

ChinaHeart



Serving the poor, needy and orphaned in China

December 2008

A supporter once asked me, "I'm only one person, I don't have a lot of money, how can I do much to help?" Maybe you feel the same? In fact, I've been asked this question a number of times. **The truth is, you and every other ChinaHeart supporter make a difference.**

The children in the Dr School are now sleeping in heated rooms. They are experiencing an enormous difference in their lives because of you and many of our supporters. On behalf of these children let me say a huge, "Thank You!"

In the last year, the Dr School project has moved from a perceived need to a reality. We began with the question, "what, if anything, can we do?" As you have read in our previous newsletters, we have been installing heaters for the children's dormitory and having windows repaired so the heat stays in the building.

The snow will shortly be falling but the heaters will provide warmer sleeping and living rooms for the children. Many students have thanked our team and told



Children's room with new heater on back wall

them the rooms are now warm at night. Coal is the next problem we face. The cost has gone up dramatically and the value of our dollar has dropped just as dramatically.

As a result, we now need to increase our budgeted giving to the school for coal to around \$3,000.

There will be an exciting day at the school on December 27. We have been given permission to hold a special Christmas Celebration day. We'll have a concert day including games, plays, Christmas songs and stories. The children will be learning some of the songs in advance. A member of our team will travel for extra visits with the children to teach them the songs. Please remember this special day. It's a first in the life of the school.

It is through such projects that we are making a difference in China. However, the reality of our work is that there are so many doors we could walk through to help people but we need to know that we are walking through the right ones.

Everywhere we turn we see need. We're asked regularly "can you help with this person's situation, can you help with that problem?" Our heart is to always say yes, but if we did that we would be stretched in every direction and run the real risk of doing none well. At the end of 2008, we have come to a point where we need to stop and measure what we're doing and consider what (if any) new projects or situations we can be involved in.

Presently we are committed to a number of projects to various levels. These projects include:

- Teams to one orphanage 3 times per year
- Developing opportunities for assistance to two other orphanages, including the possibility of sending teams in 2009
- Dr School, growing into the surrounding village
- Supporting or sponsoring children and their families in three rural counties
- Medical aid in a Tibetan region
- A developing work with children in the north-west

At the start of the year, we had approximately 30 children who had been sponsored. We've been blessed as more of you have come into our sponsor team during 2008. As I sat in Xian recently the question put to me was, "How many children can we accept for support during 2009?" We close the year needing sponsors for children like Chao. This simple report that came to me recently about him read:

In class earlier this year he lost consciousness and was taken to hospital. They were still not sure what disease he was suffering but felt he was lacking something in his blood. When he



Student in his warmed room



woke up in the hospital, he realised what had happened and where he was. Crying out he said, "let's go home," we cannot afford this!

How many children are in such deep need? How many can we accept for support during 2009? I don't know. What I do know is that as many as we can accept – we will.

In faith we accept children before we have sponsors. It's the only way we can do it. As we end 2008, we end in need of more people to support these children. If one hundred people said to us today, "I will sponsor a child", we would not have too many.

To those already sponsoring one or more children, let me repeat the words of one child named Ting, *"Please allow me to use two simple words to express my heart... Thank You"*



As we head into 2009, communicating the needs of the children and families we serve is gaining more and more importance. As we're approached to help more chil-

dren we need more people to know about the work of ChinaHeart. Can you help? Would you pass this e-news on to friends and colleagues?

Would you let people know there are two short movies they can view on www.youtube.com, or perhaps list us on your wall on Facebook, MySpace or one of the other networking sites?

Can you carry a few of our brochures and share them with people at work, church or other organisations? If so, please email and let us know if we can help in any way.

Many of our projects are tax deductible in Australia. This means your gift goes even further in helping the poor, needy & orphaned in China. Thank you!

New Leadership Team

The work & impact of ChinaHeart continues to grow and it has been wonderful to see a new team form to help with senior leadership. Three people have joined David in this role. They are Melinda Warner, Michelle Lee and Chris Chong.

Each has travelled to China with David on team and seen first-hand the needs and work of ChinaHeart. They also have gifts and skills in very relevant areas such as finance, child speech pathology and communications. They are already having an impact – thank you, Melinda, Michelle and Chris.



As we end 2008 and look towards a new year, the ChinaHeart team, those of us serving both inside and outside China, would like to thank you for all your support in its various ways and wish you a very safe, happy and holy Christmas.



David, Michelle, Melinda & Chris

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