

## WELCOME THE NEW HEALTH SERVICES CENTER (HSC)!

Rejoice! After many months of prayer and preparation, the new HSC has been established, with the signing of a five-year contract, renovations completed and equipment items being purchased and placed into the new center. Thank you to our Administration department for their assistance and provision of staff to help move the office and to May and Teresa for their tireless efforts.

### Five-year contract signing ceremony in November 2003



← The HSC will provide specialist pediatric medical, surgical and developmental care as well as the staff health service. Please remember the surgical teams that are planning to assist us in April and May of this year.

### STAFF DEVELOPING CLINICAL SKILLS

Nancy spent valuable time from December to February in Beijing learning more advanced skills in clinical physical examination, diagnosis and management of complex pediatric cases. →



← We have opportunity for continued input to a provincial teaching hospital

Teresa, executive assistant, on the front line with a lot of important correspondence. →



Since our last newsletter (Oct 2003) there has been huge progress. The refurbishing of the HSC (stage 1) is complete, the office has been moved, new staff members are joining the team and services continue to both adults and children of our organization and others. Several staff members are taking tuberculosis medicines. Fire evacuation drills were undertaken in three facilities. Quinn is making major progress in the development of the Pathology Service.

### POST GRADUATE STUDY PROGRESSING WELL

← In the last newsletter, we reported that May (dentist and surgical services manager) commenced study for the Master of Orthodontics, an opportunity to improve the level of treatment to children with cleft lip and palate, giving them a good appearance and optimal language ability. The team celebrates with May as her first semester has been completed with excellent grades.



## DRUG REHABILITATION SERVICE BEGINS



### Background

The beginnings of a community work with drug addicts is rooted in a picture and word of prophecy which came at a prayer meeting in Xi'an in the Spring of 1992; this was after a day of fasting, with orphanage work particularly in mind. The word given spoke of a dark, terrible, lonely, cold place with a door open if anyone dared to walk in. I knew this was nothing to do with working with orphans; this was confirmed by the speaker who said it looked like a prison. This stayed with me and I wondered if it was anything to do with me.

In 1994, I began to be aware of the drug problem in China and got to know a heroin addict and his family in Xi'an. In the same year, I did one month's voluntary work as a helper in a Christian rehabilitation center in Hong Kong.

I moved to Lanzhou in 1995 and soon afterwards met a young man heavily into heroin. We talked for about half an hour and arranged to meet again but he didn't keep the appointment. I tried several times to find him but to no avail. However, I did meet a young blind man begging in the street and got to know him; he later committed murder and was imprisoned. I visited the prison regularly over the next five years, during which period I got to talk with other people visiting relatives and friends, many of them were moms visiting sons arrested for drug-related crimes.

During this time, I was also visiting the homes of three addicts; two have spent time in government detox units. I met with them weekly over a period of about one and a half years.

The picture mentioned earlier is still very clear in my mind. I see a young man sitting on a wooden chair, leaning slightly forward, head and eyes down, hands and feet bound with ropes.

The place does look like a prison, dark and cold but with a narrow shaft of light from a high-up hole in the wall, shining on the young man. Several years later, in Lanzhou, while on a prayer walk with another lady, I had a picture similar in some ways. Again a young man, this time slithering down a narrow, slimy underground passage. Light was coming in through the small entrance to the passage but it was getting increasingly dark as the passage went deeper. His hands were tied and on a small ledge above him stood a short, vile-looking creature holding a stick which it used to prod the young man in the back each time he tried to stop going down further into the dark passage. Again, a dark, terrible, cold place. The young man looked remarkably similar to the young man in Xi'an.

### Vision

My dream is to provide a homey place where people afflicted by addiction can come and experience for themselves the love and grace of a heavenly Father, be healed and set free from the power of addiction and helped to rebuild their lives to become all that He created them to be. The ideal situation would be a residential rehab center outside the city.

At present, permission has been given for a "drop-in" day center which we have named Bethesda, meaning "House of Mercy". Bethesda seeks to:

- Help drug addicts come to a decision to quit using drugs
- Encourage recovering addicts to maintain a drug-free life
- Help prevent the spread of drug abuse
- Recognize that each person has value and dignity as a human being created in His image and is the object of His love. We want to help those who have suffered because of addictions, whether as an addict or as a family member, to recognize their value and take steps to rebuild their lives.

Bethesda exists to offer, on a daily basis, individual counseling, group support, life-skills teaching, games and other activities, all conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere, plus talks on substance abuse prevention in schools and other places in the community.

-Wendy

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