

親愛的天鄰基金會朋友:

天鄰基金會在中國大陸辦教育事工已經約二十載,而且都得到當地教育局、老師、家長及學生們所歡迎。工作包括重建了十二所農村小學,為農村小學生而設的暑期兒童班,每年提供數百名高中助學金,為助學金學生舉辦青少年夏令營,每年兩次的英語教師培訓班等等。自從中國三年前國家改變政策,對海外非政府組織加強管控,特別是有宗教背景的團體,一切活動改為公安局及國安局批準,而非以往的教育局批準,我們的工作被一一叫停,但是沒有給予理由,唯一剩下的就只有高中助學金。

天鄰自今年年初開始,探討中國以外的教育事工,曾到中亞、東南亞及中東等地區,最後選擇了吉爾吉斯坦。吉爾吉斯坦與中國、哈薩克接鄰,可說是中亞細亞政策最寬鬆的內陸國家,1991年脫離俄羅斯統治獨立,國家語言是吉爾吉斯語,官方語言至今仍是俄語,而英語越來越受到重視。2018年人口約622萬,78%的人是回教徒。這個回教國家聚集了不同民族,主要有吉爾吉斯坦人、烏茲別克人、俄羅斯人和東干人等。失業率和離婚率甚高,民族衝突、貪污和貧窮問題極其嚴重。

今年七月22日至29日,一行十人的教育隊,開始第一個吉爾吉斯坦的英語夏令營,60位學生由當地一個基督教團體從不同學校挑選,按程度分成三班。課程內容包括:彼此認識、世界著名的歌曲、父子情的故事、哥林多前書第十三章愛的詩篇等,層層相扣,目的讓同學們明白愛是實踐,施比受更有福。營會的主題歌曲來自聖經<<加拉太書>>第5章22-23節:「聖靈所結的果子,就是仁愛、喜愛樂、和平、忍耐、恩慈、良善、溫柔、節制。這樣的事沒有律法禁止。」,雖然根據該國的宗教政策,不可以公開進行宗教活動,但想不到在這個回教國家特定的學校範圍內,隊員竟可以跟當地青少年一起背誦聖經金句、講聖經故事和唱詩歌,教育隊為此禁不住讚美神!

第二隊伊拉克骨科隊剛剛完成難民營的工作,為 120 位門診病人診治,並為其中 20 位病人做了手術,現在等候手術的患者很多。隨信附上今年一月病者手術後的相片,手術都非常成功,病人的肢體變形得到改善外,功能亦有很大進步。

祝 主愛永久!

您的同工

劉漢本

美國天鄰基金會主席 2019年11月11日





July 1, 2019

Dear Friends of HIS Foundation,

HIS Foundation has been conducting education ministries in China for about 20 years. They are very welcome by education authorities, teachers, parents, and students. The program included rebuilt of 12 rural elementary schools, annual children summer program, hundreds of high school scholarships every year, annual youth camps for scholarship students, and twice a year English teacher training courses. Since the change of laws about 3 years ago, the government increased control of foreign non-profit organizations especially those with religious background. Nowadays all programs have to be approved by Department of National Security instead of education authorities. We were told to stop the programs without given reasons. The only program remains is the high school scholarship.

Since early this year, HIS Foundation had been seeking opportunities to run education programs overseas. Teams were sent to Southeast Asia, Middle Asia, and Middle East. Finally, Kyrgyzstan was picked. Kyrgyzstan is a landlocked mountainous country in Central Asia. It is bordered by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China. It became independent from USSR in 1991. Both Kyrgyz and Russian are official languages, however, English is getting more and more popular. The 2018 census shows a population of 6.22 million with 78% Muslim. Ethnic Kyrgyz is the majority group followed by significant minorities of Uzbeks, Russians, and Tungan. Unemployment and divorce rate are high. Poverty, corruption, and ethnic conflicts are serious social issues.

From July 22 to 29, a 10-member education team started the first English Youth Camp in Kyrgyzstan. A local Christian ministry assisted in selecting 60 students from elementary and high schools. Students were divided into three groups. The youth camp had a very rich program with its theme on love. The program used First Corinthians as reference. In addition, group games, singing of famous songs around the world, English classes, crafts, and dodgebee were part of the program. The theme song is on Galatian 5:22-23. The team was surprised that even though Kyrgyzstan is a Muslim country, Christian messages were allowed if given in a school and not publicly. They gave praise to our Lord for this wonderful opportunity to witness.

The orthopedic team to Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) just finished another mission serving the refugees. 120 outpatients were seen, and 20 patients had surgeries. We have included photographs of our postoperative patients from January. Their operations were successful in correcting the deformities and regaining good functions.

Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely,

James Lau, M.D. Board Chairman

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IN SHORT-TERM MISSION