

China Calling - September & October 2007

Dear All,

It has been a long time since last writing to you, but then again it has been lovely to see some of you in person during our recent trip home. We were given such a warm welcome and enjoyed our time in the UK immensely. Thank you so much for your support and encouragement. It was a busy time for us and we are just glad that we were able to spend time with friends and family and share with so many of you about our work here. Thanks for listening!

We felt that our time in England would be an opportunity to see how well Blossom House ran without us, and we are pleased to say that the manager and ayis did a fantastic job whilst we were gone. The children have progressed so much in the last 6 weeks, most noticeably En Biao who can now walk unaided! Here he is looking very pleased with himself after walking to his ayi. We asked you to pray last time for Xiao Dai, a little boy who desperately wanted to go to school. 3 weeks before we went home a school offered a place for not only him, but also another of our children, Hai He, and



the two of them have now settled in well and are getting very good reports from their teachers. It is great to see them getting the opportunity to have a good education. The school is an international Montessori school of high standard and they have given the places free of charge which is tremendous, considering fees are up to \$6000 per year. (We also mentioned last time that Xiao Dai was on a waiting list for adoption. Unfortunately he has now been removed from that list and so please pray that he would go through the system quickly and reappear on another list soon.)



We have been back a week now and already major things have happened in the life of Blossom House, and Blue Sky as a whole. Just two days after our return, Lily (our three year old princess!) was adopted in to her new family, 2 weeks earlier than expected. Brilliant! She is doing well but please do pray for her as she continues to transition into her new surroundings. Her adoption meant that there was a space



at Blossom House for a new child, and Zi Ping happily joined the home. He is 2 years old and has Down's syndrome. He has had a lot of trouble over the past year with not being able to eat but has now gained weight and is doing brilliantly. He is crawling around and is just starting to try and walk.

Whilst we were away Tania and some of the other volunteers went on another outreach trip, where they found a number of children in desperate need of medical attention. This led to an influx of children at the Healing Home, which in turn has led to the decision to take more children into Blossom House. With a few minor changes we now have room for ten children, and so today (Nov 8th) we welcomed two more residents:



TIAN YOU – He has had a torrid time this year. Born with numerous medical problems, including an exposed bladder, imperforate anus, and one kidney, it was feared that his life may be threatened if he were to pick up the simplest of infections. He traveled to the US in June to receive treatment from a specialist which was a great success and it truly is miraculous that he is now able to live with us. He still needs to be catheterized every 4

hours but the aiyis are rising to the challenge of more demanding medical needs. We also heard news last week that a family in the US would like to consider adopting him – yippee!!!



SHENG LU – He is two years old and came to Blue Sky because he had an enlarged tongue, making it very hard for him to eat. He has had surgery on his tongue and it is suspected that this is a symptom of some kind of syndrome, meaning that further tests need to be done. At the moment he is a little unsure of being with us. As he is older it may take him longer to settle. He seems to love playing football with Lee though and his ayi has spent much of today

comforting him. Please pray that he would feel comfortable with us all soon.

With the extra children, changes need to be made in the scheduling of the ayis and some of the policies. We want to do this without losing the spirit of Blossom House being a **home** for the children. Please pray that as we look to make changes we would be able to give the children the best care possible given our circumstances.

It seems incredible to think that we have now been in China for over two years. When we originally felt the call to come here we also felt that it would be a three year commitment and that has been confirmed to us in many ways. And so as we get under way with our last year here, please keep us in your prayers as we strive to complete the work we have started with Blue Sky, and begin to make plans for our return to the UK. It seems strange to start thinking about these things already but we know how time flies and how soon the summer will come around!

AND FINALLY

Last year we prayed for the funds to be able to buy a safe car as we feared the chances of being in a crash are great here. Last night we felt God's blessing as we discovered what it felt like to be hit by one of the large trucks here in Beijing on our way out to meet friends. We are both fine, no injuries at all, the car is in need of repairs but took the hit far better than we imagined for the size of vehicle that hit my drivers door and praise God that when the police came they treated us really well. Often foreigners get the blame for incidences like this but we ended up receiving 43GBP towards the cost of repair!! We are very grateful for God's care but please pray for safety in travel as the dangers on the roads are a daily concern.

With much Love and appreciation, Lee and Becky xx