

HEARTBEAT

January 2007 The Newsletter of the

Commit Your Way

Noel Joy



Merry



Holly



Cadence



Drew



Cameron



Emma



Miriam



Vira

The psalmist tells us to “commit our ways to the Lord,” and we do the same for our newest arrivals, trusting that He will be faithful to their story.

House of Love

It had been a year-and-a-half since any new children had moved into the House of Love, but December brought four precious girls into a home once dominated by boys. Fiona's December 15th arrival was announced in our last e-newsletter, but this two-year-old girl has quickly taken to mimicking the silliness of her housemates and each day initiates play a little more. Before arriving, she had surgery for an unknown heart condition; we are still waiting for the records.

Four days later, Merry, Noel Joy, and Holly arrived just in time for Christmas Day. Merry has a developmental delay that hasn't been fully evaluated. At two years old, Noel Joy is still not walking due to a neurological disorder; we are waiting for the results of further evalu-

ation. Four-month-old Holly has hairy nevus, a condition that covers the body in dark, hairy spots. Early meetings with a plastic surgeon in Beijing indicate that corrective surgeries will be effective and she will begin those when she is one year old. It is such a sweet joy to watch these new arrivals take in their new environment with wide eyes and cautious smiles.

Shepherd's Field

Of the eight children that arrived on December 19th, three found refuge at Shepherd's Field, almost filling our children's home there to capacity. Six-month-old Cadence came quietly with nerve damage to her right arm, which may be due to birth trauma. Five-month-old Drew did not come as quietly; early visits often found him screaming. After the first few weeks, though, he seems to be settling in and attach-

ing to his nanny, who he shares with eleven-month-old Cameron. Cameron arrived with a shock of mohawk-styled black hair that will not settle. He may have a genetic condition like progeria, but we are waiting on further tests.

House of Joy

With fifteen boys and just four girls calling House of Joy home, house mom Elisa was glad to welcome three-month-olds Miriam and Vira in late December. Miriam has a fairly wide cleft lip, and Vira has an abnormal left hand.

We had fourteen children arrive in December. All of our new arrivals are in need of sponsors to help pay for food, diapers, clothes, and the nanny's salary. If you are interested in helping care for our kids, please email us at ChildSponsor@ChinaOrphans.org

Hope & Emily



Emily and Hope are both in need of transplants, bone marrow and liver, respectively. A recent law passed in China states that donors must be blood relatives to the recipients; we are advocating for an exception to be made for these two sweet girls. It is encouraging to see Hope's health stabilize after months of seemingly failing health. Emily is receiving blood transfusions every two weeks to bring her red blood cell levels to the appropriate level, which fall as a result of her thalassemia. Please continue to pray for wisdom in providing their care and healing for their bodies.

Abby & Parker Zephaniah & Lulu



Both Abby and Parker are at Huaxin Hospital in Beijing awaiting heart surgery. Abby's surgery will be in two stages, the first is the week of January 8, the second happens ten days later. Parker, one of the first kids at Shepherd's Field, already had one surgery last summer; this month's surgery will bring complete healing to his heart. Though he is on oxygen, he still smiles and cheerfully waves to all visitors. We are looking forward to the return of these two precious kids. We are confident that God's healing and protective touch is on them during their surgeries.

Our two smallest babies, Zephaniah & Lulu, share a room and nanny in Shepherd's Field Clinic. Zephaniah came to us in need of anal reconstruction surgery, and doctors are hoping to do it by next spring. In his short time with us, he is already growing alert and responds to affection. While we are not sure of Lulu's specific genetic problems, yet-her records said Down's syndrome, but this may not be correct--she is scheduled for a genetic study this month. We are hoping this offers a clear direction on how to begin specific medical care. She is extremely weak, which may be due to anemia.

I've got the JOY!



The Siberian winds didn't keep away a Chicago team that came to serve our kids this January, and we were so glad they braved the elements. Each afternoon, their classroom came alive with the sounds of children learning new songs, stories, and crafts. "I've Got the Joy!" had all twenty students and eight teachers jumping in all directions, convincing anyone who walked by that they knew of what they sang.

Over Christmas, we had numerous visitors from Beijing arrive to bless our kids. Christmas



boxes arrived for each of our kids from Capitol Community Church (Beijing) two days after Santa came with the Marines to distribute gifts. Beijing International Christian Fellowship did a gift tree, collecting more than eighty-five presents, individually chosen for each child. Zachry-Caddell workers also collected a massive collection of toys and materials for each of the homes. Volunteers in the states organized diaper drives and helped find child sponsors this season. We are so grateful for the generosity of our partners, and pray God's blessing on all you who gave.

Updates

*Thank you to all those who contributed to heating Shepherd's Field. In every situation, we are reminded that God is in control and will provide for the needs of our children.

*Due to the earthquake in Taiwan, we have been experiencing problems with our websites and email. Officials

say that it could take months for these to be fully operational. Please continue to check our website for updated pictures and children's stories and know that some things are just out of our control.

*Spring Festival will be a busy time in our villages. In addition to the arrival of twelve new children, there is a strong possibility that we will be moving Samaritan's House and House of Peace out to Shepherd's Field. Because of the high costs of rent and utilities for these two homes in Langfang, and our efforts to best utilize the support given, we hope that this will allow more resources to go towards our kids.

*We are grateful for
your prayers
and financial support!*

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