

PIM update

The Partners in Mission program is a powerful example of Oblates and lay associates collaborating in the missions. We have been extremely fortunate to have a steady flow of lay missionaries traveling to Hong Kong and Beijing since the program commenced in 2009.

In early 2012 a contingent from Queensland made up of Evelyn Waters and Tony and Maureen Brown spent 2 months teaching English in Hong Kong, Tony and Maureen enjoyed it so much that they returned for a second time later in the year.

In Beijing this year Daniel Gonsalves, Nicholas Civetta, Sean Hyatt, Toni and Alex White participated in our teaching program in the De Mazenod Intercultural Exchange school. Marleen Ling, from Victoria, spent six months in Beijing as a PIM.

In 2013, Josie Howard, will return for a second time to Hong Kong, and Bev Watkinson takes up a new role as teaching co-ordinator for the De Mazenod Intercultural Exchange School for one year.

Please keep praying for this important mission and if you are interested visit www.oblates.com.au/pim or pim@oblates.com.au



De Mazenod Intercultural Exchange School Co-ordinator

Hi, I'm Bev Watkinson, and I am the new teacher for MAMI in Beijing China. This is not my first experience in China, as I spent eight weeks here as a volunteer in 2011.

Since I arrived, it has been quite hectic, meeting, greeting and saying goodbye to all involved in the China program, including, a group of students from Melbourne, who had spent two weeks at both the school and the baby's home as part of their summer excursion.

Each morning I have awakened not always to a beautiful clear day, as currently, Beijing is experiencing very bad smog conditions, but certainly to the promise of another exciting day filled with the delights of China. Be that, in the people who have been overwhelmingly generous in their time and willingness to see me get to where I want to go, or, in the delight of experiencing days in the park when it is snowing. All are so welcoming.

I truly enjoy gaining the trust of children as they try to learn a very foreign language with another new teacher, but they do it with such enthusiasm and, more importantly, with such concentration even though they have often attended up to 10 hours of school or other learning experiences already that day. For my part I would truly say that this is an amazing part of the Oblate Mission. So thanks to everyone who helps MAMI be a reality in China.

Marleen Ling – PIM, Beijing (July - December 2012)

I left for Beijing with a few expectations—to challenge myself, to come closer to my faith and to be useful. While I am quite certain that I had been useful in the baby home, and that the babies, nannies and staff have benefitted from my experience as a mother of 4 and a 56yr old nurse, the challenge of self has been accepting that “leaving it to the Lord” is always the best way.



With all I was told about the PIM experience, I thought that my background and experience would help my transition from Melbourne to Beijing, but even I was surprised at how quickly I adjusted to the people and lifestyle. I loved the community I was housed in. It provided safety at all times, food markets and stores a plenty. I even found a hairdresser in one of the nearby apartments. I had the occasion to attend mass most days and found the sermons, and great library provided

many nurturing words to encourage me to reflect upon my life and my relationships. These reflections and the talks with my spiritual adviser helped me reassess my goals in life and are slowly bringing me to a place of peace to continue my journey at home again on the Mornington Peninsula.

Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

Published by the Oblate Office of Mission
M.A.M.I. Centre, P.O. Box 384
Camberwell, Vic 3124
Telephone: (03) 9805 8888 Fax: (03) 9813 2696
Email: mami@oblates.com.au
Web: www.oblates.com.au

