

Angel Heart International

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Angel Heart at UCSD's Bioengineer- ing Day

By TIANYI CHEN
Volunteer

On April 3, 2009, Angel Heart President Dr. Shouyan Lee, a Ph.D. graduate in Bioengineering from the University of California, San Diego, was invited to share his career journey at UCSD's Bioengineering Day in front of faculty as well as undergraduate and graduate students.

Bioengineering Day is an annual event organized and run by undergraduate members of the UCSD Chapter of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). The focus of this year's Bioengineering Day is on bioengineering in the global community. The diverse event involved individuals of various related expertise, and students were able to interact with those who have overstepped the traditional boundaries of bioengineering.

During his speech, Lee first talked about his education path. Like most other bioengineers, Lee started working in the medical device industry after he graduated from UCSD. During his time in the industry, he had successfully taken three products from conception to production. With several publications and patents, Lee became an expert in tissue prosthetic heart valves. Despite his successes, ironically in 2002, his daughter was born with Ebstein's Anomaly, a heart defect in which the tricuspid valve of the heart is abnormally formed. It was the agonizing periods in the Intensive Care Unit with his daughter that made Lee to rethink the so-called "successfulness" of his career. Moreover, he had heard the story of Yang Dan, a young child in China who had died of congenital heart disease (CHD) due to the her family's inability [See *BE Day*, Page 3]



SEEKING: Liu Weijun and his parents arrive at Beijing hoping to receive a life-saving surgery.

A Journey of Love and Hope

An account of one volunteer's experiences with Liu Weijun, a CHD child.

By DUAN XIANGSU
Volunteer
AS TRANSLATED BY JANE H. XU

For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.
(Philippians 2:13)

I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.
(Psalms 57:9-11)

I have long promised Shouyan that I would write down what I experienced with Liu Weijun. Now, it is the time for me to do so.

In early November of 2008, Weijun and his parents finally decided to come to Beijing to see the doctor. As a volunteer, I was expecting them

in Beijing. It was Nov. 3, 2008, and my husband Yonghui and I met Weijun and his parents at the train station for the first time. As a mother of two lovely and healthy kids (praise God), I was totally shocked by my first impression of Weijun – a little boy with purple cheeks, lips and ears. He had a weak voice and slow and hard movements. I even noticed that he had unusual, deformed fingers. He is almost 10 years old and should be a boy full of energy. His parents are younger than I, but their faces were already worn and harrowed, especially his mom. After seeing for myself Weijun's unfortunate condition, there was little else I could do except tell his father to be careful while carrying little Weijun. I could hardly hold back my tears when I was in the car. A stream of sorrow and grief came to my heart, and I wanted to ask God why. Why such a tragedy have to happen to them while most of us enjoy happy and healthy families.

This trip was also the first time I met Shouyan at Beijing Fuwai Cardiovascular Hospital. Before that, I had heard a lot about his family and his daughter, who has the same congenital heart disease. However, I never realized how hard it is to be a parent to a child with such a disease until I met Weijun. Just in June, another boy had planned to come to Beijing with a case more severe than Weijun's. Shouyan told me that if he was treatable, he could stay. Otherwise, all I needed to do was to comfort him and his family. I promised Shouyan to take care of him, but I felt great pressure and fear. The boy passed away before he could make the trip. I truly felt pain and sorrow, but I could hardly understand their suffering and misery. It was only until Weijun had finished and recovered from his surgery that I began to understand what a cure means to the family fighting for their child every day against death. [See *Journey*, Page 6]

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Get an update on what AHI has been doing since the publication of the last newsletter.

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Children's Stories

Learn about the CHD children who received surgeries this year as well as follow-ups on familiar faces.

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Testimonial

Listen as a volunteer recalls her experiences with and observations of one CHD child.

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News Brief

What AHI has done since the last newsletter.

October 18, 2008

Dr. Shouyan Lee was interviewed by Juliette Zhuo of LA18 TV on Angel Heart International's work in Gansu, China. Dr. Lee met Juliette at LAX when she was travelling to Beijing to report on the Summer Olympics. After learning about AHI, Ms. Zhuo wanted to help the organization and offered to interview Dr. Lee at her LA Living program. It is through this broadcast that a few of AHI's very dedicated volunteers like Chen Tianyi, a UCLA graduate now serving as the administrative manager, were attracted to AHI in the first place.

November 3, 2008

Liu Weijun, a 9-year-old child from Lingxia, Gansu with a complex case of CHD, went to Beijing for treatment. Weijun was referred to AHI by World Vision, which had conducted the family visit for AHI. Our volunteers sent Weijun and his family to the train in Lanzhou and received them at Beijing Railway Station.

November 10, 2008

After a week of pre-surgery check-ups, Weijun received a successful surgery, performed by Chief Pediatric Cardiovascular surgeon at Fuwai Hospital Dr. Yinglong Liu, to correct his Double Outlet Left Ventricle. Dr. Liu also serves on AHI's advisory board.

November 21, 2008

Weijun was discharged from the hospital and returned to Gansu four days later.

attended. Dr. Lee reported the organization's achievements in 2008, while Dr. Chen Li introduced the IT team and Mr. Quan Cheng reported to the volunteers and donors on AHI's 2009 plan. Dr. Peter Chen, AHI's advisory board member, handed out awards to volunteers of the year 2008: Sandra Fang, Yun Huang, Alina Yang and Annie Wang

January 10, 2009

Another Year End Appreciation Gathering was held in Lanzhou, Gansu China for all the volunteers in the Gansu province. Zhang Jiasheng (AHI's first patient) and his father participated in the meeting, as did two more Dingxi volunteers, Dr. Zhang and Mr. Wang. Drs. You Tao and Liu Xingguang of GPPH also participated. Ms. Niu, the volunteer leader and program coordinator, reported AHI's achievements in 2008, while Dr. Shouyan Lee introduced to the volunteers the activities in United States.

January 11, 2009

AHI volunteers did a family visit to Ma Ruoying, a two-year-old child with Patent Ductus Arteriosus. A follow-up visit was also paid to Chen Wenbo (surgery date 9/25/2008) and Liu Lele (surgery date 4/28/2008). The two kids were recovering very well.

February 11, 2009

Ding Xiaoyan and Lan Xiaohua went back to GPPH for follow-up checks. Both girls were recovering very well



LANZHOU MEETING: AHI volunteers in China gathered in Lanzhou for an end of the year celebration.

November 22, 2008

AHI held its annual meeting for the Board of Directors. The meeting reviewed the organization's progress in 2008 and discussed its goals for 2009. The meeting also approved the invitation of the doctors from Gansu Province People's Hospital (GPPH) to participate in the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) annual meeting as part of AHI's Better Medical Care Program. At the AHI meeting, Dr. Chen Li and Mr. Quan Cheng were also elected as new board members.

December 6, 2008

The Year End Appreciation Gathering was held at ICCCC Church in Irvine, California. More than 40 people

and are completely normal children now. At the hospital, they met Ma Ruoying and Ma Juan, 3 years old, who were both waiting for their surgeries.

February 12, 2009

Ma Ruoying successfully received surgery at GPPH.

February 13, 2009

Ma Juan successfully received surgery at GPPH.

February 15, 2009

Ran Lihong went back to GPPH for a follow-up examination. She has since recovered very well from her surgery on 9/25/2008.

February 23, 2009

Ma Ruoying was discharged from the hospital.

Mission Statement:

Angel Heart International is committed to serving children with congenital heart diseases in developing countries. We promise to do everything possible for these children, and work not only to show them compassion, but also a future.

Our Vision:

We seek more grassroots efforts to give love and care to the CHD children and their families, and to go beyond simply providing medical services to them.

We seek collaboration with other charities and NGOs so that the children AHI serves can later benefit from education, poverty alleviation and other relief organizations. Our goal is to create a chain of care for these children.



FRIENDS: Ding Xiaoyan (left) and Lan Xiaohua (right) met each other during their follow-up checks in the hospital.

February 25, 2009

Ma Juan was discharged.

March 17, 2009

Dr. Shouyan Lee visited Fuzhou and Xianyou, Fujian Province. The goal of the trip was to establish a collaborative relationship with Union Hospital of Fuzhou and to do a family visit to He Jiayi, a 7-year-old child with Tetralogy of Fallot. He Jiayi was referred to AHI through the China Kind Fund. Drs. Wang Qimin and Chen Liangwan met Dr. Lee at the Union Hospital. Mr. He Hanqing, who had helped He Jiayi seek outside assistance, met Dr. Lee in Putian and helped set up the family visit. Since the meeting, Mr. He has joined AHI as a volunteer.

March 25, 2009

Liu Weijun, who received surgery in Beijing 11/2008, went to GPPH for the follow-up examination. Four months later, Weijun has recovered well, and all checkup results point to a very successful surgery. Now Weijun can go up to the fourth floor without feeling tired at all, whereas before, he would be on his father's back.

April 3, 2009

Dr. Shouyan Lee was invited by UC San Diego's Biomedical Engineering Society to give the keynote speech at UCSD's annual Bioengineering Day event.

April 18, 2009

AHI board member An Lan visited Niu Haixiong's home in Huining, Gansu. Niu Haixiong is 11 years old with Tetralogy of Fallot. Lan, accompanied by Dr. Liu Xingguang and Ms. Niu Xiwei, also paid a follow-up visit to

Ding Xiaoyan's home in Huining.

April 21, 2009

With the collaborative efforts of Overseas Save Chinese Children Foundation, China Kind Fund, Angel Mom Fund and Angel Heart International, 7-year-old He Jiayi successfully underwent surgery, which was performed by Dr. Qiming Wang of Fujian Union Hospital. Two AHI volunteers travelled from Suzhou to Fuzhou to provide care and support for Jiayi and her family. Mr. He Hanqing was also with the family for the entire length of the operation.

April 28, 2009

AHI volunteers in Gansu paid a family visit to 3-year-old Wang Tao.

May 1, 2009

He Jiayi was discharged from the hospital.

May 9-13, 2009

Dr. Liu Xingguang and Dr. Shouyan Lee attended the AATS annual meeting in Boston, sponsored by AATS. During the meeting, Dr. Zhu Xiaodong, member of the Chinese Medical Academy and former principal of Fuwai Hospital in Beijing, agreed to join AHI as advisory board member and to lead AHI's medical committee.

May 17, 2009

Dr. Liu Xingguang met with AHI volunteers in Orange County, California.

May 18, 2009

Dr. Liu Xingguang visited Edwards Lifesciences. Dr. Hengchu Cao, an Edwards employee and an AHI volunteer, led the tour. Later, Dr. Liu met with the staff of Edwards Fund and expressed thanks for their financial support of AHI.



DR. CHEN LI

Word from the Board

The past year has seen great successes achieved by AHI.

Even in this difficult and rapidly changing economy, we have continued to help as many children as we can who battle against congenital heart disease. Since the publication of the last newsletter, we have helped five more CHD kids receive successful surgeries, and among them, two kids received the treatments as the result of a collaboration between AHI and other charities such as World Vision and Overseas Save Chinese Children Foundation (www.osccf.org). In this period, we have also expanded our hospital partners to Fuwai Hospital in Beijing and Union Hospital in Fuzhou.

As our organization progresses, we continue to uphold our belief that AHI is not just a charity to channel money to the ailing CHD children but, more importantly, a place that delivers LOVE to them. From day one, we stand firm in our mission to share a journey of life with these families through their difficult times. We conduct family visits for every child we support; our volunteers visit the families of the kids to console and help family members from the beginning to the end of each treatment. After more than 16 family visits and after 15 miracles of life, we know that the journeys of LOVE and of Life we shared with the families benefited everyone involved, including ourselves. The moment our volunteers hold the hands of the children's parents, we know that the mission of Angel Heart touched not only their hearts but also ours.

We keep building our volunteer teams in the United States and in China. In the U.S. we have more than 11 volunteers in charge of different

tasks such as Web design, newsletters, grant-proposal writing and accounting. We are glad to see young volunteers benefit from these activities and receive a better understanding of life and love. Our volunteer team in China has also expanded to more than 12 members, including four medical doctors and two parents of CHD children. We are in the process setting up a local office in Dingxi, Gansu.

We have been successful in getting funding to support our mission. After we received a grant of \$15,000 from Edwards Lifesciences, we focused our efforts and resources on our programs with minimal effort on fundraising, but the donations kept flowing in. We received over \$13,000 worth of donations from many loving people all over the world, from Germany to Australia. We deeply appreciate their generous support for our organization.

Sponsored by Edwards Lifesciences and American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS), we invited Dr. Liu Xingguang, our partner cardiovascular surgeon of Gansu Province People's Hospital, to attend the 89th AATS annual meeting in May held in Boston as part of AHI's Better Medical Care Program to improve education, continuous training and medical equipment to treat CHD. Dr. Liu later visited Orange County, California, where he met with AHI volunteers and toured Edwards and Medtronic facilities.

While we are proud of our successes and achievements, we are continuing our journey of LOVE and of life with everyone involved in Angel Heart International.

Bioengineering Day



SPEECH: Dr. Shouyan Lee relates his experiences to an audience of graduate, undergraduate students and faculty at UCSD's Bioengineering Day.

[BE Day, from Page 1]
to afford the surgical expenses. Profoundly moved by the story as well as by his own experiences, Lee, determined to establish a philanthropic organization that helps CHD children, founded Angel Heart International. After briefly introducing AHI's Medical Assistant Program and the basic conditions of the rural areas of the Gansu Province where most of the AHI patients come from, Lee showed his audience a few pictures of CHD children before and after their surgeries. Everyone in the room was delighted to see the great physical improvements in the children. But more than just financial assistance, AHI delivered love and hope to CHD children and their families.

"You'll not be remembered by the number of papers you published, your job title, or your salary. Not even your kids will remember these," said Lee at the event. "Instead, your success will be judged by the number

of hearts you have touched and the number of people you have helped."

Referencing to his role model, Lee noted that Mother Teresa had nothing and everything. In his concluding words, Lee implored everyone to "give the best you have, [and then] you will find meaning, happiness and success." And, quoting Dr. Cooper, president of American Association for Thoracic Surgery, "The ultimate success in our careers is the moment when people hold your hands and say to you, 'Thank you for being a bioengineer.'"

There was a long applause after his speech. A lot of audience members went to shake his hand and thanked him for giving such a wonderful and stimulating speech. The event was a great success because the students not only had a further understanding of bioengineering applications but also learned of how Lee, as a prime example of a bioengineer, uses his expertise to give back to the global community.

How to Help

We are pleased to announce AHI's new fundraising program through DigiLabs, which provides online digital printing services. There are three ways you can help our organization.

- 1) Purchase AHI's pre-designed and professional-looking photo calendars.
- 2) Create highly customized photo products online, including greeting cards, post cards, photo calendars and coffee table photo books.
- 3) Order photo products using the free downloadable software.

If you are interested in this program, please visit the following Web site: http://store.sendtoprint.net/?rc=Angel_Hear607. Make sure to enter Discount Coupon 'Angel_Hear607' when ordering your products (on page 1 of the shopping cart).

In addition, you can donate online at www.angelheartintl.org. If you like to donate by check, please make check payable to Angel Heart International, Inc. and mail it to PO BOX 17486, Irvine, CA 92623-7486.

All donations will be used to pay for the surgical expenses of CHD children. Your contribution really makes a significant difference in their lives. Thanks for your generous support!



Liu Weijun (10 years old)

Operation Date: 11-10-2008

Liu Weijun was introduced to AHI by World Vision, thus marking our first collaboration with another nonprofit organization. Weijun's congenital heart disease (CHD) was first discovered at the county hospital when he was merely two years old. With the help of AHI, his disease was later diagnosed to be Double Outlet Left Ventricle (DOLV). It is a very rare



and complicated disease in which the two major arteries of the heart, the aorta and the pulmonary artery, both exit from the left ventricle. This means that the right ventricle cannot pump blood directly to the pulmonary artery and out to the lungs.

Unfortunately, this complicated disease caused Weijun to get tired during even the simplest everyday activities, such as walking. He looked pale and his lips were of a deep purple color. In addition, he was more susceptible to other diseases and frequently caught colds due to the defective circulation of blood. Although Weijun's parents knew the severity of his disease and the fact that he can only live to be about 15 years

old, there was nothing they could do as they could not afford the expenses for the surgery. Moreover, Weijun's grandparents also needed money to see doctors. Sadly, his parents could do nothing about it but to wait for the tragic fate of their child.

After AHI knew about Weijun's situation, World Vision workers visited his home on May 12, 2008 to examine the severity of Weijun's condition and to determine his family's financial status. AHI decided to partially provide for the expenses of Weijun's surgery. Due to the complexity of Weijun's condition, AHI arranged Weijun to travel to Beijing to receive treatment at Fuwai Hospital, the best cardiovascular institute in China. Upon arrival, AHI volunteers observed that the hospital was fully packed with people. It became clear to them that it is very hard for the poor people to get access to physicians in big hospitals in China. They had to wait on the waiting lists for months, by which time their diseases continue to worsen. Fortunately for Weijun, AHI had successfully contacted Dr. Yinglong Liu, the director of the Department of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery, and Dr. Liu agreed to treat Weijun right away.

On Nov. 10, 2008, Weijun successfully underwent surgery performed by Dr. Liu. With the care of his family and AHI volunteers, Weijun recovered very well after the surgery and was discharged from the hospital on Nov. 21, 2008.

Ma Ruoying (2 years old)

Operation Date: 02-12-2009

At 2 years old, Ma Ruoying is afflicted with artery obstruction and there is a small return flow from the tricuspid valve. However, the family, consisted only of Ruoying's father and grandparents, cannot afford the expensive surgery due to the meager living they make on their farm, which often only yields enough crops, mostly



barley and potatoes, to support the family and not to be sold. Because the father must work to provide some source of income, Ruoying's elderly grandparents are left to take care of the child and do some farm work. Furthermore, since Ruoying is still so young and can only drink milk, the family's expenses are exceptionally high, rendering them in a dire financial situation.

During the family visit, AHI volunteers learned of the hardships that the family had to face and discovered that though Ruoying was supposed to have check-ups every six months, this was the first examination she has had since her diagnosis more than 18 months ago. Due to the urgency of Ruoying's situation, she was given the surgery in advance on Feb. 12, 2009, only a month after her family visit.



HOLDING HANDS: Ma Ruoying (left) and Ma Juan (right) had their surgeries one day apart.



Follow-up Date: 03-27-2009

Weijun, age 10, was diagnosed with the congenital heart disease called Double Outlet Left Ventricle (DOLV). He received surgery on Nov. 10, 2008 at Fuwai Hospital in Beijing. The surgery was very successful. It has been many months after the surgery. How is he doing now?

On March 25, AHI arranged for Weijun his father to receive a follow-up at Lanzhou Hospital. AHI volunteers were happy to see that Weijun had gotten chubbier in the last months. His cheeks are rosy, and his lips had turned back to red. In addition, his surgical scar had healed properly. Dr. Liu, the physician responsible for Weijun's follow up, had listened to his

heart beat, examined his x-rays, and concluded that the surgery was very successful and everything was back to normal.

As of now, Weijun is continuing to rest at home. He is planning on going back to school at the start of the next semester. Weijun had told the volunteers that he doesn't feel symptoms such as shortness of breath anymore every time after he walks or plays, and his appetite has increased significantly. Weijun's father is also deeply appreciative and profoundly touched by all the help that the "AHI volunteers and donors had provided for his family in giving his son a second chance at life."

Ma Juan (2 years old)

Operation Date: 02-13-2009

In July 2008, AHI volunteers traveled to a small, rural town in Dingxi, Gansu called Tuan Jie Dun to visit the then 2-year-old girl Ma Juan. In order to reach her house, the volunteers had to hike along a trail through dirt roads, farms and a scattering of chicken features. When they arrived, the entire family crammed into a tiny room with a dirt floor and a leaky ceiling made with mud. Ma Juan's family was in a very poor financial situation. In addition to caring for Ma Juan, who has been sick since her birth, both of her parents had to support her two ailing



grandparents as well. Their only source of income was an eight-acre farm on the mountain, which produced only enough to support the family and some farm animals. So even if the family had liquidated all of its assets, it would only have amounted to 2,000 RMB, not even close to the required expenses for the surgery.

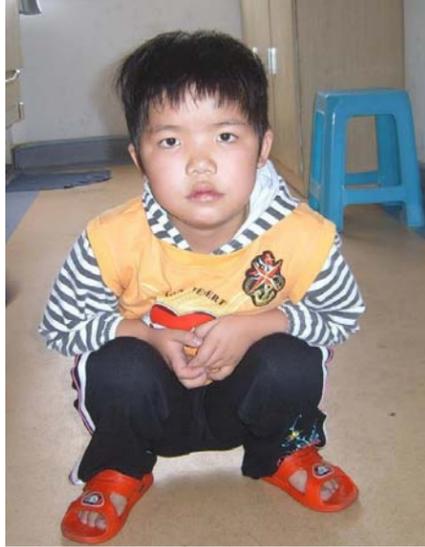
During the family visit, Dr. Xingguang Liu listened to Ma Juan's heart with a stethoscope and determined that Juan's was curable. In fact, the treatment for her condition yielded almost a 99% rate of success. On Feb. 13, 2009, Ma Juan was successfully operated on and was discharged from the hospital a week later.

He Jiayi (8 years old)*Operation Date: 04-21-2009*

He Jiayi, age 8, lives in Fuzhou, situated in the Fujian Province of southern China. She was diagnosed with congenital heart disease when she was only two years old. Due to her family's humble living and her father's poor health, her family could not afford the costly 30,000 RMB (approximately \$4,300 U.S. dollars) for her heart surgery. There was nothing much that her family could do for her until their kind neighbor, Mr. He, helped sent out letters about her situation to nonprofit organizations asking them to give help to Jiayi. Her condition was first noticed by a nonprofit organization called China Kind Fund (Zhong Hua Ai Xin Ji Jin), which then referred Jiayi to AHI. Since her information was sent out to many nonprofit organizations, this is AHI's first collaboration with three other nonprofit organizations: China Kind Fund, Overseas Save Chinese Children Foundation (OSCCF), and Angel Mom Foundation.

When AHI volunteers paid a home visit to see Jiayi on March 17, 2009, she was in critical condition. Her lips were dark colored, and she was breathing very heavily. Seeing Jiayi's very poor health and the financial status of her family, AHI officially decided to provide assistance towards Jiayi's

surgery. AHI's Dr. Shouyan Lee contacted Fuzhou Hospital and met with its cardiovascular physician, Dr. Wang, who agreed to help perform the surgery. With the help of kind



neighbors who raised 15,000 RMB (approximately \$2,100 U.S. dollars), AHI volunteers and donors with and volunteers from our partnered nonprofit organizations, Jiayi was able to receive surgery on April 21, 2009. She was able to leave the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) on April 23 and was discharged on May 1. A follow-up will be provided after we receive further information. Jiayi's family is deeply grateful to everyone that helped give Jiayi a chance to live and also a future.

Chen Wenbo (3 years old)*Follow-up Date: 01-11-2009*

On Jan. 11, Dr. Shouyan Lee led our group of five people to Chen Wenbo's house three months after his surgery for a return visit. The child now has a lot of energy, a rosy facial complexion, and he sang and danced on his bed for us to see. It was difficult to think that the child that was so full of vitality had just undergone a huge surgery just three months prior. Chen Wenbo was not shy with strangers at all, and he was very outgoing in his performance for us. We laughed heartily with him as he played. His grandmother held his hand, thanking us again and again as she watched the child run, now so happy and healthy.

Soon afterwards, Dr. Lee examined Wenbo's surgery scar. There had been a very small reaction to the stitches, but after listening to his heart, Dr. Lee assessed that everything was normal. We were so grateful to hear of such a successful recovery, and we believed that all of our hard work had truly paid off.

On Feb.5, Wenbo accompanied his father to the hospital again for a subsequent check-up. The doctors performed an auscultation, handled the reaction to stitches, examined the heart's color, and found that everything was normal and in order. His surgery has yielded such great results!

**Liu Lele (3 years old)***Follow-up Date: 01-11-2009*

It was a beautiful Sunday on Jan. 11 when Dr. Shouyan Lee visited Liu Lele and her family in Dingxi together with four other volunteers. Nine months after her surgery, Lele now looks a lot stronger and healthier than before. Since Lele had been brought to the hospital too many times, she used to cry loudly as soon as she saw the stethoscope. However, this time, she cooperated and became very quiet when Dr. Lee did a check-up on her heart. Lele's parents revealed that she had never had a cold ever since the surgery and that she can play games



with her brother and jump around in the backyard without any problems.

Lele is a completely normal child now. All her families appreciated AHI's help from the bottom of their hearts.

Ding Xiaoyan (11 years old)*Follow-up Date: 02-11-2009*

Ding Xiaoyan received open-heart surgery June 25, 2008 at Gansu Province People's Hospital.

Feb. 11, 2009, eight months after the difficult but successful operation, Ding Xiaoyan's father brought her to the hospital for a post-operation checkup. When Xiaoyan saw us, she

constantly running in front of all her classmates and friends. The treatment had affected her physical stature as well. Xiaoyan now has a rosy and healthy face, and she has grown in stature, finally starting to gain weight. In fact, her improved condition is already beginning to influence her



gave us a very warm smile and waved. Before her operation, Xiaoyan had been one of the shyest children we'd ever met, never even looking at us directly in the eyes. The young child whose head was always bowed and whose minimal conversation consisted of subdued whispers, Xiaoyan has transformed into a beaming and vivacious girl. In particular, her surgery had been somewhat tricky due to the complex and prolonged nature of her condition. But after listening to her heart, Dr. Xingguang Liu declared that not even the slightest whisper (a symptom of malformed hearts) could be heard. Xiaoyan's heart is now like that of a normal child.

Xiaoyan's father also told us that before the surgery, she always had trouble climbing just the slope up to their doorstep. Just reaching their home cost her a lot of effort; not only would her lips turn blue, but she'd be gasping from the lack of air and had to stop multiple times to rest. Now, her father proudly states that his daughter can even outrun the parents to their doorstep. One breath, and she'd be on the top of the hill. At school, Ding Xiaoyan is now

entire future. Before, she was not allowed go to school for two reasons: one, she physically could make the mile-long hikes, and two, her father believed that daughters do not need an education. With AHI's encouragement, however, Xiaoyan's dad has changed his perception. Now Xiaoyan tells us that she loves school, and being with other children her age has given her something to laugh and smile about.

Ding Xiaoyan's success is extremely dear to our hearts. With one surgery, she has gained health, friends, and a chance for a future with happiness. She no longer has to suffer the stigma of being unhealthy, of being bedridden, of having to think about death even before being given a real chance to live. But this surgery has affected far beyond just Xiaoyan. Her recovery has moved her father to the point of tears, to altering his views on a girl's role in society. Now the prospects of Xiaoyan's four sisters, one older and three younger, have brightened considerably as well. The surgery has given Xiaoyan a new life and hope to a despairing family. This is what we had hoped for.

Lan Xiaohua (13 years old)

Follow-up Date: 02-11-2009

Lan Xiaohua, a 13-year-old girl who had received open-heart surgery on June 25, 2008, had been recovering at home for eight months when she arrived at Gansu Province People's Hospital with her father on February 11 for a check-up. We



exchanged heartfelt handshakes, while Xiaohua continuously thanked the AHI volunteers, even happily posing for pictures with Ding Xiaoyan.

Currently in 5th grade and receiving excellent grades in her class, Lan Xiaohua tells us that she is now

able to participate in P.E. along with her classmates. In addition, she is for once able to persevere through her studies, no matter how strenuous or difficult the coursework is. Before the surgery, she had often been overtaken by bouts of exhaustion and would be thus unable to complete the homework assignments. Now, however, whether it's running, jumping, or helping her parents on the farm, Lan Xiaohua remains healthy and robust doing activities that were once impossible for her. She thanks Angel Heart for all the help they have given her and her family, and she promises to repay the kindness shown to her by studying and working diligently and helping other people.

The young girl who wrote the inspiring composition "I Love the Little Grass of Spring" is now able to pursue her ambitions and to become the strong, fearless grass she once could only admire.

[Journey, from Page 1]

On the other hand, Alice, Shouyan's daughter, had not yet had the chance to get surgery, so she needs to be treated carefully in everyday life. How can her father put their concerns aside and set up Angel Heart to serve the others? I see God's power and mercy in Shouyan's and Weijun's families.

Yonghui took Weijun's father to look for lodging, and they found a 60 RMB/day room. They told me it was a small local apartment crowded with families from all over the country coming to Beijing just to seek for doctors. When I first heard about it, I didn't pay much attention, nor did I really understand what it meant. We then accompanied Weijun and his parents to the scheduled X-ray and



DOCTOR'S ORDERS: Liu Weijun finally meets with Dr. Liu Yinglong.

cardiogram, and we were waiting to see Dr. Liu Yinglong, the chief-surgeon, who's known as the number one pediatric surgeon in Asia. As I was there at the hospital, I saw many people coming from all over the country waiting to see doctors. Yet due to the overwhelmingly long waiting list, all these people can do is to wait in despair. I felt grateful for Weijun. Had it not been for Angel Heart, he would have been one of them and would never have had a chance to meet Dr.

9,000 to 10,000 RMB in Beijing, a sum that was too huge of a burden for Weijun's family. After seeing the worried expression on the father's face, I started to pray to the Lord. I asked for His grace to come upon the family, for wisdom to guide the doctors, and for the next day's ultrasound to be clear enough for the doctor to diagnose that a costly angiogram would not be needed.

After the x-ray, Shouyan and I went to visit the apartment where the

Liu. So from this point of view, he is luckier than the others. I started to pray for him, hoping everything will go well.

We finally met Dr. Liu after he finished his previous surgeries. He and Shouyan talked to Weijun and looked at his diagnostic report and the film from Lanzhou Hospital, but the diagnosis was unclear and another angiogram was needed. At that time, Weijun felt hungry, so I took them to eat noodles. It was then that I had a few intimate conversations with Weijun's parents. Although it was hard for me to understand them because of their accent, they told me that the heart imaging had cost them 4,500 RMB in Lanzhou (it seemed too expensive to me). But then I was told that it costs

Ran Lihong (10 years old)

Follow-up Date: 02-15-2009

Ran Lihong, age 10, was diagnosed with Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD). She received surgery on September 24, 2008 at the Gansu Province People's Hospital. How has she been doing after her surgery?

Due to her father's recent leg injury, Lihong arrived at the People's Hospital with her grandmother and uncle for her follow-up. Lihong's improved health was apparent by her rosy cheeks and red lips. She is more talkative than before, and she became chubbier. Due to her recovery, it seems like the child gained more self-confidence and became more outgoing. She told the AHI volunteers that she is currently still resting at home and haven't gone back to school.



Dr. Liu concluded that both the surgery and her recovery were very successful. Lihong will be able to go back to school starting next semester. Afterwards, volunteers accompanied Lihong to take x-rays, and the results showed that her heart looked very healthy and her scar had recovered very well.



PIGEONHOLE: Squeezed into a tiny room, the family of three patiently waited for Weijun's surgery.

family was temporarily staying. Although it was a building with elevators, the place was very crowded, and we had to wait three rounds for the elevator before we could go up to their room. When I saw the condition of their room, I was shocked again. I finally realized what a pigeonhole is. That room was only a few square meters with a bunker bed and a nightstand and nothing else. The family said they had dinner, but it was just a few buns. I felt my heart aching and decided to bring some food for them the next day. Because of his similar experiences with this kind of disease, Shouyan often talked to the parents about their child and his illness.

When we got down the elevator, we met a mom with a 3-year-old girl, and she told us that they had been waiting for three months in hopes of receiving the necessary surgery. I was startled and began to worry about whether or not Weijun's family could afford to stay here in Beijing that long. Furthermore, Shouyan would leave for the United States on Nov. 11. How could I handle this by myself? I have no experience at all. From then on, I kept praying for the schedule for Weijun's surgery. Later when I came back home, I felt far more exhausted emotionally than physically.

That night, a sister called me, but I felt too tired to answer it. I didn't even know what to tell her. I saw such a big difference between my family and Weijun's, and I didn't want to comment on it in order to avoid any misunderstandings. The next day, I heard the message from that sister, and I called her back. To my surprise, she fully understood how I felt. We were praying together on the phone to thank our Lord for the blessings he gave us. We also sought for His grace upon children like Weijun and their families. When she asked what she could do to help, I encouraged her to go visit the sick boy, and she agreed. She even encouraged me to write down the testimony to help others. She also brought the message to her fellowship group, where there are lots of sisters like me. Usually, I hardly ask for help, but this time it was different. God showed me that "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him," so I did two things: I invited Shouyan to share his testimony with our fellowship group Friday night, and I called my friends to tell them the story of Weijun. I didn't expect much feedback from them, however, but, praise God, it's obvious that God had sent so many angels around me. The next afternoon, I was really nervous, so I kept praying while Weijun was taking the color ultrasound. I know that God loves every one even when they are not yet His followers. After the doctor's careful diagnosis, Weijun's condition was classified as Tetralogy of Fallot. (This was actually not correctly diagnosed. It is actually far more complicated than this, but I will talk about it later. Anyway, God is in charge.) This diagnosis saved the family a lot of money because they didn't need to do any more imaging. Weijun's parents were so happy, and I also greatly praised our Lord for this result.

On Wednesday night, Nov. 5, my fellowship sisters and I met at the International Church. During the meeting, I shared the story about

Weijun and asked them to pray together for the arrangement and success for his surgery. They were all really responsive. Praise the Lord!

It was on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 6, that we could finally see Dr. Liu Yinglong. On the day before, I had asked Weijun's father to go to the hospital early in the morning to get on the waiting list because they only have



WAIT: People lined up really early to get on the waiting list, reserving their places in line with papers.

eight numbered spots open to see the doctor in the afternoon. These precious spots on the waiting list can be sold on the black market for 2,000 to 3,000 RMB per ticket. This shows how difficult it is to see a good specialist doctor in China. There were waiting list papers put underneath the gate of the hospital, which meant that someone was already saving a spot there in the line because he or she was waiting there early (sometimes a day before) to get the number to see the specialist. That morning, I got the message from Weijun's father that he didn't get the number. I was so disappointed. This meant that we would have to wait for another week to see the doctor because Dr. Liu only sees patients once a week. But our Lord had a special arrangement for us, for He answers our prayers. When Dr. Liu saw so many sick kids waiting, he gave out more numbers. I was so impressed that Dr. Liu was not only a good doctor, but also had a kind heart to the families in need. I prayed to God to let Weijun have his surgery on Nov. 10, which is the day before Shouyan's flight. After seeing Dr. Liu, Weijun was admitted for surgery with a deposit of 50,000 RMB. Little Weijun was so blessed that he could have his surgery so soon because it usually takes less fortunate patients half to one month of waiting. Praise the Lord for Weijun's luck! That night I got a message from Shouyan when I went back home. He said Weijun's operation would be on Monday, Nov. 10. I was once again touched by God's love, favor and mercy.

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that

Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 4:14-19)

Nov. 7, Yonghui and I picked up Shouyan from Qinghua University, and we had dinner nearby. We now had a deeper understanding between us regarding the work that we are involved in, and we discussed more about contributing to charities. I have always been willing to help others because I'm blessed to be affluent, but my so-called generosity can still be questioned. First of all, without my husband's support, I can hardly be generous. Secondly, if the person who needs help is not so lovely in my eyes or doesn't meet my expectations, can I still carry it on? Thirdly, it is easy to make cash donations to a charity since I don't need to meet the people personally, but is this right? Anyway, what Shouyan said woke me up: "Don't feel superior when you help. Instead, put yourself in the same position as others."

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. (2 Corinthians 8:12)

Like our Lord Jesus Christ, He is Son of God, but humbled to be a man serving sinners in the world. We have to be as humble as Christ is when doing good deeds. Otherwise, we don't deserve His Salvation on the cross. I will serve from my heart and show others more sympathy.

That night, Shouyan gave a wonderful testimony at our fellowship. All of us had a great discussion, and a girl even said she wanted to be a volunteer right away. Also at that time, my mother-in-law and her friend were on vacation in Beijing and stayed with me. They luckily heard Shouyan, and I hope his story can become rooted in their hearts with the power to change their lives someday.

Nov. 8, I contacted Weijun's father and found out that there were special rules for the patients. The patients must be isolated from outsiders from preparations for the surgery until recovery. This meant little Weijun could not see his parents until he has recovered from his surgery. I could only comfort the family and tell them that whatever is good for the success of the operation is good for Weijun. On the other hand, I tried my best to pray for the little boy who traveled far from the remote Linxia, Gansu Province.

Nov. 10, it was the big day for Weijun. I invited sister Lihua to pray with us as we waited outside the

operation room. Lihua is my prayer partner and has a strong faith. We were waiting there with Weijun's parents at 6:30 a.m. because the hospital allowed parents to accompany the children on the operation day. When Weijun was slowly moved towards the operation room, I could only stand outside and watch him through the windows. He was so weak and alone, and I could hardly hold back my tears. I wished I could hold him in my arms. Praise the Lord, hearing our request, the nurse let Lihua and I to see the little boy. Lihua brought some gifts for him and read the Bible stories on the calendar to him. His parents listened carefully

“Don't feel superior when you help. Instead, put yourself in the same position as others.”

too. We, with his parents, prayed together, hand in hand, for peace to come to us, for the heavenly wisdom to come to the doctors, and for a successful operation and recovery. My heart was filled with peace and joy given by our heavenly Father. We are so lucky that we can rely on our dearest heavenly Father. Weijun was sent to the operation room at 8:30 a.m., and all the rest of us waited outside patiently. The time went by slower than we expected. It usually takes two hours to do the surgery for Tetralogy of Fallot, but Weijun wasn't sent out until after 11:00. I, with little faith, felt so worried. Fortunately, we have the Lord around us, and we can

complicated than what it appeared to be on the images. When they opened his chest, they found out that it was not a Tetralogy case. At that moment, I didn't understand what Weijun really had, but to put it in simpler terms, if there was one problem in a normal case, there were six in Weijun's. Praise the Lord that He gave the wisdom to the doctor and made the operation successful. Dr. Liu said that Weijun was cured 75% through the surgery, and if he passes intensive care, it will be 90%. If the surgical wound heals well by the time he leaves the hospital, it will reach 95%, and then 98% if they arrive home safely in Gansu. His report gave us full of hope, but we still need to pray constantly.

From Nov. 11 to 21, the hospital sent daily text messages to Weijun's father about his recovery, and even though everything went smoothly, I still felt a little worried and wanted to get more details. God showed me His mercy once again. Through Xiaofan, a volunteer from Suzhou, I got to know Qinye, a nurse in Fuwai Hospital. I called her later and she told me that she was taking care of Weijun the first two nights after his surgery. She gave me details on how Weijun recovered. I was extremely grateful. Praise the Lord because He provides!

On Nov. 15, our old friend, Wang Xiuqiang, of 10 years who currently resides in the United States and who is also one of the leaders in the organization, wanted to pay a visit to Weijun. I asked Qinye to arrange their meeting on the next day, which was a Sunday, when Qin was on duty.

Nov. 16, Xiuqiang and I went to visit Weijun. His parents didn't go because they didn't want him to start crying when he saw them, possibly hurting his wound. We decided to let Xiuqiang go into his room, and I just stayed at the door. I peeked inside



HEALTHY: After his surgery, Liu Weijun laughs happily with his father.

call upon Him anytime.

Weijun's surgery took five hours, and we heard his name at 1:30 that afternoon. Fortunately, everything went well. Later, we met with the exhausted Dr. Liu in his office. He told us that Weijun's condition was more

when Xiuqiang got in, but I was immediately caught by Weijun, and he started to cry. I comforted him with a few words and then hurriedly ran away.

Nov. 21, it was time for Weijun to be released from the hospital, and

[See *Journey*, Page 8]

AHI's Financial Statement

<u>Income</u>	<u>2008</u>
Nonrestricted Public Support	
Corporate Contributions	\$9,204.00
Individual Contributions	\$19,374.45
Gifts	\$100.00
Restricted Contributions	
Sichuan Earthquake Contributions	\$6,218.00
Grants	\$15,000.00
Investments	
Interest-savings, short-term CD	\$342.82
Total Income:	\$50,239.27
Expense	
Program Expenses	
Surgery Fees	\$17,720.04
Bank Fees to China	\$136.55
Sichuan Earthquake	\$6,218.00
Operating Expenses (USA)	
Printing and Copying	\$211.75
Office Supplies	\$59.56
Telephone, Telecommunications	\$45.29
Operating Expenses (China)	
Office Supplies	\$102.29
Total Expense:	\$24,493.48
Net Income:	\$25,745.79

[Journey, from Page 7]
the family needed to pay the bills. I was both happy and worried. Usually it costs around 50 to 60 thousand RMB to treat a Tetralogy patient. How much would it be for Weijun's more

complicated case? I'm very much afraid of dealing with money, and before Shouyan left, I talked to him about the cost. He told me that the foundation would give up to 20,000 RMB depending on the financial

situation of the family. If it was not enough, the family needed to pay the rest or raise the funds locally. But I felt it difficult to ask Weijun's parents to do so. In addition, I had already asked friends to donate things for Weijun, so I felt it was beyond my right to ask them to donate money. Thanks to God for giving me the authority to pray. He said, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

The next day, Nov. 22, Weijun's father and I, with uncertainty in our minds, went to the hospital to settle the bills. We couldn't believe our eyes when we received the bill. The total was 35,000 RMB and 15,000 RMB would be refunded from the deposit. My eyes were soaked with tears. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." (Ephesians 3:20) I have so little faith that I don't deserve God's grace. What a great love on me, a non-perfect me. Hallelujah!

Nov. 24, I took Weijun's whole family to Tian'anmen Square. I got to know that Weijun was naughty too. When he was joking with his dad, he had a naughty smile like a bad little fairy. I felt so delighted, as if flowers were blossoming in my heart, to see that his parents were no longer worried and that they are full of hope. God will bless this family.

Nov. 25, Weijun went back to Lanzhou by train. They had two big bags full of the clothing and toys donated by our sisters and brothers

from the church. What God supplies is far more beyond our imagination. We were so grateful.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)



TRIP: Released from the hospital, Weijun and his family visit Tian'anmen Square.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Hebrews 12:1)

When we see those in trouble, don't speculate. They did nothing wrong nor is God punishing them. We ought to know that it is God's mercy to let us live happily and healthily. We owe Him if we don't do anything to help others for men or for God. Praise the Lord to let me have this meaningful life-changing experience.

Donation Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Email _____

Donation Amount _____

How would you like to be listed (circle one)?

As Listed Above Anonymous In Memory Of In Honor Of

Name(s) _____

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