



Overseas Helping Hands

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Love must be sincere....

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love....

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Be joyful in hope,...faithful in prayer.

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12: 9-13



Dear Friends,

Hurray!! Bravo!! Jiao Yau (___!!) After two years of patient talks and by the grace of God, the Chinese government has finally given us approval to build the **Bo' Ai Middle School** behind our present Elementary School. Our prayers are answered. Final plans are already being drawn so we can start the building phase in the spring of 2009. We herald Max Tang of Hong Kong for executing the architectural plans of the middle school. Inflation has hit China hard. The cost of the building of the middle school is anticipated to cost US \$1.2 million.



We hope to start construction **next year**, and it will take two to three years for completion. We are grateful that **Bo' Ai Foundation Limited**, our sister organization in Hong Kong, is spearheading this projects and will partner with us in delivering an excellent education to the students of the Shanxi areas through their formative years. Partnering with us also are the **Houston Chapter** of Overseas Helping Hands and the

Canadian Bo' Ai Group in Toronto, Canada. (Above Perspective: **Middle School is to the right** of the present elementary school)

In the summer of 2009 during summer vacation, we will start building an **extra story** to our present elementary school building, **an extra story** to the present student and to the teachers' dormitories. Our elementary school has run out of space. We need married quarters for our married teachers. It is just not natural to separate our married couples.



2007-2008 school year has been an eventful year. We have been declared by the Shanxi government **a model school** as can be seen from the excellent results of the government tests that all our students took and from the exemplary behavior of our students. So many of our students scored perfect marks. All the results would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our principal and our staff. This past year, **over 1,000 educators**, principals and teachers from other regions of the Shanxi Province came to our school to observe how we teach and how we administer our school.

Every two years, Overseas Helping Hands raises funds and takes the staff for a **trip outside our local area**. This gives the staff an opportunity to see the outside world, adds to the depth of their knowledge about the history, geography and culture of other areas, and cultivates closer bonding among the staff. Only the principal has been on an airplane. So it was quite an exhilarating experience for our teachers to fly on an airplane for the first time. We traveled and learned about the cities close by at the Yangtse delta: Suzhou, the Garden City, Hangzhou, the Silk City, Nanjing the capital city of Eight Dynasties and Shanghai, the cosmopolitan city. We are indebted to the donors who made this trip possible.



Thank God **the Great Sichuan Earthquake** did not affect our area. What a humongous disaster, affecting millions and requiring a great deal of loving kindness, help and care. It gave our students an opportunity to **learn and practice charity and care** for people who are in need. Our students and staff gave what they could and raised 8,000 yuan, not a small sum to our poor students, for the earthquake victims.

The tragedy also gave us pause to evaluate the physical structures on our campus. We had engaged an architectural and engineering company which came to inspect, survey and test our buildings. The reports are that our buildings are **structurally sound**.

So many from outside of China **visited and served our students** at our Bo' Ai School. Amongst them, Leonard Girard, a retired attorney from Portland, Oregon, came and taught English for two months, Peter and Lily Sia from Vancouver, Washington came for two months and streamlined our administrative procedures at our school, Kathy

Chau also came to visit our school. She is the Executive Director of Chinese Christian Herald Crusade, which gave tremendous support to the burn victim, Cui Wei Juan and to a second grader at our school, Li Cheng Lung, for his heart surgery. A hearty mention should be made of our faithful friend, Juliana Wang, who went out of her way and helped us in so many ways. **Kudos to all** who gave of themselves, their time, energy and financial support to make Bo' Ai a better school.

In early June, Peter Trinh led an East Coast and Canadian mission team come teach and minister to our children. In late June, Dr. Kin Lock of Houston and Dr. Eilly Lau of Hong Kong led another mission team. What a blessing these teams were to our children! Many who volunteered are college students. We are touched by their enthusiasm, their energy, creativity and adaptability. When the teams left, they were sorely missed. Many children cried!



Just this November, upon the invitation of the **Covenant Mission Church Schools** in Hong Kong, three of our teachers went to Hong Kong for a one week in-service training. This gave them new perspectives and knowledge that they can apply to our curriculum and methods of teaching in our school.

Our **library** has always been a favorite place for many of our students. Through reading, they are introduced to the world and this broadens their views. A friend has donated many games and toys to our school. By reading a certain number of books, the student is awarded a prize. Thus many students form good reading habits.



This coming year, we will finally send our **mobile library van** to the surrounding villages and village schools so the village children and adults can borrow books to gain more knowledge through reading. A friend has drawn the graphic design for the van. We are indebted to the donor who donated this van and to our friend for designing the graphics.

Life is not only measured by the number of breaths we take, but equally by the moments that take our breath away. When our school began three years and eight months years ago, the average government test score for the entire school was **39**. Today, I stand in awe as our average test score has improved to **91**. This is a testament to our staff's dedication and hard work. None of this would have happened without your prayers and your support. God has placed these darling children under our tutelage. **Let us rise up to the challenge** to give them the best possible education that they so richly deserve!

May the Lord bless you and your family and may you have a most joyous Christmas Season!

Christine Chan
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