



NEWSLETTER No. 4

9 June, 2009

- *Jim, Wilma and the children visit China*
- *Relaxed meeting with the family He*
- *Fantastic reception in China at the start of project.*
- *Reporter World Service and newspaper Trouw reports on start project.*

Trip to China April and May 2009



Jim, Wilma, Eline and Anneli made yet another trip to China last April/May. This time accompanied by our chairman Mr Alfiero Metafuni.

After many preparations 22 April was the day. Eline was looking forward to going to China to meet her biological parents and sisters. She very much desires to see her family again. The first couple of days were spent in Chengdu, Sichuan's capital. And from there Jim, Wilma, Eline and Anneli travelled on to Chongqing by train. In Chengdu they were accompanied by Joan Huang, our contact in

Chongqing.

Relaxed meeting with the family He

On 25 April the group arrived in Chongqing by train. Joan had already been in contact several times with He Xiu Wen, Eline's father and Yixin, Eline's sister. The whole family would be waiting for Eline and her family at the train station. Unfortunately the trip took longer than anticipated, but at last we arrived at 19.00 hours. The platform is not accessible to people not travelling by train so we had to struggle with our luggage. And looking out for.....

Yes, there is father with Eline's youngest sister. And shortly after Wilma hears: "Mama, Papa, Wan Yin, Wei Yue Guo". Yixin and Lu are approaching with Eline's mother and an uncle. Hugs and kisses and a lot of laughing.

Before we left for China we received a surprise: Eline has another sister, Yugui, of 2,5 years old. We would meet her this time as well. Eline was really looking forward to this meeting. All suitcases were taken out of our hands, we weren't allowed to carry anything anymore.



Contacts with the He family

The main issue of the rest of the week was being together, meeting family, children playing together and doing nice things.

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But also more serious business: like talking about Lu's education, Eline's second sister of 15 years old. We're also looking into the matter whether He Xiu Wen and Wang Ming Hui, Eline's father and mother, can join an educational programme started by the government.

We received this information from **Mr Taylor He**, manager of the **Holiday Inn hotel** in Chongqing. When in Chongqing we stayed at this hotel. Holiday Inn is going to provide the educational facilities for this programme. In this programme people from the countryside are taught skills in order to get a better income. This will make them more independent which stimulates the economy. Both He Xiu Wen as Wang Ming Hui can participate and they are both interested. We'll stay in touch with Mr Taylor He on the matter.

Lu is having a good time at school. We can already talk English to her. What a change compared to two years ago. There's an agreement with school that Lu will have extra English lessons.

Also with Yixin we made agreements concerning her studies. She will continue her studies but first of all she will focus on the subjects in the Chinese language. At the same time she will study English from scratch. The subjects in the English language will follow at a later moment.

Great reception in China at start project.

Sunday evening 26 April employees from Foreign Affairs came to meet Jim, Wilma, the children and Alfiero. Both Mr Xu Sheng as well as his chief, Mr Li Qin, were present at this evening. Mr Li Qin would accompany us the day after to the Ming Jia School in Dashun. Mr Xu Sheng would not be able to join us due to other obligations. In China business is mostly done while eating. That's the reason why we went out for dinner with the family He, Joan Huang, the Foreign Affairs people and Karen Meirik from World Service.

Monday 27 April

The day the project at the Ming Jia school in Dashun starts. We leave in the morning for Fuling City with a bus from Foreign Affairs. In the morning we're offered a tour in a factory specialised in pickles. From there on we head for Fuling for lunch. In the meantime we joined by the Fuling Foreign Affairs employees. The town Dashun administratively belongs to Fuling. In order to settle all the matters we will be dealing with Mr Mo Shimin of this department. We are also welcomed by Mr Su Jian Jian, vice president of Fuling CPPCC. The trip goes further to Dashun, to the Ming Jia school. The further away from the city, the worse the roads and the circumstances of daily life. We see a lot of rice fields and houses that look poorer and poorer.

Ming Jia School in Dashun

Once arrived in Dashun an enormous surprise awaits us. The school board waits outside, children are welcoming us with a song: **Welcome Wan Yin, Welcome**. By Mr Su Jian Jian we're lead to a stage, all schoolchildren are sitting in rows on the playground.

We're welcomed by the director. We also make a speech explaining our story, who we are and why we want to support the children here.

Mr Su Jian Jian follows with his speech and he's followed by a student. Everything in Chinese, which is translated for us in English. Unfortunately the sound system is very bad, so we can hardly understand it. Fortunately everybody is willing to hand us over the original speeches. Also money is handed over for the children we want to support through the Foundation. These children are a little uncomfortable. Not amazing, because nobody wants to make public that

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"Alle kleine beetjes helpen..."



they are in need of money. We also get the chance to talk with the children and their parents or guardians.

The happiness of these people is enormous. You can see it on their faces. It gives us a feeling of gratitude. That we can mean something to these people. This day will be for ever in our thoughts.

Agreements are made with the school board and the children about the project. We are well aware that we can only help 6 children but we would love to mean more for this school. The reception in Chongqing was fantastic. Mr Xu Sheng explained to us that Foreign Affairs acknowledges the value of our project for China and also that it can expand. Mr Li Qin offered that he and his fellow workers would volunteer for our Foundation. We are really touched by the warm feelings we received from the family He and the start of our project with Foreign Affairs.

Reporter Karen Meirik of World Service and newspaper Trouw reports on start project

During the first couple of days in Chongqing we were accompanied by reporter Karen Meirik. The World Service and daily newspaper Trouw seemed to be interested in our story. In its newspaper of 8 May Trouw published an article on our project. You can find this article on www.trouw.nl/nieuws/wereld/article2755320.ece. Also World Service published an article on our activities: <http://www.rnw.nl/node/3111>

Due to the last article Wilma and Jim were approached for an interview on Radio 5 for the programme "Dichtbij Nederland" (Holland close by) This was broadcasted on Friday 5 June between 23.00 and 24.00 hours and can still be heard at "Uitzending gemist".

Further information about the activities of our Foundation can be found on our website: www.stichting-eline.org. At last: should you no longer wish to receive a Newsletter, please let us know.

Kind regards,
Eline Foundation

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