



**Health And
Development Aid
Abroad –
Australia Fund
Inc.**

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Office Bearers

President: Neil Young
Phone: 07 5564 7476
Email: 100401.3500@compuserv

Secretary: Dr Peter Moody
Phone: 07 3262 7436
Email: moody@ozemail.com.au

Treasurer: Dr Chris Houghton-Allen
Phone: 0418 378 466
Email: cha@australia.edu

HADA: hada@pobox.com

NEWSLETTER

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IRAQ . . . How can we help?

We see the need and we feel some of the hurt.

The need is huge, so how can we, you and I, help?

What can we do to ease the pain of hurting people displaced by war?

HADA has opened a fund to assist the displaced people of Iraq. We are in contact with like minded people in Iraq and surrounding countries who are able to ensure that all the money forwarded is used for the maximum benefit to the recipients.

"There are good numbers of internally displaced people (from the Iraqi controlled areas) who need support (kerosene for heating, food supplies, drugs/ medical care, blankets / tents)."

Should you or your group feel that you would like to contribute we can assure you that all funds in their entirety, less bank charges, will be sent to assist the needy. HADA does not take out a percentage for overheads.

We have assisted, or are currently assisting, in Turkey, Kosovo, Cambodia, Nepal, Afghanistan, China and Kazakhstan.

Neil Young

HADA Yunnan

We would like to thank those of you who sent funds in for the Micro Enterprise Development (MED) programme in our HADA Yunnan office. Your response was excellent and your help is very much appreciated.

A new MED programme is being initiated in another area in Yunnan and it will be for one year loans to farm poultry and pigs.



The MED programme allows for the funds to be returned and re-used, thus enabling another group of families to be involved in the program and their children being able to attend school.

The government staff are very cooperative and supportive. One member has really researched the student's families and then as a group decisions have been made. With their help

we found six families who live in various mountainous locations and local authorities are working on finding another nine families. In order to qualify for the micro credit loans, these families must be willing to breed either poultry or pigs. The other criteria is that they should already have the necessary land space and adequate irrigation for successful live stock breeding.

An interest free loan of 1000 RMB (200 AUD approx.) is to be given to each family for the period of one year. All of these families have children attending school and two of the families are already receiving HADA sponsorship for their children.

At the end of the current three year child sponsorship programme (September 2004) it is hoped that the income generated from the livestock projects will be able to provide funding for their children to attend school as well as enabling them to have a better living standard and a secure future.



photos by Jenny White

HADA Astana, Kazakhstan

Source of Hope

Well it finally happened. We registered our local fund in December 2002. During the process a local director was appointed which means now that our role in the pregnancy help centre is more support and consultation rather than actually directing the day to day running. It's been wonderful to watch how the local team of ladies has developed and is now running the project. The counselling has increased, with several phone calls now a month, but we need to see it increase far more.

Why a crisis pregnancy centre? Kazakstan has a population of about 15 million

people. In the 1990s there were over 2 million abortions. For every birth (live or dead) there are approximately two abortions. Each year about 150,000 women choose to have abortions (official statistics — unofficially the figure may be double). That means that on average about two thirds of women will have abortions during their life time. A number of times we have heard of women having over twenty abortions — hard to believe until one understands that for some it is a form of “contraception” rather than the dealing with a crisis. On one day at the beginning of Decem-

ber a man heard a baby crying in the cold (under -30°C) and brought the abandoned child to the local maternity hospital. Recently in the dormitory building of a Tertiary Institution a dead foetus was found in the rubbish. Putting the story together one can assume that a girl unable to pay the cost for an abortion of about \$40 AUS, was operated on by some medical students. Of course this is illegal, but then we hear that this is not uncommon.

As far as we know the centre is the only one of its kind in Kazakstan. Apart from helping girls with crisis pregnancies, it aims to provide counselling for

rape victims and victims of sexual abuse. Women suffering from the psychological effects of an abortion can come to work through their issues.

In the last months of 2002 we have been more involved in our health lessons programme on smoking, alcohol, relationships and sexual health. These are important not only in helping teenagers and young adults make sensible choices, but also as an advertisement for the pregnancy centre. The lessons also teach us something of what young people think about issues. Interestingly, when talking about abortion the majority, over 90 per cent, support it and many young women see it as the obvious answer to an unwanted pregnancy.

The latter lessons are based on abstinence teaching and have been well received by the schools and tertiary institutions where they have been given.

*Bruce Hanke
Manager HADA - Astana,
Kazakstan*

HADA Toilet

John, Manager of HADA Yunnan, and other HADA staff recently revisited a remote Miao village. They stayed for three days and shared with the community. The villagers were most hospitable and warm towards them and they felt very much at home. During their stay they were able to use the only toilet in the village . . . built by HADA in 2001 as their first project in Yunnan. Many of the villagers expressed their appreciation making comments that the toilet is always kept clean and especially convenient for the ladies in the village during the daytime.



HADA in Yunnan *Meeting the locals*

This describes the impression I received after meeting a modest, but mighty young local Chinese woman who teaches children to speak and write English (and also learn maths and Chinese) in a hillside primary school that overlooks a luscious



landscape in this colourful country. Teaching fluent English is quite a feat — having never spoken English with a native speaker before and having never left the country. Still, with the aid of three other English teachers and a

boyfriend studying English, language learning is fun.

She lives close to school in a small 2-story block, where she has a room of her own close to her friends. She owns the traditional colourful costume belonging to her people group which means that dress-ups can be fun when the dress comes out on special occasions. She lives apart from her family and is the youngest sibling of 3, belonging to a minority people, just missing the one-child policy.

Curious about Australia, she often asked questions about what Australians eat, wear, do with our past time and what the country looks like. It was exciting to see her so keen to check pronunciation and eager to learn new (especially big) words.

She is interested in learning about all the aspects of life. The language barrier was a stumbling block to these

photos by Jenny White

discussions, but she was surprisingly persistent in seeking to learn English and Australian songs which she heard us singing one time. This was an eye-opening experience and if one impression has stuck with me, it's CHINA.

(Jenny White was on a trek with other Australians to the mountains of Yunnan to see the English teaching opportunities in Yunnan Province of China.)



HADA wishes to thank **Anthony Smith and Company** for the printing of this newsletter. Anthony Smith and Company (07) 5531 6333 can assist you with all your accounting and body corporate services.

HADA's Vision: *To see medical, education, agricultural and sanitation programs established in countries as needed.*

Health And
Development Aid
PO Box 54
CLAYFIELD
QLD 4011
AUSTRALIA

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