

HEALTH FOR CHINA

UPDATE FOR JUNE 2008

SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE: On 12th May 2008 we evacuated our Health Services Base during a devastating earthquake which occurred in



nearby Sichuan province. No-one was hurt here so we went outside and watched and waited. Following another aftershock we decided to remain outside a bit longer – keeping a safe distance away from any buildings. Two patients were evacuated with us, YY, and Steve, our Cerebral Palsy boy. We eventually went back into the building but stayed that night on the ground floor. Aftershocks continued for many days, and caused 3 more evacuations. We gradually learned of the huge scale of the earthquake in Sichuan and other areas and resolved to do something to help affected people.



SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE MEDICAL TEAM:

Four people felt the definite call to go to assist people in earthquake shattered areas of Sichuan. Dr J (USA), Dr F, (Pakistan), Dr May, (PRC), and Laurie (NZ). – three Doctors and one medical administrator. Linking with Heart To Heart and Global Doctors we worked in 3 separate areas over 7 days. We assisted medically and listened to the needs of people still stunned from the effects of the quake. One elderly lady who had lost 6 members of her family that day, sat like a statue – with tears streaming from her eyes.

We listened with focused compassion at such times.



Fixing burns, detecting Chicken Pox and German measles, applying dressings, dispensing medicines, etc. Most of our work was done with Global Doctors at the Mianyang Stadium where about 10,000 of the original 29,000 refugees remained. There was a significant amount of work to do there.



Refugees going to new country camps



The girl at left lost her sister in the quake.



Later we were able to visit the severely devastated areas and see for ourselves how, in just 2-3 minutes people and homes, schools, factories, etc., were simply destroyed forever.



Miles and miles of buildings – totally shattered, along with peoples lives and livelihoods. Yet, here and there, were signs of stoic survival with the barest minimum to live with. We were even invited to share lunch with a group just like these people. But how could we. Yet there were smiles of welcome. This sight will remain in our minds forever! And then we drove into an area unaffected – where the school had survived and the kids were safe – just down the road their town was destroyed – and they smiled and laughed with us. They actually ministered to us!!! After seven days we returned to Xi'an with a desire to send another team as soon as possible.



Baby A.T.L from Hephzibah was admitted with heart and lung problems. She has beautiful eyes and is very attentive.

ADMISSIONS FOR MAY 2008

Peter came in for some intensive love, care, and attention.



Other children came in whilst our team was away in Chengdu and we don't have photos of them.

We give thanks for great recoveries for all the children in our care.



THERAPY WORK AT THE HEALTH SERVICES BASE

Cerebral Palsy work continues to develop with constant input from Doctor L. (PRC), and our nursing staff. The children continue to make solid progress – even though the work is sometimes challenging for them.



Caleb can blow out a candle now.



Steve's walking ability is greatly enhanced



HOSPICE WORK

YY has shown some definite stabilisation during the past month. We continue to lift her health needs to Father. In the meantime she has taken up knitting with great enthusiasm. Her family is being ever more supportive of her. Love is very healing. She somehow seems to radiate more of it than she gets.

A SPECIAL THANKS:

During this time of tremendous suffering in Sichuan we want to say thank you to those who responded to the Disaster Relief Fund. Our challenge now is to ensure needy families get the assistance they need. Our other teams within the disaster area are helping s work through the needs.

For those of us unscathed it is indeed a time of thankfulness. Thank you for your ongoing support.

With Love from the Healthcare team,