

## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2005

### *A Memorable Trip to Chengdu*

Mindy Seto

What an incredible experience! As a member of the MSI team to Chengdu, China this summer 2004, I'd like to share some of the most memorable moments we had.

Chengdu, a very busy city, is trying to catch up to the world standard in many ways. There were cars, people, motorbikes, taxis, and bikes everywhere. There were street vendors trying to earn a living by selling clothes, watches, sunglasses, peaches, used books.... We landed in Chengdu late in the evening with the entire team together. The air was humid and hot but it was great to be greeted by an organizer from the Chengdu Traditional Chinese Medicine University (TCMU) and MSI's long-term worker. It was a relief to see these two people after a long flight. I felt it was like we were finally home, that we've reached our destination, and we were starting a new life there—serving and loving the people in Chengdu.



*TCMU team (Back from left to right): Josephine, Daphne, Noranda, (Front from left to right): Lynn, Linda and Mindy.*

We spent a day planning and pulling the team together. It was actually our first time to meet together as a team. At that point, I really felt that God had hand picked this team together. Josephine Saley, our leader, was a flexible, caring, cheerful, positive, encouraging, talented and fun-loving lady. Linda was a knowledgeable and a reflective thinker who offered the team valuable advice and a well of knowledge about TCM. Noranda was a great money manager; she took care of all the accounting matters and she was good at making small talk with the Chinese people. Daphne was the engineer of the team; she dealt with all the technical equipment with ease. The students in China enjoyed all of our PowerPoint presentations and movies. All the students in China and our team enjoyed Daphne's cheerful and outgoing personality. She was able to make good connections with many of the Chinese students. We were extremely fortunate to have Lynn, a native of B.C., Canada, to teach all the pronunciation lessons. She was such a blessing to everyone because she was a good listener and she was not afraid to offer help and advice. I felt so blessed to be on this trip, to be

able to meet these wonderful people, and to be able to learn how to love one another, the team and the Chinese people.

The first day of working with the Chinese people at the TCMU finally came after a day of resting. There was definitely no time for any jet lag! We started teaching at 8:00 a.m. We sang songs, taught English pronunciation, did a skit, taught medical English, ran discussion groups, supervised debates.... That was our daily teaching schedule in Chengdu. We ended each day feeling exhausted but also excited for the next day. We helped some doctors to come up with English names. They were so excited to learn from us and we felt humbled. Two girls invited some of us to go for a walk after our meal. The students were so receptive and welcoming to our teaching, making us feel so honored and so blessed. We started to fall in love with the Chinese people we were working with and they, the doctors, professors, teachers, and the professionals, were all—and I must



emphasize that they were ALL—cheerful, fun, loving, and open minded. They were falling in love with us too! They were very eager to learn about Canada, taste Canadian snacks, play Canadian games and listen to our point of view on many topics. We shared about our viewpoint on family structure, mental health, medical strategies and more. In the evening, we invited their families and we played games with them. We had a blast! The students were so in love with us that they invited us out to a local hot pot restaurant, the panda research area, a museum, their medical clinics, their homes and other places such as the temples and the shopping centers. We were busy in China in building relationships with our newfound friends. It was truly a blessing to work with these wonderful professionals from Chengdu.

The world is full of people we can love, share and be friend with. I know a service trip is not a miracle to helping people but I know that God can work miracles. It is in my prayer that God will use what has been done in this trip to continue to bless the people in China. It has been one of my best traveling experiences and I recommend YOU come on board!

*~Mindy is a teacher from Calgary. She joined the English teaching team to TCMU in July 2004.*

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## *A Day in Luzhou*

Wendy Cheung

8:00 a.m. I was taken by a Public Health Bureau official to the training center to give a lecture. The lecture hall was packed with 150 doctors and nurses from the village hospitals in the whole county. As I discussed Perinatal Asphyxia with them, I wondered how useful this information would be to them. The students were surprisingly attentive. I asked them whether they had any questions when I finished the lecture. One of the officials asked me to share with them how doctors and nurses worked in Canada. I started describing our working conditions, and then the Spirit prompted me to say that doctors in Canada spent a lot of time talking with parents, especially when we encountered severely asphyxiated babies. I told them that I often cried with the parents when their children died. “A saying in my favourite Book is ***Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn***”, I said. The entire lecture hall was hushed when I said these words. Even the cell phones did not ring. I knew it was not me who had captured their attention. It was His Word—such wonderful words, such powerful words.



*Norman doing an Echocardiogram on a patient.*

9:15 a.m. I was taken to the hospital to join the rest of the team: Norman, the pediatric cardiologist, Elizabeth, the pediatric haematologist-oncologist, and Joe, the pediatric rehabilitation specialist. The pediatricians in the hospital were presenting a case of a 14-year-old boy with joint pain and fever of unknown origin. They had already done an excellent work up, but were still struggling with the exact diagnosis. Norman commented on some changes on the ECG. He offered to do an echocardiogram free of charge when he found out that one had not been done. The whole group of pediatricians crowded into the Echo lab as Norman showed them the small rim of fluid around the heart. This helped them make the final diagnosis of lupus. Everybody was impressed. Was this a co-incidence, or was this in His plan that we would see this child?



Joe giving a lecture on Cerebral Palsy

2:30 p.m. After lunch, Joe gave his lecture on Cerebral Palsy. It just happened that this hospital was considering starting a rehabilitation program for children with CP. Joe's expertise was very relevant and was much appreciated by the local doctors. Again, was this a coincidence or was it planned? Joe shared that one needed a lot of love, patience and kindness in order to help children with disabilities, and their families. It was a difficult task, but these children desperately needed help. "The greatest Physician in the world", Joe shared, "once said that ***it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.***"

5 p.m. The hospital staff invited us to dinner. We initially declined because we were all quite tired. Norman suggested otherwise. We agreed to go for a quick dinner in the restaurant at our hotel. The 13-year-old son of one of the doctors came along. He loved to practice English and translated for Norman throughout dinner. The conversation at the dinner table switched from discussing the Sichuanese cuisine to the food they had for Chinese New Year. Elizabeth commented that she had not really celebrated Chinese New Year since moving to Canada 40 years ago. "Ah, yes, you probably celebrate Christmas more than Chinese New Year," the chief of Pediatrics said. The young lad seized the opportunity to practise English and asked Norman what he liked about Christmas. One could see Norman's brain turning as he pondered how to reply. He liked the snow, Christmas trees and Christmas songs. They asked us to sing one. We chose **Silent Night**. To our surprise, they knew the tune and hummed along with us. It was such a wonderful experience to sing Christmas carols together. How I wish the Person behind these carols would be known to all!

6:30 p.m. The vice-president of the hospital suggested impromptu that we go sing karaoke together. It turned out that they all loved singing. By this time, we felt the Spirit leading and agreed to go despite our tiredness. We went upstairs to the karaoke suite, only to find that it was locked. The hotel staff had to open it and prepare the place for us. I went back to my room to get something. Joe quietly asked me to get the song sheets of the MSI theme song. While we waited for the karaoke suite to be prepared, we took out the song sheets to sing. "***Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.***" They loved the words and the tune. One of them immediately asked for a copy of the song sheet. Two of them could not stop singing it. They sang the song over and over again. It was as if the words were magnets which attracted them. There was such a thirst for Truth. After a wonderful time singing and dancing in the karaoke suite, they insisted on singing the theme song once more before rounding the evening off.



9:30 p.m. The four of us had a wonderful time of reading God's word, sharing, singing and fellowship during our nightly devotion time. We were amazed at how God had directed the events of the day, and felt so blessed that we could be part of it. Three portions of Scripture were shared with the locals that day. I do not know how the Lord would work out His plan for these wonderful people in this beautiful city. His promise, however, is that

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire, and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.... (Ecclesiastes 3:1).



*Eva at the airport getting ready to go on her medical trip to China. Eva is a medical lab scientist from Edmonton,*

Compared to what I saw on my first trip in 2000, the hospital has improved a lot, particularly in patient care and medical technology. I also experienced an amazing and gracious work of the Holy Spirit during the trip and harvested the fruit of love witnessed by previous MSI teams.

I went to the department of laboratory medicine one morning, with the intention to help with their busy work. However, the laboratory was extremely quiet with not a single patient that morning. Staff was sitting around reading newspapers and having tea. I sat down and chatted with them. Suddenly, a leading staff commented on MSI's faithful love and support to their hospital. For the last 6 years, we have come to help without pay, giving up our vacation time and our own money. They were touched and moved. I replied that it was because of the love of our God which compelled us to come and help.

She then asked me to teach her the MSI theme song—Love Never Fails. Four years ago, she had got the words from me and during these years she had meditated and memorized them. However, she did not know how to sing it. I was more than willing to teach her. I sang the song twice with her, and then she sang it by herself, amazingly again and again for almost an hour. She sang while she was working with patients or doing tests. She was so joyful that she hugged me many times. She told me that every time she sang she felt joy, peace and a warm stream in her heart. This was the best gift she had received. From this I knew that the Holy Spirit had entered her heart.

Indeed, the staff in the whole lab became interested in this song and joyfully sang the song together. As I explained the meaning of the song's words to them, a staff even recommended putting the song on the wall and singing it every morning before work. Surprisingly another staff commented that people should not only sing this good song but also put the words into action, to live out the real meaning of the song. All that happened was so beautiful and I could not absorb everything at that time. It was not possibly done by man's hand. It was like one of those amazing incidents in the book of Acts that the Holy Spirit worked among the hearts of people.

I found myself very privileged and blessed to see the gracious work of God. I praise Him for his power and give thanks for the hard work of all the brothers and sisters who have given God glory by both words and deeds of love in this hospital. May all the glory be to the name of our God on High.

### 愛的真諦 (MSI Theme Song)

愛是恆久忍耐又有恩慈，愛是不嫉妒，愛是不自誇，不張狂，不作害羞的事，不求自己的益處，不輕易發怒，不計算人家的惡，不喜歡不義，只喜歡真理凡事包容，凡事相信，凡事盼望，凡事忍耐，凡事要忍耐，愛是永不止息。

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