

## Taxing times in Australia

If you reside in Australia, June is a great time of giving thanks to the Australian Government. Thanks to our partnership with International Children's Care (Australia) donations to our projects are tax deductible.

If you have thought about sponsoring a child or making a project donation, there is no better time than the present. There can be a rush towards the end of June, so please ensure to make your donation early so that it is processed in time.

## Website up and running

If you haven't done so already, check out our new website [www.captivating.org](http://www.captivating.org) Meet our centre staff, read about our history, and become familiar with our five core projects. We would love to hear your comments and suggestions for improvements.

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## Connecting to Life – growing your world

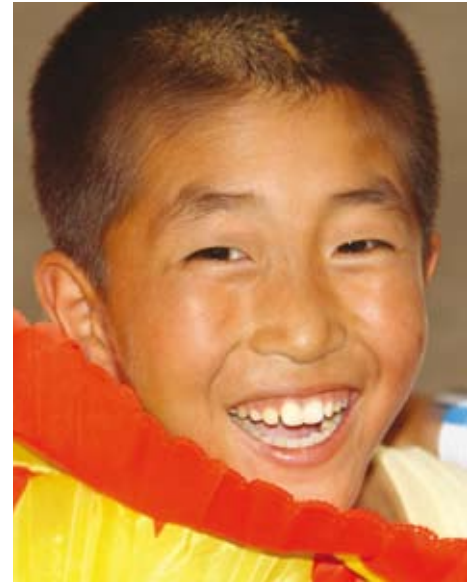
Welcome to our June edition of "Simply Captivating". We hope this update finds you well and enjoying life. If you submitted to us your address details, we trust you are enjoying reading this first printed edition in the comfort of your favorite chair. We will continue to supply to you a quarterly update via email, however, we will also distribute printed editions of "Simply Captivating" for the June and December updates. We hope this results in a greater sharing of our work with others in order to grow our support base.

It wasn't that long ago that I read some inspiring words from Woodrow Wilson, a former US President who died in 1924. He said,

"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world. You impoverish yourself if you forget this errand."

I think that last sentence really resonates with many of us. You certainly feel that life is being experienced to the full when you believe you have made a difference to others, to the world. I like to simply refer to this as "Connecting to Life". By helping others who are incapable of helping themselves - they benefit, a community benefits, the world benefits, and we benefit.

Connecting to Life is what we can all do, whether this is making an effort to genuinely connect to those closest to us, our neighbours, our work colleagues. Or whether it means helping people like the children and families we are involved with – giving them hope for a better future. Whatever we do in regards to helping others, it benefits us all. There's an old maxim that states, "sow a thought – reap an action; sow an action – reap a habit; sow a habit – reap a character; sow a character – reap a destiny". I think



there is a lot of truth in that saying, and it all starts by a person moving from a thought to an action – being proactive enough to expand their circle of influence and "enrich the world".

In this edition of "Simply Captivating" you will read some stories of kids that need help. We are privileged but also challenged by the fact we have chosen to work in areas of China where support for orphaned children and families living in poverty is either limited or non-existent. Every week there is a new challenge but also a new opportunity to impact the life of a child in an incredible way. We can all "be the change". As one of our supporters once said, "this is an opportunity, not a burden". We can all "Connect to Life" and make our own world that much bigger.

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.

Best wishes,

*Andrew & Julie Colquhoun*

# Child sponsorship – a little thing that goes a long way

Child sponsorship is something you hear so much about these days. So much so, it has the chance of being considered somewhat “yeah yeah”.

We only wish that everyone could see directly what sponsoring a child actually does. It literally saves lives and changes communities. Let us tell you how it works:

Nobody likes the idea of a “handout”. We certainly don’t. With the exception of some emergency relief, sponsorship donations are pooled and used to support the development of infrastructure and the implementation of new programs that bring long-term solutions to orphaned and abandoned children, as well as families struggling with poverty.

In the initial stages of a new project, part of your money is used to support foundational things such as worker salaries, medical support for children, schooling needs. However, all projects have as a major component the drive to see the family centre, school or orphanage reach self-sufficiency – being capable through its own means of supporting staff salaries,

food, clothing, heating, medical and schooling costs of those under their care. This is why we get so excited about our income producing industries (our pigs, chickens). However, a self-sufficient operation is just the start.

Phase II of a project is expansion into the community and beyond. This is where the “Lighthouse” idea can truly take off – where our centers can become a beacon of light into the community bringing hope for a better tomorrow. PROJECT 200 is a great example of this. Again, all of these expansion projects become reality thanks to the child sponsorship model.

To operators like ourselves, we simply love our child sponsors. Sponsors of children are loyal, dependable, generally in for the long run, but above all else, their monthly gift comes direct from the heart. We keep them informed of the child they sponsor throughout the years with annual progress reports. However, the reality is many many more children are touched over that time due to their generosity, commitment, and desire to make the world a better place.

- **COST:** \$40 Australian a month (donations are tax deductible if made from Australia, Hong Kong, US)
- 2 sponsors are required if your child is an orphan and part of our foster family program.
- 1 sponsor is required if your child is part of our Project 200 initiative working with existing families struggling with poverty.
- We work to ensure all children have access to school and basic medical care.
- Our work is to see these children transition into society as independent adults.
- Our vision is to see communities capable of caring for their own children by helping them establish income producing businesses.



## Captivating Kids

enquiries@captivating.org

*Thank you for choosing to believe in a child that is desperate for your help. Your sponsorship gives them and the community they live in hope for a better tomorrow. Read four stories of children who's dreams can now become reality.*



**Jin Ping (BL200-019)**  
5 yrs old

She is a 5 year old little girl who was born on Nov 13, 2002. Jin Ping is a smart and pretty girl. She has dreams of her future life but currently she is in an unhappy family. Her mother has mental problems. If she goes out alone, she can't find her way back home, which means she can't work. Her father left them when she was very young. They live with her grandmother in a small room. They all share a bed. They are surviving on a small amount of money from the government although at times it isn't enough to support their basic needs. She is of age to go to school, but her mother can't afford the fees to send her. Thank you for helping her realise her dream of going to school.



**Fan Hua (BL200-006)**  
7 yrs old

Fan Hua is nearly 8 years old and was born on June 12, 2000. His mother is 34 and is unable to work because of major hip problems. She is bedridden. His father has lower back problems which also makes it impossible for him to work. They live on a small amount of money each month which is provided by the welfare department. Their room has very little furniture, is full of holes and they find it very hard to keep warm in the winter which lasts 7 months of the year. The room is kept from collapsing by a wooden bar. The family is malnourished as often they don't have enough food to eat. They want to send their son to school so they will often go without to ensure he gets there. He studies very hard and did an excellent job at school last year. This family needs help to ensure that Fan Hua can remain at school.



**Ling (BL200-011)**  
8 yrs old

Ling is an 8 year old girl, who was born on Feb 4th, 2000. She lives with her parents and grandparents. Her mother and father are both deaf and mute (unable to speak). Her grandmother has high blood pressure and heart disease. They get a little money from the government but life is still very hard for the whole family. Her parents sometimes go out to collect and sell rubbish to make a little money. Ling is currently going to school and does very well in her studies. In order for her to continue attending school she needs support as the family are struggling to continue to pay medical bills, heating costs in winter which lasts 7 months of the year and tuition fees. Thank you for helping her remain at school so that she can help her family and community in the future.



**Yue Xin (BL200-004)**  
6 yrs old

Yue Xin is 6 years old and was born on Oct.11, 2001. She has been living with her grandparents since she was very young. They live in a one room house which is small and old. In the winter which lasts 7 months it's hard to keep warm as they don't have enough money to buy coal. Her grandfather is 73 and can only move around with a cane. Her grandmother is 63 and has suffered from heart disease for many years. They live on her grandfather's pension which is not enough to support the family, let alone seek medical care for her grandmother. However her grandmother is resourceful and collects and sells rubbish to earn a little money. Yue Xin is very shy and doesn't like to talk much. She would love to be able to go to school.

## Project 200 gets wheels



With the progression towards working with 200 of the poorest families in the local community, transport had become an issue.

Our PROJECT 200 team work with local welfare officers to find those families most desperate for help and who, in many cases, are unable to receive government welfare support. This is either because the budgets have been exhausted, or they have migrated from another location (and therefore do not qualify for support).

These families are desperate for help and it is wonderful being part of a long-term solution for them and their children. Look at our website for more details on our PROJECT 200 initiatives.

The plan is for each family to be visited every 2 months to check on progress of the family, how school is progressing for the sponsored child and whether there is any else that we can help with.

As a consequence, and again thanks to the generosity of sponsors who established a start-up fund for the PROJECT 200 program, the team are now the proud users of our first BLFC vehicle. Capable of officially seating up to 8 people (which means unofficially 18 or so...just joking...uh hm), this vehicle is a practical addition to the centre and brings within reach more "difficult to reach" parts of the community.

## Liang Liang's got the biggest smile in the business.



Liang Liang is one of our older boys at the Beautiful Life Family Centre (BLFC). His mother was only 15 yrs old when he was born and was unable to care for him. His father had a mental illness and was unable to care for him also. As a consequence, Liang Liang lived with his grandfather for many years, however, this became too difficult due to the age of his grandfather and Liang Liang's physical handicap.

When he was only 5 yrs old, Liang Liang's leg became caught under a moving train resulting in amputation at his knee. As an energetic teenager, this created no real handicap for Liang Liang who was quite the basketballer, as he could get around on his one crutch almost as fast as the other kids, and could certainly climb a mountain much quicker than we could.

However, nothing could match the smile on his face when he became aware that he was to be fitted with a prosthetic leg thanks to the generosity of several sponsors. Liang Liang now plays basketball without the aid of a crutch (although I understand he is yet to master the slam dunk). Better than all of that however, is the fact that Liang's handicap is disguised to the world... and in all practical terms, has become non-existent.

Our thanks to the generosity of sponsors who have supported this mini-project. Although Liang Liang will never know you personally, thank you for caring for him as if he were your very own child. (Pictured above from left: Liang Liang before; all smiles the day he returned from rehabilitation; basketball his favourite sport).

## We need child sponsors - can you help today

We anticipate that we will need an additional 100 child sponsors by the time you read this update. AUD\$40 a month is all it takes, and it makes such a difference to the life of a child. You will receive details on your child like the "Captivating Kids" examples shown on page 2. We will also give you an annual update on how your child is progressing thanks to your support of the program they are part of.

If you live outside of Australia, "No worries mate" as we say. Child sponsorship is available to you also (tax deductible from US, Hong Kong, Australia only). Contact us directly for details at [enquiries@captivating.org](mailto:enquiries@captivating.org).

We find many people indicate they would like to sponsor a child, but never get around to doing it. Remember this quote:

*"No action will give you no result....every time".*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe once wrote, "Thinking is easy, acting is difficult, and to put one's thoughts into action is the most difficult thing in the world".

Ghandi once said, "The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would be suffice to solve most of the world's problems".

So, why not take your thought to the next level and take an action to sponsor a child. We'll do our very best to maximize your investment in the life of another...our promise to you.

**Phone our partners, ICC, in Australia today, + 61 3 5152 5774. Or email us on [enquiries@captivating.org](mailto:enquiries@captivating.org)**

# Welcome to Qinghai Province – time to expand

## Julie's visit to Qinghai/ Tibet - China

During March I had the privilege to travel to Qinghai Province (the province next to/above Tibet) investigating a potential new project. With a total population of about 5 million people, this province, particularly in the south and far west, is made of up predominately Tibetan people. This province (state) is actually part of the Tibetan plateau. The region is one of the poorest in China and sits at high altitudes with most places around 3,000m above sea level. The scenery was spectacular, and the people were enchanting. I spent much of my time in Xining (the capital) which itself sits at 3,200m. Even at this height, the surrounding mountains were amazing.

It was such a humbling experience to see and be a part of visiting a Tibetan nomadic/herder in their house, complete with “damper” and warm yak’s milk. They were so hospitable and kind even though they lived in such basic accommodation. Surrounded by mountains and the largest lake in China (which was frozen at the time) and noticing the simplicity of life in this area reminded me to always be grateful and thankful for the things I have been blessed with.

The needs in this area of Qinghai/Tibet are numerous particularly for those women and children who live in the rural/remote areas. They are extremely poor with many living on less than 40c

a day. Access to education, medical care, opportunities for jobs is close to non-existent. Many live at altitudes of 4,000m. My heart went out to the women who have to walk long distances each day just to get water. And the young girls who will never get a chance to go to school because of their family’s poverty, or a traditional preference that schooling is for boys if a choice has to be made because of financial reasons. To be able to empower, rescue and give these women and young girls value and self-worth is a journey that we plan to take.

We have commenced discussions with an on-the-ground NGO in Qinghai passionate about impacting the lives of the estimated 12,000 orphaned children in the province & Tibetan girls who are not able to attend school and poor families who are struggling with poverty. The Chinese Government has progressive plans being rolled out to address the orphaned situation, however, more help is needed to reach those in remote locations. Stay tuned for more information as we complete our due diligence exercise and start getting involved. What an amazing adventure for all of us to be a part of!

- Julie.

*(Pictured right: Tibetan children are like all others – warm, affectionate and playful; I never realized Yak’s could get so big; with the nomadic Tibetan family who were so hospitable; at 3,200 metres – ten pumps and your breathless).*



## THIS QUARTERS MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS

### **Q: Can you explain your relationship with ICCA Australia (ICCA)?**

**A:** Captivating is an Incorporated Association of Australia, but we not a registered charity of Australia. We cannot apply for such until we have a longer track record. For our work in China to be correctly administered and for donations from Australia to be tax deductible we have a partnership agreement with ICCA.

ICCA are a registered Australian charity doing similar work with

orphaned children in Cambodia, India, Congo, Thailand, Philippines and Sri Lanka. Working in partnership keeps our admin costs to a minimum, expands our joint network, ensures our projects are compliant, but best of all we benefit from ICCA’s incredible experience which is so vital for us to ensure we don’t recreate the wheel and waste resources. It is ICCA who are the inspiration behind the “Lighthouse” vision. If you have an interest in supporting work in the countries in which they operate, please

contact them (details on last page).

### **Q: Do you intend to register as an International charity?**

**A:** Yes. We are currently going through the registration process in Hong Kong. To expand into other countries however, our preferred approach is partnership with existing charities.



# Captivating Future



## Educating children to give them a future

**Finding a home for orphaned and abandoned children is an amazing thing – life altering in fact.**

But the “what now?” question still remains. You can save a girl or boys life by placing them in a safe and loving environment out of harm’s way, which is a wonderful thing. But with saving a life comes the responsibility to create a future. While food, shelter, family and warmth revives and sustains a life, so education shapes, defines, hones, and enables that life to make a difference in the world.

*“world change starts with educated children”*

– RoomtoRead.org.

Our passion is to see each child have the opportunity to do just that. As a minimum we want to break the poverty cycle for these children and their future generations. Ideally, we want to witness these kids bring change to the world in which they live – to be all they can be. This starts with education.

Captivating kids attend local schools where possible. However, in many cases our kids are too far behind their more fortunate peers and so these doors close.

To address this, we establish special schools focused on a catch-up curriculum where capability exists or an emphasis on vocational and life skill development when this is the best option. Our teachers are awesome. They describe their jobs as being like wheat farmers – responsible for sowing seed in the young and working with them until they are mature and ready for harvest.

## Our mission:

### Place orphans in families

We want all children to experience the love and nurture only a family can give.

### Educate: creating a future

Poverty keeps children out of school. Education keeps children out of poverty.

### Ensure basic medical care

Poverty and poor health go hand-in-hand. Addressing health brings hope.

### Fight family poverty

Assist families pull themselves out of poverty through micro-finance loans.

### Partner with townships and villages to make poverty history

Through self-sustainable development initiatives.



## Want to do more but your bank balance says no? Become a Captivating Champion (CC).

Be the eyes, ears and mouth of Captivating Kids in your part of the world. 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 promotional material, the stories of children needing sponsors and their profiles. All you need to do is share this to your part of the world. Imagine coming to the

end of a week knowing that 10, 20 or more children can start to dream again thanks to your efforts. That's the job of a Captivating Champion.

If you know this would get you excited, then you need to contact us because you just qualified for the job. We need your help NOW. So, don't delay and think about it tomorrow...contact us today (and no, we won't throw in a set of steak knives). Contact us at [enquiries@captivating.org](mailto:enquiries@captivating.org)



## Can you help us help others?

*“the habit of giving  
only enhances the  
desire to give”*

– Walt Whitman, poet, 1819-1892

### About Captivating International

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 does incredible work throughout Asia, and we encourage you to check them out at [www.iccaustralia.org.au](http://www.iccaustralia.org.au).

With the exception of Hong Kong, China and the United States, ICC AUSTRALIA receipt 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 or you want to sponsor a CAPTIVATING child.

For donations from other parts of the globe please contact us via email: [enquiries@captivating.org](mailto:enquiries@captivating.org)

We can provide tax deductible receipts if you donate from:

AUSTRALIA  
HONG KONG  
UNITED STATES

We can accept donations from:

ANYWHERE

