



December 10, 2006



Dear Friends

“Nai- Nai, Nai-Nai, I missed you” cried Malia, our four year old granddaughter, as she ran towards me. I have been absent from home for six months. I hugged her as tightly as I could; certainly, Malia has matured quite a bit. I then turned to hold Maile, our other ten month old granddaughter. She cried and cried as soon as I held her in my arms. In her mind, she was thinking “Who is this strange woman?” When I left, she was only four months old. To the children of Bo’Ai Elementary School however, I am a familiar figure.

I am happy to report that much has transpired since my last report to you six months ago. First and foremost, our sister organization, Bo’Ai Foundation Limited, under the leadership of Dr. Eilly Lau, has been granted legal non-profit status in Hong Kong. Together with our Overseas Helping Hands in Portland, Oregon, we will join hands to build a middle school so our graduating sixth graders of Bo’Ai will continue their education under our staffs’ loving milieu and our tutelage. The scene of several sixth graders surrounding me towards the end of last school year saying, “Where are we going? Where are we going to school? We don’t want to leave Bo’Ai” still haunts me.



Let me tell you some of the highlights of last year. None of which would have happened without your prayers and your support. Evangelical School Development Inc. of Hong Kong sent a team to survey our school and determined the educational needs of our staff. It then sent several educational experts to our school and held an in-depth and meaningful seminar. The benefit to our staff was immense.

During the summer, our entire staff, with the exception of three left to man the school campus, went on an educational tour of Beijing, visiting Qinghoa University and other national capital spots. Interestingly none of the staff except for two had traveled out of the province and for that matter out of their surrounding home regions. The trip has added a greater dimension in their teachings of history or geography. We owe a debt of gratitude to a donor who so generously underwrote most of the expense of this trip



On going repairs and maintenance to our campus buildings needed much attention and on hearing of the needs, two kind-hearted Christian brothers stepped forward and saw to it that our plumbing and toilet facilities, an extra layer of windows and roofs were either built or repaired.



Every year, mission teams come to minister to our children and the villagers. This year two exceptional teams came; one in June, a large contingent of thirty one from the Fort Bend Community Church of Missouri City, Texas and another in September from the East Coast, Oakland, Hong Kong and Portland. They taught, provided dental and medical needs, developed friendships and made a difference in the lives of our children and the villagers of the region. Three young men and two chaperons from the church in Texas are so much on fire for



giving that they will return and spend this Christmas and New Year teaching at the school. We are so grateful and moved by their enthusiasm to change lives. The Lord has been faithful to answer our prayers.



Lastly, the fruits of our labor are not in vain. We have brought the Good News directly or indirectly to the area. We have visited the home church in the area and are moved by their fervor for the Lord. Our students have learned, behaved and matured in ways that the parents did not notice before. Last school year, 45 students graduated from Bo' Ai yet after only one and a half years under our wings, they garnered four out of five scholarships given by the public middle school and of those who went on to an out of district middle school, the three top scorers went to our graduates. Not only did they do well scholastically, but they were praised for their good behavior, their team spirit and helpfulness. Our school pays special emphasis in our teachings on values, values such as honesty, charity, diligence, excellence and team work. We are happy to see that when a high school girl was burned severely, 100 % of the children and staff gave and some gave sacrificially to help with the hospital bills and the daily expenses of the family. Chinese Herald Christian Crusade of New York and another Christian brother gave substantial amounts for her care.





. During the Thanksgiving holiday, I went to Hong Kong to plan for the building of the 400 student Bo' Ai Middle School with the Bo' Ai Foundation Limited. Together with our non-profit organization here, we plan to have it completed in three to four years. Construction can begin in the spring of 2007 after the snow melts. The local government notes the need and has been very supportive of the project. We are hopeful that with your prayers and help, the middle school will become a reality.

Mother Teresa once said that she was only a droplet in this vast and deep ocean of need. We wonder what this world would have been without that droplet of love and care. We too together can make a difference and transform the lives of our children in the Qinyuan County, Shanxi. Many of you have donated to sponsor a child for \$ 300.00 a year or \$ 25.00 a month because our children attend the school free and pay one third the cost of board and room. Our Middle School is estimated to cost about US \$ 900,000. We sincerely hope that you will continue to pray and support the children and our school.

We wish you a very Blessed Merry Christmas and may the Lord bless you abundantly.

Christine Chan,
Executive Director, Overseas Helping Hands

