

Henan Kids International

Love changes lives

December 2010

Merry Christmas! Welcome home to sixteen new Henan Families and their precious children as well! In this newsletter you will find the exciting results of our calendar sales, information on projects completed, and much more. But, before I do, I'd like to share with you all why I am so passionate about HKI.

Our son, Xu Zheng Liang (now Benjamin) was put in isolation in his orphanage due to his special need, Hepatitis B. This was not done out of cruelty, but out of ignorance. The orphanage workers did not know the facts about this virus. Because of CCAI's direct involvement, not only was he removed from isolation, but his papers were made ready, and 2 months later, we accepted his referral, and 3 months later, we were adopting him and bringing him home. Although Ben was 2 when we adopted him, he could not eat; he had only had milk from a bottle. Because of this, his jaw muscles were underdeveloped and he couldn't talk. He had never seen a toy; he couldn't walk. We had a 2 year old who developmentally was an infant. Now, ben is 4 and, as you can see, he is completely healthy and happy.



I am passionate about HKI because I want to continue to improve the conditions of the orphanages in Henan. I want to continue to provide the nannies with the education they need to take care of these children, 95% of whom have major medical special needs! I am passionate about HKI because when we make a difference in the life of a child, we affect eternity.

My husband and I are nothing special. We are just two people who want to change the world. One orphan at a time.

This is our story. I would like to hear yours and share them in our newsletter. Why are *you* passionate about helping Henan? The following is one family's story of how they have used what was right in their backyard to make a huge difference in the lives of those still in Henan:

When we first joined St. Mark Lutheran Church a couple of years ago, our pastor challenged us to name our passion and then find a way to act on that passion. With 6 kids and a variety of part-time jobs and volunteer positions, it was all I could do to think up a grocery list each week, much less strike out to change the world.

The answer came via our chickens. We found ourselves awash in fresh eggs and had bequeathed a dozen or so to anyone and everyone who seemed even vaguely interested. One day, it occurred to me that the eggs might be a valuable commodity to some. After consulting the pastor, I placed a notice in our church bulletin announcing the availability of Haskin Free Range Eggs, featuring a variety of hues and free to those requesting them in exchange for a donation to our China orphanage fund.

The first Sunday after it appeared, a gentleman approached me, alongside his wife, and pledged \$100 per dozen up to \$1000 in support

of our fund! Our Sunday school classes voted to donate a portion of their offerings to support the fund, two ladies found a way to charge a fee for costume rentals and funnel the money to us and a young man in our church café gathered tips from co-workers one evening and made a donation of \$65 in support of the orphanages. Within the first year, we had covered foster care for an infant in Henan, sent two large boxes of hand-made clothing to Kaifeng, paid for one month's worth of infant formula for Kaifeng and also helped to sponsor emergency surgeries for three infants. We have begun our second year by sponsoring another year of foster care and paying for bouncy seats in support of a newly constructed orphanage.

Although we have settled into a comfortable pattern with 3 regular customers and a smattering of others who hear of our eggs, the generosity of our church members never fails to amaze me. The fund seems to grow steadily and, even in these tough economic times, the members at St. Mark give from their hearts each time we ask. Most recently, I read the Henan Kids website and noted a request for bibs, socks and warm clothing. I made another announcement at church and filled a box for Kaifeng in less than two weeks. I also made an announcement at the small day school where I work and have gathered enough clothing to send two more large packages.

The lesson that I would share with you is that, maybe, it is not required of any of us to strike out to change the world. Perhaps it is enough just to offer what we have in abundance and ask on behalf of those who cannot ask for themselves. –Teresa Haskin

Melissa Unruh, mom to a cute little girl from LuoHe, collected all of these bibs from friends and family to send to Kaifeng:



If you'd like to share what you and your family are doing to make a difference, email me at info@henankids.org or emadcox@qwest.net

Calendars!

I am beyond overjoyed to report that we raised over \$4,000 with this year's calendar sales!!! Last year we raised \$1,875, and my goal this year was to collect \$3,000. Every single cent of this money will go to projects in Henan orphanages. I hope to report to you exactly how this money was used in our next newsletter.

If you are new to HKI, we do a calendar each year full of Henan kids and their families and sell them for \$26 to raise money.

I want to encourage you all to start early for next year's calendar. I am looking for pictures in these categories: great fall pictures (outside, lots of color), family pictures, pictures of just mom and kids, pictures of just dad and kids, beach photos, holiday/winter photos, sibling pictures, fourth of July/patriotic pictures, gotcha day pictures (my favorites, make me cry!), pictures of kids with flowers (for spring), and for February, I'd like to have pictures of siblings hugging/kissing (force 'em if you have to!)

Now, if you're like me and you take *a lot* of pictures, you tend to forget what great pictures you have when it comes time to email them to me. So, here's a helpful tip. Right now, go make a file folder in your pictures library and title it: *HKI 2012 calendar*. Whenever you take a *GREAT* shot, rename it (your last name, number.jpeg) and copy it into this file. I cannot stress enough how important it is to correctly label your files. It is extremely difficult to know who is who when I don't have labeled pictures. Please label them as follows:

Adcox#1.jpeg, Adcox#2.jpeg, Adcox#3.jpeg, etc...

I want to see my old favorites as well as newbies!!! If you didn't participate this year, please consider joining us next year!

Projects Completed

Because of the increase of preemies being abandoned, there has been a huge need for incubators. The orphanages cannot afford to take the babies to the hospital for treatment. We were able to purchase THREE incubators for Kaifeng, Pingdingshan, and Zhoukou. And thanks to all of you, lots of little babies now have a chance at life:



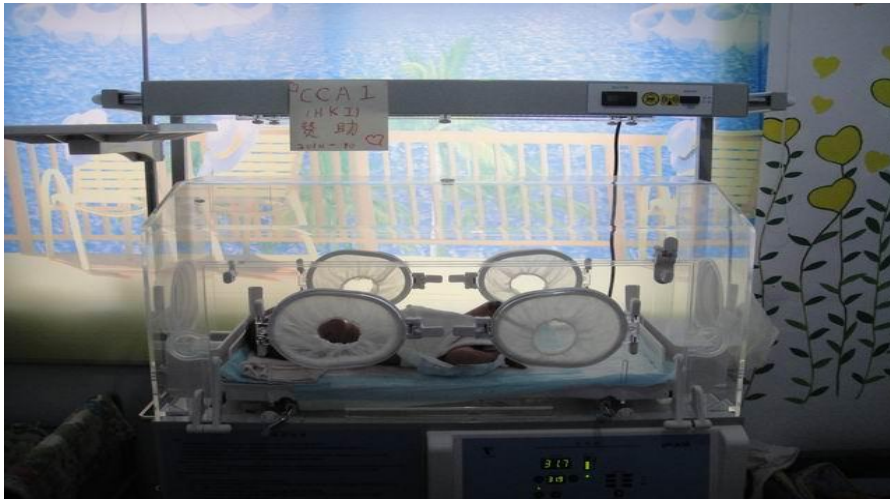
Kaifeng's Incubator



Another Kaifeng Incubator



PingDingShan
Incubator



PingDingShan
Incubator



ZhouKou Incubator

We were also able to purchase, thanks to the Haskin family and their church, bouncy seats for a brand new orphanage. This orphanage had nothing to put their little ones in:



Now these little ones won't have to lie on the floor; they'll have bouncy seats!

We have also purchased equipment, games, and furniture for a foster activity center in LuoYang. This will be a place where foster families can bring their children to play, socialize, etc. We will post pictures soon!

Are you a monthly giver?

As awesome as our calendar fundraiser was, it won't last long. If you are not already, please consider giving on a monthly basis. We have less than 10 kids needing sponsorship. I'd like to see that number be a zero! Go to www.henankids.org to donate or sponsor a child. If you choose to be a monthly donor, you will receive an email from CCAI requesting your credit card information in order that they can

automatically take out your specified amount each month. You will receive an email tax receipt each month when they do so.

Thank your all for your support! If you ever have any questions, please email Emily (me!) at info@henankids.org or emadcox@qwest.net

Happy New Year!