

Your Life  
is the Message

# MSI Bulletin

A Call to Christian Professionals

## I WANT TO SEE

- Wendy C

### — REFLECTIONS ON THE EYE PROJECT —

'Momo?' A relative anxiously asked as the eye shield and bandage were carefully removed by the nurse the day after cataract surgery. 'Mo' is 'to see' in Nosu, and 'momo' puts it in question form to mean 'can you see?' When the patient replied in the affirmative, everyone breathed a sigh of relief. Who can forget the toothless old man who kept saying mo, with a wide grin on his face. Or the old lady who started counting the number of people around her one by one. Or the gentleman who astutely pointed out that the nurse had lipstick on. Or the grateful daughter who thanked MSI doctors for restoring not just her father's eyesight but his independence.

Those were joyous times, but our joy is not just to see vision restored. The primary goal of the Eye Project is to empower doctors in this remote rural area so that they can effectively and safely perform cataract operations, and hence become a blessing to their people and community. Our expert short-term teams came to teach and train; patiently transferring skills, knowledge and much more. To this end, we are encouraged to see the progress local doctors have made in the last two years, with growing competence and confidence in diagnosing and managing cataract and other eye diseases. They still have a long way to go, but we feel privileged to be the ones to kick-start the process.

The question Jesus asked the blind beggar, identified as Bartimaeus in Mark, may seem redundant. Isn't it obvious that a blind person would want to see? Yet, Jesus gave Bartimaeus the dignity of voicing his request. In his desperation, resulting from disability and poverty, Bartimaeus articulated his request with laser-sharp clarity. With nothing to lose, he threw his trust entirely on Jesus and experienced His healing which led to communal worship. May we learn from Bartimaeus: uncovering and admitting our disability and poverty, and clearly articulating our desperate need for Shalom for ourselves and for the people we serve.

*As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.*

*(Luke 18:35-43)*

# HIV Peer Counsellors

- Cedric C



"Dr. C, I don't know if I can do it. I'm a cripple and have HIV, I don't get out of bed until noon, and I haven't worked for years. Besides, speaking in front of a group of people really scares me. I am a useless person," Z replied after I invited him to become one of our HIV peer counsellors. That was a few months ago. Z has changed a lot since then.

Z was extremely weak from HIV medication-induced anaemia when

I first met him. After switching his medication, he slowly regained strength. During his hospital stay, Z also came to know Him and I felt he would make a good addition to our HIV peer counselling team.

But Z had many reservations about being a counsellor. He told me that a few years ago, he fell six storeys down in a work accident, broke his legs and was left with a permanent disability. Consequently, he lost confidence in himself, living in seclusion with no aspiration to do anything. But I told him that every Christian is a new creation, and is precious in God's sight - there are no useless people in His kingdom. Z agreed to come to our HIV patient training sessions as an observer, sitting quietly in the back and hearing what the other counsellors shared. Then gradually, he was willing to speak in front of a group of HIV patients if I stood next to him and asked him questions for him to answer.

Now, six months later, Z is an important member of our counselling team. He comes to the hospital several times a week to share his story and teach patients

about HIV. He speaks with gentleness and confidence, prompting patients to approach him afterwards with personal questions. I am so proud of the way he has grown and changed.

I met W in the hospital around the same time as I met Z. W was very sick with pneumonia, hardly able to take a few steps without struggling to breathe. Even after

we started treatment, I wondered if he would survive. After I prayed

with him for the first time,

W broke out in a big smile and said he was already a believer! He started getting better from that day when we

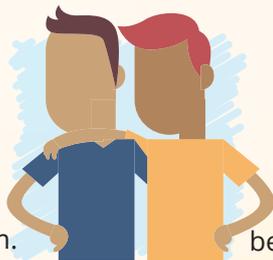
prayed together. Within a few weeks, he walked out of the

hospital completely well and enthusiastically joined our team

of HIV peer counsellors. W is a natural public speaker and a deep thinker. He often shares relevant insights from the Word and has been a spiritual encouragement to the team.

We are very thankful for this local team that the Lord has brought together. Because of their help and commitment, we have now expanded our HIV patient training sessions from once every two weeks to every day, in order to reach every new patient.

We also meet regularly as a small group to study and pray for one another. Our prayer is for the counsellors to continue to be transformed and spurred on by their faith as they become His blessing to fellow patients.



# Road of RECOVERY

- Fay H



## INTERCEDING TOGETHER

*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another. (John 13:35)*

At the heart of the medical and community health programme of MSI in Liuku is restoration: restoration of people to each other and to their Creator. A baby is imbued with hope and happiness. A baby born with any deformity - a curse, shame and blame.

"Mrs. Dong, can you bring little Dong to the clinic tomorrow?"  
"Dr. X... Yes, yes. Of course, we can come".

Little Dong was one of our cleft lip and palate patients who had surgery when he was two years old. I noticed Mrs. Dong (Dong Mama) because she was older than the other mothers were. I later learnt that her older son from a previous marriage had mental and physical disabilities. Dong Mama was cheerful and able, not easily given to tears. She was always ready to help others. She helped the other young mothers during the surgery by explaining the instructions from the doctors and nurses and comforting them when they were worried. She also participated enthusiastically in the post-op activities that the post-operative holistic rehabilitation team organised. Her participation encouraged little Dong and the other parents and children to join in. So, while the medical team organised the medical side of surgery and post-op care for the patients, the post-op holistic

rehabilitation team helped the parents and children while they are in the hospital waiting for surgery and helped to take their mind off the pain after the surgery.

When I saw little Dong and Dong Mama at the one year post-op review, little Dong was much more mischievous. Dong Mama told us that after the surgery, he would often tell her that he was now "good" while touching his lips. Now three, little Dong was able to sit still in a dental chair for a whole minute. He had terrible teeth and had had many facial abscesses. Dong Mama told us his teeth rotted away as he had difficulty drinking milk from the defect, so they fed him honey water from a young age. By helping him to like brushing his teeth and with some restorative work, we were able to stabilise his dental situation too.

With long- and short-termers from different backgrounds coming and serving together, the families who travelled many hours from their homes (often from the mountains) to the hospital are restored to each other and to their community. You can tell someone about love in a thousand volumes without them understanding it. Yet, a look, a touch, a smile, a sitting-down together, a willingness to share life and to lend a helping hand - and love is passed from one to the other.

Pray for our new team in Yiliang, Yunnan. Short-term teams will be helping long-term workers in a water project, medical training, and community health education. Pray that the team can be an on-going testimony of the goodness and love of God.

Thank God for continuing opportunities to work with local governments in some of the more remote sites in Southwest China.

Pray for the mobilisation of workers with the heart to serve the Chinese people. Expat workers today need to be highly skilled, and able to transfer that skill to their Chinese counterparts.

Pray for co-workers in remote sites - that God will be their encouragement and strength; that He will provide local co-workers and friends to journey together; and that challenges of daily living can be overcome.

Pray for the preparation of short-term teams heading to the field during the summer months. May the volunteers be prepared to share their lives as a witness to the love of God.



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PRINTED MATTER

# 2019 Service Opportunities



## URGENT need FOR LONG-TERM WORKERS

- English teachers who would be willing to commit at least 1 year to teach in secondary schools in Yunnan or Sichuan.
- Health care providers in a variety of specialties (family medicine, paediatrics, geriatrics, general surgery, dentistry, infectious disease, critical care, etc.).
- Health care workers skilled in occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy, special needs education and mental health rehabilitation.
- Project managers and administrators.
- Coordinators in organizing training and project management for elderly care or community health & development.
- Facilitators and developers of new medical initiatives in county hospitals or for HIV treatment adherence and peer counselling coordination.

- Bakery experts who can provide training in bakery and food outlet management.
- Physicians and nurses in a wide range of specialties (especially paediatrics/neonatology, primary care, public health, gynaecology, echocardiography, laparoscopic surgery, haemodialysis, intensive care, dentistry and ophthalmology).
- Trainers for workshops in counselling or chaplaincy, elderly care, special needs education and rehabilitation.
- English and kindergarten teachers in local schools.
- Those who can provide holistic education for camps and sponsored students.
- Agricultural experts with experience in running cooperatives.

## URGENT need FOR SHORT-TERM WORKERS