

MSI Canada Newsletter

September 2001



From the Editor

We only have 2 short months of summer in Canada and most of us seize this time to vacation, barbecue, rollerblade, play tennis, go to the beach, or just relax under the warm sun. This summer, however, MSI Canada is still bustling with activities. Dr. Po Kee Cheung and Dr. Stephen Hoh are busy crisscrossing the country, meeting regional representatives, and discussing the future direction of the ministry. The members of the upcoming November Gulin team are starting to get busy preparing for their trip. There is ongoing and active discussion on having MSI Canada's very own website. The site is now under construction and will be coming to a computer near you soon.

I had the privilege of listening to the sharing of Sylvia Ho, Doug Wan, and Charlene Chan about the trip to Gulin in May 2001. I am amazed at how our Lord had guided and used every member of the team during his or her time there, especially at how He had opened the door for English teaching. In this issue Charlene gives us a brief glimpse of teaching English in Gulin High School. Her other article, *Power of Praise*, testifies to how the Lord uses music to touch lives. MSI's Senior Consultant, Dr. Stephen Hoh, shares with us some of his reflection in serving in MSI.

~ Wendy Cheung (Aug 2001)

Prayer items

1. Pray for MSI long term colleagues in China, for their health, effective team working, spiritual needs, strength and wisdom. Lift them up, especially as new long term colleagues join existing colleagues on the field. There are English teachers, workers in livestock, community health and administration. Pray for their families back home as well.
2. Pray for Dr. Richard Wong as he prepares the medical team to go to Gulin in November. Pray for the necessary funds and medical equipment. There is an urgent need for English teachers to go with the November team to Gulin.
3. Dr. Po Kee Cheung, our Executive Director, met with our legal and tax consultants as well as MSI colleagues in BC in Aug. Pray for the registration of MSI in Canada that it will move forward smoothly.
4. Pray for the US team going to Yunnan in October. Pray especially for their safety in travelling.
5. Pray for the first MSI Board Meeting in Eastern Canada on September 30.

Do you know there are weekly MSI prayer meetings in Ottawa and monthly MSI prayer meetings in Toronto? If you would like to join these meetings, obtain the prayer items, or organize prayer meetings in your area, please contact Mrs. Gloria Tsang. She can be reached at (905)833-4401 (tel/fax) or eptsang@3web.net

What a Privilege!

Stephen Hoh, M.D.

‘You have made a great sacrifice...’ is the frequent response when people hear that I left my medical practice to join MSI full time.

Such a remark always makes me feel a little uncomfortable because I do not believe that I have sacrificed anything or given up anything. On the contrary, I have gained a lot. The past three years have been the most fruitful and blessed time in my life.

First of all, I have made many new friends. As I traveled across Canada, everywhere I went I met very noble people; Christians who love the Lord and have a heart for China. Though I was the speaker in those meetings, I received more from them than they from me. They have been such a blessing to me.



Then there are the MSI colleagues. What a privilege it is to work with them and travel to China with them. We came from different parts of the world with diverse backgrounds but we experienced the oneness in Christ. I hesitate to use the word ‘fun’ for fear of being misunderstood, but I did have a lot of fun with them, young and old! To date I have made seven trips to China. Every one of them is equally memorable.

Going to China and serving our kinsmen is an exceptional privilege. I am so grateful that at this stage of my life I am able to fulfill a long time dream of my life. I would not trade the experience for the world! Praise God!

I am very happy. I look happy. Do I not?

As Senior Consultant of MSI Canada, Dr. Stephen focuses on mobilization and pioneering trips to new sites in China. He will be the keynote speaker at the British Columbia Christian Business and Professional Association on September 23. He will be going to Xian in October and will join the MSI Canada medical team to Gulin, Sichuan in early November. If your group or church would like to invite Dr. Stephen to speak, please contact him at PO Box 397, 255 Stewart Rd., Lions Bay, BC, V0N 2E0 Tel: (604)921-6734 ----Editor

Power of Praise! 🎵

Charlene Chan

“Sing Hallelujah to the Lord, Sing Hallelujah to the Lord, Sing Hallelujah, Sing Hallelujah, Sing Hallelujah to the Lord” ...

Just the thought of this song, and singing it (whether it be out loud, humming, or hearing it in my head) brings back many memories of the May 2001 Gulin trip. It is simple, and easy to sing, and it is a song that praises the Lord. It is also one of the first Christian songs we sang on the way to Gulin in the white hospital ambulance car, driven by “Driver Wang”, that seated about half of the team. While we all sang this song together and in harmony (kind of), I was amazed that God gave us an opportunity to teach the driver this song so that we could all praise the Lord together. I was in awe of the way that music had such a way of sharing the Lord’s love. That was just the beginning of the journey that God had set for us as a musical ministry that would allow us to share the gospel in an indirect, yet direct, way. So many times, the Lord opened the doors for us to share about Christ through music.

Because in China we are not able to say as many things as we may feel compelled to say, we must show it in our actions. Sometimes, it was a bit frustrating to not be able to say what we wanted to say, but we had to trust God that He would reveal Himself to the people of Gulin in His own way, in His own time. And one way He did this in this particular trip was evidently through music and song...

People everywhere in the world are captivated by music, and when it is music of the Lord, it is ever so amazing. After every dinner (with the doctors, nurses, medical students, English teachers, friends), there was always a time of singing together. The Gulin people would start singing their favourite songs (from traditional songs of China, to mandarin/HK pop) and then we would have our turn to sing some Chinese songs (that we knew of), and English songs such as “*Edelweis*” and “*My Heart Will Go On*”. But we also had the chance to sing many Christian praise songs (both Chinese and English, but more English). Songs like “*Amazing Grace*”, “*I could sing of your love forever*”, “*You are my All in All*”, “*In the Secret*” and “*Make Me a Servant*” are just some of the English praise songs we sang altogether with them there. (Of course, we had to be careful of which songs we sang with which people and with what language, but this was usually assessed by our team leader at the time, PoKee – 1st week, or Matthew – 2nd week). Christmas songs are also a favourite especially with the English teachers, but we found this out at the end of the trip (*wink-wink for the next teams).



The team singing *Amazing Grace* at the Nurses Day Celebration in Gulin

I must say though, that the most popular song of all-time with everyone is the MSI theme song of ‘Love’ from 1Corinthians 13. We must have sung that song hundreds of times (including practicing it). I love that song, and I could tell that the people of Gulin love that song. Why? Because it is the essence of what love really is, and who Jesus is. Over and over we sang that song as a testimony of Christ’s love. It was so amazing to see how many people are fascinated by the song, its melody, and particularly with the lyrics. Since it is so true, it really touches the hearts of anyone who sings this song. This song was taught to (and sung with) the doctors, nurses, students, teachers, and the little children. We had the opportunity to sing this song, and the other songs on countless occasions, from the Nurses Day Celebration, to after-dinner entertainment and atop the Rocket Mountain (Huo Shing San). Seeds were being planted by the Lord in this long term plan!

The last thing that I remember about singing these Christian songs is a comment said by one of the nurses post-dinner and after singing with them: “These songs are so beautiful and lovely to listen to and sing. They make me feel happy, and I feel peaceful when I sing these songs.”

All this was an experience of God’s love and power; also a result of previous MSI trips as God used them for the building of relationships and breaking down barriers for future teams such as this past trip and others to come. I am very thankful to the Lord for showing us His amazing grace through music and song

all throughout this trip. Not only did this allow us to share about Christ's love in a unique and powerful way, but it also brought the team closer to each other in unity and to Christ.

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song." Psalm 95:1-2

Building a Foundation...

Charlene Chan

Just before we reached Gulin, the MSI team did not know whether or not the English teachers (myself and Doug Wan) would have an opportunity to teach at the high school in Gulin. English teaching was an avenue that had not yet been tapped upon in the past, and in terms of teaching in the high school. This uncertainty put us in a position to fully trust God.

By the second day in Gulin, the head of the Gulin High School had personally come to the hospital to invite MSI to hold several sessions of TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) at their school. He was very happy to know that we would go and teach, but we were even more happy and excited because we knew that God was the one who arranged this, and was opening the doors for us right there. It was one of the first steps in building this foundation of the English teaching ministry.

Our 2 sessions with the students and the workshop with the school's English teachers were very successful. Praise God! Even though these sessions and interactions with the students and teachers were fun and a blessing to us, their purpose was much greater than just showing them how to pronounce words in a North American accent. But rather, this was a laying of the foundation to the beginning of a vision for a long-term relationship that MSI may have with the Gulin High School and other English teaching opportunities that the Lord will use to love the people there and expand His kingdom! For *"With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."* 2Peter 3:8

All in all, this experience allowed us the opportunity to witness the awesome power of God in opening the doors for English teaching and expanding the ministry of MSI.



Charlene Chan and Doug Wan with the Gulin High School English teachers (left) and students (right)

Charlene Chan will be starting her second year of study at the Canada College of Naturopathic Medicine in North York, Ontario this Sept. She went to Gulin with the medical team in May as an English teacher. ---Editor

