid videos were quite dramatic and there were lots of ooh's and ah's through the presentation. Dr Chris and Mary both presented their topics with some simple and practical demonstrations for the children to learn.





## **INTENSIVE CARE PATIENTS:**

**Three children required significant care within our Base this month. Timothy, at left, stayed with us for five days. He had a high fever. In spite of his fever Timothy remained happy and smiling.**

**Next came Peter, at right, who was admitted with Pneumonia and significant respiratory problems. Placed on Oxygen he has now recovered and has been sent home. An IV drip was placed in his foot. Sometimes it is easier to find a tiny vein there. Peter has a lovely smile.**



**David is our third baby this month – admitted with a severe case of diarrhoea. This can be a huge problem for a very small baby. Once again an IV drip has to be installed to ensure proper hydration. David just loves softly spoken words and pats on the shoulder – this reassurance really settles him down when he feels a bit distracted.**

**In every case a carer was assigned to each child to ensure that necessary 24/7 care was able to be given.**

**WELCOME TO DOCTORS' JULIE AND SAM FROM AUSTRALIA – AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN – THEY ARE WITH US FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS AND WILL ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO GIVE GENERAL MEDICAL CARE. WELCOME ABOARD!**



They wasted no time in visiting the two Childcare Centres which we operate here in Xi'an, and met the staff and children in both locations. They have already assimilated with the culture, food, language and work needs and are looking at enhancing their capabilities in China.



**CURRENT NEEDS:**

- An additional local - (Chinese) Nurse is required, to assist our work at Healthcare.
- Continuation of funds to enable us to provide for our ongoing Rural Health Training Program and free medical clinics.
- Provision of a replacement Overseas Communications person is required for Sept 2008.
- There are ongoing needs for Overseas medical professionals to join us throughout the year.
- A CPR training mannequin (preferably two) would also be of assistance to our training.

For more information please visit our Website [www.careforchina.org](http://www.careforchina.org) or [www.careforchina.net](http://www.careforchina.net)