



Harvests in Heaven

By **Karen Kong**

“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” - Philippians 4:13

Our ‘Out of the Comfort Zone’ (OCZ) short term team visited Baray, Cambodia and helped at Village Works, a social enterprise that produces handicrafts, to set up a piece of farmland. The farmland is used to grow mulberry trees that are food for silkworms, that produce silk for the handicrafts.

I had never done agricultural work before, and this activity was added to our schedule just before we set off. I was concerned because it was so hot and humid in Cambodia and many of our team members were sick. We were afraid that we might get sunstroke or fall seriously ill under the sun. Even though we were weak, we prayed, endured and stayed strong in Christ, and kept on serving God with one heart. We helped, supported and looked after each other. I truly felt unity in the team, and we served together in one spirit.

Even though I am physically weak and not capable, God is gracious. He still used me during that trip. I was so glad that I was able to finish the challenging agricultural work assigned to me. It was an amazing experience planting the mulberry trees. It helped us understand the parable of the sower. We sowed the seeds of the gospel there in Cambodia, too. Although we will not be able to see the fruits of our spiritual work on earth, we can trust that we will see them in heaven. It is God who causes the seeds of the gospel to grow in people’s hearts. I hope one day I will see a beautiful garden in heaven.

Karen is a member of the Hong Kong Baptist Church and was a participant of Out of the Comfort Zone in Cambodia.

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.



Be the Tool to Bless Others

By **Hanniel Cheung**

Last year, I participated in a short term mission trip to Greece. I got to know more about refugees - a group I had not been in contact with before.

From 2015 on, refugees have been undertaking a hazardous journey from the Middle East to Europe, seeking asylum there. One of the entry points into Europe is Greece.

During the trip, we visited families living in the refugee camps, held English classes for kids and helped churches to give away free lunch.

Throughout the whole trip, I had numerous opportunities to get in touch with refugees, who were from different countries and backgrounds. Each of them had their own unique story to tell. When we talked to them, I found that they were very open to share.

During the visits, I realized many refugees were separated from their family members, while others had family members who had already settled in European countries. Although they still keep in touch with their family members, it is unaffordable for the whole family to move out of the camps where they stay when they first arrive in Greece. In fact, many refugees are not eligible to migrate to other countries, with little hope to reunite with their family members. Though we might not be able to change anything, we can pray for them.

Our team lived out our faith by devoting ourselves to serving people, in the hope that we could be God’s tools to bless others. Although we did not share the gospel, we believe we could reflect God’s love to those around us and pray that God would touch their hearts and souls.

Hanniel Cheung is a member of the EFCC Waterloo Hill Church and was a participant of a short term mission trip to Greece.

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We want to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached.

1st Biannual Report 2018

Meet OM Hong Kong Director

God Will Show us the Way

After many years with Campus Crusade for Christ, seminary training and pastoral service with her church, Sonia Yip became the Director of OM in Hong Kong in August 2017. For a woman in her 40s—a very young leader by Chinese standards—the decision to accept the position was not easy and required much prayer. Here, Sonia shares about what encouraged her to accept the directorship and why she's passionate about seeing young people find their place in God's kingdom.



OM: Please tell us about your decision to take on the role as Director of OM Hong Kong.

Sonia: Cheuk Chung, the former Director, shared why he wanted me to take on the position: He said if Hong Kong churches want to send someone to missions, they usually want them to complete seminary and do pastoral work in the church before they go. Churches don't usually encourage people in their 20s to go into missions.

But OM is different: We encourage young people to join missions, even right after finishing school. That was my experience. Right after finishing university, I joined Campus Crusade, so I know it can be done. Seminary is important, but people have different experiences and journeys. There is no one formula. From my experience, I want to encourage young people to do it.

When considering the role, I needed to think about how churches in Hong Kong would accept my leadership while so young. Many in Hong Kong think you need to be in your 50s or 60s to be a leader. In my decision making, I talked to a woman on the OM Board who was my seminary teacher and was a missionary in Afghanistan. I mentioned my deliberations. She shared that OM is a mission agency for young people. Her encouragement confirmed that I should take on the role.

OM: How can OM work with churches in Hong Kong to mobilise young people for missions?

Sonia: This is what I am thinking about. Often churches here say that missionary work requires a lot of maturity. If a church is newly planted, some say that after 10 years they can start to do short-term mission trips. After another 10 years, they can start to think about sending long-term missionaries. This is 20 years!

In the Bible, once people are called to Christ, they are so happy to have the gospel that they go to tell other people. It's not about how many years people have been believers; we heard the gospel, we became saved, and we want to share that with other people.

It is true that, if we want to go overseas to places very culturally different, we need training, which is where OM can help. Cheuk Chung did a very good job of this. He recruited many young people for the Ship Ministry or Missions Discipleship Training. I would like to invite these people to be ambassadors, sharing their stories in churches. We can train them how to speak in the church, so that churches can see how young people can serve very well on the mission field.

OM: In five years' time, looking back on your leadership, what would you count as a success?

Sonia: One of my passions is to help people to live out their potential—to find out what God has called them to do. Everyone has a different calling; if we live that out, we can serve better in the kingdom. If someone says, "I don't know what I can do," I want to help them to find their calling from God.

I also want to see our OM staff fulfilled according to their calling here. And I want to help those going into missions to find their place. That excites me.

OM: What do you want to focus on in the next few years?

Sonia: It is not that I came wanting to do a lot of things when I became Director; I asked God what the important things here were. I wanted OM to value worship, prayer and mission. I wanted us to ask God what He wanted before we thought about strategy. When I was with Campus Crusade, we were very strong in strategy and organising. But after many years, I realised that the most important thing is not strategy. God will show us the way.

Serving Hong Kong



Serving Marginalised Women –
Companion Ministry

Whom Should I Send?

By Gladys (Companion Ministry Outreach Worker)

I recently met up a lady who has been working in sex industry. We spoke together, which had become our usual habit. During our conversations she often broke into tears, and this time was no different. She told me that she had never asked for much in life, but that she longed for someone with whom she could share about life. I asked if I could pray for her and when she agreed I asked God to comfort her.

After the meeting, I recalled when I was first called to serve marginalised women. I remembered how often I doubted God's calling to me. When God called me to be the light in the dark, I asked myself - Is it difficult? Is it dangerous? How will I get the resources? How can I start something from scratch? Would God consider someone else? I felt like I knew nothing at all and that I wasn't the right person.

Even since joining this women's ministry, I still occasionally look at other serving opportunities, but in the end, I stuck with loving those women being widely despised and loathed because I saw God's love being magnified in this group.

In fact, sometimes it is not easy to not judge the people I serve. Yet when I reflected on how Jesus did not convict the woman caught in adultery, but instead told her not to commit the crime anymore, I saw that I needed to love without judgement. I, through God's capacity, am truly honoured to walk with the sad and the hurting and participate in their life stories.

Through my meetings with this specific lady God asked me once again, "Whom should I send? Who is willing to go on my behalf?" I was reminded that I can help and comfort a lot of people as long as I respond to God's calling. Sometimes it is as easy as spending time with someone, listen to their story and praying for them.



Serving Ethnic Minorities – Pat Heung Ministry

Living out the Gospel

By Wing (Pat Heung Ministry Short Term Worker)

I once was a volunteer of the Pat Heung ministry. Last year, I took a step further to get involved in the ministry as a short term worker. Through helping out with a programme for ethnic minority kids, God opened my eyes and brought me a new perspective on mission.

For two months, I lived, played, studied and got involved in community services with the kids. It was indeed an unforgettable experience. After the programme, I really missed their smiling faces and hugs, which are the warmest rewards I had had.

When thinking of missions, I used to relate it to overseas ministries only. When I found out that OM Hong Kong has local ministries, I realized that the missions field is far broader than I could imagine. The people who need us can be far away or just a doorstep away. We are aware of those people living in remote and unreached countries who do not know the name of Jesus, but it may be hard for us to think of our neighbours who have actually never heard the gospel yet either.

It is true that 'spreading the gospel' is sensitive in certain conditions where we cannot speak of God's name directly. However, the gospel is not an old story that happened two thousand years ago. Instead it is a gracious gift for everyone! If we cannot speak of what Jesus has done for us in some situations, let us live it out. We should be ready to serve our neighbours – ethnic minorities, Muslims, the forgotten and the homeless. As we interact with them, we can be the living gospel.

