

August Report 2005

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While many of Variety Club supporters were enjoying themselves on the 2005 Bash the money being raised was being put to good use in Vietnam for the Clubfoot program. During August we were joined by Dr Angela Evans who was self funded but is someone we hope to recruit into the program. Not only did we have the opportunity to see some of our previous patients but we had another deluge of patients following a television announcement of our visit. Not all people seen were clubfoot patients and a few cases of hardship were difficult to turn away without providing treatment. One was a young boy who had a traumatic amputation of his leg in an accident on his parents fishing boat. Due to deformity of the amputation stump he has never been able to wear a prosthetic leg. After a phone call, Varsity agreed to pay \$500 for surgery to amputate the remaining leg at the knee and have a prosthetic leg fitted.

Visits were made to country hospitals in Dia Loc, Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen, Thang Dinh in the Quang Nam province to review patients and see how the doctors were using the technique learnt during the June seminar. We spent time talking with hospital administrators to promote the program and to get their opinions on how best to implement or improve the program. Some of the decisions we have made following the trip regarding the future of the program are to:

- Centralize treatment in two centers to develop a high level of expertise rather than treating small numbers of patients in multiple locations.
- More follow up, documentation, education and refinement of the pilot program prior to expanding into adjoining provinces.
- Promotion of program to other government departments and aid agencies so that we can articulate with and cross refer people who have needs which we can not meet.
- Development of simple brochure for doctors and midwives to be used in training centers and Universities.
- Sending one doctor overseas to study clubfoot treatment in the USA with Dr Ponseti who developed the technique for correction of clubfoot that we are using.