



*Silver Lining
Journal*

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SILVER LINING DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM

Extraordinary Women
I am Zhang Mama

Photo by: Laurence Lai

Contents

02

FROM THE FOUNDER

My name is Daddy Yeung Chris Yeung

04

COVER STORY

Silver Lining Distance Learning Program
Lin Yinghua

10

UPDATES

Extraordinary Women Editorial

22

FOOTPRINTS

I am Zhang Mama Principal Zhang

FOOTPRINTS

What is Disabled? Joe Yeung
A step by step guide Lam Wah-ching

30

KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge of the month – Epilepsy
Dr. Lui Hoi-Ki
(Neurology Specialist)



Mission Statement: "Your LOVE changes LIVES"

Silver Lining is committed to help the impoverished orphans, students and disabled children in the mountainous area, through improving their lives, education, job opportunities, rehabilitation and providing emergency medical assistance. With our love and action, we hope to send care and blessings to the marginalized and neglected, help them overcome poverty, while re-establishing their dignity and hope.

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Photo by: Laurence Lai

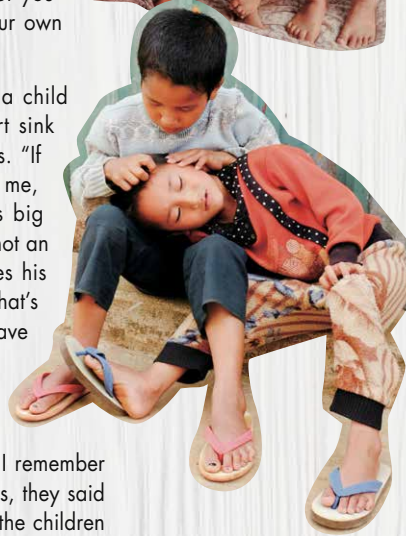
My name is Daddy Yeung

"Uncle Yeung, there's a classmate at school who is always pointing at me saying that I am an orphan. He says I have no mother or father to take care of me and I might as well be dead! It makes me feel so sad and mad!" When I heard about this, I was so furious! Even I wanted to punish that inconsiderate child.

"Who says that you don't have father and mother to care for you? You are our precious children, our pride, ever since you were young. The Silver Lining Care Center is not considered an orphanage because all of you children have uncles and aunts to care for you and you have your own home. You are no longer an orphan."

"I know I have uncles and aunts to care for me, but I am still a child without parents," Xiaoli said quietly. Hearing this made my heart sink because I understood what the children desire most in their hearts. "If that rude child says this to you again, you tell him that you have me, Daddy Yeung, who always encourages and loves you." Xiaoli's big teary eyes glistened. "Yes! You're right, I have Daddy Yeung! I am not an orphan and I'm even more blessed than those bullies! He only sees his real dad for a couple days during Lunar New Year and that's it. That's about the same things as being an orphan, but that didn't matter, I have my Uncle Yeung...Daddy Yeung who I always get to see, who takes me out and encourages me too!"

For some time now, I have realized that the children at the Family Center wanted to call the aunts who take care of them, Mommy. I remember when I asked a few children to do a recording to thank their aunts, they said in the recording that they wanted to call her Mommy. When I take the children out to play, they cling to me and hold my hands...always looking so happy. I



recognized that look, it was the same expression my youngest daughters face had.

In the beginning, we were afraid the aunts at the care center wouldn't be able to take care of the children fulltime which is why we asked the children to call the caregivers aunts. We did not want them to suffer from losing their "parents" again if an auntie were to leave. However, as years passed, we came to realize that by not allowing the children to call their caretakers Mommy, is a form of rejection. So now, the children all call their caregivers mommy, we have Mommy Liang, Mommy Zhang, and Mommy Xiaolan.

I was worried by how the children would react to this change. One time when I was having a lunch with some of the high school kids, I told them if they weren't used to calling me Daddy Yeung, they could call me Uncle Yeung. I remember Yuehui, a rather timid and quiet girl responding, "No, we always wanted to call you daddy." My heart warmed up when I heard that - now I know what "heart-melting" means.

In Silver Lining Myanmar, the children call their caregivers daddy and mommy. The children even called Pastor Zhang and his wife Daddy Zhang and Mommy Zhang the first time they met. When the children first arrived at the Family Village, most of them were in a rather unhealthy state and would often become ill. Daddy Zhang and Mommy Zhang would take care of them day and night.

After spending so much time with the children, it is apparent how much the children love them, as if Daddy Zhang and Mommy Zhang were their biggest pride and satisfaction. Mommy Zhang lost her father when she was young, so she understands the children and their inner needs. When I mentioned the children she took care of, she told me, "These children are so lovely. They always save the best dishes for me to eat. The most touching part was that they told me, 'I love you to the moon and back, Mommy Zhang!'"

Children at the Silver Lining Family Village in Myanmar also call me Daddy Yeung. One time, when I took the children to school, I walked and talked with Dixian. I asked him about school and he told me he got into a fight with a few other classmates, who teased him for not having parents and called him an orphan. Oh, there are such rude children everywhere. I told him if this happens again, tell your teacher and don't use your fists. The teacher will reprimand this bully. Dixian responded by saying, "Yes, next time I will say I do have parents! I have Daddy Yeung!"



Silver Lining Distance Learning



By Ms Lin Yinghua (Deputy Director of Conductive Education Center)

Last year, the distance education program, the "Anywhere Door", was an important breakthrough for Silver Lining. Its birth was deeply related to the children with Cerebral Palsy that had to leave the rehabilitation center due to a variety of reasons. Silver Lining now arranges a minimum of two visits each year to students to extend support and care for them.



Throughout the visits, Ms. Lin (left) began to understand more about the children's needs.



Rehabilitation therapist pays a visit to Xiaojia regularly and follows-up with his recovery progress.

Pay back the teachers?

There were two children that had touched me the most during my visit. The first child was a sixteen-year-old boy named Xiaojia who had constant cramps throughout his extremities. He had a wonderful personality and always had the brightest smile on his face. Xiaojia was very intelligent but was unable to walk. When his parents went to work, he stayed at home by himself. He was not able venture beyond his bed and only had access to his side bed table. He would order food delivery if he felt hungry and would avoid drinking water because he did not want to bother his parents. He said he wouldn't need to go to the washroom if he didn't drink the water.

During one visit, Xiaojia asked me to lend him 100 yuan (approx. US\$15). "I want to earn more money so I can go back to study at Silver Lining. I miss my teachers and classmates very much! I know work for Mommy and Daddy is very tough and I don't want to be a burden to them. When I start to work, I will return the money to you!" Xiaojia's words have given me mixed feelings. Though he had only stayed at Silver Lining for six months, this was the happiest time in his life.

Don't want to return to Silver Lining?

Xiaoyu is a good student with great attitude and academic performance. After finishing 2nd grade, he was able to go to school on his own with walkers. Though he left Silver Lining, due to family reasons, his grandparents wanted him to go back to school. On the day of visit, Xiaoyu changed his mind and said "I don't want to go back to Silver Lining!" Xiaoyu would not answer when we him asked why. I was shocked and also disappointed.

At a later time, Xiaoyu was finally honest with me when his grandmother went out to run a few errands. "Ms. Lin, I really miss the teachers and classmates at Silver Lining and I wish to continue my studies. But the other night, I overheard my grandparents' conversation. They were worried that they weren't able to find a job in Nanning to sustain our living since they are getting old. I heard their sighs and I don't want them to feel upset so I decide not to come back!" I held back my tears and held Xiaoyu tight, without saying word.



Silver Lining's teacher pays a visit with Xiaoyu's.



1 We have invited several children with Cerebral Palsy from the community to join the trial class. Classrooms were set-up with computer stations. The teachers were in a room close by to teach. The children are curious about the classes and proactively answer teachers' questions.

2 In our first group, there were 23 children with Cerebral Palsy and their parents who participate in distance education program. During the training session, the students intently listened to teacher's guidance.

3 When the parents received training, the teachers worked with them and designed a class syllabus specific to the children's cognitive abilities.

4 In order to help his grandson to receive rehabilitation education at home, a grandfather, who had never seen a computer, held the mouse with his rough hand to practice turning on and off of the computer. What a tough lesson for Grandpa!



Silver Lining "Anywhere Door"

After going back to Silver Lining, I kept thinking what I could do for them where they didn't have to leave their homes. The children all wanted to go to school and knew that their physical and mental health would only decline without some kind of intervention. I knew that two or three visits a year would not have much effect. I wish I had a "Anywhere Door" where I could take myself to teach them in their own home! I suddenly got an inspired idea! Even though I physically can't be there with them, they can still be guided and taught, right? These children are familiar with the conduction education system, the class routines as well as some rehabilitation movement skills. Even when the parents are not with them, many children are capable of having their lessons with teachers on their own.

I brought the idea to my colleagues to discuss the feasibility and they all supported the idea. Through our Distance Education Program and Technology Program, we can support and care for these children remotely. We began to promote new this idea and recruited parents to help out. Teachers and rehabilitation therapists created a syllabus and rehabilitation arrangements and procedures. Social workers followed up with parents' network and purchased computers, monitors, other hardware and software as needed. Our IT department set-up and tested the system before we kicked-off our first remote trial with the children. The trial was a huge success and convinced us that remote distance education is possible! I am so grateful for all of these lovely children, parents and teachers as well as their mutual support. The "Anywhere Door" was successfully open after two months of preparation!

Parents' Sharing

"Please do this with me..."

Since Xiaoshuang has joined the Distance Education program, my life has become much more occupied. I would wake early in the morning and usually did could sleep well. I would be annoyed and think, I don't want to go to work today. I would think to myself that I didn't want to do my chores but then I would hear a voice in my ear. "Mommy, please keep it up. I will work hard in my studies! Let's do this!" Sometimes my son is the one who reminds me why I should persist.

Every morning at 9.30am during weekdays, my son would always on time for his teacher's online arrival. I can see that he pays attention to his learning and likes this new way of remote teaching. "Please do this with me..." When he heard the teacher, and through the computer screen, he saw other classmates are following teacher's instructions. It would feel to him like

he is playing a game. It was very enjoyable to watch him as he learned. We are so pleased that our child is focused in on his learning.

When asked if he can follow the flow, Xiaoshuang would say: "Not a problem!" I felt that my child has gained confidence, which makes me so proud. I am very thankful that Silver Lining did not leave behind Xiaoshuang and am very grateful for all of the staffer's contributions which have given us strength. Although I still fight with my alarm clock each morning, I am willing to work even harder for a better life. I want to continue to see my son's bright and confident smiley face.

Mother Xiaoshuang



Xiaoshuang is having rehabilitation training with his mother's assistance.



Distance Education allows Xiaoshuang to continue rehabilitation training at home.

You are my blessings - Silver Lining Distance Education

Since Huihui was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at seven months, we have been visiting different hospitals for rehabilitation and treatment and used up most of our savings. Huihui's father could not bear the pressure and gave up on us. Just as I was most desperate, Silver Lining Guangxi reached out to us now Huihui can finally receive free rehabilitation and education.

With the teachers' dedicated guidance and efforts, Huihui made great progress in his rehabilitation and cognitive abilities. He reached the minimum requirement to go to a regular school and as a result, we left Silver Lining. We also had to suspend Huihui's rehabilitation training. I was always in despair because I had to work to support my family but my son's rehabilitation training was sacrificed.

The suspension of rehabilitation training has led to muscle stiffness for Huihui, which worried me very much. After some time based, I received a call from Ms. Lin. I told her about my child's difficulties

and the situation at home and she immediately suggested that we register for the Distance Education program. Huihui can continue his remote on-line rehabilitation training and regular school studies. At that time, I was still doubtful. "How could we have rehabilitation training if we did not visit the center?"

Without noticing Huihui has already received rehabilitation training in the method of distance education for two months, his muscles were not as tense and it was easier to put on his shoes. He said the tendons in his feet were painful when he walked, but now, after remote training, he has no more pain. He also doesn't feel tired raising up his arms as he did before. It used to take him nine minutes to walk from the first floor to third floor classroom. Now it only takes him three to four minutes. My son's improvement is the result of Silver Lining's unconditional love and support!

Mother Huihui



Huihui is having distance rehabilitation training at home.





Seven extraordinary years - By Auntie Xiaolan

Time flies, I have served in the Silver Lining Care Center in Dahua for seven years now. During this time as a caregiver, I have had the privilege to live with children of different backgrounds and personalities. This experience has not only enriched my life and work experience, it has also strengthened me by putting me in various complicated learning situations.

During this time, I performed my duties diligently and made sure I always did my best. In the process, I deeply felt that in order to do my best, I must spend time with the children genuinely and build trust with them. However, time and efforts are needed to build these relationships. Instead of spending time with my own family and friends, I have made time for these

special children. I hope I can help them to find sense of security and self-confidence and to experience what love really is, as well as the warmth Silver Lining has brought to them.

This extraordinary task has trained me into a sensitive, patient and responsible person. This experience has made me more grateful and also has influenced my two children to be kind-hearted and satisfied in life. My efforts gave me huge returns and my family has become happier. I believe the happiness is not a coincidence, but a true blessing from above.

After seven years in Silver Lining, I will remain my true heart and always be grateful in the future path with Silver Lining!

Extraordinary Women

By Editorial

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8th each year to recognize women's contributions and achievements in the political, economic and social arenas. In Silver Lining, we have met many respectful women, witnessing strong and beautiful souls. Although they may not have made achievements within the general social expectation, they have made great efforts in their respective roles and positively influenced others' lives.

We invited three extraordinary women to share their stories. We found that the stories are always linked tightly with the children. It takes longer to educate a person than growing a tree. Building lives is indeed a lifelong commitment.



"Mommy, it's great that I can learn in Silver Lining!" (Mother Xiaohao)



I am from a rural village in Guangxi. After a year of marriage, I gave birth to Xiaohao. He was born premature and only weighed about three kilograms. Every time I thought of his tiny body my heart would sink. When he reached nine months, Xiaohao was unable to raise his head or sit probably. His father and I thought premature babies may have slow development and our family also told us the same to comfort us.



Yet, the situation kept going until he reached ten months. Being anxious, we sensed something was wrong. We took Xiaohao for a check-up at the hospital and he was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. My husband and I found it hard to accept - when I heard "Cerebral Palsy," my heart was hurting. My tears dropped onto our child's face, where his bright eyes glanced back to me.....

After thorough consideration, we were determined to raise him with love no matter what! I brought Xiaohao onto an endless path of medication. I went to many hospitals and organizations - just anywhere, that I heard good things about - and eventually exhausted our savings and we were in debt. We had no choice but to go back home.

After time, Xiaohao reached the age to go to school. Yet, he could only stay home while other children

from neighborhood went to school. He did not have friends, classmates or the opportunity to study. "Mommy, why can't I go to school? If I didn't have any knowledge, what am I supposed to do when I get old? I really want to study and be literate!" He always asked me and I felt very guilty and frustrated when I heard him say these words.

In 2016, Xiaohao, now 14, finally had a chance to go to school! Xiaohao arrived at Silver Lining at Guangxi where he received free rehabilitation training and education. He is very happy that he now has classmates' and friends' to be with. At Silver Lining, Xiaohao is always praised by classmates and teachers which brightened up his personality. He treasured this opportunity so much and always said to me: "Mommy, it's great that I can learn at Silver Lining!"

I felt relieved to see him happy. I am thankful to Silver Lining for giving children a chance to be part of the rehabilitation and education center. This brought me hope when I felt helpless.

We went to the zoo to watch dolphin show. Silver Lining always organized outings for the children to learn more about the world.



My happiness and hope (Mother Xiaojue)

I never thought I would be able to work at Silver Lining and take care of my child at the same time! The big family of Silver Lining did not only give me warmth, but also brought me happiness and hope - I feel like my family is surrounded by warmth and happiness!

My son Xiaojue suffers from Cerebral Palsy. We came to Silver Lining for rehabilitation training and education three years ago. I am grateful for the support and encouragement from many of the workers as well as teachers' efforts which have contributed to Xiaojue's happiness, physical recovery and learning. In terms of learning, Xiaojue has greatly improved. His vocabulary expanded and has even written a passage of over five hundred words. His life has been blessed with friends, teachers, education and healing.



Silver Lining has set up Silver Lining Workshop in 2005, providing employment training and job opportunities for the disabled and others in need and improving their livelihood.

Since Xiaojue needs to be taken care of during rehabilitation training, I gave up an opportunity to work in the city. During the toughest time in my life, Silver Lining provided free rehabilitation and education as well as allowing me to work on some handicrafts in the Silver Lining workshop. This helped relieved me of my financial burden by making money while learning new skills.

I cannot imagine what my future life path would be if I had not met-up Silver Lining. Silver Lining's unconditional love and support has given me strength and hope and has encouraged me to walk step by step!



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With your support, every child can become a little angel that blesses others!

US\$38/Month

Become a child sponsor and connect with your sponsored child through letter correspondence or visit. Your monthly donation will enable Silver Lining to care for orphans and impoverished children in the mountainous areas, as well as children who suffer from cerebral palsy. Your love changes lives!



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Since 2005, Silver Lining has been doing poverty relief work in Guangxi. We are committed to help disabled children or those living in poor rural mountainous area. Become a “Silver Lining Partner” through a regular monthly donation of US\$20 or more, you can partner with us and bring hope to children and families living in poverty.



CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE

Thank you for your support to Silver Lining Missions. Please help us keep our records updated by reporting any changes. You may send your updates to: info@silverliningmissions.org or fill out and return the form below:

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The Most Beautiful Language

I am Mommy Principal



Principal Cheung (first from right) at the Opening Ceremony of Silver Lining Myanmar.

By Principal Cheung (Silver Lining Myanmar principal)

Silver Lining's children are orphans who have been through a lot at during their childhood. I know their pain! I lost my father when I was young and my mother raised me and my siblings up on her own. Without a father, we were always bullied since we were little. My mother had to support the family and work at the same time - it is not difficult to imagine her hardship! In this unthinkable environment. My mother would always say "I am glad that God is always with me. He always took care of the orphans and widows during difficult times." Years have based by now and I thank God for his love.



Every child has their own story in this place.

Because of my past experiences, I have many unspeakable emotions towards my work. I still remember my first encounter with the children. Some had strong personalities and others were indifferent. Some times our communication was difficult because of our language barrier. Many times, my passion turned into frustration and felt that these children were not lovely angels anymore. During these moments, I would think of Mr. Chris Yeung, the founder of Silver Lining. Chris would always say "When you feel frustrated, imagine what you would do if this was your own child and your frustrations will dissolve."

It is true that the most challenging part is treating these children as our own. Children are naturally sensitive. They will remember your love and reward you with the big smile that will melt your heart. I

always remind myself that these children sometimes misbehave because their families were broken. These children were also most likely lacking love, guidance and support. Only love can heal their precious souls!

Being with these children at Silver Lining over a period of time, I have developed a warm relationship with all of them. They expressed their love to me by saying things like "Mommy Cheung, I love you to the moon and back!" They were also very considerate by saying things to me such as "Mommy Cheung! You must be tired. Let me give you a massage." I am so grateful to receive love from these children. I feel blessed to see them grow every day and that our effort has made such great impact.

Family Village Story of Children

Guozhi

Guozhi, 13, is one of the first children who join the Family Village. When he was very young, his parents passed away. Guozhi lived with his brother and was facing poverty. He did not go to school since he needed to take care of children as well as doing farm work.

Guozhi childhood experience has resulted in his insecurity and communication with others. When he first arrived at the family village, Guozhi had very bad temper. The tiniest thing would make him upset. He would like hide away and refuse to eat. I would become frustrated over Guozhi's behavior! I told him numerous times "This is not right. You have to eat to stay healthy. Mother Cheung is really upset by this."

After time and much patients, Guozhi gradually changed. He now loves to be with me and others and there are now many smiles

on his face. One day he said to me "Mother Cheung, I don't have parents and I like you all so much. Can I call you my mom?" I was so pleased and my eyes began to tear up. I said "Of course!" without hesitation.

Guozhi sees us as his family now. When he spends his pocket money, he includes me. When there are nice dishes he would save me some and when he saw me busy, he would come help me with hugs. He accepts me as his mother now from the bottom of his heart. I am comforted to see him grow in such a happy and positive way at Silver Lining Family Village.

I always pray to God to give me wisdom and passion to treat every child, turning myself into blessings for the children.



Feifei

Feifei comes from a distant rural village. Her mother left home after her father's passing. She was sent to the Family Village by a preacher.

Feifei is nine years old and has an introverted personality. Due to language our barrier, she never really spoke, but would glance over people not connecting as most children do. In hope that Feifei would begin to feel home with the Silver Lining family, I would speak with her even though she did not respond. I gave her my devoted attention by spending time with her and cared for her in hopes that she would open up to me.

After a period of time, Feifei started to open up and would say "Mother Cheung, I love you!" She became very affectionate and always wanted to hold my hand and give me kisses. Sometimes, when other children came close to me, she would push them away and say "This is my mother, go away." I knew that this was a sign of insecurity and said "Feifei, though your mother did not come to see you, please don't be upset with your family. You have father, mother, brothers and sisters in here. We are one family. Mother Cheung loves you and all of the children in Silver Lining!"



I am thankful to all who have helped us. Your support allows these children to have a family again. I wish a happy childhood for all of these children as well as having their own dreams and the courage to realize them.

What is Disabled?

Interview with Joe Yeung

Last Christmas, Joe Yeung visited Silver Lining Guangxi with his brothers and sisters from the church. He is an actor, who played a role in a Hong Kong local drama series, his character was known as "Mr. Sze". Though the parents and children in Silver Lining might not know him as an actor, the impact Joe had at Silver Lining surely left him many unforgettable memories.

SL: What motivated you to help participate during your visit?

JY: Mainly because my church's brothers and sister invited me to attend. Even though I heard about wonderful sharing's at Silver Lining, I did not have a deep connection before.

SL: Can you describe to us about your visit itinerary?

JY: In general, I met with the children with Cerebral Palsy and their parents. We observed them in their classes at the Rehabilitation Center, joined them for a barbeque outside of the school and then went to their homes for a visit. There was a thirteen-year-old boy named Fugang. In my eyes, he was the star of Silver Lining. Fugang had Osteogenesis Imperfecta(OI), or Brittle Bone Disease. He really surprised me by his maturity!

SL: Why did Fugang give you such strong impression?

JY: One morning I introduced myself to a child with Cerebral Palsy at the Center. When the child tried very hard to speak my name, Fugang, who was just beside me said, "You can't say Uncle Yeung's name directly. To be polite, you should call him Uncle Yeung!" His maturity impressed me very much.

SL: Did you have any direct interaction with Fugang?

JY: His smiles and the shine in his eyes were so infectious, spreading a positive energy and spirit. I still remember when we were bidding farewell. We looked into each other in the eyes and was like an emotional scene in the movie. After we gave hugs to each other, we fell into silence for ten seconds. I encouraged him to work hard in his studies and he just responded with just an "hmm." His response was small but I felt the emotions and warmth in his heart.

SL: What have you experienced from spending time with children with Cerebral Palsy?

JY: As a colleague said, when introducing us to Silver Lining "Every life is worth respecting." After spending a few days together, these words make even more sense and have dimension to me now. I have witnessed how these children persevere and the and effort they give. There was one child that had the option to travel by car to our activity destination but insisted on walking. He even refused to ride in car at mid-way point then walked an additional 1000 meters. Although they have limitations, there is always places where they can shine. The children have been working together put on a stage performance. One of the Children told me he wanted to play the "father role."



Xiaowang and I walked slowly to the celebration place for Christmas. I appreciated his perseverance during the process.



Fugang, who has Brittle Bone Disease, was only able to stay home until learning about Silver Lining. Fugang now has a chance to study and be with people that care.



When travelling on buses, Xiaojun would experience cramps every other minute. Her waist and back become stiff. It is not difficult to imagine how tough the daily care would be.

SL: Speaking of father, can you share with us about your home visits with the children with Cerebral Palsy?

JY: We visited Xiaoyun, a home with a family of six. It was hard to hold back tears when we heard stories of Xiaoyun's mother and how tough it was for them throughout the years. There were sad tears, but also happy tears. The birth of Xiaoyun was looked at to be a misfortune and even a burden for their family but who would have thought they God's love and blessing would follow her to her family. Today, Xiaoyun's mother is so proud about Xiaoyun's improvement and their family life is harmonious. The obstacles are still there but they have regained hope for their future.

SL: Have you encountered other disabled children before?

JY: Some children are healthy and normal but are too dependent on others as if they are "disabled" in life. Some children are perfectly healthy in their minds even though they are physically disabled. Disability depends on your views and perspectives.

SL: What has this visit brought to you personally?

JY: I thought about how I should respond to others needs after my experiences with Silver Lining and the children with Cerebral Palsy and their families. Helping others is good but I was taught a lesson in life. That lesson was how to respond to God's will and to do the work that pleases Him.

A step by step guide

By Lam Wah-ching

This is the first time I participated in a short-term mission trip. I am grateful for the opportunity to visit Silver Lining Guangxi and share the blessings with the children. I believe our actions and encouragement will make the children feel the love and hope from above.

What surprised me was how different the children from Silver Lining were from my expectations. Usually, orphans tend to be quiet and timid with strangers and have a strong sense of self-defense. In contrast, the children at Silver Lining are very considerate, smart, and independent. During different activities, they would tidy up without being asked. They are also very considerate for others - getting us water when they saw us sweating. Although we did not have much time to spend together, we could see how Care Center has influenced them by their love, caring and nurturing support.



Photos with children at Care Center before bidding farewell.



Our team introduced the children different work industries in the form of working, broadening children's horizons.



After visiting the Rehabilitation Center, we took the children with Cerebral Palsy to a outing trip.



The theme of this activity was "Let the Dreams Fly". Our mission team from Singapore transformed into the crew of "Dream" and chased the dreams with the children.

In preparation for our visit, we encountered many obstacles including application processing, unstable electricity at the Care Center due to construction and very rough roads when we traveled around the Center. Even though we experienced many

challenges, we knew that God was always in control and cleared the way for us. We were able to successfully complete our mission with joy.

The most overwhelming experience during the visit was joining a class with children with Cerebral Palsy. We saw that the Center was able to provided a positive impact and give love and hope to these children. I witnessed how God delivers His blessings to many people through Silver Lining - not only the children but also people around them which bring hope to families in poverty. I would like to encourage everyone to support and join the work at Silver Lining, where you share the blessings with others and enrich lives!



Teaching children the spirit of cooperation and to face the challenges through games.

A Little Knowledge: Epilepsy

By Dr. Lui Hoi-ki (Neurology Specialist)

I had my first visit at Silver Lining Guangxi last October. Although it was only a half day visit, the Center's pleasant facility renovation, teacher's dedication and patience as well as the parents' efforts and love towards children left me a memorable impression.



My church brothers and sisters and me (center, front row) visits the Rehabilitation Center.

As a neurology specialist, it was a pleasure to share with tutors and parents at the Center. I can imagine it is not easy to take care of children with Cerebral Palsy. If a child has epileptic seizure, the parent's pressure is even more intense. I believe they have many concerns and questions and I hope that this article will be able to answer some of them:

Will my child have seizure? What should we do during seizure to reduce physical damage?

In general, there is a higher risk for children with Cerebral Palsy to suffer from epilepsy. However, a lot of well-known historical figures also suffered from epilepsy and have had great achievements, such as Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar and the famous painter Vincent Van Gogh. The medical world has accumulated more knowledge and developed medicine for this illness compared to the past. We now have a higher degree of methods and medications to control these epileptic episodes.

There are a few known causes for epilepsy: Encephalitis, head injury, congenital brain malformation, tumors, etc. Yet, most of the time the cause is unknown. Epilepsy is due to abnormal electrical transmission in the brain. If the abnormal transmission happens only in part of the brain, it is known as partial seizure. For instance, a child would rub their hands or pull their own clothes unintentionally, they have lost consciousness towards their surroundings. When this situation happens, parents can record a video and provide this record for doctor's reference.

If the seizure involves the whole brain, some children may lose consciousness and fall to the ground due to spasm. Parents and teachers should help the child lay on his or her side on a bed or the floor and ensure the surrounding area is safe. Do not place your finger or other objects in the child's mouth to avoid suffocation. If the spasm continues for more than five minutes, an ambulance should be called so the child can be treated at a hospital.

Spasm would occur when some Cerebral Palsy patients have seizure. Patients may also have foaming at the mouth, eyes looking upward and made sheep-like sound.

Why does seizure relapse after taking different medicine? Can we stop medication since it did not have much effect? We are worried about side effects as well. Is there any other treatment method besides medication?

Instead of completely healing the illness, medication can help lowering the relapse rate and the severeness of relapse. Studies have shown that one-third of the patients can avoid seizures by taking one type of medication, while the other one-third are refractory patients, meaning that taking two or more medications would not lower the relapse rate for them. When faced with this situation, one should communicate with their doctor to see if there are other treatment methods such as implants to stimulate vagus nerve, etc.

The common side effect includes dizziness and frequent fatigue. Parents should communicate with the doctor to find a medication that has the best effect without much side effects. It is not recommended to stop medication as it will instantly raise the risk of a seizure relapse.

Can my child live a normal life as an adult? Can they give birth and have their own family?

In general, children with Cerebral Palsy can have a normal social life and perform physical activities. They must also be accompanied by parents if they go swimming for exercise in a pool. For other activities such as dancing, watching television and reading, children can participate on their own and enjoy their free time.

Some of the Cerebral Palsy patients I know have even given birth and have been able to raise their own families. It would be wise to consult with a doctor if a young adult with Cerebral Palsy wants to marry and have their own children. Most patients are able to get pregnant and raise their children successfully as long as their medical situation is stable.

I still remember when the tutors and parents asked questions during the sharing session. I believe that understanding epilepsy is an important step to successfully controlling this illness. I hope that I will have other opportunities to share with you about the information relating to this illness.

Silver Lining Services

Missions Statement:

“Your Love changes lives,”

Silver Lining is committed to help the impoverished orphans, students and disabled children in mountainous area, through improving their lives, education, job opportunities, rehabilitation and providing emergency medical assistance. With our love and action, we hope to send care and blessings to the marginalized and neglected, help them overcome poverty, while re-establishing their dignity and hope.

HOME for Orphans
Family Model Orphanage (Silver Lining Caring Center)

LOVE for the Disabled
Rehabilitation Special Education Center (Conductive Learning)
Sponsor the rehabilitation service and education for children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy

Emergency Medical Assistance
Provide immediate help to sick children

Silver Lining Workshop
Provide job training and opportunities for disabled youth and women

JOY to the students
Improve the living condition and education of students in the mountainous areas

From:

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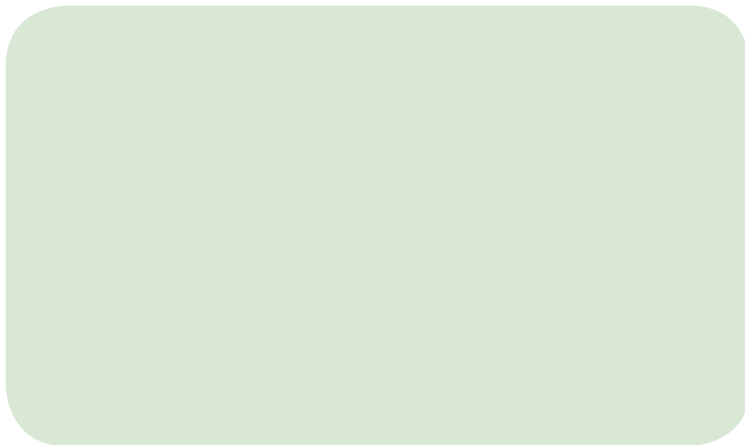
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