



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2004

Rev. David Chan is the President of MSI Canada Board of Directors. He joined 12 others to go on a vision trip to China in March 2004. His observation and reflection during the trip is beautifully articulated in the following article. I am sure you will be encouraged and challenged by his article as I have been.

~Wendy Cheung

不一樣的安息年 陳耀鵬牧師

A Special Sabbatical Year Rev. David Chan

在頌恩堂事奉進入第十七年，教會給與我第二次的安息年假，為期四個月，亦允許我分兩段、每段取假兩個月。在 2 月 29 日至 3 月 12 日有機會參與一個異象之旅 (Vision Trip)，從而得到另類的安息年體驗。

幾年前在溫哥華因著何皓光醫生的邀請下參與了國際專業服務機構 (MSI Professional Service) 加拿大董事會成員，去年更成為該機構的總裁 (President)，其實我也不大清楚該機構在中國的各项工作，只知道過往六年在兩位行政主任 (Executive Director) 何皓光醫生及章寶琪醫生的帶領下，大力推動加拿大很多基督徒前往中國，特別在邊遠山區服侍，在我記憶中，不同頌恩堂的會友亦曾先後參與 MSI 的短期服務。不過對於我來說，MSI 只是一年開會數次決定一些大方向的事奉而已；所以去年章醫生邀請我參加這個旅程，而日期又剛好是在我的安息年假期，故此便一口答應了。

我們一行十三人，來自現居地美國的兩位、馬來西亞三位、星加坡一位、韓國一位、澳洲一位、台灣一位、香港兩位、加拿大兩位，其中有三位醫生、一位律師、兩位會計師、三位工商管理碩士、一位護士長，而我是唯一的牧師。此行的幾個目的，包括探望及鼓勵 MSI 在中國長期的同工、與當地政府官員及教育醫療單位負責人建立關係、鞏固現階段合作基礎、探討更大合作機會、慶祝 MSI 在中國服侍十週年，最後是希望藉此讓參加隊員在返回國後積極推動 MSI 的異象與工作。

This is my second Sabbatical year in 17 years of ministry in my church. During this time, I had the chance to participate in a vision trip to China with MSI from February 29 to March 12. This truly was a one of a kind experience.

A few years ago, Dr. Stephen Hoh invited me to sit on the MSI Canada Board. I was even elected President of the Board last year. From Dr. Hoh's and Dr. Po Kee Cheung's reports, I understand that MSI has mobilized many Christians to serve in rural China. A few members from my church had also participated in these short-term trips. To me, though, the work of MSI means only a few meetings a year, in which we discuss general issues. Hence when Dr. Cheung approached me about this vision trip, I accepted the offer immediately.

The thirteen members who went on this vision trip were from many countries including the USA, Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Canada. We were from all walks of life, including physicians, a lawyer, a nursing manager, business executives, and accountants. I was the only pastor. The goals of this trip were to visit and encourage MSI's long term workers, to establish and consolidate relationships with local officials, to explore new opportunities of cooperation, to celebrate MSI's 10 years of service in China, and to facilitate mobilization when we return home.

我們共到了兩個省及一個直轄市共六個地方－雲南省的昆明、鶴慶、重慶直轄市、四川省的成都、西昌及昭覺。在成都的時候，居住在離成都兩小時車程的樂山，一對同工夫婦特來與我們會面。雖然到過這麼多地方，但除了最後一天在成都參觀三星堆博物館及探望一下人見人愛的熊貓外，其他名勝如昆明石林、麗江古城、四川九寨溝及峨嵋山等都沒有機會一遊。不過從一班 MSI 長期同工的身上，我看到一幅幅美麗的圖畫，比以上所提及的名勝更勝一籌。三十多位長期同工使我不其然想起了路加福音 10:1-11 有關耶穌的經文，借此就所到六個地區、七個工場分享一下我的感受和印象。

1) 鶴慶 - 發揮團隊·孤寂幾許 (路 10:1a) 「這事以後，主又設立七十個人，差遣他們兩個兩個地」

耶穌差遣七十個人出去，是一個團隊，但他們是兩個兩個地去，在團隊中亦是孤寂地兩人同往。鶴慶縣處於雲南省西南部，離麗江機場只有半小時車程，人口約有廿五萬，其中一半是中國五十五個少數民族之一的白族人，MSI 於 2001 年開始在這裡醫療服務，現有兩對醫生夫婦在醫院服侍，除醫療外，也有社區發展項目如借羊計劃及水利工程，兩對醫生夫婦其中一對是德國人，兩夫婦都是醫生，專長家庭、小兒及麻醉科，他倆在另一對於 2003 年 12 月才加入的澳洲華裔醫生夫婦抵步前已於當地孤單地工作了兩年多，當然現在工人已是先前的雙倍，但也只是兩個加兩個，還有另外的六十六個在那裡呢？這些同工除要抵受孤單寂寞外，子女教育、團契生活、風俗習慣等課題都不易處理，我向這兩對同工夫婦致敬！

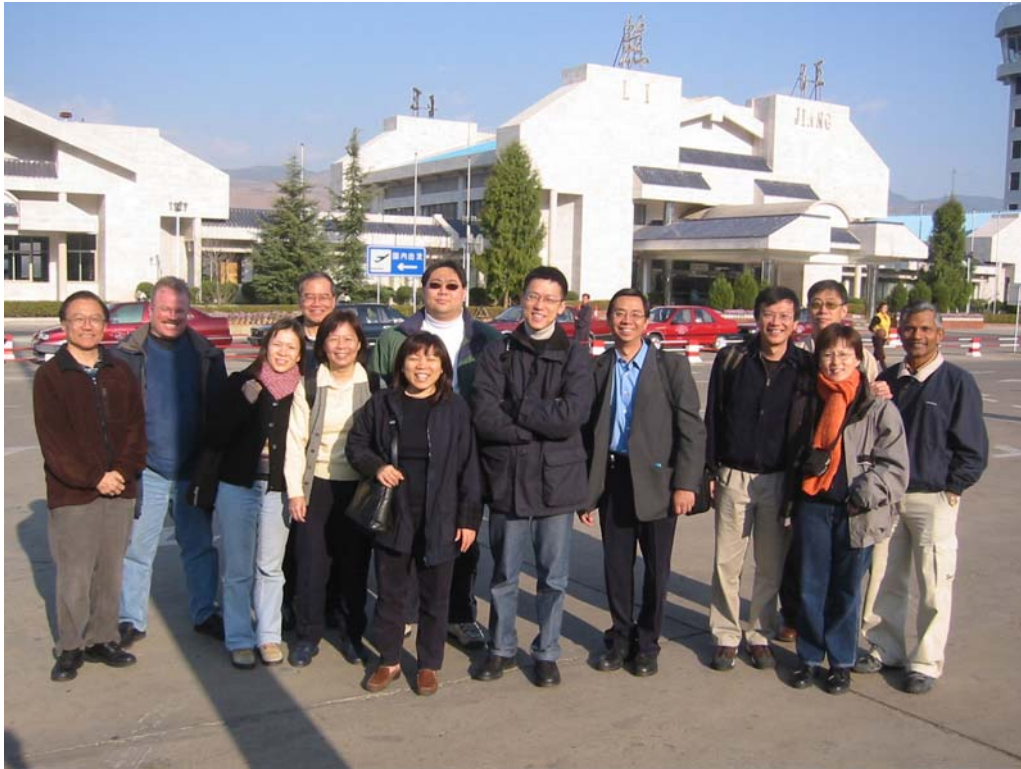


We went to six sites in two provinces and one municipality, including Kunming and Heqing in Yunnan province; Chengdu, Xichang and Zhaojue in Sichuan province; and Chongqing municipality. We also met with the long-term workers in Leshan while in Chengdu. Apart from a little bit of sightseeing on the last day of the trip, we did not visit any of the beautiful tourist spots such as Stone Forest in Kunming, Dianchi Lake, Jiuzhai Gully and Mount Emei. The long termers at each site we visited though presented many different yet equally touching and beautiful pictures. This reminds me of how the Lord sent his disciples out, as recorded in Luke 10: 1-11.

1) Heqing- solitude and teamwork

Luke 10: 1a "After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them two by two"

Seventy is a team, but the Lord broke it down to units of two, a much smaller number. Heqing is located in the south-western part of Yunnan, only half an hour's ride from the Lejiang Airport. Its population is approximately 250,000, half of which is the minority group of Bai. MSI started medical work in Heqing in 2001, and has branched out to community development projects such as a livestock program. A couple from Germany started working there with MSI in 2001. Both of them are physicians, specializing in family medicine, pediatrics and anaesthesiology. They served there in isolation for more than two years before another couple from Australia, also physicians, joined them in December 2003. There are now two units of two, but where is the rest of the team? Apart from the sense of loneliness, these longtermers also need to grapple with issues such as their children's education, cultural adaptation and body life. I sincerely salute these two couples' dedication to the work!



The 13-members vision trip team outside LiJiang Airport on their way to Heping.
The third from left in the second row is Rev. David Chan.

2) 昆明 - 預備道路・開創事途 (路 10:1b) 「在他前面，往自己所要到的各城、各地方去」

從報章的旅遊廣告中，到雲南昆明的旅行團比比皆是，皆因昆明位處雲貴高原的滇池盆地，氣候溫和，最熱的七月平均只有 19.8°C，最冷的一月也有 7.7°C，夏無酷暑，冬不嚴寒，被譽為春城；不單如此，昆明亦是雲南的省會，而雲南又是最多中國少數民族居住的一省，共有二十多個，少數民族人口約佔全省三分之一、全國七分之一，可以說是中國最多元文化的省份，因此他們對外來訪客有很高的包容性及接納度，所以昆明除了天時地利外，還有人和，難怪很多外國團體都在雲南建立據點。MSI 共差派了十一位同工往昆明，當中大部份是醫生，他們到中國服侍的事奉並不容易，一位來自星加坡的女醫生分享到若她仍留任獅城，大有可能成為該國第一位女法醫官；另一位來自韓國的腸胃專科則分享到他對大學生的負擔與學習國語的掙扎，但他仍然堅持為主的緣故在中國國土預備道路，為神開創事業，我為他們默默禱告。

2) Kunming- preparing to serve *Luke 10: 1b “ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go.”*

Kunming is a popular tourist destination. Its weather is very pleasant, ranging from 19.8°C in July to 7.7°C in January. It is known as the City of Eternal Spring. Kunming is the capital city of Yunnan province. Minority groups constitute one third of Yunnan's population. Yunnan can be said to be the most multicultural province of China. Its people are very receptive of foreigners, which may be the reason why so many foreign organizations pick Kunming as their base. MSI has 11 long-term workers in Kunming, most of them physicians. They have given up much to serve in China. A female doctor from Singapore could well have been the first female forensic pathologist in her country if she had chosen to stay at home. A Korean gastroenterologist shared with us his struggle in learning the language and his burden for university students. Despite these obstacles, he is determined to serve the Lord in His work there. I pray earnestly for these courageous souls.



3) 重慶 - 莊稼熟透·工人不夠 (路 10:2) 「就對他們說："要收的莊稼多，做工的人少。所以，你們當求莊稼的主打發工人出去收他的莊稼」

中國有廿三個省、五個自治區、四個直轄市、兩個特別行政區。重慶在 1997 年經全國人大會議通過設立中央直轄市，是四個直轄市中面積最大及人口最多的一個。重慶市為重慶直轄市最大的城市，三面環江，在長江及嘉陵江匯合處依山建城，故有山城之稱；冬春多霧，一年霧日約有 100-150 天，故亦有霧都之譽。重慶市人口近三百萬。我之前對「重慶」這兩個字的認識只停留在尖沙咀的重慶大廈，及王家衛所執導的一套電影「重慶森林」和一間川菜館的招牌而已，其實重慶市在中國過往的歷史中除了寫下輝煌的一頁外，在今日中國銳意開發西部如舉世觸目的長江大峽世紀工程之際，很多硬件和軟件的建設，都與這直轄市和城市息息相關。為配合這些的發展，重慶直轄市很注重科技教育，該市有 25 所高等院校、81 所中等專業學校和 23 所成人高校，獨立的科研和各類技術開發機構達一千餘所，各類專業技術人員幾近五十六萬人！我們在重慶雖然停留不到兩天，卻有機會與幾間大專院校的行政人員，包括三位校長交談協商 MSI 差派教授前往教學事宜，他們都異口同聲表示無任歡迎，並且認同 MSI 的專業質素，及欣賞 MSI 的犧牲及服務精神。我為這個城市擁有的機會感到雀躍。

3) Chongqing- harvest is ripe, workers are few
Luke 10: 2 "He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

China has 23 provinces, 5 autonomous regions, 4 centrally administered municipalities and 2 special administrative regions. Chongqing was designated a municipality in 1997. It is the largest and most populated among the four. It has a population of 31 million. Chongqing city is the largest city within the whole municipality. It is built at the junction of Yangtze and Jialing Rivers beside a mountain. The city is often referred to as Mountain City. Chongqing city is foggy 100-150 days a year, especially in the spring and winter; hence the nickname 'misty Chongqing'. China is pouring a lot of resources in developing the western part of the country, and Chongqing is a key strategic site in this great endeavour. Technology and education are the two main foci. Within its boundaries, it boasts 25 post-secondary colleges, 81 technical and professional institutes and more than 1000 companies for research and development. We spent two days in Chongqing visiting the administration of post-secondary institutes and exploring teaching opportunities for MSI professionals. The three principals we talked with were highly appreciative of MSI's vision and our servant attitude, and unanimously welcome MSI personnel to visit them. I am truly excited about the boundless opportunities presented in this city.

4) 樂山 – 溫馴群羊 • 危度萬丈 (路 10:3) 「你們去吧！我差你們出去，如同羊羔進入狼群」

在重慶停留兩天後，乘坐專用巴士經約四小時車程到達成都。有機會認識一對在離開成都兩小時車程的樂山市中一間醫護人員訓練學校擔任教職的夫婦，他們曾在香港政府中小學教書，退休後便加入 MSI 行列，運用過往的教學經驗於國內繼續作育英才，更在課餘時間與學生接觸，帶領他們在人生的道路上進深，但卻遭到一位外籍教師誣告，頓感壓力與無奈，但他們仍緊守崗位，反而誣告他們的外籍教師自動辭了職。我對這對夫婦肅然起敬，因為在他們的分享中，可感受到他們對學生的負擔與關懷。他們如耶穌所說的像羊羔爲了遵行神的使命而要與狼對壘。

我在 3 月 17 日離港時在飛機上讀到南華早報一則報導，一位 32 歲美國教師在深圳入境時被海關拘捕並準備引渡返美，因他是美國的兒童性虐待通緝犯，最令人擔心的是他正申請前往中國教學！我在一間專上學院內見到一位西方青年不亦樂乎地帶領著一大群女生上英語會話課，我希望他的動機純正，真正來服侍中國的學生；但從 MSI 的教師口中卻又聽到很多不太負責任的外籍教師，使我不其然擔心起來，難怪那麼多學校都較歡迎 MSI 的教師，因為我們強調專業的態度及無私的動機，但又有多少人願意帶著羔羊般的馴良進入中國服務呢？



4) Leshan- gentle strength amidst danger
Luke 10:3 “Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.”

After we left Chongqing, we took a 4 hours bus ride to Chengdu. We met a couple who is teaching in a Health School in Leshan, a city 2 hours away from Chengdu. This couple are both retired teachers from Hong Kong. Not only do they pour out their energy in teaching their young students, they pour out their hearts in reaching them and guiding them on life’s journey. They stood their ground when falsely accused by another foreign teacher. Their care and burden for these students is palpable in their sharing. They are like lambs who obeyed the Lord’s commission to fight the wolves.

I read in the newspaper in mid March that a 32-year-old teacher from the US was deported in Shengzhen because he was found to be a pedophile in the States. This man was trying to enter China to teach English! I saw a young man from the West surrounded by a huge crowd of female students. I hope he has come to China with pure motives. MSI sends teachers with professional attitudes and pure motives. No wonder they are welcomed in so many schools. I have to wonder, though, how many are willing to go into China to serve like lambs?





5) 成都 – 捨棄舒適・賜福足跡 (路 10:4-6) 「不要帶錢囊，不要帶口袋，不要帶鞋，在路上也不要問人的安。無論進哪一家，先要說：'願這一家平安！那裡若有當得平安的人，你們所求的平安就必臨到那家；不然，就歸與你們了。」

在訪問的六個地方中，我最喜歡成都。成都是四川的省會，是經濟、文化和交通的樞紐，古為三國中蜀國之地。有機會與接載我們的巴士司機閒談，他自傲的提到成都的男人文化質素優良，有川老鼠的美譽；女子貌美，稱為川妹子；古時更有言：蜀（成都）出臣、巴（重慶）出將，可見成都人材之盛。成都的城市設計也別具心思，雖不像溫哥華縱橫交錯，但卻有一二三環路圍繞全城，中心為市政府廣場，其他道路從中心綻放，加上各項現代建築物交織著散佈不同角落，柏道寬敞，雖然市內不像重慶般有滾滾長江之水川流，卻有南河、府河貫通，堤岸垂楊處處，倒有一番雅致，何況我更能在最後一晚於琴台路「黃城老媽」酒樓初嘗正宗的四川麻辣火鍋呢！不過麻辣火鍋始終不及與一班主內同工在 MSI 成都辦公室一同領受聖餐那樣感動和親切；最有意思是帶領我們的是駐成都一位日籍資深同工，十年前 MSI 成立時她已開始投身服務，她的祖父在中國營商，父親也在中國長大，中日戰爭及第二次世界大戰時祖父偕父親退返日本，她雖不在中國出生，但對中國卻有著揮之不去的情，在日本修畢醫護後到北京學習國語，數年後更加入了 MSI。我被她默默的耕耘、柔柔的服侍態度所感動，在中日爭拗釣魚台主權之際，在一位深愛中國的日本人帶領下領受主的餅、主的杯，真是一個在耶穌裡合而為一的美麗經歷，更為彼能捨棄舒適，離鄉別井，將真正的福氣帶到中國感謝神。

5) Chengdu- travelling lightly

Luke 10:4-6 “Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If a man or peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you.”

Of the six sites that we visited, I like Chengdu the best. Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan. It is an economic, cultural and transportation center. I had a chance to chat with a bus driver, who proudly told me that Sichuanese men are known for their cultural sophistication and Sichuanese women their beauty. The city planning of Chengdu is unique, with government buildings in its center, and surrounded by 3 concentric circular roads. I also had the pleasure of tasting authentic Sichuan hotpot in a famous restaurant. The numbingly spicy hotpot however was no match to sharing Holy Communion with a group of longtermers in the Chengdu MSI office. A Japanese longtermer who has served with MSI for 10 years led the Communion. Her grandfather came to China for business; her father grew up in China. Even though she was not born in China, the love for China is firmly rooted in her. After finishing nursing training in Japan, she learned Mandarin and joined MSI. I am deeply touched by her gentleness and dedication. At a time when China and Japan have disputes over Diaoyu Island, what a beautiful picture of Christian unity it is to remember Christ’s sacrifice through the bread and the cup with a Japanese sister who loves China! I thank the Lord for leading her to leave behind the comforts of home to bring true blessings to China.

- 6) 西昌 – 願吃願喝・不再漂泊 (路 10:7-8) 「你們要住在那家，吃喝他們所供給的，因為工人得工價是應當的。不要從這家搬到那家。無論進哪一城，人若接待你們，給你們擺上甚麼，你們就吃甚麼。」

這次異象之旅其中一個目的是拜訪中國各省級政府的官員與教育行政醫療單位人員，並邀請他們與 MSI 一同慶祝在內地 10 週年的工作，所以有很多宴會需要參與。最初第一二次看到滿桌精美佳餚時感覺很興奮，但經過了十二天餐餐豐筵後，肚子真受不了，因為中國西方的菜色多數辛辣，餐館的更是肥膩，所以大部份團友都有腹瀉現象，我也不例外，幸而不算嚴重。MSI 在西昌布四位外來的長期同工，除了一位來自台灣的資深同工外，其餘三位都來自星加坡，四位皆為女性，她們都質疑男性同工往那裡去了？西昌的服侍機會頗大，它位處涼山彝族自治州（非自治區）之內，在慶祝 MSI 在涼山 10 週年的茶會中，當地政府官員亦邀請 MSI 將來宜多派同工到涼山。一個外國團體以一千多萬資助西昌興建了一所可媲美北美任何一間現代化學府的校舍，校長更希望 MSI 能差派更多教師來任教。當我聽畢這個要求時不其然地問，有誰，特別是弟兄，願意暫時犧牲平時慣吃的食物、慣睡的床、舒適的家，學習這幾位看似弱質纖纖的女仕到中國服侍呢？

6) Xichang- feasts after feasts

Luke 10: 7-8 “Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.”

One of the goals of this vision trip was to visit local Chinese officials, inviting them to celebrate the 10th year anniversary of the work of MSI. Many of these activities were done over banquets. I was quite excited in the first few days when I saw the delicious dishes on the banquet tables, but after 12 days of rich, spicy and often oily food, our stomachs started to protest by developing diarrhoea. MSI has four long-term workers in Xichang, three from Singapore and one from Taiwan. They are all ladies. One has to wonder where the guys are! Xichang is located in the Liangshan prefecture of the Yi minority, and presents lots of opportunities for service. In a tea party celebrating the 10th anniversary of MSI, local officials extended an invitation to MSI to send more long-term workers to Liangshan. A foreign organization has invested more than 10 million dollars to build a state of the art school campus. The principal of the school hopes that MSI will send more teachers there to teach. When I hear these requests, I ask in my heart whether there are any, especially brothers, who will give up their comfortable homes and lifestyle, and serve alongside these four ladies in Xichang?



The team outside the Youth Center in Zaojue



Rev. Chan in front of the MSI hostel in Xichang

7) 昭覺 – 甘心服侍 · 從道稱義 (路10:9-11) 「要醫治那城裡的病人，對他們說：『神的國臨近你們了。無論進哪一城，人若不接待你們，你們就到街上去，說：『就是你們城裡的塵土粘在我們的腳上，我們也當著你們擦去。雖然如此，你們該知道神的國臨近了。』」

昭覺是此行的最後一站，它離西昌只有兩小時半車程，前幾年仍需七小時，可見這幾年中國在道路改善工程上有頗龐大的投資。沿路經過高山峻嶺，山上樹木稀疏，馬路上隨時有牧人在趕牛驅羊，瘦骨嶙峋的狗閒踱，彝族人坐在黃土路旁擺賣，婦孺休戲閒談。途經小鎮剛巧是墟期，公路也變成市場，司機便要份外小心，在簡僕的人群中穿插而過。昭覺是MSI中國事工的發源地，十年前由兩位女同工在成都和西昌從事社區護理開始，時至今天，昭覺縣政府更動用一百多萬元建成昭覺青年創業培訓中心交MSI管理，訓練當地彝族自治州青年學習一門手藝，以能在社會創業或就業。MSI更有同工親到附近山區指導衛生，教導農民將廢物造成燃料，提供畜牧、植樹、農務等知識，在扶貧治病之餘，同工也見證生命的信念。在一個荒蕪的山頭，我們腳踏黃土聆聽綠化山坡計劃之際，一位菲律賓醫生揭露了在這裡的村落，平均每一個有二千多人患有肺癆，皆因居住環境惡劣、營養不良所致，她只有一人獨木難支，分身乏術，有心無力。我看著這位風塵僕僕的使女，咬緊牙關，孑然一身，拍拍粘在腳上的泥濘，又再繼續上路，只希望能向她所服侍的人彰顯在天地人間的真情，你也願意用服侍的行動這樣向中國人宣告嗎？

7) Zhaojue- serving willingly

Luke 10: 9-11 "Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 'even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.'"

Zhaojue was the last stop of our trip. It is 2 ½ hours car ride from Xichang. Only a few years ago, the same trip would take 7 hours, signifying the tremendous investment the Chinese government has put into road works. We passed steep sparsely forested mountains en route. There are farmers with their livestock, skinny dogs and people of the Yi tribe selling things on the roadside. On market day, the whole road becomes a big market, and drivers have to wiggle their way through the crowds.

Zhaojue is the first site of MSI's China ministry. Two nurses started community nursing work there 10 years ago. Today, MSI manages a youth center there, training young people to develop vocational skills. The work of community health, development and livestock program continues, as well as the witnessing of dedicated lives. A doctor from the Philippines disclosed to us that up to 2000 people per village may have tuberculosis, a result of poor hygiene and malnutrition. This lady physician pours out herself in serving the villagers, fighting loneliness and all sorts of obstacles. Her service and action is a clear testimony of the true love that has changed her life. Are you willing to join her in proclaiming to the Chinese this message of love?



MSI Canada

Website: www.msicanada.org

Address: 128 Cornwall Road, Sherwood Park, Alberta, T8H 2L4

Phone/Fax: (780) 417-4753

Email address: msicanada@yahoo.com

New US Website: www.msips.org