



**Health and
Development Aid
Abroad**

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All donations for the
projects mentioned in
this newsletter or any
other HADA project
can be sent to: -

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NEWSLETTER

Issue 11, November 2001

Glimses of HADA - Astana

September saw us visiting the work in Astana, northern Kazakhstan, Central Asia. There are five Australians and one German working under HADA and it was excellent to meet up with them again.

The six month counselling course for ladies carefully selected from the local churches is running well and Bruce is kept busy with most of the lecturing. Liz is able to give lectures on medical issues and discuss the physical, mental and spiritual harm that abortions have on women. The rate of abortions for both married and unmarried ladies is extremely high. Unemployment is a major concern to most families, and many already have difficulty in feeding and schooling their children.

It is anticipated that the Pregnancy Crisis Centre will commence early next year and the ladies who have been trained as counsellors will be employed at the centre. Funding will be needed to meet their wages.

Local schools and universities have invited HADA personnel to lecture the students on health, aids and abortion and some classes have already commenced. However, at the present time four of the staff are still language learning and this is seen as a priority.

Neil and Jeanie Young



Photo: Astana northern Kazakhstan

Hope International in Kathmandu

On the 1st July this year the Board of Hope International in Kathmandu made the decision to close the Vocational Training School. This was decided upon after much agonising, and the reasons given were lack of ex-patriot workers to oversee the project, and a shortage of funding. We thank all those who contributed in the past, and HADA wants to assure you that the funds were used wisely in the running of this Training Centre and that local people were better equipped to earn a living and improve their quality of life.

HADA - Jordan

We were in Jordan in August and met up again with an American family who are keen to represent HADA. Gregg and Kathryn have four sons and have recently moved to the southern desert regions where there are amazing landscapes of mountain ranges. This is the home of many Bedouins and it is HADA's hope to be able to assist these nomadic people by improving the quality of their living conditions. Gregg has a prototype of a solar cooker and hopes to research the possible use of it by Bedouin families. The cooker can be used to provide them with boiled drinking water, cook their meals, preserve foods and with solar panels even recharge their batteries. More importantly, it can save the very small amount of vegetation that is available, even if only for the camels to eat.

I was able to visit a Bedouin family with a nurse from the local medical clinic. It was necessary to put a scarf over my hair and be almost totally covered with long sleeves and a long skirt. Slacks were not to be worn as I was a married woman. The family were most hospitable and very excited at our arrival. The children quickly brought out cushions from inside the tent and they were placed on mats outside on the ground. Thankfully we could sit/recline, resting on these big hard cushions, while ensuring that our feet were tucked under our skirts.

The wife was immediately busy breaking up small branches to light a fire, rinsing pots and glasses, and boiling up for the traditional strong sweet tea. The children hurried inside the tent to change into other clothes. There were no wardrobes or beds, tables or chairs in the tent... just dirt floor and boxes with clothes in. Hens wandered in and around and had to be chased away from a sick child asleep on a mat. Everything was incredibly dirty.

The mother chain smoked and was obviously in pain from badly deteriorated teeth, however she seemed so happy that we were there as she and the nurse are becoming friends. I realised how lonely it must be for these women who are isolated, mostly illiterate, and so poor that even the cost of schooling for the children is a hardship. This particular family appeared to have no vehicle or animals, other than hens, and I couldn't help but wonder where their help came from.

Their little daughter has only recently started school and she was very keen to show us her school books. She and her two older brothers are able to attend a small school in a nearby village but without a vehicle it takes them a considerable time to walk the distance.

After many rounds of tea, and the taking of photos of the children and family, we climbed into the four wheel drive and returned to the village. I was thankful for the experience and the opportunity to meet this family, and also very thankful for the comforts that I had personally come to take for granted.

Jeanie Young

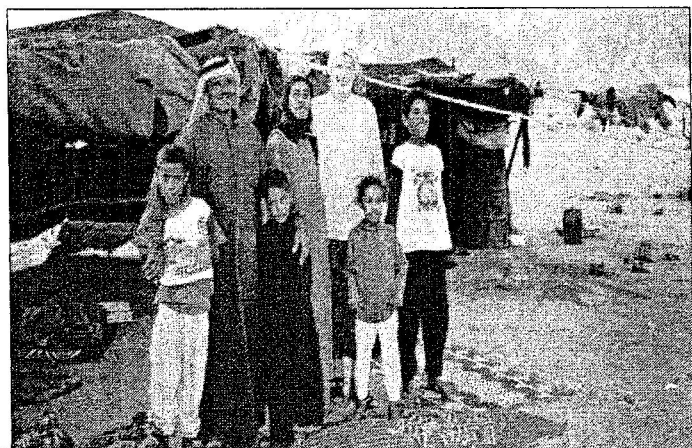


Photo: Jeanie with Bedouin Family

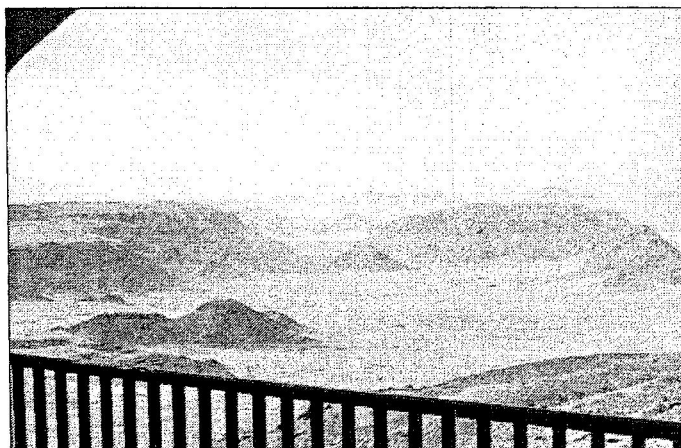


Photo: From Medical Clinic

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Credit Card Facilities

We are pleased to advise that we are able to offer credit card facilities to those supporting HADA projects or for payment of annual memberships. This will make it easier for you, as donors, however we need to mention that the bank charges us over 7% in fees for this service/facility. Donations to any of the projects that HADA supports would be gratefully received. Please use the slip above if you wish to use this service.

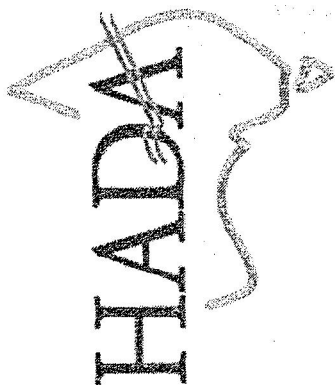
Pumi People of Yunnan Province, China

The government officially recognises the Han majority ethnicity as well as 55 minority nationalities; this is an oversimplification as there are actually about 500 ethnic groups scattered throughout China. Research continues to reveal more languages and nationalities hidden away in remote mountainous regions. There are 234 known minority nationalities in southwestern Yunnan Province, and 200 of those nationalities are primarily located in Yunnan.

One of those minority nationalities is called the Pumi. They are a friendly, hospitable people, quick to open their homes to strangers. The Pumi live high in the isolated mountains of northern Yunnan. Most live in one of two counties. Their linguistic differences suggest that they, like other groups, have been artificially grouped together by the government for easier manageability. Each of these two dialects are further divided into three subdialects. There is no written form of the language. The Pumi population is estimated to be between 35 and 45,000.

Centuries ago, the Pumi travelled down to Yunnan with Kubla Khan from the Tibetan highlands. They were gradually forced onto the least arable land that no one else wanted, into remote regions far removed from cities. Most are farmers and the majority are impoverished. Farming is done manually with the exception of the rare rice paddies which are plowed with the aid of water buffalo. Many families have no choice, but to farm on steep terraced mountain slopes. Today, there are still very few that have electricity or running water. Cooking is done over open fires in the unventilated, windowless homes. Different woks are used for cooking pig feed. Hardship is an accepted way of life.

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Issue 11, November 2001

Health and Development
Aid

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VISION:

*To see medical, literacy, &
education, agricultural &
sanitation programmes
established in countries
as needed.*

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Accreditation

The accreditation process as mentioned in the last newsletter has been delayed until the return of Neil and Jeanie Young from overseas the last word from Neil from Leutershausen Germany dated 16th. October 2001 was, God willing, Jeanie will return on the 23rd. November and Neil would follow in early December. Then they will strive towards achieving accreditation.

HADA will forward overseas 100% of all funds received for projects, less bank charges.

HADA wishes to thank Anthony Smith and Company for the printing and distribution of this newsletter.

Anthony Smith and Company, on phone 07 55 31 6333, can assist with all your accounting and body corporate services.

Pumi People of Yunnan Province, China

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Yet, more crippling than all these challenges of daily life is the control wielded over the Pumi by the spirit world. Their animistic beliefs hold them in bondage to demons. If they don't appease the demons daily, they live in fear the demons will become angry and harm them, their crops and livestock.

The Pumi also practice ancestor worship, as is common throughout China. Some of them that are located close to Tibet are also Tibetan Buddhists or Lamists. Prayer flags are placed over the doors of every household alongside the animist bones and other idol paraphernalia. The Pumi life is one controlled by fear.

Renee Research Officer for HADA - Yunnan