



## Overseas Helping Hands

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Summer 2007

Dear Bo' Ai Friends,

What a beautiful summer we have!! It surely would be nice to go out to enjoy the somewhat rare sunshine that we have here in Portland. But here I am, ensconced to home and to a few friends because I just had bone graft oral surgery for eventual dental implants six months later. It was painful and I am still on a soft pulp diet. Yeah! Good way to loose weight!!!! You should have seen me a couple of weeks ago. My face was swollen like a baboon!

School ended on July 1st and soon after, I returned home. It was so nice to see Patrick as I worried about him being alone at home by himself all the time. It also was nice to get reacquainted with Maile and Malia again. Maile is a darling one and half year old bundle of joy and knows me much better now except that she stills sometimes confuses Nai Nai (grandma) with the phonetically similar Nei Nei (milk).. Malia danced for us the other night the whole suite of Tahitian and hula dances. She is a much matured four and a half year old, well mannered and loves her sister very much.

The Houston team, under the able leadership of Dr. Kin Lock, came in June and their three separate subgroup stay spanned three weeks. It was great that they came. They taught, held seminars, played with the children, did medical service and developed relationships that some are ready to come back again during the Christmas holidays. I am most happy to tell you that from their visitations to the villages in the past two years, 15 villagers professed Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

I have already reported to you about Fiona Chan and Justine Lee and her two friends, Mary and Jamina, who came and spent time teaching our students. Tike Wong, a generous donor to our school, came and we got to show him the fruits of his donation. Isn't God great and faithful!

Architect Max Tang from the Bo' Ai Foundation Limited, Hong Kong, arrived with an architectural team that looked over the site and surveyed the land for the middle school. BAFL has been most helpful. Max also brought along with him a video team from Taiyuan and together they have produced a video that will be shown at the BAFL web site. Not to forget the children, Max brought with him many toys and games that I doubt the children will ever forget Uncle Max.

For five days in July a team of 40 students and 10 chaperons from a private Beijing school came and together we held a summer camp. The theme of the camp was "Hand in Hand." For the Beijing students, they got to know village children and village life. For our

children, they got to develop friendships with big town children of similar age and language. I am proud to say that all our teachers came back from their summer vacation to shepherd the students. It was so successful that the Beijing school would like to come back again next year.

I shall be leaving for our school again on July 31st to take our first grade student, Li Cheng Lung, for heart surgery. If the hole in his heart is not mended, he probably will only live to his twenties. Even right now, he cannot exercise or walk briskly or he will turn blue. I had prayed boldly that we find a way to help Cheng Lung. Praise the Lord, He arrange everything so Cheng Lung can have the surgery. Our God is a merciful God! Without us knowing beforehand the cost of this surgery, He arranged the right amount of money donated for Cheng Lung's surgery. Katie Chau, the director of Chinese Herald Christian Crusade in New York, arranged the financing for the surgery and Dr Tang, chief cardiac surgeon at Beijing University People's Hospital will be performing the heart surgery in early August. Now we just have to raise the transportation and accomodation costs for the family to and fro from Shanxi to Beijing. and staying for a month in Beijing. This is to me a miracle and bold prayers answered.

Finally, as you know, we are in consultation with the local ministry of education about the middle school. They would like us still to take over the present middle school. Building on this previous riverbed that floods when there is heavy rainfall would be neither cost effective nor wise. Things sometimes roll slowly in China and more cajoling and consultation need to be done before we can commit to putting money into this needed middle school which can be built behind our present elementary school. I have arranged a meeting with the ministry when I get back to Shanxi.

On August 3rd, our dear friend Peter Trinh will be leading a contingent of 33 persons from the United States, Canada, Hong Kong and Beijing to come serve at our school. We are most grateful for the service of all the members. Eva Chung of Toronto, Canada will come to visit the school in August as well. She is an experienced teacher of English as a Second Language. Pray for Eva, who is recently retired from teaching and a music director at her church, that she will do a long term mission at our school.

This July I had a surprise visit from Rhoda Sword. Rhoda is a dentist from Augusta, Georgia who has served two times at our school and village. It so happened that she had a dental conference in Portland and on the day that I arrived back in Portland and the last day of her conference, she called our home and we had a nice get together. Jeremy, her husband, will be back from his naval military tour in Kuwait in August and will be reunited with Rhoda. We will never forget that last year, when Jeremy had two weeks of R & R (rest & recreation), he and Rhoda spent it at our school.

Before this school year ended and the coming school year, our school has initiated an ongoing recycling and environmental program for our village. Proper disposal of all garbage in the village, cleanup of paths and roadways and recycling of materials have already inspired and affected the communities of other nearby villages.

Towards the end of the school year, all students had to take a government exam. Our students passed with flying colors; I should say with distinction. We had the most students passing with the highest marks. Thanks to your support, our students are instilled with values that are not taught in other schools, values such as self esteem, honesty, integrity, team spirit, the common good. One of the greatest assets in life is to do things that will outlast our lifetime. I can already see our students growing into good, productive citizens. We are just sowing seeds. If you have already come and served at our school, you would have experienced that the love for

our children is not like fireworks but it comes softly and steadily. Let us help our children so they can achieve new heights!!!

I close with a prayer of thanksgiving that God has beckoned you to come alongside to serve or support our school and I ask you to continue to pray with us for our middle school project and for God's outpouring blessings on our elementary school and its staff and children and for Cheng Lung's surgery as well.

Blessings to you and have a good summer. Come and visit us when you are in China or in the Portland area.

Christine H. C. Chan  
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