

Your Life  
is the Message

ISSUE 98

WINTER 2019

# MSI Bulletin

A Call to Christian Professionals

## A NEW BREAKTHROUGH

A quarter of a century ago, MSI's founders established this organisation with the hope and vision that the Lord would do a new thing – serving the people of China with a new way of relating to the government and a new way of engaging Christian professionals from around the world. That vision has amazingly been realised! We have seen thousands of people deeply impacted through MSI's holistic service. We've related to local officials at all levels of the government, working to be effective and relevant within China's systems and structures. We've witnessed scores of long-term workers and thousands of short-term volunteers respond to the invitation to "come in the spirit of Christ." They express His love in ways that people can see, hear, and touch. Over the past decade, we have also seen a growing number of these

volunteers coming from within China. The Lord was clearly bringing about a new breakthrough.

As I reflect on this breakthrough, I'm reminded of the "nameless disciples" in Antioch (Acts 11:19-26) who were willing to break with tradition and push on to create a new normal. That new generation integrated what they had learned from their ethnic backgrounds, faith upbringing, and marketplace experiences to explore new ways of impacting their communities.

Those who started MSI were from this kind of generation! We are grateful for the deep commitment of all who have faithfully journeyed with, prayed for, and supported MSI over the past twenty-five years. The Lord has done many amazing things.



Just as those unnamed disciples in Acts explored new opportunities in the face of a challenging context, we also labour to understand and enter into effective service in today's changing China context. We sense that the Lord is bringing things together for a new breakthrough. Are you willing to be part of this new breakthrough? As we press on, we trust that He will continue to do an amazing work through this community that we call MSI.



25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Special Edition

David Leung



## 25 and Counting: Counting HIS Blessings!

I count more than 25 colleagues who have continued to serve with MSI for more than a decade. There are also countless short-term members — and more than two handfuls who have been married through relationships that blossomed while on MSI trips! Most significant is to see how God has transformed the lives of many

colleagues, local partners and ministry peoples over the years. MSI is indeed privileged to be part of China's story in this period of amazing transformation.

MSI is also witnessing transition to fourth generation leadership. God's grace has allowed us to see some of our children's generation serving in ministry. The children of those we have shared our lives with, over the 25 years in China, have grown and matured in service and local leadership. Despite humble, persevering service on the ground, on-going presence in China is not guaranteed; and even with resources – whether professional, technical or financial – it has become increasingly challenging. It truly tests the faith of the few to witness in the most trying of times that, indeed, "love never fails."



**Matthew Koh**



# Heaven's Will, Mandate and Blessings

## Heaven's Will

In thousands of years of Chinese civilisation, leaders have sought Heaven's will to serve the people. The genesis of MSI from the confluence of three quite different perspectives, might, provocatively, be termed Heaven's will: from the medical perspective, born from three generations of Christian medical involvement; from the historic theological perspective of six generations serving in China; from the practical service perspective of decades of deep cultural understanding.

Three perspectives just wonderfully coalesced, without previous specific plan, across oceans, around a central focus to serve faithfully in China's interior: a consequence of a wonderfully reassuring phrase, "His ways are higher than ours." I naively thought I "just signed up" for taking lots of medical teams into China, but things immediately snowballed, just like something "from above."

## Heaven's Mandate

Four thousand years ago an amazing mandate was given to "bless the nations," which soon formalised as "love God and others," and 2,000 years ago, declared as the "great commission for all nations," a mandate, for millions who know this, to bless the rest. A Heaven's mandate that anyone reading this should take to heart.

MSI took this to heart, resulting in thousands of responders giving time, effort, and finances to serve in the hills and valleys of Southwest China to bless its people. What a wonderful opportunity to mobilise God's kingdom to serve and love others! Just in the first 10 years, we witnessed 5,000 visits of diverse professions and talents from different countries, practically unimaginable, following the mandate from Heaven.

## Heaven's Blessings

A quarter century is a timely mark to remind ourselves that, as we bring heaven's blessings to others, blessings also come to inspire us and others to serve better, even to start other similar efforts to spread more blessings. "Provoke one another to good works, by our good works" sounds quaint, but actually is role modelling, which surpasses all lectures.

In this journey, fantastic verses, memorised for generations, all come together vividly: "Love never ceases; they will know us by our love; be salt and light everywhere; heal the broken-hearted, bind up their wounds; heal the blind; go through villages and towns; care for sheep without shepherds; teach what I have told you; go to the ends of the earth." Search these phrases, discover again their profound implications!

But, in truly meaningful ways, these are basic MSI ethos from the very beginning, privileging us to see the authentic impact on others and ourselves: Heaven's will, mandate, and blessings, for generations to come.

**Reginald Tsang**





## Reflection on MSI's 25th Anniversary

*“Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread everywhere.” (Song of Songs 4:16)*

Riding a late night bus on Yunnan mountain roads some 16 years ago, I admired not only the full moon all the way back to the hospital, but much more, the hospitality of the villagers (our patients) we visited. Today in China, many MSI colleagues, with one mind and one spirit, share in living and serving the people we love.

It was one day in the fall of 1993, when the late Dr. JH Taylor III visited and urged us to consider joining the first China medical volunteer team the next year. Our love to serve China has grown since then, and some four years later, my wife and I took early retirement to volunteer full time with MSI.

During our time of service we have seen change after change. Up in Zhaojue mountain town, a primitive reception centre with dried leaves for a mattress has now been replaced by modern hotels; long winding roads through dusty marble excavation sites of Yunnan mountain are being replaced by short highways through tunnels; poor English levels in the schools contrast greatly with

fluently bilingual young professionals today. The MSI service styles have also changed: Sunshine farm has replaced the sheep programme, and HIV & TB prevention, health education & holistic care, with rehabilitation programmes, now supersedes the previous medical exchanges.

Amidst all the bittersweet changes, the love of our colleagues has remained the same. Their life in China is The Message! Awake north wind! Come south wind! Blow into the garden of our hearts and of the people we serve. Let the fragrance of love spread in China!

In our theme song “True Love” (Love is patient... and Love never ceases), “patience” is stressed twice among the 15 facets of true love. May we persevere patiently to spread the fragrance of love through Truth and Joy for many more decades!

**Eugene & Anita Choi**



# 25 YEARS OF MSI IN 60 SECONDS

## Purpose & Values

### Our purpose

MSI Professional Services is a non-profit organisation serving the holistic needs of the people in inland China. Committed Christians share Christ's love with their lives, promoting meaningful exchange, and cooperating with the Chinese government and other entities to equip local communities to serve China's vulnerable populations.

### Our values

#### Inland

MSI serves in inland China, addressing the holistic needs of the neglected frontiers.



#### Servanthood

MSI strives to serve with the spirit of Christ.



#### Team

MSI serves through teams. Our long-term and short-term teams are international and multi-disciplinary.



#### Equipping

MSI seeks to equip local people through training, exchange, and the sharing of our lives.



#### Professional

MSI provides professional services, seeking to do our work with excellence.



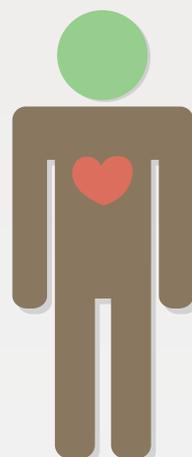
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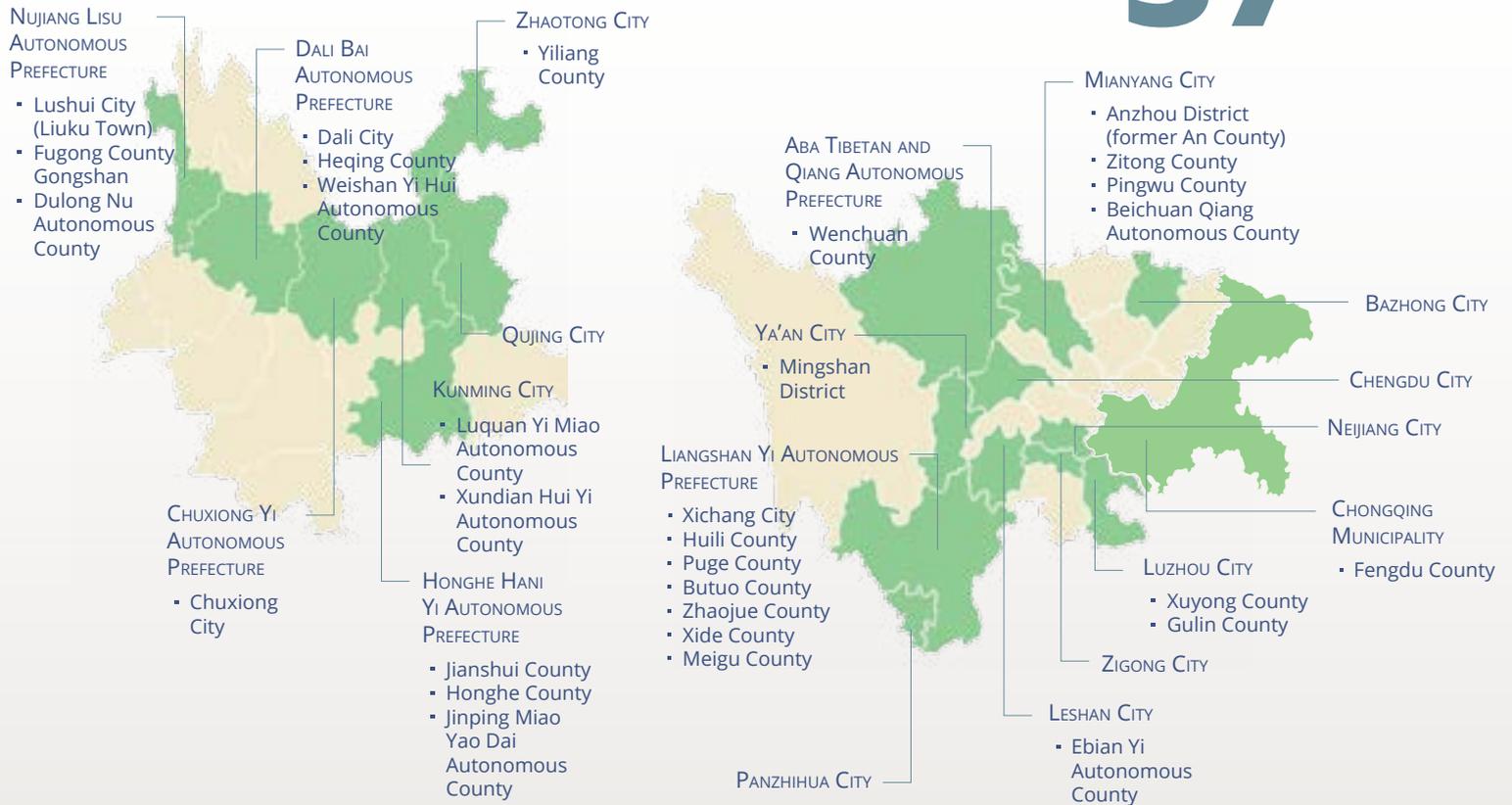
FROM  
**20**  
COUNTRIES/  
REGIONS

MOBILISING  
**6,688**  
CHRISTIAN  
PROFESSIONALS



270 Long-term  
6,418 Short-term  
**Workers**

IN **37** SITES



SERVING AMONG

**7**



Han



Hani



Hui



Lisu



Miao



Qiang



Yi

PEOPLE GROUPS

MORE THAN **50** types of projects



IN **5** major areas of service



Agricultural Training



Community Development



Education

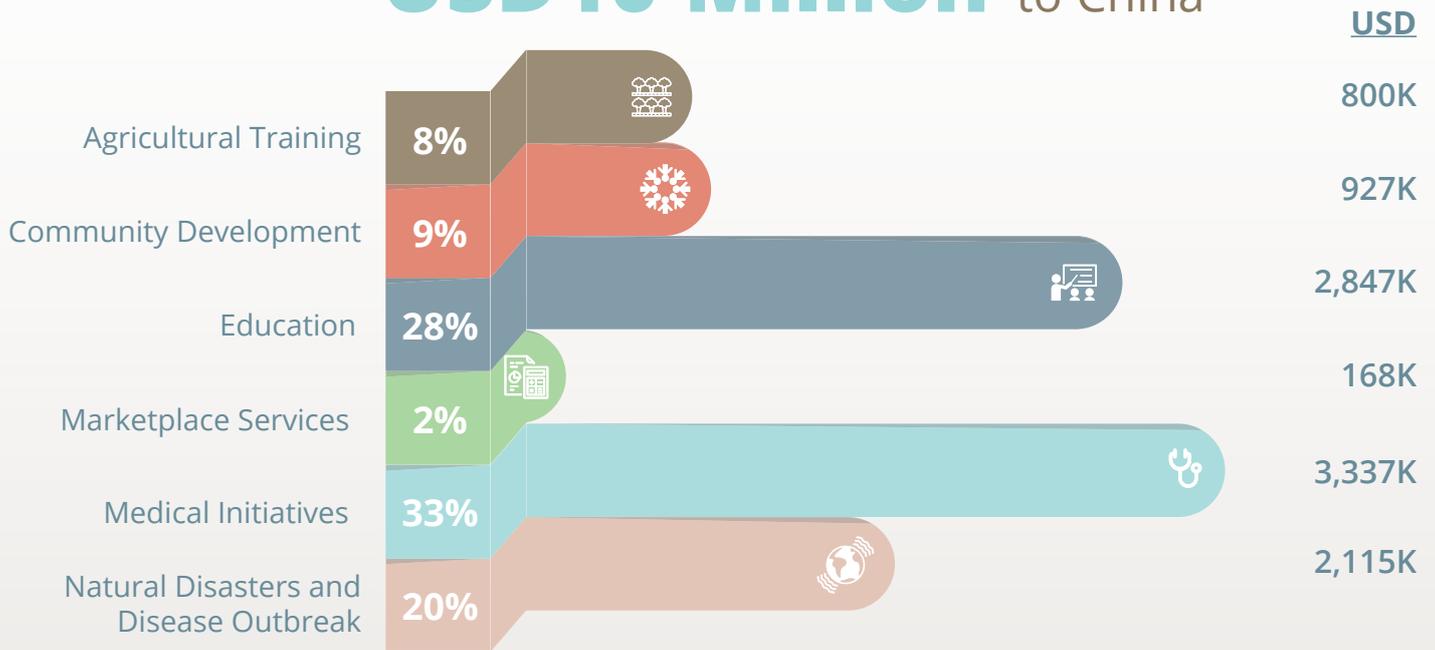


Marketplace Services



Medical Initiatives

# OVER USD10 Million to China



## 9 ARTICLES YOU SHOULD READ...

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**Mental Rehabilitation Reignites Patients' Hope to Integrate Back into Society**

2

**From HIV Prevention and Hospital Works in Zhaojue to Paediatric Clinic in Meigu**

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**Reflecting on Ten Years of Development in China's Medical System**

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**Blossom and Bear Fruit – Students of Zhaojue Girls' Class in 2006 Became Today's Village Teachers**

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**He is Able – The Story of a Long-term Short-termer: Involvement in Yunnan Medical Projects**

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**Always Shining – The Development of Volunteerism**

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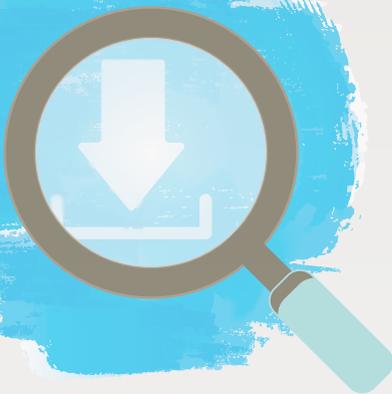
**Farming as Mission – Sheep Project and Meigu County Cooperatives Training Programme**

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**How Special Needs Care Goes from Rehabilitation Centre to the Home**

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**A Scholarship Programme**



# *Mental Rehabilitation Reignites Patients' Hope to Integrate Back into Society*

*Eva Yau*

A young mental health patient shared, 'I was just at home all day with nothing to do before I came to the rehabilitation centre. I used to spend six to ten hours a day in internet gaming and was unwilling to do housework. I had no friends and didn't want to get out at all.'

According to a family member, "When our son Ah Lin was ill, it was a particularly painful period during which we felt hopeless and helpless. We suffered from all kinds of emotions on our journey to seek medical help, so I felt both excited and ecstatic after entering the rehabilitation centre, as I saw hope there – lifesaving hope!

These experiences shared by a recovered member and his mother are not uncommon at all, as China is severely lacking in community mental rehabilitation services. Patients usually stay home after being discharged from the hospital, feeling that there is nowhere to go in life. This can easily lead to relapse of their mental health condition and hospital re-admission - which develops into a downward cycle with no apparent exit.

In recognition of this desperate need in the community, MSI worked with the local hospital to establish a community mental rehabilitation centre in 2012 (the year I joined MSI) to provide services including daytime rehabilitation and courses such as self-management and family mental health. The centre helped to pave work opportunities for recovered members to re-join their community. A lot of recovered members were very proud as they got their first ever job, and many opportunities were available for members to continue their education. Some members even studied up to the graduate degree level and then secured employment. Something else to be even more thankful for is that the mental rehabilitation centre gained international recognition for its services and has growing support. The rehabilitation centre model was successfully promoted to other cities to help more patients and their families.

**HOPE  
CLUBHOUSE**  
希望之光会所

Through rehabilitation and training, Ah Lin was able to develop his computing and interpersonal skills, which re-kindled his self-confidence in looking for work in his hometown. His future dreams were the same as other young people of his age: acquiring a job, getting married, and starting a family. Thankfully his dream became a reality two years later!

Our vision for mental rehabilitation service is that by grace, we can see people with mental illness and their family members live out fulfilling and hopeful lives that contribute to society.





# From HIV Prevention and Hospital Works in Zhaojue to Paediatric Clinic in Meigu

*"Compassion is not sloppy sentimentalism, nor does it compromise the truth. Biblical compassion, combining heartfelt emotion with active relief for the suffering...enter into the very heart and mystery of God."  
(Brennan Manning)*

When I first came to Zhaojue in 1997, an elderly Asian couple – a public health physician & nurse – were there to start a community health programme. Dr. George Chew saw the need for a TB programme in 2000. Sure enough, we saw 30 patients daily, reaching almost 2000 patients in a year.

In the course of our TB project, we found two obstacles to successful treatment. First, the patients failed to return to continue receiving their drugs due to lack of information in their Nosu Yi language. Second, some of those treated did not respond and a few died. Most of those who did not respond to the TB treatment were ill with another disease – HIV/AIDS.

In 2001, Dr. Joseph Chang and his wife joined the team to continue the TB project. He asked three local Nosu Yi young medical volunteers to do patient education about TB and to emphasise the need to take the TB drugs for at least 6 months.

At that time, I remembered that Doctors without Borders under the Public Health Bureau came and started to target the high-risk group for HIV/AIDS. However, after a few years, the organisation left Zhaojue. In August 2012, the Red Ribbon AIDS China Care built and inaugurated a new HIV Centre inside the Zhaojue County Hospital. There, they diagnose, treat and manage all the HIV/AIDS patients in outpatient and inpatient settings.

A Chinese American HIV specialist, Dr. Cheung and his paediatrician wife, spearheaded the MSI HIV/AIDS programme, in cooperation with the Zhaojue HIV Centre. MSI subsidised the hiring of three local nurses who managed the overwhelming number of outpatients. They were empowered and enabled to educate patients on HIV, its transmission, need for drug compliance, and their side effects. Peer counselling was the most cost-effective method for achieving drug compliance. This year, we almost achieved 75% drug compliance, up from 50%, by daily outpatient and weekly inpatient training.

**Becky Lim and Wendy Cheung**

This HIV work has now also moved to Meigu where a new project working with HIV children has started.

The paediatric HIV clinic is a weekly clinic-serving children under 14 years of age infected with HIV. The clinic is staffed by a paediatrician, a pharmacist and a nurse. Whenever appropriate, we invite our short-term teams to participate. What we do in the clinic is quite basic: making sure that these children are taking their medications, checking that the dosage is correct, tracking their growth, and addressing side effects and other health concerns.

A hundred children have been seen thus far. Alarming, but not surprisingly, 56% of the children are stunted in their growth, indicating chronic malnutrition. Sadly, and again not surprisingly, 45% of them have lost one or both of their parents. Looking into their eyes and catching a glimpse of their sadness, our hearts cannot help but ache for them.

What we do in the clinic may be basic, and what we can offer may be limited, but we try to do it in a compassionate way, modelling after the Compassionate One. I am thankful for this opportunity to learn and practice compassion, even as I experience His compassion every day.



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# *Reflecting on Ten Years of Development in China's Medical System*

*Eckehard Scharfschwerdt*

"Where are you going?" I asked a nurse in the county hospital where I worked.  
"我們要下鄉。 We will go to the village."

In 2014 the hospital dispatched its staff to survey the entire county, house by house. The goal was to learn about the community's financial situation and reasons for poverty. President Xi Jinping had pledged to eliminate poverty by 2020, an initiative later followed by the Healthy China 2030 strategy. The hospital director summarised, "Families became impoverished mostly due to catastrophic healthcare expenditure."

In 2009, China launched a major health-care reform programme to provide all citizens with equal access to basic health care. Funding for health care has since quadrupled. Following the worldwide economic crisis of 2008, China invested heavily in health care infrastructure. We saw new hospitals mushrooming at all levels from village clinics to city hospitals. In 2013, social health insurance coverage reached over 95%. In Yunnan, the heavily subsidised farmer's health insurance cooperative had started in 2006 by sending all government employees down to the villages and only allowing them to return after 90% of the farmers had signed up. Within a year, the number of inpatients had tripled. We have seen further progress made towards improved access and financial risk protection, especially for the lower socio-economic quartile.

In spite of these improvements, hardships remain. If you're on WeChat, you are familiar with desperate crowd funding initiatives of families whose loved one suffers from cancer. Even though the ceiling for reimbursement has increased substantially, major surgeries or chemotherapy quickly deplete all family resources.

Since 2012 the government has focused on transforming resources into effective services, which is much more challenging. Although a zero-mark up policy for drugs was implemented in 2013, incomes of hospital directors and physicians are still tied to hospital profits, which hinders a shift from hospital-based curative care to preventive primary health care. Years of profit-seeking behaviour has eroded medical ethics. While several of my young friends went through GP training, it will take a couple of decades to overcome the lack of quality at lower levels, which keeps pushing ever more demanding patients to overuse costly tertiary hospitals.

Where does MSI fit in? China still welcomes professional expertise from abroad. Helping to raise quality of care and preventive measures at the PHC level will decrease the burden of non-communicable diseases while China's population keeps aging – even beyond the country's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

# Blossom and Bear Fruit

*Students of Zhaojue Girls' Class in 2001 Became Today's Village Teachers*

***Lori initiated the first classes for girls in Zhaojue in 2001. Prior to that, only boys were going to school in that remote county.***

In the summer of 2016, our car stopped at the school entrance. My heart was overwhelmed with joy. One of the female teachers ran to greet me, and I happily returned her big hug. We walked hand in hand, passing by the classrooms. The teachers could not stop recalling the time when they did not have much self-confidence and acted shy because they were not fluent in Putonghua. Passing by the student dormitory, I praised the students' effort in keeping their rooms clean and tidy. We moved forward and finally arrived at the playground. While the junior students enjoyed their free time, the teacher and I reminisced about the graduation ceremony in 2006. In those years, we all had to work hard and fight for every opportunity to study. We were confronted with many struggles and difficulties. Upon the completion of the primary courses, we were all moved to tears. A total of 41 girls wore the traditional Yi costume, performing the Dati dance with tear-filled eyes. I will never forget that touching scene.

God's miraculous work was beyond our expectation. With the continued support of MSI's teachers and the joint effort of officials and their countrymen, two thirds of the girls received subsidies to complete their junior and high school studies. In addition, they were all admitted to tertiary education.

Standing at the room entrance, I saw the classroom full of boys and girls. On their lovely faces, I saw the desire for knowledge in their eyes. Children in rural villages generally have equal opportunities for education now. Those standing on the stage were the graduates of the first class of girls. They finished their studies, then came back to their home village and became the teachers for the next generation. We and their former teachers were grateful and felt proud of them.

I would like to conclude my sharing with the words of a youth who returned as a teacher: change happens bit by bit, keep waiting and expect the blossom. Let us keep expecting the flower to blossom and bear fruit.

***Lori Chang***





Edward Sitt



## HE IS ABLE

### *The Story of a Long-term Short-termer: Involvement in Yunnan Medical Projects*

My long-term involvement in the Yunnan medical projects can be exemplified by an initial invitation from the Yunnan chief representative to consider an exploratory trip in the Nujiang Prefecture in Yunnan. MSI was invited by YINGOS (Yunnan International NGO Society) to go to Dulongjiang County to assess the possibility of arranging corrective surgery for some young students who had physical disabilities due to a variety of accidents.

Dulongjiang is a very remote area. It took two full days for us to reach the location from Kunming. The road condition was poor, and transportation was difficult. We met a very humble and kind-hearted school headmaster there, who brought us to different villages to see the potential candidates. I visited a seventeen year old boy with a deformed and shortened leg, (caused by a snakebite), with recurrent severe wound infection.

There was another sixteen-year-old boy with deformed and contractured hands and feet from a burn injury. One fourteen year old boy walked four hours down a mountain with bare feet, looking for treatment of his clubfeet. I assessed seven young boys in total.

My heart was deeply moved with compassion by the conditions of these young boys. Their faces stayed with me. After the trip, I wrote a report to the Kunming office. I prayed for all the children I met, and sought opinions from orthopaedic surgeons. The initial answer I received was that the corrective surgery would be very difficult, and seemingly impossible to perform in China.

However, miracles happened. When a long-termer finished his home assignment and saw the pictures and stories of these young boys, his heart was deeply moved. He was willing to take up this medical project. The operation was started in a hospital in Kunming. By God's grace, the operations were successful and patients were all safe. The story did not end here. MSI sponsored some of the boys for further education after their operations.

My task did not end either. I went to Nujiang Prefecture year after year, together with long-termers, to all four counties to screen new patients, arrange operations for them and follow up with post-operative patients. Later operations were arranged in Liuku County in Nujiang Prefecture. Many patients with cleft lips and palates, or contracture limbs due to burn accidents were helped. Their functions were improved, self-image was restored, and self-confidence was regained as they were able to resume normal lives. We also visited some of them to show our continued support. After the project ended, I continued to join other medical projects in Yunnan.

In conclusion, I know that my initial invitation was a calling from God. I strongly believe, as a short-termer, and like other short-termers, we can commit our lives with a long-term perspective to contribute to different medical projects as facilitators for long-term workers.

Although the external environment is constantly changing, God's faithfulness and mercy will never change.



Sharon Liu

# Always Shining

## The Development of Volunteerism

Serving in Liangshan 24 years  
a vast landscape of people everywhere –  
many of them killing time.  
What a pity!

People with love but with nowhere to offer it.  
Eager to help, but afraid of being deceived.  
They end up doing nothing, getting  
through the day.  
What to do?

Casting vision and searching for platforms  
with Number Two Hospital happy to partner.  
Building a team, laying a foundation.  
Come on, let's go!

Always Shining forming quickly.  
Compassion and love are the starting points.  
Suitable people not easily found.  
Keep pressing on!

Roles for volunteers not very clear.  
Interviews and "on-the-job" training.  
I am the "consultant!"  
Contextualisation!

The seasons come and go – seven and a half  
years have passed.  
Unusual customs and mixed motives.  
Finding our way, one-step at a time.  
What a challenge!

Prayer is indispensable.  
Wisdom given by God.  
God works from nothing to something.  
Oh so wonderful!

Increasingly more multi-faceted activities  
inside and outside the hospital, in the community.  
Care for young and old.  
How very moving!

Promoting creation care.  
The "3R1U"\* becomes the norm.  
Loving your neighbour as yourself – sharing truth.  
A bold witness!

Volunteers dressed in purple,  
do real work.  
How beautiful are their feet – shining a small light.  
Bearing good fruits.

Lives are touched.  
Kidney patients join the ranks.  
Miracles in families with mental illness.  
Glory to God!

Willingness worth a thousand dollars.  
Service with integrity.  
41,000 hours clocked.  
Keep on going!

"It's more blessed to give than to receive."  
"Be motivated by love."  
"Help the world become more beautiful."  
Pleasing God!

\*3R1U = Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, & Upcycle

# Farming as Mission



## Sheep Project

“Peter, what can we do to help the Yi farmers, so they can afford medical care and education?” asked James Hudson Taylor III.

In April 1995 we joined an assessment trip into Liangshan with an interpreter and public health professionals. We worked closely with the Zhaojue Animal Husbandry Bureau (AHB) to start the sheep lend and return project.

In August 1995, Ke Li (MSI's senior consultant) from Beijing joined us, and with his help, the project officially began with lending ten farmers in Jiefanggou ten sheep each for three years. The second year we settled new farmers with ten sheep each in five villages. Grass seed and fertilizer were donated so the sheep would have sufficient pasture to eat. After 3 years we held a sheep handing over ceremony in Jiefanggou, where farmers would bring their sheep to hand over to the next group of farmers.

We rewarded the farmers that had attained good production in the previous three years. We worked very closely with the AHB and made good friends.

Because of population pressure, the AHB wanted to know if it was possible to farm productively at 3,000 meters. We leased land at Qiliba and started the Qiliba Demonstration farm. We taught fencing, sheep shearing, land cultivation, and crop establishment on the farm. With the Rotary Club's help, wherever the sheep-lending programme was operating, we would donate basic school equipment to the Yi village schools at the sheep handing over ceremony. This project developed into the Qiliba Scholarship Programme and Library.

We taught the neighbours how to increase their production, and held an open day for all the community to come and learn. The local Qiliba Village put on a feast to thank us for investing into their community. Local leaders told us that we had improved the local economy by 1,000%.

**Peter & Marilyn Feickert**  
**New Zealand Livestock team**





# *Farming as Mission*

## **Meigu County Cooperatives Training Programme**

Since 2015, the agricultural and husbandry team from Taiwan, in collaboration with the MSI Meigu team and the Meigu County Poverty Alleviation Bureau, has been conducting Meigu Agriculture Cooperative training. Contents of the programme include: production and quality control, staff management, cooperative spirit, case studies of successful world cooperatives, team building, and management of marketing.

The first cooperative consultation programme was for walnut planting and breeding black goats. Participants included the cooperatives' directors and advisors along with the agricultural and husbandry teams which would go to the villages to provide on-site training at cooperatives that have started. The key to the successful development of the Meigu agriculture cooperatives was commitment and consensus among cooperative members towards the organisation. For this reason, we focused our training on establishing mutual understanding of fair and reasonable systems.

The World Bank's financial assistance aided the establishment of the cooperatives. However, to continue its development, the cooperative relies on the objectives and vision of its members as well as the integration of the hardware and software development of rural communities.

We hope to see long-term co-workers in Meigu County together with short-term agricultural and husbandry teams establishing long-term partnerships, mutual trust, and a positive relationship. In this way, we can continue to assist cooperatives in marketing agricultural produce, brand-building, and improving quality. Together we can develop a staff management system, a foundation of industry within village communities, and encourage the professionalism of peasants.



*Tai Shouku*

# *How Special Needs Care Goes from Rehabilitation Centre to the Home*

"I want to see, someday, my child walking without my support." Many parents with children who have cerebral palsy wish this. There is no exception for parents living in this mountainous area.

After observing rehabilitation training for rehab assistants and parents of children with cerebral palsy and intellectual challenges, I was wondering how I could develop this training programme and support the future needs of these children. I knew the parents' wish was that someday their children would be able to walk. But I am not a physio or occupational therapist. I cried out to God to send PT and OT specialists to support this programme. Many therapists responded to His calling, came to this mountainous area, and helped us to set up exercise programmes and curriculum for training rehab assistants and parents.

While I was listening to the rehab assistants who help disabled persons and their families, I found that they wanted to serve adults who stayed at home and were cared for by their family members. MSI's training focused on children's rehabilitation. How could MSI help them? I asked God to send the appropriate person for this specific need, and He sent an experienced therapist.

*For the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.  
(Deuteronomy 31:6)*

With the rehab assistants, we visited patients in their homes. Their rehabilitation needs were different. The capabilities and skills of their caregivers were different too. But the exercises that the therapist taught them to do at home were applications of the exercises that we provided at the children's training. Then, the rehab assistants understood from the bottom of their hearts that what they were learning at the training for children was very important and could be used for adult rehab as well! Through this experience, the rehab assistants were even more eager to acquire the knowledge and skills at our trainings so that they could use them to help disabled persons at home.

The environment has changed. MSI no longer run trainings in this mountainous area, but I believe that the Father will provide resources to the rehab assistants there in the same way as He had for us. Please remember them. He loves those people and knows their needs. His love and His faithfulness never cease!



**Noriko Soga**



Matthew Lee

## A Scholarship Programme

Since 1994, the Xundian team has provided scholarships to help eager-to-learn high school students from families facing economic difficulties complete their studies, and at the same time, catch and transmit the spirit of "I'm helped - to help myself - to help others."

During the three-year sponsorship, co-workers in the team build up relationships with the students by supporting them in three areas - body, mind, and spirit.

Since the students come from poor rural families, those who stay in the dormitory for long periods of time cannot afford to eat meat, surviving only on rice and vegetables, or biscuits. Our co-workers would arrange to meet these students regularly during the lunch hour and invite them to have a meal that includes meat. At the same time, to show that the Father's love extends to their families, the students were asked about their life in school and their home circumstances. They are then provided with spectacles or surgical fees for their families, if needed.

The average village academic level of junior high school graduates is lower than that of students from county areas, and their humble family backgrounds affect their self-confidence. Our co-workers provided them with English tuition and counselling services to improve their learning capacity, and to build up their confidence. In order to promote the students' self-awareness and the conduct of their interpersonal relationships, they were required to write about their backgrounds to their sponsors.

Over Easter and Christmas, gatherings were organised to introduce the love of the Heavenly Father to the students. This was to help them understand that everything we did stems from His grace to them, and that they can also share the grace they received with others.

It seems like the blink of an eye, but I left Xundian more than four years ago. Every time I see graduates from different cohorts supporting and encouraging each other in the WeChat group, I am convinced that the Heavenly Father hears our prayers in helping those who have graduated to live out the spirit of "I'm helped - to help myself - to help others."

