

Health for China

November 2004

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is His faithfulness.

La 3: 22-23

We have had a very busy summer with many visitors coming to assist us, including Dr Enna from Brazil, Kitty (pharmacist from America), and David (her husband) who helped develop our computer network. We are very grateful to these and other short termers who came to help us with our work.

It has also been a time of wonderful growth for our Chinese team, which now includes three Chinese doctors (one part-time), three Chinese nurses, a Chinese laboratory technician and our administrative staff including personnel officer, bursar, accountant, technical equipment officer, security/stores/courier and cleaner, all full time. As you can imagine, morning meetings are special times. We count it a wonderful privilege to sing, fellowship & grow together with Chinese brothers & sisters.



CHILDREN'S OPERATIONS

In July the second wave of operations took place with an international team including American surgeon, anesthetist, two nurses, Australian anesthetist and two nurses and Chinese surgeon, anesthetists plus all the Health Team. Twenty-seven operations were performed, of which there were 15 cleft lip repairs and 12 cleft palate repairs. All these children have now recovered and are looking beautiful. We have been seeking to perform these operations at an earlier age than was previously standard here, but in the course of this found out why operations are sometimes performed much later in China. Much of the anesthetic equipment suitable for small babies has to be brought in from overseas, as such little ones cannot use tubes and fittings designed for larger children. Since that wave of operations we aimed to (and started to) continue to operate on the many children in need here, but this has recently been hampered by new regulations which restrict the hospitals who can offer this service. We appreciate your thoughts as we seek permission to continue to offer this service, both to abandoned children and especially to those not yet abandoned by their parents.

PEDIATRIC CONGRESS NEAR INNER MONGOLIA

David, Joshua, Rachel and Lynne attended the Shaanxi Province Annual Pediatric Congress, held very near the border of this province with Inner Mongolia. David presented a lecture on diagnosis and management of children with meningitis to over 200 doctors.





TWO RECENT ADULT PATIENTS

While working in Fujian province on a construction site Mr. W fell from a high building. As he could not afford treatment, staff of the local hospital helped him to get on a train to this city, but he was unable to walk and spent five hot days at the train station with increasingly festering wound around his open fractured ankle. He had fractures of both feet and one wrist, and his deep infection became severe. A local family member noticed him and contacted us and he was brought to the Health Services Centre, where we worked alongside the hospital surgical team in a fight against osteomyelitis, involving daily dressing changes and high dose intravenous antibiotics. His severe infection eventually necessitated amputation, but he has now recovered from this operation and soon will go back to his hometown (several hours from this city).

Another Mr W, who is poor and spent last winter on the streets, came to us because of his toes, which froze off last winter, had still not healed, leaving a huge raw open wound on the front of his foot. We thank our wonderful Father that, as we see him each week to change dressings, his wound gets smaller and cleaner and our relationship with him deeper. Please ask that his heart, which is profoundly grateful (once falling down worshipping in gratitude, which we immediately redirected (No! Not us but Him! Acts 14: 14), would open further and fully accept the true healer.



CHILDRENS MEDICAL ADMISSIONS

In August - September, for almost one month, we continuously had at least one little baby with serious disease in our ward. These included babies in severe respiratory distress, and our smallest baby weighed just two kilograms. We thank Father for his intervention, one of the babies, Vanessa, was in a life-threatening state, but recovered wonderfully. We also appreciated a brief visit from Bethany (UK) who provided some training for the hospital radiography service essential to caring for such little ones.

EXPANDING LABORATORY SERVICES The Health Team laboratory has become a beehive of activity as new tests are being implemented. Under Quinn's direction, we are finally "up and running." I am delighted to combine my efforts with those of My-nga and Jo to provide diagnostic testing to the Health Team doctors. My microscopy skills are proving useful as I evaluate peripheral blood smears and look for pathogenic bacteria. My other area of responsibility is to develop a medical information service and develop plans for future services including health promotion literature, village doctor training, and on-line databases for easy access to medical information. It was over two years ago when I first came to China. I am excited to return to the medical field after a nine-month stint as an English teacher in another province. Being part of The Health Team is both a pleasure and a privilege. All my colleagues are loving, motivated, dedicated, and like-minded. Recently I visited two orphanages. I realize that the organization is analogous to a huge jigsaw puzzle in which many pieces have to fit together in order to best serve those precious children. I hope my own "puzzle piece" will be fitly joined with the others for many years to come. I love this team! Mary M. (Medical Technologist and Health Educator).



WHITE WATER RAFTING – TEAM ACTIVITY

Some of the Healthcare Team recently spent a day together white water rafting in the mountains south of this city. It was an exciting and enjoyable day, which helped to further strengthen relationships



To support the work and for further details and information about opportunities, please contact Kathy Porowski – CFC Coordinator P.O. Box 10444, Santa Ana, CA 92711-9998. Caring for China is a 501© 3 registered nonprofit organization. To make a tax deductible donation to Caring For China, send checks to Caring For China 3300 S. Fairview St. Santa Ana, CA 92704