

ROMANIA – Christmas Gift Packages

By Annisa



Every year OM Romania distributes Christmas gifts to help demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ. People in various locations receive the gifts, which are carefully chosen to meet their particular needs. For example, a neighbourhood with a large number of school children will receive stationery and text books. An area with a majority of families will be given potatoes and daily necessities such as cooking oil, flour and salt, in the hope that these items will help keep them fed and warm throughout the cold winter. It is the intention of OM Romania to bless people by distributing these practical items.

I was privileged to be involved in the 'Bringing Warmth in Christmas' event, which reaches out to principally gypsy communities, whose living conditions are relatively poor. Upon arrival at the Roma Village, near the outskirts of the capital, three of us, all foreign workers, met with the pastor and his wife. We then visited the open market to purchase large amounts of potatoes, apples, onions and beans, then the supermarket for sugar, oil, rice and flour.

Returning to the church, we divided all we had purchased into separate bags. Our car could not carry all the gift packages in one trip so we made three separate journeys to different villages, one which we visited in the dark! The process of distributing the gift packages held many surprises and it was pure joy to witness the sheer happiness of the recipients as they received them. At the same time, we were concerned that the packages might attract onlookers, tempted to snatch them, but thankfully everything went smoothly.

What impressed me most were two ladies who came to our church meetings regularly and initially refused the gift packages, the reason being that they wanted them to go to more needy families. Encouraged by the pastor, they were able to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas by reaching out to those families themselves.

Please pray that more people will give generously to those whom Father God loves, that this special Christmas ministry can continue to expand and grow each year.

Annisa is a member of Hong Kong Baptist Church Good Neighbour Chapel and served with OM Romania for 12 months in 2014

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.

May the Holy Spirit Move Me More

2 Kings 6:17

By Alicia



horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

The Bible character Elisha kept coming back to my mind during my short-term mission trip with OM to Kosovo. During the conference in Rome, just prior to the outreach, the speaker shared 2 Kings 6:15-17 and encouraged us to imagine what the situation was like at the time. The servant was extremely fearful whereas the man of God was full of confidence, visualising the horses and chariots of fire. I identified with the servant, feeling helpless to begin with but steadily gaining confidence throughout my journey. This was a truly amazing reality for me during my experience in Kosovo.

Before my trip, I sought the Lord with regard to long-term mission but also felt I was not able to completely lay my life down, with obstacles such as a familiar lifestyle and environment, a well-paid job, family members who were not yet Christians, all causing me to take little steps towards mission but avoid a greater calling.

During my time in Kosovo, the greatest inspiration for me was talking with the missionaries serving there. The more experienced ones talked about the times they smuggled Bibles to the more sensitive areas of the region. Their amazing adventures testified to the courage of the apostles' witness during New Testament times. The younger workers demonstrated passion and commitment.

Though I don't have clear direction as yet, I press on in my journey to the 'frontline', to put into practice what I believe. I know that in God's perfect timing He will reveal the vision to me. To me, this short-term mission trip was just like Elisha's prayer, opening my eyes to see the providence and protection of God. 'Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit', Elisha replied (2 King 2:9b). My prayer is that the Holy Spirit, who moved and anointed the missionaries I met in Kosovo, will also anoint me.

Alicia is a member of Plover Cove C & M A Church. She was also a participant of Transform 2015 in Kosovo.

How to support us?

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2nd Biannual Report 2016

A Divine Moment on Friday Evening

.....By Siu Yan

The usual plan on Friday evenings is to divide the volunteers on the outreach team into small groups to visit families of ethnic minorities. Some of us chat with the families, while others tutor or play games with the children.

It was my first time visiting Asa’s* family. Her eldest son was not home, her second son was not feeling well and was asleep and one of our group was playing games on the floor with her youngest son. The rest of us began chatting with Asa.

When we asked her about her Cantonese class, Asa told us that the worker who taught her was ‘very nice’ and added ‘she is a Christian’. She then asked us one by one if we were Christians. We all said ‘yes’, to which she replied, ‘You were all born Christians so you know Christianity. But I was born Muslim so I don’t know anything about it.’

I was thinking about how to respond when the volunteer next to me replied, ‘I was born in a Buddhist family. But as I grew up, I heard about Jesus at school, received an understanding of the Gospel and put my faith in Jesus. Six months ago my mother started to follow Jesus, too.’

We didn’t have time to go into any detail about the gospel, but how thankful I am that we delivered a special message to her: we were not born Christians but we became Christians because we got to know Jesus, understood the plan of salvation and believed in Him.

May the Lord open the door to the gospel for this family. Pray that we live out our faith and become the presence of Jesus to them so that they will find the true Light of Life.

*Pseudonym



Walking with Little Precious Lives

.....By Sa | Outreach worker of the Ethnic Minority Ministry



The ethnic minority ministry in Pat Heung engages and reaches out to ethnic minorities in Hong Kong through collaboration with schools. Our dream is to connect with the whole community – both geographically and culturally. It is indeed a blessing to go out every day to live out the Lord’s commands and in serving Him, walk with others while showing them Jesus’ love.

Every time we meet with the children we are reminded of their uniqueness – having originated from many corners of the world such as Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Africa ! But at the same time they are similar in that they all like candies and need to be loved and accepted.

In Hong Kong, ethnic minorities vary greatly geographically, although they encounter similar difficulties such as intergenerational poverty, marginalization, language problems and identity crises. We need to be wise in working among them, particularly in the establishment of rapport and the formulation of ministry-related strategies. For example, we have to take into careful consideration the dynamics between different ethnic groups: 1) people from the same ethnic group who live in different districts – eg, the Nepalese who live in Tung Chung do not

necessarily prefer to closely mingle with their countrymen who live in Tsim Sha Tsui; 2) people from the same ethnic group who live in the same district – eg, Pakistanis hesitate to have Pakistanis as their neighbours; 3) people from different countries without any blood ties who become neighbours by chance – they do not have much choice but are helplessly assigned to one single identity in Hong Kong.

Although ethnic minorities are facing complicated challenges in Hong Kong, praise the Lord that many churches support the ministry in Pat Heung. We walk the children through a variety of school projects, encourage them when they are frustrated, talk with them when they are upset. Most important of all, however, is that we and our partner churches are united in prayer, that together we can bless these precious little lives.

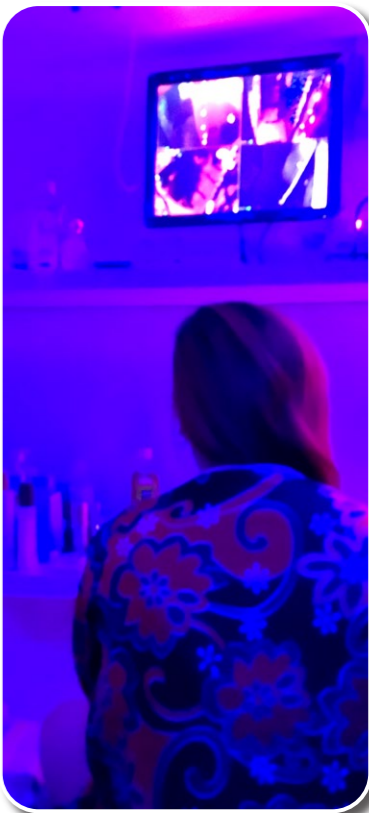
Seek with Love

.....By Five | Outreach volunteer of the Companion Ministry

‘Feng Jei’ is the term we use for sex workers in Hong Kong who operate a one-woman brothel. One could live in your neighbourhood or so far away that you will never have a chance to meet.

The life of a Feng Jei is a mystery to most of us. I was fortunate to be able to meet several of them at a university when I volunteered with OM’s Companion Ministry. At first I naturally assumed that the Feng Jei’s moral standard would be lower than that of other people, being the reason they sell their bodies for money. But I have since met Feng Jeis who are good-natured and generous, putting aside their dignity to become prostitutes while maintaining strong, loving relationships and a deep sense of responsibility toward their families, which is greatly respected within their culture. Some even demonstrate a higher moral standard than the general population.

During my service with the Companion Ministry, I learned to love the Feng Jei. I was challenged not to take higher moral ground as a Christian, which would only show disapproval. Rather, I tried to understand these women, who simply earn a living on their terms and without much effort. To be able to do this, they have distorted moral values. However, who is qualified to judge them? We are sinners, too, and also have imperfect values. Jesus



came into the world to save us, not to judge us. It is easy to love the lovely people, but to love sinners can be difficult. In learning to love the Feng Jei, I sensed Jesus’ deep, unconditional love and acceptance for me.

Nowadays, there are a growing number of one-woman brothels in Sham Shui Po, which seem to be attracting even more women to join. A great need exists to extend to them the Kingdom of God ! I believe that, every day, Jesus is very eager for the lost. Please pray with us, or perhaps even join with us in this ministry, as we seek to bring the lost to Him.