



Health And  
Development Aid  
Abroad –  
Australia Fund Inc.

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Registered Charity No. 1273

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# NEWSLETTER

Issue 21. January 2005

## Earthquake – Tsunami!

**W**E have all heard of the disaster that has struck the Indian Ocean region. The imagery we see on our TVs is very graphic and we do not wish to describe the devastation again.

HADA is able to forward funds to expatriate workers situated in Sri Lanka and Sumatra, Indonesia.

In Sri Lanka we know Dr Mohan and Sarah Seevaratnam as we stayed with them a number of years back. Mohan is a British born Sri Lankan, who has been working for a local hospital in the suburbs of Colombo. Below is an extract from his e-mail written 27th December.

*"We are all OK. We spent last night at friends' as there were rumours that another wave was coming. The first wave came to within 20 metres of the house. We're back at home now but have a bag packed in case we need to evacuate. The girls are exhausted after a busy Christmas and the uncertainty of the last couple of days.*

*"The beach community (5000 families) which Mohan has involvement in has been washed away. They've been relocated to nearby schools and temples. We spoke to many people who have lost everything. We spent a few hours there this afternoon with the team from Community Concern Society seeing patients and dealing out medication. There have only been a few deaths around here but further down the coast and to the north and east where there is little if any communication there has been much devastation and loss of life.*

*"Tomorrow Mohan will go with a team to the east coast to try and help the communities there. They will buy as many drugs as they can tomorrow morning before heading off."*

In Sumatra we know Bruce and Kathy Smith from New Zealand who are running a Vocational Training Centre. In 2001 we stayed with them in Sumatra and appreciate their love and concern for the local people.

Any funds sent for either country will be forwarded as directed and you can



Thousands of villages similar to this one in Sumatra have been devastated

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A Story of Hope

be assured that the expatriate workers will personally distribute to those who are most needy. This is a most efficient way of sending funds and knowing that all the money will reach the people in need. All the funds raised are sent out in their entirety, less the bank charges.

Tax deductible receipts are available for taxpayers.

Please make cheques payable to HADA Relief Fund and indicate the region to which you want them directed.

*The Treasurer  
HADA  
PO Box 54  
Clayfield Qld 4011*

Please advise where you prefer your gift to be sent:

1. HADA general fund and not tax deductible
2. Tax Deductible for the following:
  - distribution where it is most needed
  - a particular project
  - a particular person working in the project.

## China 2004

**F**OR the whole month of September we traveled China offering support to workers in three areas.

The first week was spent in Inner Mongolia where our part of the team spent time assisting students at Universities with their English. In some situations we worked from their text books at the request of their English teacher, and on other occasions we did a cultural exchange answering questions about Australia. This activity led to an invitation for our workers to establish an English Corner at a newly opened Information Technology University. During our visit we conducted two craft morning teas which were very well attended by predominately ladies with a few men. The activity and fellowship was truly enjoyed by all.



*Teaching english in the classroom*

We managed to fit in some tourist activities, a visit to the grasslands, the cultural museum and an evening to see a performance of Korean National Dance.

The second week was a little different. After some R & R in Xian we headed for Quinghai Province where we spent our time assisting workers with their Interactive Learning Centre. First off we did an Australian information night which was very well attended, and other activities included English Corner and a craft

evening. At other times we assisted at the Nursing School with English conversation and cultural exchange.

Again we had some time for tourist activities like a visit to the Quinghai Lake and surrounding area. Much time was spent with the workers discussing their needs which were simply more resources and more people.

Our last stop was in Yunnan Province where we assisted our worker by getting involved in the work. We took classes in primary and middle schools mostly talking about Australia and doing some simple craft activities with the children. They loved learning in this way. There was a great need for clothing with the approaching winter, so children were measured for this purpose. At each school, meetings with the principal and staff were held to discuss their many needs. These ranged from desks to running water to concreted common area.

During our visit we spent time with recipients of micro loans to discuss the results of the micro loan system and the needs going forward.

From the point of view of an insurance consultant and financial adviser, the visit to China was a great awakening to the many needs of the Chinese people, in particular the minority groups, who seem to have been forgotten by many. Just being there with love and compassion was a great encouragement to them.

*Margaret Lovitt*



*Need for piped water supply*

# Life in Astana, Kazakstan

**W**HAT does it mean to live in a city where the cost of renting a one room flat is more than four times what you can earn in a month?

You have moved from the village where there are no jobs, to the city in the hope of getting work and supporting your family. Here you have no skill and so you cannot get a job with a wage adequate enough to cover even your basic rent.

That is the choice: return to the village and live in poverty, or remain in the city and also live in poverty. In the city you may find a couple of jobs and be able to make ends meet by working seven days a week from early morning to late into the night. It's fortunate

if you have extended family and can move in with them and share costs, but this is not always an option.

Your best hope is to gain some new skills that will give you access to better paid employment.



HADA Astana's skills training workshop allows men to do just that. Four men have received training in basic building and renovation skills. They have gained experience in tiling, plastering and painting, concreting, carpentry and furniture making.

For some, their training continues in the hope that they will remain with the

project and gain enough skills to be able to train others.

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## Training in Cambodia

**M**Y name is Ngam Vathana. I'm 19 this year. My father is a teacher and my mother sells noodles in the market. I grew up with five brothers and sisters. My father receives a small salary from his teaching which is not enough for the family. He planted rice in an empty plot of land nearby but when the government used it for development our family lost our extra income.

I'm the third child of the 6 children. I stopped school and worked as a labourer for US\$1 per day. My first visit to Phnom Penh was when I was 17. I looked for my brother but the organization that took

him in could not take me in. Regretfully, I returned home even more uncertain about my future. When my brother finished his one-year Metal Trade course in Harvest International Services Vocational Training Centre, he convinced me to follow his footsteps. I was not interested but eventually I listened to his advice. After

being accepted my first and second terms were a blank because I was not interested at all. But things started to change in my third term through the teacher's encouragement.



During my last term my brother told me that he could no longer sponsor my \$10 monthly fee due to unexpected circumstances. It was a test for me to see how I would be able to provide for my future. I was homeless and penniless for a while. When my principal got to know about this he made the necessary arrangements for me to finish my studies, and

after my graduation I was offered a job at the VTC workshop which enables me to pay for my debt.

Before I came to VTC, I had no future to look forward to. I did not accept nor understand either my parents' counsel nor people's advice, but now I do and I also see their wisdom.

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

## Current HADA Projects

- These projects have been approved by HADA to be recipients of tax deductible gifts.*

### **HADA Astana, Kazakhstan**

Personnel: Bruce & Edith Hanke  
David & Liz Graetz

- Projects:
- Pregnancy Crisis Centre
  - Community Health
  - Trades Training Centre

### **HADA Yunnan, China**

Personnel: Colin & Margaret Dennis

- Projects:
- Micro Credit
  - Pig farming
  - Buffalo farming
  - Sponsoring children for schooling
  - Training English teachers

- Associate organisations where projects have been approved by HADA.*

### **Stichting Assistance International, China**

- Sponsoring mature rural students to language and medical school
- Sponsoring children for schooling
- Assisting a hospital for the poor
- Supporting a school for the children of nomadic families
- School renovations
- Hydatids treatment and eradication project
- Yak micro-loan project
- Community health training

### **International Assistance Mission, Afghanistan**

- The Herat Ophthalmic Centre
- Herat Community Development Program
- Herat Mental Health Clinic
- Ophthalmic Technicians Training Program
- Maternal Child Health – training women health workers
- Primary Mental Health Program
- Disaster Management Program

### **Harvest International Services, Cambodia**

- Vocational training
- Village education
- Street kids

## Proposed Fact Finding Trip

**C**ALLING all agriculturalists! We are planning a trip of about three weeks duration in April 2005 to three locations in China. We need expertise in the following:

- Dairy farming. Friesian cows have been donated by the Australian Government but help and advice is needed for milk production, feed etc.
- Guidance in setting up a training centre to teach agriculture using, among other things, a micro-agricultural program.
- In another area, all the farmers are growing oranges and getting good crops. However, there are no roads to take the produce to market. What can be planted under the trees as a cash crop until the road is built? How can we help?

These are the current situations. When we know what questions to ask, we can obtain more information.

We are not experts but with a willing heart we can do much to relieve these subsistence farmers.

Can you help?

If you are interested please contact Neil Young via post, phone or email.

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All gifts are forwarded in their entirety, less bank charges, to the projects designated.

All projects in the newsletter are approved for tax deductability.