

SANDRA'S HOMES

November 2013

of happiness

Dear family, friends and sponsors,

We are well into November now. Where has the year gone? It is some months since I last wrote so it is time for an update newsletter again and, finally, I have been able to get to writing it.

Flights

Ruth and I are off to China again at the end of the year. We have many friends there and, because I learned to speak Chinese there, it is really like going home. We have booked flights to Hong Kong on 1st December and fly back to NZ on 15th January. We will be going into Sichuan Province, an area badly hit in the April earthquake. We want to see the earthquake area and to find out how the people are coping.

News From My Friends in China

The ministry Director now has obtained a new building, which is several stories high. The ground floor is made up of large rooms. Some of the people who were hurt in the earthquake, and have damaged arms or legs, are not able to work. They had nowhere to live and needed a job. So the ground floor will be turned into a sorting room. When donated clothes come in they are washed, pressed, and buttons sewn on. They are then folded and bagged according to size and whether for male or female. Then they will be sent out right away to be distributed to those in need in the earthquake area. The Director gives these workers food and board and a wage. This will be an excellent service and I hope we can get this started.

The Director and my friends have asked me to go back to China because I have been helping them with disadvantaged children for twenty years and they recognize this is God's call on my life. They are planning to set up a kindergarten for a hundred children in the earthquake area. These are children who are not able to go to school because they have no money.

As well as this another friend wants to set up a training base for children with disabilities and to train staff to help these children. I am not yet sure just how I best I can help her but I am sure it will become much clearer once I arrive there. Until then I will continue to pray, for God's wisdom, and I invite you to pray with me.

Please also pray for Director and his family that they will be kept well and have the help they need so that they can continue helping others.



Samuel

Ai Qin and Samuel

The good news is Samuel has gone to a larger city where the pastor has taken him under his covering and is helping him further his ministry training. He is getting on very well now and is able to earn some money and is under the pastor's care.

Ai Qin is at home with their child and is very busy with a part-time job. She drops her child off at school each morning, and picks her up after school, so her day is full. She needs a better paying job that will enable her to put her child into daycare before and after school. Then she would have more time to earn a better living. Other than that they are well and I often speak to them on Skype.

Sandra and Ralph and their twelve adopted children need prayer for their son who has a life-limiting disease. We are waiting for a miracle of God to heal him. The son has been asking God to take him home. He now has come to a place of peace because 'to be graduated with Christ is gain'. Please pray for the family.

Sharon has lost her mother and has found the situation stressful. We pray she will have peace in her heart and will draw closer to God at this time as He has a loving Father-heart and wants to keep her in His peace.

Our Christmas

The first week of the NZ October school holidays we had all the family down from up north. We had an early Christmas together. We had great fun with all the trimmings and just the right kinds of good food. The children were given red envelopes in which we placed money for them. We had Saturday as Boxing Day when the food that was left over after our Christmas, and after my family had left, was boxed up and sent out to the poor people. It was all really good timing as my children had only a few days to stay here in Tauranga, before they went back to their homes, when we decided to make it Christmas. They realised we would not be all together at Christmas time because Ruth and I will be in China. The family have their own friends so they can do other things with them in December. Altogether it was very stress-free celebration and we all enjoyed it.

I have also got all my Christmas cards printed. Now they just need to be addressed. Hopefully I will get this done during November so they can be sent out to the family and sponsors and to the people who pray for us.



My grandchildren at our October family Christmas

The Boxes to China

With a group of helpers we have been collecting knitted and crocheted blankets, booties and jumpers for the people in China affected by the earthquake. We had assembled them in ten boxes, taped the boxes closed and labeled them ready to go to China once they were cleared by Customs. At first we thought we were unable to send them as China would not allow them to enter the country unless they are sent to a recognised Aid Foundation. We could have take them into the country as part of our luggage, but this would not be practical as each box weighs around 12 kg, making 120 kg in all. We have now talked to Chinese Customs and confirmed a recognised Aid Foundation so our boxes have been accepted into the country.

I want to say thank you to all the people who have knitted and crocheted jerseys, jumpers, baby blankets, socks, slippers and hats for the babies.

Ruth's Birthday



Ruth had her 16th birthday recently. We didn't have a party or friends around; it was just a quiet celebration. In China the 13th birthday is a big celebration so we had celebrated Ruth's birthday in style then. Our dear friend, Penny, was here and she did a photo shoot for us which made the day special for Ruth. We were pleased that she did as we needed a number of photos. One was for Ruth's visa and others were for our prayer cards and for our Christmas cards. I have been able to give photos to friends and prayer supporters so already I have used up a large proportion of them.

Ruth is in her 11 th grade at school (Year 11 in NZ) and she is preparing for her end of year exams. She is very diligent with her study. She is in good health and everything is going well for her.

The rest of my family are doing very well; just the usual ups and downs of most families.

Thank you all very much also for all the support I have received in the last few month. People have just turned up at my home every Tuesday and have helped me greatly with many tasks: folding and stamping letters, preparing the boxes of clothing, sewing, knitting, making up cards and all sorts of other tasks. It is amazing to see the hand of God on all who come. Thank you too for all who have been fasting and praying for this ministry and for us all.



Omokora ladies donated blankets for orphans

Directors

I really appreciate the work of my Board of Directors who are such a help to me. Please continue to pray for them and for their families as they also need your support and God's protection.

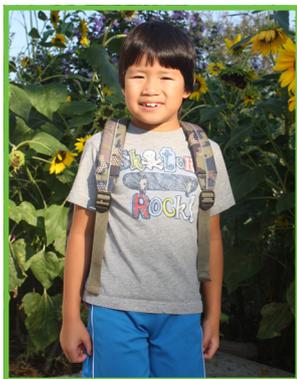
Firstly there is Cindra who has supported me for many years now. She adopted a baby from me and her name is Meimei. Please pray for them both so they can see the way the Lord has planned for them to go for the future.

Pray also for Debra and Ron as they look at new beginnings in their lives. Pray that they will see where God is leading them next and that God will work things out for them. Pray that their children, now adults, will come to know the Lord more and more.

The Chinese Babies

I always get excited when I receive news of some of the many babies I have cared for. To date some 604 children have been under my care.

Recently I received a beautiful photo of **Jack, who is now called Casy**. When we first saw him his leg was turned over on the side and he walked everywhere on his ankle. In China they said they would have to amputate his foot as it was going gangrenous. I said, "No way! We will pray," and God took all the infection away. He is five years old now and has just started school. His foot is straight and after many operations he can run and walk without problems. It brought tears to my eyes to see him recovered.



Jack who is now called Casy

Samuel, who is now called Tom, had been left in a cardboard box outside an old folk's home. The Director told me to go and collect him. Here is a photo of him and his family when he was adopted and went to Holland. There he learned to speak Dutch. I had been home in New Zealand a year when I received an email from his parents saying they had immigrated to a New Zealand town. The email said they were going to live in Tauranga.



Samuel left in a cardboard box



Samuel is now called Tom

Cindy and Suikei are also sensing it is a time for new beginnings so pray for them that God will lead them.

Please also pray that God will bring people to help here in New Zealand. I would value someone to help with the newsletter and to be a public relations officer for the ministry. I find it very difficult to do this work as well as the work God has called me to. Please pray for someone to do this permanently for us.

Please also pray for my home church and the other churches that cover me. Pray that God will bless them and draw more people into the church fellowships; pray that these churches will prosper and grow in the ways of the Holy Spirit.

My Apartment

As I have had four burglaries over four months the apartment I live in is clearly not safe.

One of the main reasons for the break-ins, I believe, is the Government here has stopped the monetary benefits which go to some unemployed people. If people are tested and are found to have drugs in their system they cannot receive any benefit. Hence this has caused some people to steal goods to sell so they can buy drugs. Sadly our country is no longer the upright country it used to be. I have been praying for more-suitable accommodation for us here in New Zealand and we trust the Lord will provide.

Unfortunately we cannot let someone else live in our apartment while we are away as it would breach our rental agreement, so our rent payments are really dead money. **Please pray for us in this situation.**

They had heard that I had come home to New Zealand and wondered where I was living. When I told them I was also in Tauranga they were so excited. They have visited me several times and I have been to their home for a meal. I am blessed to have one of my babies here in my hometown.

Lily, who is now called Sasha, has had her arm operated on. It is fully healed and when I saw her on Skype she held her arm up and said, "Look, Nai Nai. My arm is good." I praise God for her too.

Dor Jia is now called Meg. We have sent her a scrapbook and DVDs of her life with us in the Home of Heavenly Healing and the House of Peace. They received this last week and there were many tears, tears of sadness and joy all mixed up, but they were so happy to have received everything we sent.

What a blessing to see how some of the children have turned out. They are the fruit, the reward of my labours.

NZ babies

Since I've been back in New Zealand I have had the care of children from the Government's Child Youth and Family Service. The last little boy I had was only 22 months old. He was so cute. The amazing thing was he called me Pawpaw which is Cantonese for grandmother. He was Maori boy, so how did he know? I believe God gave him this name to call me.

If you know any more of my babies I would love to know where they are and what they are doing. Ask them to email me or to send me photos. This brings such a joy to my heart because I poured out so much love on them and to see them doing well is such a joy. I am truly blessed.

Well, I will finish on this note. Please continue to pray for me. God uses your prayers to advance His ministry. Thank you and may God bless you all.

My next newsletter will be due out Feb/Mar 2014.

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Our website will be up and running by Christmas.

If you would like to donate* to this Ministry please send your cheque to the postal address above or via internet banking.

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Boxing up woolen clothes for earthquake victims in China



Annalien and Sandra doing labels for boxes to China

Prayer requests

Please pray for:

- Our return trip to China
- For the earthquake victims and the Director of the Earthquake Foundation in China
- For Sandra & Ralph's son & family
- Ai Qin to find employment
- Gods support and protection over Board of Directors & Sponsors
- Protection over where I live

Thank you for your prayers

- Our October family Christmas
- Our boxes have been accepted into China
- Continued communication with my Chinese adopted babies