



China Mission News

January, 2012

Orphans Enjoy Sponsors Letters and Photos

Some sponsors diligently write letters to their orphans. Workers know how much the children enjoy hearing from their sponsors so they are encouraging all children to write letters or draw pictures for their sponsors. It is a good way for the children to reflect on the love they receive from sponsors who sacrifice so they can have a good life and an education. It is a way to teach the children to be thankful. Some children are disappointed that they do not hear from their sponsors and do not know anything about them. We realize that



not all of you can write. Some sponsors say they do not know what to write the child. Here are some guidelines to help you get started:

Mention something you read in the report. If a child enjoys some activity (such as basketball, singing, running or some other activity), they would be encouraged if you mentioned it. If they are doing well in school, praise them for working hard and encourage them to continue to study hard. If they are not doing well in school, encourage them to spend more time in study, or suggest that they ask the workers and teacher for help. Tell them how important it is to get a good education. Young children do not realize that this is the key to their future.

Tell a little about yourself. They

often ask if their sponsor is an Auntie, Uncle, Grandmother, Grandfather, etc. They want to know about your family. If you have children, tell their ages. If you have pets, mention them.

Although the child will not understand where you live, you can mention the weather (if it is hot or cold where you live). Tell if you live in a big city or in the countryside.

Keep your letters simple. Do not elaborate on things you do that they cannot understand. Workers may not be able to translate a long letter so it is best to keep them short and write more often.

The children want to picture life at your house and know a little about you and why you want to help them. Although we cannot mention religion in the emails due to government restrictions, you can use the following code words for brief comments: Bible = Good Book, Prayer = Petition, Jesus or God = HE or HIM. We can edit your letters by typing words such as pra_yer so it will not be detected by computer scanning systems looking for religious words.

We are looking for Bible Class students, Youth Groups, or individuals that would like to be pen pals with the children that do not ordinarily receive letters from their sponsors. If you have a child or grandchild that would like to do this, please contact us and we will assign a child to them.

You can mail these items with your check if you do not have a computer.



Let us know if you want your photographs returned to you. Letters, photographs or cards can also be sent by email to patbrown10@gmail.com or ladotson1960@gmail.com.

If you have questions, you can reach Pat Brown at 678-877-6300.

Help Needed



Our mission work with 650 orphan children in China has a specific need. A few months ago, Dr. Joshua went to each of our six care centers and examined each child, bringing their medical records up-to-date. We have 48 children in need of dental care. Although we have considered sending dentists from the U.S., they would not have proper equipment to do the work. It is unlikely we can find dentists in China to donate their services. It will cost several thousand dollars to correct the dental problems. If you are part of a care group or a ladies class, would you consider taking on the dental work for these children as a project? If you have questions, call or write Ron Brown 678-877-6300 ronbrown20@gmail.com. Donations can be made out to Chinese Agape Foundation and mailed to: Holly Machemehl, 209 Palisades, Peachtree City, GA 30269.

How Things Work

This article is to bring our sponsors up-to-date on our U.S. operations. When we are asked where our headquarters are located, we have to admit, "There are no headquarters." If anything, it's a rolling headquarters because, when in the U.S., Ron and Pat live in a motor home full-time and travel around the country



raising funds for the work in China. Since their son, Ronald, has lived in China for over two years and has learned the work so well, he is overseeing all of the care centers and the Browns only need to make one trip to China each year. A couple of years ago, our general donations began to drop due to the bad economy in the U.S. Ron and Pat hit the road to find more congregations interested in helping. This is still the greatest need to avoid cutting back on some of the work.

Ron is always eager to talk with anyone that has a love for the work in China and would be interested in working closely with him to learn how to do fund-raising and train to oversee the work in future years. The person assuming Ron's job in later years needs to be very dedicated and fully committed, willing to work hard and have compassion for the children. It is not a position that someone can

step into quickly. But, after a few years, it is possible that the successor can take over completely whenever Ron is no longer able to do the work. It is certainly a strong desire of everyone working with Chinese Agape, including Ron and Pat, that this work continue for many more years with God's blessings.

After the Browns began traveling full-time, the Chinese employees who were living in the house with Ron and Pat in Sharpsburg, GA, decided to leave Chinese Agape. Sherry, the first Chinese employee that came to the U.S., married and moved to Indiana. Judy decided to return to China and live in Shanghai. Judy was alone a lot of the time with the other two girls traveling. With Ron and Pat traveling, Judy began to miss her family and friends in China even more. Aida met a young Chinese doctor in Orlando, Florida and he encouraged her to come there to attend nursing school. They have since become engaged. With everyone gone from the house, Ron and Pat decided to rent their house in Sharpsburg to help with personal expenses and purchase a better RV that would be more comfortable for full-time living.

Ron and Pat are self-supporting, living off of their social security checks. Chinese Agape only pays their medical insurance premiums. This is the choice they made and although they are sacrificing their time and some of their money to do the work, it is a work of love and commitment. They will readily tell you that the work is difficult. Raising funds is hard and living in a motor home full-time is no picnic. Maybe it would be a picnic if they had free time! They purchased the RV from their savings and make affordable monthly payments on the balance. It is not cheap, but it's about the same as renting an apartment. It is far less than it would cost to stay in motels and eat at restaurants. They are comfortable and have everything they need. It is not an expense of Chinese Agape. Although not as easy as living in a house, it works for them. They are not bragging nor complaining. It is simply a method of living to keep the funds coming in so the work in China can continue.

The Browns are usually in one location a couple of weeks, parking the RV at a Corp of Engineers park and then driving their car to the various churches in the area. They pay only \$10 per night for parking, electrical and water connections. Ron spends much of his time setting appointments at churches for weeks or months ahead. He is also busy overseeing the medical, assisting our part-time Chinese worker, Joan Ni, in Baton Rouge, LA and Lily, a worker from China, in the process

of bringing children to the U.S. for surgery. Ron also handles the shipping of blankets, banking, and transfer of funds to China for operations there, in addition to many, many other things that require his time and attention.

In the U.S., Jennifer May, who lives in Albany, GA, is employed part-time to handle the accounting. The other worker in the U.S. is Leigh Ann Dotson, Ron and Pat's daughter, who lives in Woodstock, GA. Leigh Ann does the monthly newsletter, automatic bank drafts, cleft palate sponsor assignments, Website updates, Facebook updates, and works with sponsors who help children at three of the care centers. The Jackson Family supports all of the children at one facility and Leigh Ann maintains photo albums for the Jackson family. The albums include reports, pictures, and letters for each child in that care center. Leigh Ann also assists Pat with sponsor correspondence, assigning orphans to new sponsors, thank you and acknowledgement letters and cards, tax letters, updates to the database, and reports for the children in three other care centers whenever Pat is traveling.

Holly Machemehl, a volunteer, handles all the incoming checks, makes weekly deposits, completes the Excel spread sheet designating the disbursement of funds, among several other responsibilities.

This is the total staff in the U.S. It is a "lean" operation but extremely efficient. We have always tried to maintain low operating costs so more funds can go to help the children.

Although Ron and Pat are never in one location very long, they can always be reached (while in the U.S.) by phone 678-877-6300 or by email: ronbrown20@gmail.com or patbrown10@gmail.com. Leigh Ann can be reached by email at ladotson1960@gmail.com.

If anyone has questions or concerns about the operations of China Mission/Chinese Agape Foundation, please contact Ron.



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