



Newsletter

February 2013

ASIAN AM FOUNDATION



Happy New Year! Chuc Mung Nam Moi!

Well it's already February and I thought now was a good time to give everyone an update on our activities over the past few months.

Ladies High Tea Fundraiser

Our fundraiser in Parnell was such a huge success and I would like to say thank you to everyone who made it possible (food helpers, ticket sales, venue hire, raffle sales).



We managed to raise an incredible \$4,000 at the event which is by the largest sum so far!

120 guests donned their Sunday best to attend our High Tea. They enjoyed delectable scones, sandwiches and baked goods, we had a variety of books on sale and of course our sort after raffle prizes.

Giving to others

I communicate with many other charities around the world, to bounce around ideas, learn from their fundraisers and find out how they are spending their donations.

One charity caught my eye, New Beginnings Mai Am. Check out their story and find out why we donated to their cause:



www.newbeginningsma.org



Christmas Joy

At the end of last year I was approached by my local volunteers about the upcoming festive season. Although most of the orphanages I support are Buddhist, what child doesn't get excited about Santa?

None of the children have belongings, all clothing and toys are shared amongst the other children. I felt it important for these kids to experience some Christmas fun like we do in NZ.

So, one of our awesome volunteers dressed up as Santa, and went around to deliver a bag of goodies to over 500 children.



Spreading the Word

Last week I was invited to speak at two church services at St Andrews Anglican Parish. Being my family church, it was a privilege to speak to the congregation about my charity and teach others about another culture.

I received some great feedback and support on the day and the next few weeks the church will be collecting funds for the next trip!

I am now approaching a few other churches to see if I can share my story with others.



DESKS DESKS DESKS!

Last year we were able to set up a new classroom at Loc Tho with 15 school desks (see photo). The desks are made by a local carpenter which puts money back into the local economy. They have a built-in bench and seat two children each.

Loc Tho and Hoa Sen Charity Schools have both requested help so we have put in an order for 36 new desks.

If you would like to purchase a desk, they cost NZD\$40 and I will make sure you receive a photo of the children who benefit from your kindness.



Chuc Mung Nam Moi! Happy New Year!

Sunday was Vietnamese New Year (“Tet”) and marked the Year of the Snake. Traditions are an extremely important part of Vietnamese society and a new year is the most auspicious time. Asians countries all around the world celebrated with lion dances, family gatherings and fireworks. We wanted to make the children’s day special so provided them each a lucky red envelope with a small amount of money. Not only is Tet the beginning of a new year, it is also everyone’s birthday!



Why red? Red is the most popular colour appearing in Vietnamese festivals. It signifies prosperity and great luck.

What is lucky money (“Li xi”)? It’s a way of honouring children, brings good luck and good fortune.

I am year of the buffalo!



New Account Number
Kiwibank – Quan Am Foundation
38-9014-0306458-01



April 2013 – Sydney/Ho Chi Minh/Nha Trang/Hong Kong/China

I am so thankful to be returning to Vietnam for a month in April. I cannot wait to be reunited with all my kids!! I am spending 6 days in Ho Chi Minh, visiting the government run disabled orphanage, as well as another new place with many terminally ill children. I will then fly up to Nha Trang to be reunited with Hue and all my amazing friends. After this I am spending 6 days in Hong Kong and China visiting with my Dad.

Have you seen this photo of my hotel room? Unfortunately I am unable to travel by myself with as much luggage as last time and I have already received a significant number of clothing donations. However, if you have any small toys that can be clipped onto cots or beds, posters for decorating walls or would like to donate new shoes, arts or crafts, I will be taking these sorts of items with me.



Phan Thien Hue – Life with no arms

For those of you who follow my story of Hue, the baby born with no arms, these photos might surprise you.

Last week I received these amazing shots of 13 month old Hue taking his first steps. This is a huge achievement as last July he was struggling to lift his head and could not sit unaided or attempt crawling.

Along with this I received word that the nuns are allowing me to take Hue to see a specialist doctor. We desperately need x-rays and blood tests to check that nothing else is wrong. This will also help me to work on his case with paediatric specialists in New Zealand. At least 300,000 people in Vietnam are HIV positive, so we also need to find out which children are carrying the disease and prevent it from spreading.



One day old