

**FOCUS ON VOCATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

This quarter marks the beginning of our Vocational Development Program. Under the direction of our Beautiful Life Family Centre (BLFC) School Principal and with the involvement of Foster Parents, every boy or girl 15yrs and above will have an individual development plan focused on improving their future employment prospects.

FARMING EXPANSION

Pictured below are Porky and Priscilla, two of our new sows. They are even more gorgeous in real life ☺. The BLFC now has 35 sows who will produce in excess of 500 piglets a year. This summer, subject to funding, will see the erection of a PIG MATERNITY WARD to house these beautiful girls as well as an additional pig house continuing our focus on self-sufficiency.

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More children, more families, more hope.

Welcome to another edition of "Simply Captivating". As we gain momentum for another year, we wish all of you a happy and prosperous "Year of the Rat". The preceding "Year of the Pig" was indeed a prosperous one for our work in China, and our pig farms continue to offer a great chance for us to expand our reach to children in need. The RAT business is not so profitable, so you will be pleased to know that stories of RAT production will not be forthcoming☺.

2008 has started off fast paced for Captivating and we are extremely grateful for your support. Orphaned and abandoned children continue to flow into our Beautiful Life family Centre (BLFC) in Northern China as does financial support from around the world to match the growing demands and new initiatives. This continually astounds us. There is always another child and always the need for another call for support, so thank you for journeying with us.

You will notice a few changes: A new Captivating logo, new website under development, new expansion projects and a push for an expanded volunteer base. With child numbers continuing to grow at the BLFC, we have added new services such as a medical clinic (p.3), farming projects, school projects, and a full review and overhaul of our support structure including the appointment of new personnel.

However, the stories of human tragedy continue to flow in, the theme continuing to be the plight of innocent children. It is these stories that keep us progressing in this work, and motivates us to do more and more. Every child has a story that brings us pain....stories that no child should have to deal with. Within each story is the opportunity to bring freedom and hope. Within each child lies an untapped potential that simply needs a chance. And that's where you and I come in. Contrary to the world of business that encourages you to STEP BACK and look at the big picture, the world of charity requires you to STEP IN and remind yourself this is about one child...the one right in front of you, and asking the question, "What Now?". When you do that you see the reason for the effort.

For gorgeous kids like one of our new orphaned girls pictured above this is easy. For 20% of our children with mental issues and our older boys this is more difficult...and yet their lives are no less valuable. Thank you for continuing on this journey with us, for your financial and emotional support, and for spreading the cause of Captivating to your family and friends. With your help, 2008 will be the year we reach out to 1,000 children.



SPECIAL THANKS FROM
PROJECT 200

All new initiatives start with a small number of committed people who share the vision. For PROJECT 200 this consisted of several individuals whose generosity enabled the PROJECT 200 team to be established, their computer and office needs met, and funding to meet the first few months of operating costs while child sponsors are found. To those who have contributed to this, we say a big thank-you.

WE NEED SPONSORS FOR THE
FOLLOWING CHILDREN

A\$40 a month makes such a difference to the life of a child. Your money is pooled with those of other sponsors to create opportunity not just for the child you sponsor, but for a whole community. This quarter seems to be dominated with older boys. These boys need lots of help, encouragement and, importantly, strong father figures in their lives. Your sponsorship can make this happen. Who knows, one of these boys could lead a nation one day (more children requiring sponsors on page 3)



Zhi Gang

Hai Jiang



- hope of a future for 200 desperate children
- assisting families progress out of poverty
- equipping communities to care for their own



In our Christmas newsletter we referred to a new initiative to impact 100 families. We are pleased to report this initiative is well underway; but, our goal is now 200 families. In partnership with local officials, we are locating 200 of the poorest families we can find within the local community around our BLFC facility in Northern China. By matching a child sponsor with each of the 200 children from these families, we will generate a funding pool that will address education options for the children and ensure basic medical services are available. We will then work to help these families (and more) progress out of poverty - largely through a small business loan program.

PROJECT 200 is about bringing hope to mums and dads whose highest motivation is to secure a future for their children. Seeing parents (and grandparents) faces when they learn their child can go to school is incredible. Knowing hope

now exists for a family....priceless.

Pictured top right is our PROJECT 200 team (Hong, Na, and Jun). They have already found 13 families who are considered some of the poorest in the region. Children like the 3yr boy (top left) who is orphaned and living with his grandparents. Or like the 6yr old (pictured right) girl whose parents are blind and too poor to send her to school.

Each story is tragic and numbing in the detail. However, there is hope consisting of you, us, and a passionate local community who are equipping themselves to invest in these children, their families, and



impact a whole community in the process. That's the power of this PROJECT 200 initiative. Something we will fine tune and replicate time and again.

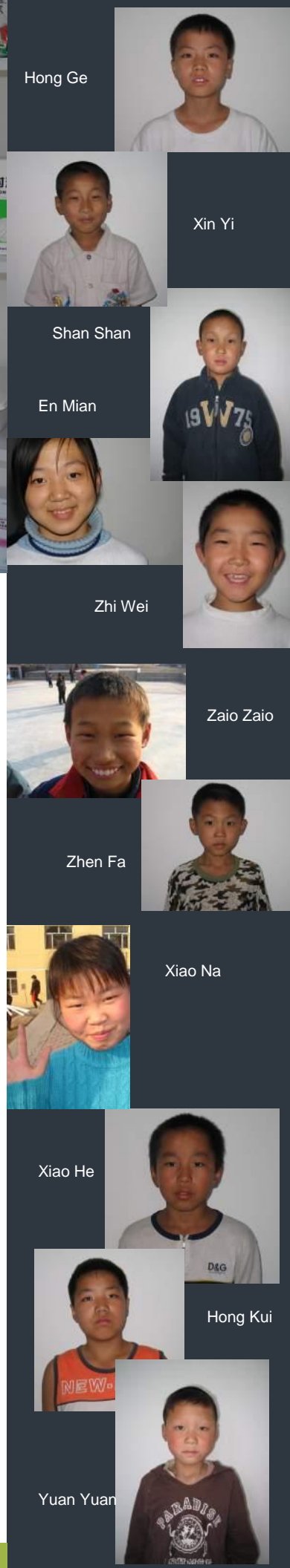




captivating HEALTH+CARE

Captivating has taken a position that all our children will have access to basic medical care. We will do this through a combination of fixed clinics (like our new BLFC clinic pictured above), and mobile medical vans (servicing remote locations, and families in our Project 200 initiative). Medical staff involved with the program will provide basic health services including education on basic hygiene and sanitation. Our funding approach to this is no different to our

other initiatives – provide seed funding to get a program established, then assist various locations to develop income producing solutions to sustain the medical service ongoing. Pictured right is one of our boys, Han Jin, who was the first to receive treatment at the new clinic after a wall accidentally ran into his face and broke his nose.



Hong Ge

Xin Yi

Shan Shan

En Mian

Zhi Wei

Zaio Zaio

Zhen Fa

Xiao Na

Xiao He

Hong Kui

Yuan Yuan

THIS QUARTERS MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS

Q: When will the Captivating website be up and running?

A: We are very honored to have the pro-bono services of a wonderful website designer who, as we speak, is working on a new site for us. You can see the progress being made on www.captivating.org, however, it is still very much in construction mode. Long and the short - we are hoping something will be close to finished by the end of April.



Q: Did the recent severe winter storms affect the centre in Northern China?

A: Central China experienced its worse winter in 50 years. Northern China has experienced quite a mild winter in comparison to the norm. Everyone is fine.



We're currently recruiting Captivating Champions (CC's)

We are currently recruiting. Would you like to make a difference to the lives of precious children? Well, here's your chance. Within the next few months we will have 200 children requiring sponsors. Maybe you have sponsored a child and wish you could do more. Well, why not take on the role of encouraging your family, friends, church, community group or work mates to sponsor children. We will supply you with material and cover all of the back-ground elements, however, **we need you to be a voice for these children in your world.** Imagine going to bed knowing you have made it possible for 20, 30, or even 40 children to start to dream again.

If you would like to become CC's like Sara & Shaun (pictured left), contact us at enquiries@captivating.org Although the pay is terrible, in fact it's nothing, we can guarantee being involved will make you shine from the inside out knowing you have brought a chance to children like the ones pictured. They need you, and so do we. C'mon, why not get involved. We'll be with you every step of the way.

CAPTIVATING CHAMPIONS (CC's)

- Promoting a Captivating cause within your network;
- Taking personal ownership of a project;
- Finding child sponsors;
- Making dreams come true.



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WHAT WE DO

- PLACE ORPHANS IN FAMILIES
- EDUCATE: CREATING A FUTURE
- ENSURE BASIC MEDICAL CARE
- FIGHT FAMILY POVERTY
- PARTNER WITH TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES TO MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

"in all your efforts be a lighthouse - bring hope to all around" – Dean Beveridge, ICC Australia

Can you help us help others?

We can provide tax deductible receipts if you donate from:

AUSTRALIA
HONG KONG
UNITED STATES

We can accept donations from:

ANYWHERE

Captivating International is an Incorporated Association of Australia. We operate in partnership with International Children's Care (Australia) Inc, a registered Australian charity, responsible to the Australian Government for all matters relating to compliance and project management. ICC Australia do incredible work throughout Asia, and we encourage you to check them out at www.iccaustralia.org.au.

With the exception of Hong Kong, China and the United States, ICC AUSTRALIA receipts all donations on our behalf.

TO DONATE, simply call ICC during normal business hours on + 61 3 5152 5774.

Please ensure to state you are making a CAPTIVATING donation.

For all other donations email enquiries@captivating.org