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After the massive earthquake in Sichuan on May 12, 08, MSI is mobilizing manpower and resources to support the rehabilitation process of many victims. They lost their properties, homes and most importantly their loved ones. Charles Chan has spent two months working at Mianyang to provide medical training and support to the earthquake victims.

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Under the Plastic Tent

Charles Chan

On Saturday afternoon, a few of us went to XiaoBa, a small village where many people were living in the settlement camps. Their houses were damaged beyond repair from the earthquake and they could only settle in these temporary housing. The government has responded rather quickly and was already helping the community to rebuild. Unlike Beichuan, XiaoBa and another village were able to rebuild on their original sites. Yet, this is a long process. The community clinic expects to have their building completed sometimes next year. Other rebuilding continues in spite of the

expensive construction cost. On the way there, we stopped in a corner store.



The Chinese character in the picture means PEACE

The building was not safe, but business continued. The owner and his family were staying in a makeshift tent on the side with

big sign "Peace" on the wall. They too were asking for peace in their future and their living. How I wish they would know the

Peace that our Master can give. In XiaoBa, I visited a lady with C5 Spinal Cord Injury and another gentleman with open reduction external fixation to his lower leg. We hope to visit this community again to deliver some supplies. How I wish we have more people to help! If you are interested in this work, please let us

know.



Smile Again

This little 5 yr old boy was holding onto his grandma tightly as they walked into our Rehab Station in LeiGu (擂鼓).

He lost all his toes on his left foot. He refused to wear his Ankle Foot Orthoses with custom

made foam in the metatarsal areas. I played with him a bit and tried helping him to wear the orthotic device but he complained that the AFO was too tight in his mud-covered shoes. We realized that the shoe was too small and pushed on his little stump at the end. We decided to take him and his grandma to the nearby street market and brought a pair of new

shoes for him. Once he got the

new pair of shoes, his eyes brightened up. I thought he really liked his brand new shoes. Immediately, he said that it was not hurting anymore. He walked for 50 feet and did not complain at all. What a joy to see him smiling again!



Works are plenty, workers are few



Many houses were destroyed from the 5.12 earthquake

We were invited to go to a new Rehab Station in Chen Jia Ba township on Sept 25. It was about 1.5 hours away. Due to the recent torrential rain, some of the resettlement camps were flooded and damaged. We could not travel safely to this badly damaged town until Oct 6. When we arrived at the Rehab Station in the prefabricated houses, there

were over 40 people waiting outside the station. They were very patient and polite as they waited to be assessed. Again, it was a mixed bag of diagnosis - many crush injuries with compartment disorders, amputation, frozen shoulders, stiff elbows, hips and knees associated with their fractures. Some of the

cases were very simple. It was only words of assurance to them that they could start weight bearing with their joints while some others were much severe and complicated. By the end of the day, we had assessed and treated 40 patients. The local doctor would continue to see them the next day. The works are plenty but the workers are few.

Thoughts from the Zhaojue Team... Dannis Huynh



Yi children from Zhaojue

It was our last day of teaching today. I couldn't believe how fast this month has gone by. This last week has been crazy. We have been reviewing and preparing for crazy skits, crazy songs, etc for closing ceremonies. One of our teammates, Bobby, gave a little speech before

class of the need to focus and work harder, and how it can really change their lives. Half our class ended up crying -- it was crazy. So it's been amazing seeing how we, as teachers have really developed a strong relationship with the kids. Pray that with our short time here that we can really impact their lives and encourage their teachers...

We've seen a huge transformation in the village children. When we first started, most

of the children would never look up or dare to speak. Now, the children are willing to speak out and talk and smile lots to others, and even the long termers and people in the town have really taken notice of this. As a result, they want to expand the number of village children next year. The children are very cute, and they love to learn, sing, dance, play sports, and take pictures with us...

His Grace is sufficient

Mingzhu Lu



Mingzhu was teaching teachers in Chongqing

I joined MSI's short term trip to Chongqing from July 10 to Aug. 2 in 2008. Over 100 elementary and high school teachers received three weeks of teacher training.

To Walk with the Lord

Joining a short term trip is always a journey walking with the Lord. For the two summer trips when I hesitated about whether or not I should go, it was always God who spoke to me and called me to go. After hearing the sharing at

an MSI prayer meeting about the call of Abraham, I put behind my worry for my aged parents and young daughter: "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." (Genesis 12:1) And Abraham's faithful response has been such an encouragement to me: "So

His Grace is sufficient—continue

Abram left, as the Lord had told him." (Genesis 12:4) Thanks to God's call, I got onto this special trip.

To walk with the Lord is a great joy everyday. Our day always started with praising God: "Holy, Holy, Holy; Lord God almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee!" We got together at 6:15am. to worship God, listen to His Word, and lift our daily needs to Him. Each day's devotion time is the highlight of the trip, which is precious and beautiful to me.

the activity hour. One student commented that we wouldn't fall asleep in a class like this. However, to give a lecture to over 100 English teachers (many of them had quite good English) is something I have never done before. Thank God that His Grace sustained me. His Grace is sufficient. Hearing my experience in how I learned English, one student emailed me, "Mingzhu, you helped me learn what it means to persist and to make an effort." Thank God that I, a non-native English

When we were in Chongqing, we went to churches to worship on Sundays. On the last Sunday while having lunch with some members of the church, we got to know a 69 year old brother who told us his story: "My grandma was a Christian. Through out the years she never changed her faith in the Lord....During 1972-1980, I was sick and went into the hospital 6 times. During the last time, the doctors refused to use

medicine to cure me. But other Christians prayed for me at the hospital for 16 days. I was healed by the Lord. Jesus loved me and restored my life. I want to give my life to Him, so I sell books at the church as a volunteer." The story touched our hearts and the testimony strengthened our faith.

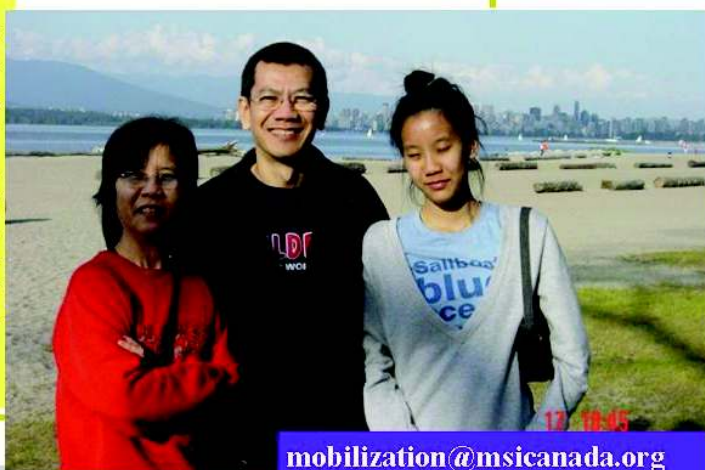
My "bottom up" teaching method involved every learner; games, songs and discussions The students mingled during

speaker who was sent to teach English by Him, can testify to His Grace in this way.

"Love is patient. Love is kind...." is MSI's theme song. The students loved this song that we taught them and they learnt to sing it by the end of the training. May God's love melt their hearts and may they come to the embrace of His love (my prayer for them). They

will, I believe, for God's Grace is sufficient.

*"Our day
always started
with praising
God...listen to
His Word, and
lift our daily
needs to Him"*



Our new Director of Mobilization

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Wichai and Wandee Tumtawetikul are an ethnic Chinese couple born in Thailand. They have one daughter, Warancha. They were brought up in Christian families in Bangkok. Wandee graduated with a Bachelor of Education and taught school for about 10 years. Wichai earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Bangkok and Master of Business Administration in the Philippines. He worked in business consulting firms, a coal mining company and a banking software company for about 26 years prior to coming to Canada in 2006 to attend Regent College in Vancouver. He is graduating in the Master of Christian Study program in December 2008. Wandee and Wichai are members of Grace Baptist Church, a Mandarin speaking church in Bangkok. Wandee served as a Sunday school teacher for more than 20 years. Wichai also served in the Sunday school, as well as being a deacon. In addition to his work in the church, he was also active in various Christian organizations. Prior to coming to Canada, Wichai participated in short-term trips teaching business and management programs at a university in the Sichuan area. Wandee and Wichai felt called to leave their professional career in order to take up Christian service vocation. Wichai will be involved in mobilizing Canadian professionals to serve in China. They have a long-term goal of serving in China themselves.

Reminiscences from the Wine City Wendy Cheung & Lowana Lee

We spent a fruitful three months working in Luzhou in spring this year. We have learnt much from our patients, our colleagues, our friends and our Lord. Looking back, there are 4 special things that remind us of the happy times we spent there.

Tea Leaves Eggs

Do you know how tea leaves eggs are made? It is a popular snack of the locals, and we tried to make them for our friends when we had outings and picnics. We found that the best way to



make them is to boil the eggs, crack them and then boil them again with the spices in the seasoned mixture. The last and also important step is to immerse them in the seasoned liquid overnight. The flavor will seep into the eggs through the cracks while the good taste of the egg is retained.

Immersing into the life in Luzhou for three months allows us to have a better understanding of the culture of our friends, our patients and our hospital colleagues. We have learnt to love and appreciate them more. We have to "crack" open ourselves in order to let some of these culture and experiences seep into us, but it is also important to retain our identity and our values in Him.

Scaffolds

Scaffolding is very common in China when the locals want to build new buildings. They are not permanent structures, but they need to be there while the construction is taking place. They serve a temporary purpose, but once everything is in place, the scaffolds need to be taken apart so that the new building can stand on their own.



This is the same with the work we are doing in China. We are there like the scaffolds and once the work has taken roots, the scaffolds will have to be removed so that the new building can stand on its own. Training the trainers is important and one should know when to move on when

the work can be continued by the locals. We need wisdom from above to discern the right time to make the right move.

"Bamboo" Backpack

The locals use bamboo carriers for many things: as backpacks to carry things and even as baby carriers! They are made of tightly woven bamboo and are sturdy enough to carry even a young child. The bam-

boo carrier reminds us of the love and resilience of a 70 years old man who carries his eleven year old grandson to the treatment center for therapy everyday. He is a tiny old man, and with his back bent, he carries his grandson, who is not able to walk because of cerebral palsy, up and down the stairs, taking the public transport around the city. This elderly gentleman is one of the many grandparents, who in China, are now taking care of their grandchildren while the parents are working. A child with a



handicap is a tremendous burden to the family and the caregiver. Please stand with us to remember these children and their families,

with needs that are far beyond physical needs.

Fishing

We had many opportunities to make friends with our locals and colleagues outside of work. We had a lovely day of fishing with them. In order to fish for a

catch, one has to find the strategic place to fish, has to have the patience to wait for the fish to bite, and has to be attentive when they do bite in order to haul them in! We were told that the strategic place to catch fishes is where the two rivers (Tuo River and the Yangtze River) meet. Launching out into the deep in a boat is beyond our comfort zone (for Lowana, who cannot even float; and for Wendy who has sea sickness), but that is the place where the catch is plenty.

Living and working in China is not in our comfort zone, but we know it can be fruitful because the work is plentiful. It brings us much joy to see that many children and families have benefited from treatment, their health improved, and many lives have been changed. We trust some of them have tasted the Love that never fails.

(Wendy Cheung is a pediatrician and Lowana Lee is a pediatric occupational therapist. They spent three months, March to June, 2008 in Luzhou, Sichuan working in a pediatric department in a hospital in the wine city – Luzhou, which is famous for its vintage wine).

