



Dot and Yodak Hospital Visit Aug 2010



This visit was slightly different for me as I was not travelling with Mifan MaMa but on a bus provided by Shanghai Yodak Cardio-Thoracic Hospital www.yodak.net We arrived at the hospital 08:45 on the Saturday morning for a 09:00 departure. There were around 30 people on the bus; Mifan Mama was represented by Holly, Dave, Jenna and I, there was a Christian group from 'Fruit of Love' but the vast majority of people on the bus were staff from Yodak hospital. We stayed overnight in Fuyang and departed at 08:00 on Sunday morning for the orphanage, which was just over an hour's drive away.

It was a really nice day, clear skies and not as hot as it has been recently. We arrive at the orphanage just after 09:00 and as per normal were immediately surrounded by the kiddies who could not wait to greet you and to try to take you away to show you around. 'Fruit of Love' had brought some 'goodie bags' for the children and quickly started to distribute them. I spent this time walking around saying hello to the children I knew and also meeting new children. The rest of the visiting party started to look around the orphanage. Included in the group were two doctors and a nurse from the hospital, after a brief discussion with Lao Wang they started their 'rounds' of to examine some of the children. The lorry arrived just after 10:00 and with the help of some of the hospital staff and the always enthusiastic help of the children quickly unloaded. The 'goodie bags' from Mifan MaMa were also quickly distributed. I saw baby Christopher and he look comfortable, I also confirmed that soya milk was being produced every day. I was told that there were 20 babies without cots.

The doctors continued with their 'rounds' and were giving me regular updates. One of the baby's which gave cause for concern was Wang Xia, she only has one arm and had a 'growth' on her



groin, One of the doctors examined her and said the 'growth' was caused by her small intestine pushing down which was brought on by crying, he also said it could be easily cured. When I was with her she looked quite happy and comfortable. Holly was quite concerned about a baby she had seen during her previous visit. Her name is Wang Shen, she only look about 3 or 4 weeks old and had a large bandage around her head she seemed in a lot of distress crying all the time. The doctor examined her and said that she had been born prematurely and was probably around 7 to 10 months old, he also said

there was no immediate cause for concern and that her weight was increasing by 1Kg per month. It may be worth a follow up progress check on her during the next visit. There were three other babies which the doctors raised concerns about. The first girl is called Xing Xing, she has been in the orphanage for about 2 months and has a heart condition 'Tetralogy of Fallot' (ToF) it can be treated and although not life threatening at the moment the sooner it is treated the better as it will affect her development and the condition will continue to deteriorate. The second, baby Yue Hui is a more urgent case, she has a hole in her heart and communication between her two main arteries is also impaired, she is 3 to 4 months old, has been in the orphanage for over 20 days and has gained no weight at all, she really needs an operation quite quickly. The third baby Pan Pan is between 3 to 4 months old and has been in the orphanage for over 20 days, the doctor said that she only has a single ventricle but he did not have the equipment to carry out a full evaluation, his recommendation was for her to go to the hospital where the equipment is available to carry out a complete evaluation, he also said that she should also be considered an urgent case.

We departed from the orphanage around 12:30 and after lunch at a local restaurant set off for Shanghai. We arrive back in Shanghai about 21:30, it was quite a tiring 2 days but as always wel worth it and very rewarding. I would like to take this opportunity thank the Yodak hospital an for providing transport, organising accommodation and making the journey there and back enjoyable, especially Jessie for facilitating the trip and Tracy for her help as an interpreter.



