



## Save a Child's Heart Newsletter

**SACH Mission to China - 1**

**November 2008**

**Shijiazhuang, China  
November 16-24, 2008**

**Dear Friends of SACH,**

The plane arrived late in the afternoon Sunday November 16, 2008 and the 8th SACH Medical Mission began.

The team is headed by Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Lior Sasson and SACH Executive Director, Simon Fisher. Rounding out the team is Chaya Museri Head Operating Room Nurse, Olga Gor Operating Room Nurse, Perfusionists Yigal Sofer, Tomer Darshan and Orit Lentzner, Anaesthesiologist Dr. Vadim Khazin, Pediatric Cardiologist Dr. Alona Raucher, ICU Physician Dr. Ilan Cohen, ICU Nurses Arsen Arutiunian and Nataly Sagi, Neurologist Dr. Miryam Ginzberg and former SACH Volunteer and now a pediatrician himself Dr. Tommy Gerschman who is assisting Dr. Raucher.

Non medical staff is comprised of TV crew Yoram Shimon Benita, Alison Klayman and myself - Sheila Shalhevet SACH Board Member and In-house photographer.



A four and a half hour bus ride brought us to Shijiazhuang after midnight.

November 17, 2008 -  
07:00 am wake up.

Breakfast and a short ride to Hebei Children's Hospital where the SACH Team was

warmly welcomed as old friends by many of the staff who has trained with us in Israel.

The Surgical Team unpacked the equipment and set up the operating theater. The ICU Team did likewise. Parents and children crowded the hall patiently awaiting their turn to see the Doctors from Israel. Many had heard about the SACH Medical Mission through a news bulletin on the Radio and TV.

Dr. Alona Raucher and Dr. Tommy plunged right in and performed Echo Cardiograms on eleven children, seven of whom were scheduled for surgery. Dr. Lior Sasson and his team immediately jumped to attention and Zhang Yu Bo, age three, was the first child to have surgery the very same afternoon.



The TV Crew began their documentation of a five year old boy Yang Bin by going to his home in a village in Fu Cheng County three hours away from Shijizhuang. Yang Bin is scheduled for surgery Tuesday afternoon.



And I photographed away...children, parents and staff.

Dinner was an elegant affair. The SACH Mission was eloquently greeted by The Deputy General Director, Heibe Province Health Bureau of China, Wang Lan Xiao, followed by warm words from Dr. Li, Director Hebei Provincial Children's Hospital all translated by our host and compatriot Dr. Jiang Min Wang, Director of the Pediatric Department of the hospital. Dr. Lior Sasson responded heartily on our behalf.

And so ended day one.

November 18, 2008 -  
07:00 am wake up.

The day started with surgery number two, Xu Zi Ao age seven months.

Yang Bin, age five, the little boy being followed by the TV Crew will have surgery in the afternoon. Dr. Alona and Dr. Tommy continued screening children to decide which of the remaining children will be scheduled for surgery this week.



Our ICU people went into action as young patients who had surgery were transferred to the unit. And we are happy to report that yesterday's little boy, Zhang Yu Bo is doing very well and is already extubated breathing well on his own.

Dr Miryam Ginzberg is so busy in the Neurology Department that we hardly get to see her.

November 20, 2008 -

We will begin to hang the SACH Art to Heart Photography Exhibition. This unique show will officially open here in Hebei on Friday Morning, November 21, 2008.

The days will pass much too quickly - there will never be enough time to complete all we would like to accomplish. But as always, the SACH Team will do a heroic job and leave here feeling that we have been able to give more children a bright and healthy future.



Regards,  
Sheila

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