

Dr. Donald Mott's acceptance speech at the Award Banquet at Pacific Lutheran University - May 28, 2011

I am truly humbled and honored to receive this award and thank the greater Tacoma Peace Prize committee for considering our work in China worthy of this honor. Also I need to thank President Loren Anderson, Neal Sobania, and Rev. John Vaswig for nominating and recommending me, and for their support over the last 10 years.

I need to acknowledge my wonderful wife Barrie who has traveled with me, been my Sherpa, and while studying as a cultural anthropology major at PLU signed us up in 1982 for a 3-week tour of China led by Dr. Greg Guildin, where I was captivated by the Chinese people and culture. Then between 1996 and 1999 I made five trips with an international adoption agency from Seattle, evaluating children with disabilities in central China, and I quickly became aware of the desperate need for and lack of knowledge of the healthcare workers in dealing with children with Cerebral Palsy and related neuromuscular diseases. I gained credibility and trust during these visits and evaluated hundreds of children, but quickly realized this was not the most effective way to tackle this immense need.

Fortunately the Rev. John Vaswig connected us to An An Wu of the Amity Foundation in Nanjing in 2000 when we visited a polio rehabilitation project in Shangdong province, funded by the Norwegians! With the help of An An and Pacific Lutheran University we established China Partners Network, with the mission of improving the lives of children with Cerebral Palsy in underserved areas of China. Between 2001 and 2008 CPN has conducted nine week-long intensive training sessions for healthcare workers in eight different locations throughout China. Participants came from all over China and ranged from orphanage workers to therapists and physicians. These training sessions were made possible by the talented therapists from the Children's Therapy Unit in Puyallup, who used vacation time and initially paid their own airfare. ( Fortunately we have some of these therapists in attendance so I would like to acknowledge Linda Yates OT who founded the Children's Therapy unit, Sara Kerrick PT, Steve Shores OT, Brett Nirider, and Juanita Nirider PT, all of which have made multiple trips with CPN to China to teach. They do the hard works while I get the awards!!)

Dr. Xue Cheng Liu from Medical College of Wisconsin also joined as part of our medical team. He is an invaluable member of our team as an orthopedic surgeon who speaks Chinese. During what was to be our last "basic" course in Nov. 2008 the leadership of China Association of Rehabilitation Medicine strongly encouraged us to continue and expand our efforts. In July 2009 we met with five physician directors of children's rehabilitation programs from all over China, plus An An and a representative from World Health Organization of Hong Kong, and they designed a five-year plan which they felt we had the expertise and experience to carry out. This meeting resulted in a specific plan and a signed memorandum of understanding, and we are seeking funding. The implementation of their plan would potentially result in the training of thousands of healthcare workers with skills to improve the lives of millions of children with Cerebral Palsy in China!! We have set the date for a training session in Suzhou in September and hope to possibly secure some funding from the Chinese side.

Rev. Vaswig has convinced me that my primary vocation is a disciple of Christ, and in that role my secondary vocation as an orthopedic surgeon in retirement is to continue the work of CPN to improve the lives of children with CP in China.