

Nic, Sarah, Ayla & Seren

Newsletter December 2015



We just moved into our new apartment. We love it. It's beautiful. After a week it's the most 'at home' we've ever felt. If you don't follow us on Facebook, you're probably thinking 'that all sounds too easy'; you'd be right. Life, especially in China, is rarely that easy.

Coupled with an unusually busy work week, challenges from neighbours and sick children, moving was anything but simple. But, as several Chinese friends told me in the course of these events, 好事多磨 'the road of happiness is strewn with setbacks'.

For over a decade, living in China doing social concern work was our dream. We've been realising that dream more fully than ever...and it's been tough. But we are living it. We're walking the 'road of happiness' and hope that, as 2016 creeps in, you also find yourself in the centre of where you're supposed to be.



Last three months



Sarah: Relationships and teaching has personified this last quarter for me. Two incredible local friends have joined me part-time in the foundation office; one a trained social worker and the other a gifted administrator; the re-registration and local volunteer project simply wouldn't have been possible without them. I've also been privileged to teach in a variety of locations on a variety of topics; including Social Work at the main University in Yunnan, Life Skills and so much more. I've really enjoyed the opportunities, faces and places I've experienced as part of this!

Ayla & Seren: As well as Chinese kindergarten in the morning, we now do 'play school' at home in the afternoon. The girls think it's a lot of fun and especially love anything that involves dressing up or getting messy! We also found a far less militant ballet class and it's one of the highlights of the week for both girls. Seren had her 1 year post-placement review and her exuberant personality was noted as requiring a lot of energy from her family, but - with the exception of hearing related speech delays, she's doing great. Both Ayla and Seren also really enjoyed special time with grandparents in October.



Nic: Phew! That's the best word I can choose to describe the last 3 months. The re-registration of Sunrise as an official body is complete. The end of year report that compliments and supports our registration is also complete and final. The Sunrise website is complete for the development side of the foundation cxsunrise.org/ngo. All these were on my to do list to complete before Christmas and I'm happy to heave a great big sigh of relief. There's more to do but right now we all deserve a well earned rest and some time to enjoy Christmas.



Other things that have filled our lives over the last 3 months include:

Our first Local Volunteer intake finished, with our 3 dedicated volunteers having spent an incredible 375 hours with their young people over the last 6 months. Not only did they see their young people - some of the most marginalised and disabled in the city - grow and change, but were deeply changed themselves in the process.

The new intake has increased from 3 to 10 volunteers, half working in the orphanage and half in the Social Welfare Institution; dealing with issues from preparation for work to dental hygiene to bullying. We're so excited about the difference these volunteers can make!

Our work at Kunming orphanage's Infant Care Room has expanded. The girls visit the babies every week, Sarah teaches basic English weekly to some of the workers, and we've been holding special events to encourage these ladies who work so hard, the latest being an incredibly fun pamper evening.

Sunrise Local Volunteers

Local Chinese people helping those in social welfare institutions, hoping to help them grow socially, academically and emotionally with a view to entering into mainstream society in the future. Please be thinking of our local volunteers, (names below).

Child Welfare Institution

Zhu Zhu

Yao Di

Jenny

Jenny no.2

Social Welfare Institution

Wan Ming

Zhang Meng

Li Peng

Nancy

Keep us in mind as:

1. REST
2. Host several Christmas/New Year events
3. Seren has medical checks in Thailand and as we make decisions about surgeries and hearing aids.

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Please feel free to contact us, we look forward to hearing from you