

# MSI Canada Newsletter

## April 2001



### From the Editor

MSI Canada has gone through some changes in the last few months. We have a new Executive Director, Dr. Po Kee Cheung from Edmonton, Alberta. He shares his insights with us in his article *A Cup of Cold Water*. We are grateful that Dr. Stephen Hoh will continue to serve as MSI's consultant. We also have an Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Gloria Tsang, to help with the increasing workload. We will have a brief profile on Gloria. Dr. Peter Hsu shares his reflections with us after going on a visioning trip to Yunnan and Sichuan last year.

I am excited to be the new editor of MSI Canada Newsletter. At the same time, I have absolutely no experience in publishing newsletters. I ask for your patience as I tackle the learning curve, and your input and articles in the coming issues. In this day and age when we are all bombarded with information overload, my prayer is that this newsletter will serve to remind us of the great physical and spiritual needs in China, and to inform us of God's work in the area.

A new column is called Good Medicine; as 'a cheerful heart is good medicine' (Proverbs 17:22). This column tries to capture the humorous moments on MSI trips. Input from all MSI alumni are welcomed. I have used the format of a quiz in this issue, but this can be variable.

- (1) Who is the 'spin cycle'?
  - a) Kevin Lai
  - b) Chi Yang Wu
  - c) Kevin Chan
  - d) Peter Tang
  
- (2) Who is the 'Little sparrow'?
  - a) Cindy Ong
  - b) Gloria Fung
  - c) Kelly Chiu
  - d) Jenny Ma
  
- (3) Who is the most helpful in promoting local Gulin economy?
  - a) Eva Ho
  - b) Michael Lai
  - c) Eva Chow
  - d) David Wong

Answers on page 2

~by Wendy Cheung

### Prayer Items

1. Medical Team to Gulin, Sichuan: May 5-18, 2001. Team members are Po Kee Cheung, Louisa Lee, Sylvia Ho, Douglas Wan, Charlene Chan, and Jackie Edinborough.
2. Mr and Mrs. David and Diane Bain will be travelling to Sichuan at the end of May to do English teaching and forestry work.
3. Ms Sher-Ping Leung, a medical student from Calgary will be doing an elective in Zhaojue, Sichuan in June.

## A Cup of Cold Water

by Dr. Po Kee Cheung

When Jesus Christ was on earth, a great deal of His time was devoted to healing the sick. When he encountered patients with all sorts of medical problem (orthopedic, ophthalmologic, dermatologic, hemotologic (etc), there was one important theme always stands out. "He had compassion on them."

The first time when I went to rural China with a MSI medical team, I was quite shocked with the tremendous needs of China. The need was overwhelming that my heart was "paralyzed " and "numbed". I asked myself what I could do. It seemed that it was beyond my physical ability to give and satisfy the needs of the patients. There were not enough medicines; hygiene condition was not ideal; and equipment was outdated and not up to standard.

In Canada, our medical system is very efficient but often lacks the human aspect of taking care of the patients. Very often, we treat our patient as a malfunctioned machine. Patient is fragmented into systems rather than a full human being. Our relationship with them can be quite superfluous.

The examples of Christ on earth gave us a lesson on compassion. He was never too busy for a human being. He would identify and touch a patient amidst a great crowd. On earth, Jesus did not heal all the sick and solve all human sufferings. Yet He was able to demonstrate love and compassion towards each person. Likewise we would not solve the whole health problem in rural China. We do not have enough human resources and money. Our effort may be just "a drop in the bucket". Yet we can offer a "cup of cold water" to quench their immediate thirst. A senior physician from China once told me, "Sometimes, this is all they need ". Please join us to give this "cup of cold water" for the needy people of China.



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### Answers to Good Medicine:

Kevin Chan is known as the 'spin cycle'. We wash our clothes while staying in Gulin. When it comes to washing things like jeans or towels, it takes a lot of muscle to wring them dry, and some sisters find that somewhat daunting. Kevin is our dear brother who, when we call out 'spin cycle', will come to our rescue. Thanks, bro!

Cindy Ong, an occupational therapist from Vancouver, BC, apparently resembles a famous Chinese actress. Her latest role is 'Little sparrow'. Her face also appears in many tissue packages. The locals call Cindy 'little sparrow' affectionately. This helps us break the ice in conversation in many instances.

MSI May 2000 team went shopping, under the leadership of Dr. Michael Lai, family physician from Toronto! He helped us bargain for laser pointers, fountain pens, sandals, shirts, Chinese medicine and more. Michael's friendliness and down to earth nature wins him many friends on the streets of Gulin.

Last October my wife and I joined an MSI-organized 'visioning trip' to visit MSI projects in Yunnan and Sichuan. I have been on many trips before – business trips, vacations, family visits, etc., but never on a 'visioning'. I was not sure what to expect from this trip. However, about 2500 years ago, God took Ezekiel on a 'visioning trip' (Exk.40:1-4) up some 'very high mountains' where he saw a vision of the new temple. God instructed the prophet to 'look with your eyes and hear with your ears and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought here. Tell the house of Israel everything you see.'

We spent the first two days of our trip on the campus of Yunnan University in Kunming. This is where MSI long-termers come for language training, and what a lovely city they have picked! Kunming is known for its year-round spring-like weather. The people of Kunming seem friendlier and the place appears cleaner than any of the other Chinese cities I have visited. Having spent the last 20 years church planting and ministering among university students, I could not help but imagine the day when many Chinese students on this campus could know and worship the Lord we love. Secretly, I hope that if God



calls me to China, it would better be a place like Kunming or better! It will be easy to live here! Just as I was walking and thinking these thoughts, some unidentified sharp object hit me right smack at my forehead and broke open my skin. Within seconds, thoughts of ease were quickly replaced by thoughts of fear. 'Oh no, someone is trying to tell me and rob me!' 'I should have taken those tetanus and Hep B shots like my wife said. 'Wonder if it could be a poison-tipped blow dart used by Yunnan mountain tribes?' Nursing a small headache for the rest of the day, my wife reminded me to 'take up the shield of faith' against the 'fiery darts of the evil one.' (Eph. 6:16).

From balmy Kunming we flew into the grey city of Chengdu. After a quick lunch, we were whisked away by an ambulance and a car to the mountain twon of Ebian three hours away. And what mountains these were! They seemed to be shrouded permanently in fog and cloud. Besides, the roads through these mountains were very narrow with endless hairpin turns. A little mistake would send a vehicle careening down the steep drop-off into a raging river hundreds of feet below. After spending a couple of days in this area, I was convinced that God REALLY does love the world. Who could ever think of coming here to serve unless compelled by the love of God? Yet, it is in these mountainous provinces that MSI people left their most beautiful footprints. We saw the warm and trusting relationships MSI has developed with local government officials, hospital staff, school administrators and students etc. MSI seems truly appreciated by those they serve. The mountains cannot keep out God's love for it is 'not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty. What are you, O mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground.' (Zech 4:6-7). Through the lens of economics, one can easily lose hope with trying to turn around some of these extremely poor communities. I was told that many of the families here have annual income of less than 500 RMB. Through the eyes and ears of faith, Ezekiel, while in exile, was able to hear God say to the desolate mountains of Israel, 'I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor...I will settle people on you as in the past and will make you prosper more than before. Then you will know that I am the Lord.' (Ezk.36:8-11) We need to pray with faith that God will establish the work of MSIer's hands to bring His favor to Sichuan.

At Ebian we witnessed the signing of a sheep farming agreement. As the MSI field director enters into a covenant to give sheep to local families, I thought of how God has covenanted redemption by covering Adam and Eve with the skin of the first slain animal. That same God is Jehovah-Jireh who provided Abraham with a ram on 'the mountain of the Lord'. My prayer of faith is that one day many here will receive not only sheep and goats to enrich their physical lives, but the lamb of God Himself who can give them eternal life.



Dr. Peter Hsu has a Ph.D in Education. He is a senior education consultant with the ITI. His wife Ada is an Operating Room nurse. Peter and Ada went to China on a vision trip with Dr. Hoh November 2000. Recently they moved to Hong Kong permanently from Nova Scotia.

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## Staff Profile

Mrs. Gloria Tsang is MSI's new Administrative Assistant. She helps in maintaining MSI database, promoting recruitment and financial support, responding to inquiries about MSI, and maintaining communications with individuals & organizations that are interested in MSI ministry.

Gloria has a Master of Arts (Communications) from University of Windsor. She has vast experience in teaching ESL, Abacus and Chinese school. She is a member of the Markham Chinese Baptist Church. Gloria lives with her husband, 2 teenage children and parents-in-law in Toronto. In her leisure, Gloria enjoys reading, music and collecting teapots. Hmm, I wonder how many teapots she has in her collection...

To contact Gloria, you can call 905-833-4401 (tel/fax) or email her at [eptsang@3web.net](mailto:eptsang@3web.net)

Other MSI contact persons: Dr. Po Kee Cheung: [cheungpk@powersurfr.com](mailto:cheungpk@powersurfr.com)

Dr. Richard Wong: [richardw@baloo.com](mailto:richardw@baloo.com)

MSI Website: <http://www.msiprofessionalservice.org/>

## Announcements: OUR SENIOR MSI CONSULTANT----Dr. Stephn Hoh

Dr. Hoh had been our Executive Director for MSI Canada for the past two years. He had been instrumental in setting goals and building up the administrative structure of Canada MSI . He also did a lot of work in mobilizing Christian professionals for MSI Canada to serve God in rural China.

After stepping down as Executive Director, Dr. Hoh will continue to serve as our Senior MSI Consultant concentrating on the work of mobilization and going for pioneering trips for new sites in China. Please continue to pray and support him. If your group or church wants to invite him to speak, please contact him at PO Box 397, 255 Stewart Road, Lions Bay, B.C. V0N 2E0 Tel:604-921-6734