

ELA Healthcare Update



January 2009

Australian Pediatrician Dr. Ming Chow Visits Xi'an

Dr. Ming Chow, a pediatric registrar from Melbourne, came for his second visit to work with ELA Healthcare in December.

During his two-week stay, he saw children in all three ELA orphanages—Hephzibah, Hope Haven, and Shekinah Shalom—providing valuable specialist input for the medical care of our children.

He also offered much-appreciated training to carers at Hephzibah, village doctors in Xianyang, and ELA Healthcare staff.

Thanks, Dr. Ming!



Ma Quan Village Doctor Training

Thanks to a continuing partnership with the Xianyang Hygiene Bureau, we are excited to announce a new training site—Ma Quan Village! We met close to 30 enthusiastic village doctors at our first session (on common pediatric infections in winter and upper respiratory infections). We are hoping to return to Ma Quan once a month to offer regular, continuous training for the village doctors here.

In 2009, we are planning to rework our village training program so that we will be teaching a systematic curriculum over the course of the year in three village sites. We plan to visit each site once a month. We will continue to make use of the specialized expertise of our visiting medical professionals as well when opportunities arise!



Depression Training at Xi Dian University

Clinical depression and suicide are a scourge in Chinese universities, where academic success is seen as paramount to parental approval and a good future. Dr. Sam was invited to give a lecture on clinical depression at Xi Dian University, a technical university in the west of Xi'an. The lecture, which aimed to provoke thought about students' underlying values and coping mechanisms, will hopefully open doors for true hope and joy to enter in. The message was very warmly received by students and faculty alike, and Dr. Sam has already been invited back to offer training to more students and staff!



News from the Office



We were happy to welcome Dr. Sam's father, John Vidler, during his short visit. He was kind enough to share with us one morning, and even accompanied our village health team to Mu Jia He Village (more next month)!

The Chinese staff have begun studying English with Bev three days a week. We are focusing on speaking and listening, and aim to improve communication within the Healthcare family, as well as with patients!



Our team said goodbye to Martin, our physical resources officer of the last four years. He will be missed, but we wish him the best for the future and know Angel will do a great job taking over his responsibilities!



A Bittersweet Christmas at Hephzibah



Even as we celebrate many new open doors in the Healthcare Department, we seek our Father's guidance along with our brothers and sisters in the Childcare Department as we consider the future direction of ELA's orphanages and how we can continue to provide our children with excellent medical care.

Things to Think About...

- **General direction** – With a multitude of open doors and the many changes within ELA and the Healthcare Department, we are seeking our Father's guidance so that we may walk through the right doors and do all things well and for his glory.
- **Village training** – We are seeking to develop a curriculum to address the most pressing educational needs of our village doctors. We hope it will be possible to provide training sessions on a monthly basis in three locations. We are also starting a research program to evaluate the effectiveness of our trainings.
- **Xi Dian University** – It is our hope that Dr. Sam will be able to provide mental illness training with excellence, and in such a way that hearts and minds may be opened to receive true hope and joy.
- **Cerebral palsy program** – Please remember our CP team as we develop a new program to implement in our new facility. We want to raise the standard of CP care so that our children may benefit functionally and our families may experience the love and support they need. We are also hoping that the renovations of the cerebral palsy rehabilitation room will continue to progress smoothly.
- **Orphanage medical care** – We are seeking our Father's guidance as we move forward through the changes that are occurring in our orphanages. Please ask with us that we would know how to be involved in providing for our orphans' medical needs, and most of all that he would be watching over them and providing for all their needs.
- **English lessons** – As the English speakers are learning Chinese, the Chinese speakers are also studying English with Bev three times weekly at Healthcare. We hope that increasing our ability to communicate will help us to care for each other better as a family as well as for our patients.
- **Overseas medical professionals** – Summer and Fall 2009 – We have an especially pressing need for overseas doctors beginning in July as Drs. Sam and Julie will be unavailable for several months. We also have an ongoing need throughout the year to help provide health services and training to the rural communities we serve.

Things to Be Thankful for...

- We have a wonderful staff of brothers and sisters here in Healthcare...what joy to be blessed every day by one's coworkers!
- Dr. Ming's visit – a blessing to the Healthcare staff and to his many young patients in Xi'an and Hanzhong!
- An open door for village doctor training in Ma Quan, and an enthusiastic reception by both officials and village doctors!
- An open door for mental health training at Xi Dian University, and a warm welcome after our first visit!
- Renovations are proceeding smoothly in the rehabilitation room!
- John Vidler's visit – a blessing to the Vidler family and to the Healthcare staff!
- That “[he] is able to provide [us] with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, [we] may share abundantly in every good work”!



Happy New Year!

