

MEET DEBORAH SHIPLEY



AND SHOW HOPE MINISTRIES

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

My name is Deborah Shipley and my husband, my four daughters and I recently moved to Fort Meade. We have been attending St. Paul's for a few months now and I am very excited to have the opportunity to share my upcoming mission experience with our new found friends of faith. After many years of sponsoring the work of Show Hope (www.showhope.org), I have been selected to be one of approximately 20 Show Hope sponsors who will come together as a team to travel to Maria's Big House of Hope in Luoyang, China, for a 10-day mission trip this summer, August 13-22, 2010.



Maria's Big House of Hope - Opened its doors in July 2009

For those unfamiliar, Show Hope is a nonprofit organization located in Franklin, TN, that enables individuals and communities to change the world for orphans and helps provide waiting orphans with forever families by giving financial grants to those adopting. Created in 2003 as Shaohannah's Hope, Show Hope was developed by Christian musician Steven Curtis Chapman and his wife Mary Beth in response to their family's 2002 adoption of daughter Shaohannah from the Hunan Province of China. Since that time Show Hope has grown into an organization providing adoption grants to waiting families, orphan ministry resources for churches, a prayer campaign for orphans and their needs, as well as building its own orphanage in central China. I am also happy to share that Show Hope has blessed our own family twice by providing us sizable grants for both of our international adoptions, Emma Jolene adopted from the Hunan Province of China in 2004 and Rebecca adopted from the Guangdong Province in 2007.

In July 2009 Show Hope opened the doors to Maria's Big House of Hope, a six story medical care center in China. Located in Luoyang, a city of around 6 million people, this care facility has become a beacon of hope to the people of China and the world. Currently, there are well over half a million orphans in China, many of whom have severe medical needs. Many of them could be healed with surgery and care, but due to

a lack of resources they are neglected and many die due to these illnesses. Luoyang is found in the Henan province, one of the poorest provinces in all of China. The state-run orphanage in Luoyang takes care of nearly 700 children and cares for most of the "special needs" orphans from all around Henan. Maria's Big House was created to be equipped with everything needed to care for orphans with special needs. Every child in this facility is five years old or younger and represents some of the neediest orphans in China.



While in China the Show Hope Sponsor Team will spend time daily interacting with the babies and children living at Maria's Big House of Hope as well as participating in various work projects at the facility. We also hope to spend one day of our trip investing in the lives of older orphans at the local, state-run orphanage. This is an opportunity for me to put my faith into action and truly be the hands and feet of Christ to the most needy. Being a part of this is a trip will allow me to directly impact people very dear to my heart: orphans in China.

But the opportunities of this trip do not end with me and I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider partnering with me on this journey. One way you can do this is through prayer support. Please pray for the orphans we will be serving, for my health and effectiveness as a team member, the spiritual growth of every member of the team, as well as the many details of the trip. You can begin praying now as our team prepares for travel, and you can also follow our team while we are in China, August 13-22, at the Show Hope blog at: <http://blog.showhope.org/> .



Another way you can partner with me is through financial support. I need to raise \$3,900 by July 23, 2010 to pay for this trip. This money will pay for my roundtrip international flight to China, all meals, lodging in China, in-country transportation,

insurance, interpreters, bottled water, sightseeing, etc. To make a one-time donation simply use the Show Hope Donation Form available in the church office and follow the form's directions for labeling your check and envelope for my fund. By using this form you will also enable Show Hope to provide you with a receipt as all financial contributions are tax-deductible.

You might also take advantage of a fund-raiser I have in action as a friend of mine has graciously volunteered her photography talent to help me raise trip funds. For just a fraction of studio prices, you can receive a personalized, hour-long outdoor photo session for you and your family. You will be guaranteed at least 15 high quality, high resolution photos that will be given to you on a DVD, including a full print release. For more information, please email Heidi Wheeler directly at froggyphotography@gmail.com, subject line: Show Hope. Again, all financial contributions are tax-deductible.

I thank you for any support you are able to provide for my experience, spiritual and/or financial. And I look forward to reporting back to you when I return with stories of the wonders God is working in the hearts of children and adults through Maria's Big House of Hope. I also look forward to the opportunity to share more about Show Hope and the ways that you can get involved with their work from the comfort of your own home. Thank you for taking the time to read my story, and may the Lord lead your heart to respond to the needs of His children as James 1:27 reminds us - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction.

In Christ,

Deborah Shipley