

Captivating
Nepal
P02

Captivating
Guangdong,
China
P03

Captivating
Africa
P04

Captivating
Qinghai, China
P05

Captivating
Guizhou,
China
P06

AN UPDATE ON THE WORK OF CAPTIVATING INTERNATIONAL

Simply Captivating

June 2013

5 years on ...

It's a Happy Anniversary year at Captivating. It's hard to believe we will be 5yrs young in a few months' time. Many of you have been with us since we incorporated officially as a Hong Kong charity back in October 2008. You've been with us through humble beginnings, bold steps, triumphs and challenges. Although the learning curve has been steep, we're all still here and marching forward with great anticipation of the coming years. Thanks for being part of this journey. We would never have dreamed that Captivating would today be focused not only on China, but also Africa and Nepal. There is so much need in the world, so we're pleased to be able to do our small part.

In this update, we will do our best to give a concise summary of each of our core project areas and some of the accomplishments of the past six months. Keep giving us your feedback and suggestions as we want to get better and better each year. Special thanks to our very active Board of Directors who not only take the time to get together several times a year, but who have also each taken on active hands-on roles in our different project areas.

Finally, to you, our sponsors, supporters and donors – thank you for your continual trust and support for our work. You have so many other charitable options available, and yet you choose to support our work. This is both humbling and encouraging. As Captivating continues it's move more and more towards fighting poverty and injustice in the most desperate of areas and circumstances, we continue to give thanks for your support and encouragement.

Andrew & Julie Colquhoun – Founders

CAPTIVATING INTERNATIONAL

5 Years On



**CAPTIVATING
INTERNATIONAL**

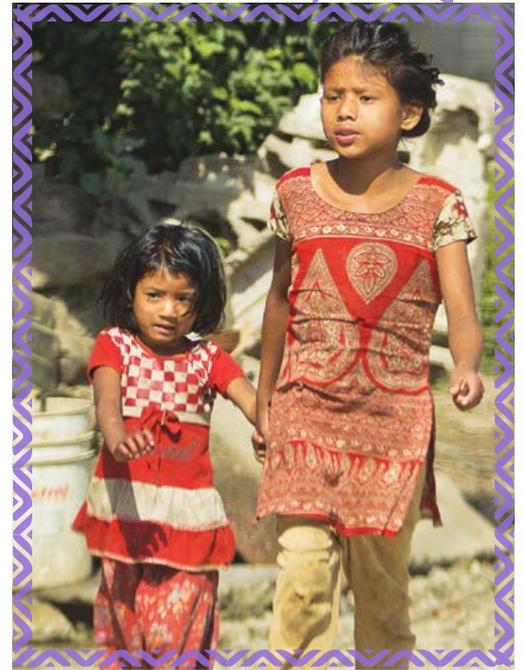
Reaching Out For A Better Tomorrow

CAPTIVATING NEPAL

– rescuing girls from Human-Trafficking

We've all been shocked by the countless stories of terror and tragedy of girls being tricked and trafficked into slavery and the sex industry. The stories are so frequent now that "in-action" is the easy outcome because it's simply too unbearable for many to get close to.

After several months of investigation, January of this year saw Captivating International join hands with a wonderful grass-roots group called Tiny Hands Nepal and their fight to intercept young children being tricked across the Nepalese borders into lives of slavery and injustice. For several years Tiny Hands Nepal has run a successful trafficking intervention model along the Nepal/Indian border. With Captivating's interest in helping China, we have now partnered together to implement a program that expands Tiny Hands successful model into Nepal/China border locations. Unlike the Indian border (which is OPEN, meaning people can move freely between both countries without papers), the Nepal/China border is tightly controlled. This makes testing of a revised model necessary with a focus more on monitoring key transit bus locations by trained Tiny Hands Nepal experts and interveners. Two key locations in Central Nepal are now forming the first locations of this pilot study. Additionally, six independent research assignments are taking place in red-light hot spots along the border to gain information on how girls are being trafficked and the best approach to intercept them before they cross the border. The research will also involve seeking critical information from convicted traffickers.



Julie, Dean & Gabe meeting with Tiny Hands



Standing at one of the monitoring checkpoints



Reviewing current locations

Some shocking facts about child trafficking in Nepal:

It is estimated that each year in Nepal, 10,000 – 15,000 girls are trafficked across border where they are sold into brothels and forced to become prostitutes. Girls range in age from 7 to 24 with the average age being 15. Tiny Hands has intercepted in excess of 5,000 children since they commenced their work in Nepal several years ago.

Most of the girls are from impoverished families and come from villages where they are lured by false marriages, or the promises of employment or education. Sadly, many are sold by their families who have little interest in keeping daughters. They are usually processed through Kathmandu on their way to the borders. When they get through the borders, they reach their destination where they quickly learn of their fate. The young girls are more valuable to traffickers (the myth that being with them will cure HIV and other STDs is common).

Often these girls are forced to have unsafe abortions. HIV and other transmitted diseases are very common. After they are found to have HIV, the girls are thrown out. If they return to their villages, they face being ostracized because of where they have been – because of what has been done to them. Many times their families will not take them back as their prospects for marriage or a job are very slim.

GET INVOLVED: Captivating plans to invest heavily in this problem of Child Trafficking which has become epidemic. As these pilot programs mature, we expect to expand this work with Tiny Hands Nepal and other local partners to intercept as many girls as we can ongoing. Ultimately, our desire is to address two of the root causes of this problem – family poverty and education. If you would like more information on this work with an interest in financially partnering with us, please email julie@captivating.org or dean@captivating.org



CAPTIVATING GUANGDONG

Both Project Eden (Dongguan) and Captivating's home office (Shenzhen) have continued to provide Vocational Development Program opportunities for girls this past 6 months. Currently there are 17 girls (16 years or above) receiving language development (Chinese or English) at both these locations as well as catch-up math and computer classes. Starting in the new school year, some work experience programs will be incorporated to give these girls a taste of what work is like and the opportunity to consider what areas they may be interested in exploring vocationally. Our special thanks to local businesses and partners in both these locations who are supporting these activities.



Shenzhen girls learning English with teacher Chris.



Free basketball coaching every week, thanks to 5-star basketball.



Seng Girls studying in Guangdong.



Eden's New Education Program

After the festivities of Chinese New Year settled down, we began a new routine at Eden. This semester, the girls are studying at home. Each morning, they walk up to our "schoolhouse" well before 8:00 to practice reading aloud or doing homework. Classes begin at 8:00, although the girls get up at 6:00 to spend an hour reading before breakfast. I teach English in one room to the 6th graders while the Chinese teacher has the 5th graders. At 10:00, we switch. With such small classes, the girls are doing well and are each able to get the instruction and attention they need. I'm enjoying teaching at least as much as they enjoy learning. Teaching, and learning a second language come with many humorous moments. I asked one of the girls during class, "How old are you?" and she responded, "I'm seven o'clock!" The class burst into laughter and they still haven't let her forget.

In addition to English and Chinese, they have math and music. They take the public bus into town in the afternoons to see a math tutor. On Tuesday afternoons, two music teachers come and teach for 2-3 hours. They teach piano, guitar, and voice. Already musically gifted, the girls love their music class. A few weeks ago, they had the opportunity to perform for an audience at a factory in another city. They sang one song and danced another. Eden has been ringing with the "sound of music"; or shall we say, the sound of learning music, as they patiently work through the notes of their new songs every evening. By the end of the semester, I would not doubt that "Fur Elise" and "Ode to Joy" will both have been played several hundred times! *(this blog story was written by their volunteer English teacher, Sarah).*



Kids getting ready to run at the 2nd Annual Husky Energy KWH Event.

Shenzhen Fund-raising events Besides the Annual Charity Auction in October each year (see Qinghai page) Captivating Shenzhen office support several other fund-raising activities raising funds supporting both Captivating administration costs and Guangdong based projects. We are so grateful for the local support.

The Husky Energy KIDZ WITH HEART Mini Olympics – held in April, 150 kids competed in Olympic style events. US\$25k was raised in support of Captivating's work with all proceeds going towards Captivating's office and administration expenses here in Shenzhen. Thanks to all supporters and corporate sponsors. Check out captivatingkidz.org for more details.

The Midnight Charity Race – this is held November of each year in Shenzhen with proceeds raised supporting the work of Project Eden and vocational development support for girls. This event raised in excess of US\$20k last year. Thanks Greg and your team. In addition, Greg started the first of what will be an annual beach run a few weeks ago raising funds for Captivating.

Shekou International School runs multiple fund-raising events to raise funds for Captivating projects, specifically the Seng Girls Vocational School and Home. This past year they raised close to US\$10k to help with the establishment of the Guest House at the Girls Home in Qinghai, as well as providing computer based English and Chinese language learning ebooks. Great work.

We were thrilled to have SWIS (Shen Wai International School of Shenzhen) involved with Captivating this year. They recently held a fund-raising Gala with 10% of the revenue raised coming to Captivating supporting our work to end poverty for poor families in Guizhou Province.

CAPTIVATING AFRICA

-Kisii Kids and more

18 months on, our support of the Kisii Kids Care Home (KKCH) is one that we are really enjoying partnering with. Stevenson and Damaris Maranga have hearts so big to help AIDS orphans in their local Kenyan community. Andrew recently visited the Kisii site specifically with the purpose at looking for sustainability opportunities to move the Maranga's towards self-sufficiency in their care of 47 children. He also was interested in looking at how the work could be expanded to help the many more orphaned children in this region through a community foster-family model.

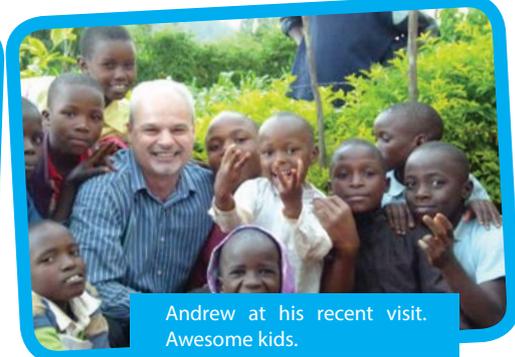
What he found was 47 kids happy and enthusiastic about their futures. They were so welcoming and engaging. Like most children we work with, these kids have been through experiences too much for children to bear. Many have watched their parents slowly decay and die a painful death from AIDS and then be literally abandoned by remaining family too poor themselves to take on more mouths to feed. Andrew was quite shocked by the extent of poverty in this region. Most are rural farmers trying to farm small acre plots that are simply not big enough to feed their family, let alone keep their kids in school. No wonder relatives simply abandon these orphaned kids.



The new dormitory



Stevenson & Damaris inspecting the new chick incubator



Andrew at his recent visit. Awesome kids.

Smiling faces sorting beans.



Andrew in the middle of tug of war.



Beautiful face, so genuinely appreciative of the help they get.



The past 6 months & what's ahead

has been busy for this project. Captivating funded Kisii Kids Care Home (KKCH) investment in some important on-site improvements in an effort to achieve registration as a children's caring facility by the local government. We will see in the coming months whether this has been successful. During Andrew's visit, a pilot chick breeding business was started with the purchase of a chick incubator and top quality eggs. If this 3 month pilot works, then it is possible that this could expand to become a viable small micro-business opportunity for many families in the region (increasing the chances some of these families might foster an orphaned child). Also evident during Andrew's visit was the huge number of homeless street orphans living in the local town. This is something that will be investigated further with the possibility of the older children at KKCH taking part in an emergency support program for the many Child Headed Households (CHH's) that exist. 150 street children have already been identified by Stevenson. The needs are great, but the solutions still need to be carefully considered. Without intervention for these CHH's, the oldest girl usually is forced to turn to prostitution or crime as a way of keeping her younger siblings alive.

GET INVOLVED:

We want to extend special thanks to the key families who have enabled us to get started with this project. You know who you are and we are so thrilled to have you partnering with us. Although our 5yrs of experience has taught us to go slow and steady with new projects, there is a sense of urgency here which we cannot ignore. This will require more supporters and we expect to see solutions that head more towards micro-finance type projects to fight poverty directly, as well as some emergency welfare support for these desperate street kids. If you are interested in getting involved, please email judene@captivating.org directly. **Judene and her husband Scott are Captivating board members and taking the lead on this wonderful and urgent project. They would love to hear from you. Child sponsorship of one of the Kisii Kids is also an option and this aspect of our program will be managed by one of our key family donors. Please contact sponsorship@captivating.org for more details.**



CAPTIVATING QINGHAI

The Seng Girls Vocational School & Home (SGVTS): Our work in Qinghai continues strongly into now our 5th year of partnership support for the Seng Girls Vocational School and Home. This project, started and run by LOVEQTRA – a Qinghai registered NPO, continues its support for girls from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds. Many of these girls had never set foot in a school before coming to the SGVTS. We have just completed a project visit with 3 special guests from Shenzhen who purchased their trip at the October 2012 Charity auction. It was great to see their reactions to the wonderful work and to also hear their many ideas seeing things with fresh eyes we can so easily miss.

This year marks the beginning of a new era of support for the SGVTS. With the past two years having a solid focus on sustainability, we are starting to see the SGVTS generate it's own income from the Tea-House and Guest-House established there. Our latest visit made it clear that one further investment is required to make both these facilities good income earners – the establishment of a restaurant at the Tea-House to provide pizza and local fast food for willing guests. With these combined elements, up to 40% of the annual operating costs of the home should be covered. This is great news.

Thank-you child sponsors – At time of writing, we are close to having full child sponsorship for this project. Thank you all members of our child sponsorship family for your loyal and dedicated support.

SAVE THE DATE – **October 12, 2013 is our 5th Annual Captivating Charity Fund-raiser in Shenzhen, China.** The SGVTS is our cornerstone project supported by this event, so please ensure to save the date for what will be a fantastic evening. Check out www.captivatinggala.com for more details.



Girls getting ready for their performance



Being entertained at the new Tea-House



One of the 8 guest rooms



Girls receiving news of SIS providing ebooks & getting their first look.



"Thanks for helping us!"



One of the families to receive help from the development program.



Andrew & Tracy meeting some members of the Shem team.

The SHEM WOMEN'S GROUP – Qinghai: We are thrilled to announce a new project partnership at Captivating. The Shem Women's Group is a wonderful Qinghai based organization dedicated to empowering local women and their communities through grassroots development. Their core focus is on increasing the well-being of people in impoverished communities by training educated local women to design, implement, and manage sustainable grassroots development projects that will successfully alleviate the problems that their communities face.

With Shem focused on training local women to implement projects, Captivating's role will be help fund these projects to get them started. We will work with them at the village level, helping impoverished families address their own poverty. The double benefit here is that the solutions put in place by Shem women not only address root causes of poverty, but also boosts the status of women in the local village now seen as solution providers rather than simply laborers.

Our first project starts immediately providing sustainable animal husbandry solutions to 74 families spread over two villagers. This is a 4 year program which will progressively eradicate their poverty and ensure children (including their girls) stay well fed and in school. As with most of our programs these days, there is no such thing as a free gift. Instead, villagers will sign agreements stating that they will pay the gift forward to other families. Over the 4 year program, in excess of 200 families will directly benefit.

For more information on this project, please contact tracy@captivating.org

CAPTIVATING GUIZHOU:

Our work with the Kaili township in Guizhou Province continues well. We are now almost at the halfway point of this work that will see 450 families end poverty forever over the remaining 2 years. Now scheduled for early completion in June 2015, the past 6 months has been seen more self-help groups formed in our second Kaili based village and along with it training on more scientific methods on how to raised animals, keep to vaccination schedules, and improve risk areas in their village communities. Additionally, and most importantly, more animals were delivered to new recipient families. We look forward to seeing the first passing on of gifts to new family recipients in this coming period. Thank you again for everyone's support of this project that is seeing mums and dads returning from city based employment and reuniting with their children now that it is becoming more possible to earn cash income back in their home villages. Captivating stuff.

We are totally impressed with the level of professionalism our partner, Heifer China, provide this project. Poverty is certainly becoming history.



The village celebrating together. Happy times - high hopes.



About Captivating International

Captivating International is a registered charity of Hong Kong (No. 91/9723) . In Australia, we operate in partnership with International Children's Care (Australia), a registered Australian charity (ABN 57146287274). In the US we operate in partnership with Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc (FOHKC), a 501(c)(3) registered charity (ID No: 30-0136665).

We can provide tax deductible receipts if you donate from:
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We can accept donations from: ANYWHERE

Can you help us help others?

"the habit of giving only enhances the desire to give"
—Walt Whitman, poet, 1819-1892

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www.captivating.org
Be sure to check out our BLOG section which usually has a new MONTHLY story for each project.

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WE NEED HELP!!! If you like to Tweet, can you tutor us?



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We upload video's from time to time.



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CAPTIVATING INTERNATIONAL

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