## **Serving** Nations

### Unconditional **Love**

By Christal Ng

One day, we had the opportunity to make friends with a Hindu grandma and a Muslim from Pakistan. We met on the street, started a conversation and then were invited to their home. They put the best food in front of us, and even



invited us to a restaurant for dinner afterwards. They were very attentive during the conversations with us, who were complete strangers to them. However, in our conversations, the name "Jesus" was not mentioned at all.

I was wondering if I never mention Jesus in my conversations nor shared my testimony with people, would anyone consider that as preaching the gospel? Later on, I discovered we do not need to carry our Bibles, nor do we need to mention the name "Jesus", the people already know that we are Christians because we demonstrate the love of God through our actions – to share our lives with them, listening to their needs and praying for them.

#### **Talking to One Another Like Friends**

When they found out who we are, we started a "religious dialogue". We are open-minded about their religion, without any criticism, just let them share about their beliefs, as well as their own needs and concerns. In return, we hope that they are willing to listen to what we believe in.

After many visits, they treat us like friends, able to express one's feelings and not feeling pressurized. We show our concern for them like friends, we took the initiative to share our testimonies with the thought to help them, never subject them to any coercion or additional conditions. As a result, we won their trust and exchanged emails and began a beautiful friendship. As a mutual encouragement, when we are out on outreach, consider putting relationships with people first.

#### 1 Peter 3:15

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

(Christal is a member of the First Assembly of God Church and she was also a participant of MDT in South Africa in February 2016.)

# The Voice of the Refugees By Shining Star

#### Longing to Reunite with her Family - Wayna

By mere coincidence, I got to know Wayna\*. Three years ago, she, her mother, younger brother and 2 younger sisters along with her came here. At the moment, life is relatively stable. The family rents a flat, Wayna and her brother both have jobs, the elder of her younger sister is studying in a government school and their mother is looking after the 4-year-old sister, but their father and their eldest brother are still in their hometown. Every day they face the threat of war. Due to that, many relatives and friends have come here, like many of the refugees, not the entire family manages to arrive together. Wayna and her family long for her father and brother to join them soon.

#### My Neighbour – Mrs. Bart

Mrs. Bart\* is my neighbor, she came from another war-torn country, and has been here for a year now. Regarding her life's daily needs, she was provided for, but there was one thing she desires, to go to Australia, that seems like a distant hope. She has been waiting for the approval of her application to go, but so far without success. Even though that is the case, Mrs. Bart indicated she will not give up and will carry on waiting. Her sons are still in their hometown and if it is at all possible, she would like to return to visit her family; but to make such a trip home is extremely dangerous due to war.

#### Passenger on the Bus

Sue\* and her family of five have been living in the refugee camp for more than three years. Her husband was shot by a gun, but fortunately he has healed from the wound. Another relative was not so lucky and died in the war. There are many people living in refugee camps and it is considered to be relatively safe. All of life's necessity are provided for, but Sue's heart still longs for her home country. She recalls the good old days of life in her hometown. If the war stops, she, along with many fellow countrymen, would return home.

Escaping from their country was very painful. A beautiful home, a good and prosperous future, happy family prospects,

these were all destroyed because of the war. My prayer is that, in the midst of their pain, they would open up their hearts and receive the eternal hope.



\* names changed

#### **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.

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## Serving Hong Kong



## Serving marginalized women –

Companion Ministry

Lily's Story

By **Kindness** 

#### (Companion Ministry Outreach Worker)

It is indeed difficult to imagine that this smiling lady lived a hard and distressing life for the first half of her years.

I have known Lily for two years. At the beginning, she was very defensive and she concocted a story about her background. But after several visits, she started to frankly share her past with us. When she was still a young kid, she already had to take care of her family and take up domestic chores. Chopping firewood, farming and cooking were considered easy jobs for her. When she grew up, she got married but was not happy at all. Her husband was an idle man and she had to earn a living to support more than 10 family members.

After she divorced her first husband, Lily remarried and came to Hong Kong from China. She did different kinds of labour work, before she eventually became a sex worker seven years ago, feeling pressed by the reality that it was getting increasingly difficult for her to find a job as she became older and older. Earlier this year, she told us that she was about to quit the sex industry and was ready to start a small business. When we contacted her again recently, she had once again resumed the sex work due to financial difficulties.

From time to time we have mixed feelings about the life and choice of Lily and others like her. May God help these ladies who are living in darkness and inadequacy like Lily. May He fill us with His love abundantly that we can learn from Him and also love them unconditionally.

### Serving ethnic minorities –

Sham Shui Po Ministry

## An Opportunity **from Heaven**

## By Makson (Ethnic Minority Ministry Outreach worker)

Thank the Lord for granting me the opportunity to build relationship with Mr. Muk\*, a Pakistani refugee living in Hong Kong.

Before the encounter, I personally knew his three sons through our tutoring classes. I only had contact with Mr. Muk by phone, to remind his sons to be punctual to tutoring classes.

One day, Mr. Muk called our center to seek help. He mentioned the frequent occurrence of leg fatigue. Having consulted several doctors and spent a considerable amount of money, he was still suffering from pain and had no clue what to do about it. After

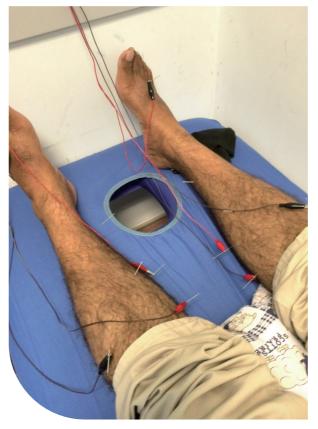
hearing about Mr. Muk's condition, I suggested he consult a Chinese medicine practitioner as acupuncture treatment might help.

Mr. Muk had never visited a Chinese medicine practitioner before, but he was willing to give it a try. I accompanied him to the Chinese medicine clinic. During the diagnosis process, Mr. Muk used all means to express his leg conditions, such as sitting on the floor and pinching my hands hard to show the numbness of his legs. I had never seen such a "tense" Pakistani man. I believed he trusted me a lot.

After acupuncture treatment, Mr Muk had to undergo another therapy for a period of time. I sat next to him and began to chat with him during the therapy. I got to know Mr. Muk more through that conversation.

In Hong Kong, most Pakistani families rely on fathers to raise the family. Mr. Muk works as a night shift security guard in a club. Therefore, we seldom meet him during home visits. After that encounter, I have built a good relationship with Mr. Muk. He even invited me and several volunteers from our center to celebrate Eid in his new home.

\* name changed



## Serving ethnic minorities –

Pat Heung Ministry

## Be a Good Boy

## By Tai Bo (Pat Heung Ministry Outreach Worker)

The bright sun and plentiful rain of summer are signs of blessing and challenges in life. Plants flourish with adequate rain and sunlight, but wither when they have excessive nutrients. The second year of "Walkie-talkie", our children programme, has begun. We are learning to keep a balance between "acceptance" and "discipline".

Sun is a 5th grade boy who speaks loudly but is fragile inside. He is a passionate child who cannot stand rejection. The intelligent boy requires recognition from others. He is gentle and at the same time has great physical strength.

In the past two years, different volunteers accompanied Sun along his personal growth path. Some listened patiently, some enlightened him, some gave useful advice – all of them learnt a lot through sweat and tears.

The theme of Walkie-talkie this year is 'Strength & Kindness'. We invited each student to write a goal to be achieved in three weeks. Sun wrote that he wanted to "be a good boy" on his handbook.

When someone criticizes Sun, he emotionally scolds back and yells "I don't care!" During one of the trainings, Sun experienced a great shock. He cried out loud and left the classroom. I managed to sit with him on the stone steps and



began a heart-to-heart talk. The Lord opened our eyes that whenever Sun said "I don't care!", the voice inside actually shouted "I care!" Therefore, we as well began telling him, "We care!" He started to listen more patiently and think quietly. When it came time to share feedback, I listed his attributes, he showed understanding and accepted himself as being that kind of a person.

On the day of a picnic, Sun was arranged in a group with mentors. At first he was very upset and angry, even refusing to participate. After some encouragement, he agreed to attend the event on time. Sun demonstrated a good example among fellow classmates. He was committed in receiving the guests politely. He assisted to arrange the meal and even took initiative to take care of a two-year-old child. Throughout the day, he received countless heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation from mentors. On the path to personal growth, Sun, like many other children, needs more authentic encouragement from someone who pats him on his shoulder saying, "Good try!" and "We care!"