

## There is no return

By: Debbie, Outreach worker

Nowadays the conflict between mainland China and Hong Kong is turning white-hot. If a tag "prostitute" is added onto the tag "mainland Chinese", is it enough for them to become the spot of criticism?

### Lazy and never busy?

Most of the prostitutes we know are single mothers. They are supposed to be supported by social security. However, just a few of them apply for the comprehensive social security assistance scheme<sup>1</sup>, and most of them are not eligible to apply for public rental housing. Despite their diligence and willingness at work, they suffer from coworker's rejections and verbal abuse. These make them quit their job shortly, or even give up looking for another job.

### Mainland Chinese accents = uncivilized?

Some prostitutes were teachers and nurses in their home towns. However, their qualifications are not recognized in Hong Kong. As they are not able to speak fluent Cantonese and read traditional Chinese, they could not even get a job in local restaurant. Because of their mainland Chinese accents, they are mocked by people. One ex-prostitute told us that her alimony from her ex-husband was in arrears, but she refused to ask for help because she felt being discriminated by the government. She would rather work hard in her part-time cleaning job, as she said handling trash was better than being with people.

### What about going back to the mainland?

Due to their marriages with Hong-Kongers, many prostitutes hold a One-way permit to migrate to Hong Kong in order to reunite with their families. However, the law states that once immigrants get their Hong Kong identity cards, their register and privilege in mainland China would be lost at the same time. Losing their register and identity in the mainland, the divorced prostitutes cannot work there again, not even their children can receive education there.

Their future is unknown, but there is no way back. Where should they go? We have no answer, but we trust our Heavenly Father, who so loves the world, treasures their precious lives and must have the best way for them.



<sup>1</sup> The CSSA Scheme provides a safety net for those who cannot support themselves financially. It is designed to bring their income up to a prescribed level to meet their basic needs.

### OUR PURPOSE

OM's role in the body of Christ is to motivate, develop and equip people for world evangelization, and to strengthen and help plant churches, especially among the unreached.

## Connection of lives, the beauty of life

By Gamby, Outreach volunteer



Eid Mubarak! It was time to break the fast!

The one-month Ramadan was finally over. Pakistani friends rejoiced in their new year, which is known as Eid. They prepared a lot of food, dressed in new clothes and visited friends and families. We were also very excited and visited three families in

ten days with their favourite food, such as mangoes and dates.

### A child's heart

One of the families we visited was Ken's family. Ken is a Grade 2 student in our tutorial class. When we arrived at his home, we thought of his teacher in the tutorial class who had just had an operation. We then mentioned this to Ken, and surprisingly, he said he wanted to draw a greeting card for his teacher. He drew and even wrote some words of blessing in Chinese. While writing, he said, "I have to write them properly, because my teacher said I have to write them well!" (The teacher had taught him to write neatly and well.)

### The connection of lives

The devoted teaching in the past leads to Ken's heartfelt blessing today. Two different people of different beliefs and cultures encounter and encourage each other in their weaknesses. We could witness how beauty and goodness radiates through unselfish sharing and love in this echo of lives.



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## Weeks The story of Communion

By Ka-cheong Mak

We had Communion with all students and volunteers every Friday evening. This was a part of my creative arts evangelism training in Italy, but this time was a bit different.

### What is Communion?

My team leader wrote me an email one day. He said he liked Chinese characters because many of them evolved from symbols, which was so meaningful. Hence he asked me whether I could write a Chinese word or draw a symbol to represent "Communion", and explain it to all participants on the following Friday. I then started pondering about the meaning of "Communion".

### Communion is giving, receiving and self-sacrificing

Communion means inclusiveness, sharing and fellowship. The first



Chinese character I started with was "共"<sup>1</sup>. I found that the original form of this word was to hold something very precious high with both hands and dedicating it to the gods.

However, for me, it's not all Communion means. The meaning of Communion is that at the final stage of Jesus' life, He revealed to the disciples about His sacrifice for them and the world, offering them His life and glory and everything.



Therefore, I changed the directions of the hands and made them in the form of "giving" and "receiving".

Then I thought about where Jesus' hands should be. Should them be at the top or at the bottom? Meanwhile, the scene of the Last Supper came into my mind. What did Jesus do? He humbled Himself to wash

His disciples' feet. So His hands should be at the bottom, which shows His humility. Finally, I finished the symbol of Communion.



### Imitate Christ, Serve humbly

Lord Jesus came to the world humbly and gave His body (the outer part) and blood (the inner part) to all of us. This reminds me to share my possessions and my life with others with a humble heart.

During this Communion, everyone appreciated my drawing much. Praise the Lord for leading me to create this art piece.

*Ka-cheong is a member of Pui Ching Road Baptist Church. He participated in the 3-month Creative Arts Evangelism in Italy.*

<sup>1</sup> The Chinese character of inclusiveness is "共融". "共" means common and together.

## Months Be reconciled with myself in South Africa

By Pui-fun Shek

### A Sharp Change of Life

It is certainly not a universal opportunity to take a rest for 6 months in order to listen to God. I thank God for giving me this gift on my wishing list with surprises!

To quit my hectic pastoral job, many people said that it was such a step of courage to join the Mission Discipleship Training in South Africa. Nonetheless, I do not think too much about it, but long for finding myself again, the one before having burnt out, and wait for God to lead me to the next step.

### From Changing Myself to Accepting Myself

During the training, I experienced many first-times in my life: my first time living in a

village without water and electricity, my first time eating an Indian and Afghan meal with my hands, my first time dressing in costumes to learn from other cultures, my first outreach with Christians from all over the world, etc. From all these first experiences, I have discovered and understood myself more, and even learned to accept myself.

In the past few years of service, I forced myself to reach out to strangers and church members. I thought I could change myself, but when I stepped down from my pastoral role and walked into a completely new environment and people, I suddenly realized that I had always blamed, denied and suppressed the real me inside, who was introvert and quiet. After half a year of learning, I finally reassured the unique



qualities and personalities created by God in me, and I am convinced that only the love of Jesus is the origin and motive of change and renewal.

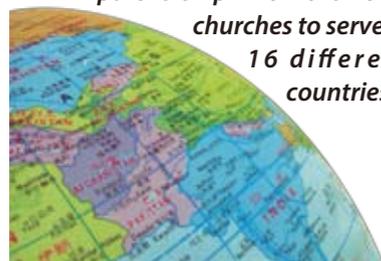
Praise the Lord for letting me pause and listen to Him and myself, so that I get reconciled with my inner self unexpectedly. I believe that this training is surely a milestone in my life, which is leading me to a very different next page of life.

*Pui-fun is a member of the Salvation Army William Booth Corps. She was an officer of the Salvation Army (pastoral role), and joined the 4-month MDT in South Africa this year.*

## Years

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)*

*At present, there are 25 mission workers sent out by OMHK in partnership with the local churches to serve in 16 different countries.*



### Central and West Asia

#### Siu-chu

Please pray for Siu-chu and her teammates. Their Working Permits (WP) were denied by the secret police without reason. So they can't apply for a one-year-visa at this time. Pray that their team is able to apply for WP in the long run.

Please remember Siu-chu's apartment in your prayers. Her neighbour asked her for compensation because of water leakage from her apartment. Pray for the wisdom she needs when she tackle this issue with her landlord and her neighbour.

### North Africa & Middle East

#### Zhong's Family

The Occupied Central Movement makes Hong Kongers "famous". Pray that this will be an opportunity to arouse people's interest in Zhong's family and to discuss topics related to life and death with them.

Pray for the language ability of Mr. Zhong, so that he could serve in his position with fluent local language.

Please also remember the development of the Christian hospital which Mr. Zhong is working in. Pray that the hospital could continue to serve people with Christ's love.



### Southeast Asia

#### An's family

Praise the Lord that via watching World Cup and holding a musical evangelical meeting, a lot of new friends were able to hear the Gospel. Please pray that the church could be registered as a legal organisation successfully.

### Europe - France

#### Maureen Ma



OM France will have their annual retreat from 27 - 31 October. Please pray for the organising committee; that they will have the wisdom to do good planning & tend to all the details.

Please pray also for the smooth running of the retreat; that it will be a good time of fellowship and spiritual refreshment for everyone as they look towards the future while listening to God.

### Africa - Zambia

#### Grace Au

Lake T doesn't have enough workers. A few nurses left due to health conditions. Please pray for more workers joining Lake T. Please pray that Grace could adapt to the new environment well, both physically and mentally.

Pray that their team would co-work well. May the Lord comfort and strengthen Grace's heart whenever she feels lonely.

