



Speak up for the Voiceless

By **Fion**

When I was a university student, I took a major in creative media and had a desire to speak up for the underprivileged through different media outlets, but I was not sure in what ways I could make my voice heard.

Later I learned that OM has ministries serving different underprivileged groups. With a heart to increase the awareness of social injustice, I joined OM South Africa to work in the Communications team. I was able to use my writing, design, photography and video taking skills to report about the lives of the oppressed through multi-media.

In South Africa, I saw firsthand social issues like poverty, aids, human trafficking and bullying in schools.

I witnessed some heartbreaking stories behind these issues. I remember I walked a two-year-old village girl home after a children's activity. When I reached her home, I realised that she lived in one of the rooms in the house with her mother. While looking for her mother, a tenant in the same house said her mother had not come back after going to the city. I looked at the girl, who had an innocent smile on her face, wondering if she may have become an orphan!

The girl's story probably reflects the poverty problem in Africa. What I could do is to report these real stories and speak up for the voiceless children. I really want to let more believers know about their situation and hope that others would get involved in sharing God's love to the needy.

Fion Ho is a member of the Siu Lek Yuen Peace Evangelical Centre and served in the Communications team of OM South Africa in 2016-17.

Serving the Refugees

By **Gloriana**

I learnt from the news that millions of Syrians have lost their homes and become refugees because of the war. Feeling upset for the war-torn families, I decided to join a short term missions trip to Greece to understand the needs of refugees and how I can serve them.

Greece serves as an entry point into Europe for many refugees. During my trip, I visited a refugee camp where I met a woman from Afghanistan. She showed me the scars on her arms and leg, saying that she was hurt by soldiers. After fleeing to Greece, she lived in the refugee camp. Life was not happy and she told me she was sexually harassed.

Before I left, I prayed with her in English. Actually she didn't understand what I said. But when we said goodbye and hugged each other, tears fell down her cheeks. I believe it was God's love that touched her heart.

During my two-month stay in Greece, I treasured the time meeting every person and being a blessing to them. God inspired me and showed me that every person I encounter is valuable. On my way back after each visit to the refugee camp, I tried to remember every face I had seen and pray for them..

Gloriana Tang is a member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Kei Shek Church and was a participant of a short term missions trip to Greece.



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Serving marginalized women – Companion Ministry

Let Them Return Because of Love

By **Vicky** (Companion Ministry Volunteer)

I was so nervous the first time I visited a brothel. My fear was quickly replaced with regret and heart-brokenness when I came across those sex-appeal photographs and juicy quotes on the wall. I still wonder why these women would set their feet on prostitution. But there is one thing I am sure of – God still loves them and awaits their return.

Listen and pray

I used to meet a lady, who wailed loudly while sharing about her experiences with us. In those moments, other than saying a prayer for her, we indeed did not know how to comfort her. We offered to pray with her and surprisingly, she said, yes. But at that very moment a client came, so unfortunately, we all had to leave. The next time we visited her we were able to pray for her. Oftentimes it takes a long time and patience to build up our friendships gradually with these women.

The group being locked up

During our visits, we sometimes bump into the ‘Johns’ or clients coming to visit the women in the brothels. Previously, I thought these men must be some kind of lechers, but it is not the true case. The clients are from all walks of life, including youth and elderly, both single and married. I felt outraged whenever I meet them until our Lord let me realise that they are victims, too. They are the ones being abused and tortured by their lusts and desires, and surely need deliverance and redemption just as much as anyone else.

I am deeply convinced both the prostitutes and the ‘Johns’ are our neighbours. May we start to keep them both in our prayers – hoping, through God’s love, they will break free from the chains of sin.

Serving Ethnic Minorities – Sham Shui Po Ministry

The Neighbour of Shama

“Shama said she has been sick for a few days. Her fever was gone after medication, but now it came back again. Her husband is now at work and she has three kids at home,” OM worker Lydia shared with some team members in the office after receiving a call from Shama, an ethnic minority woman.

“Why not take her to the clinic nearby?” suggested a colleague Simon, who was supposed to attend a separate meeting, but had quickly searched for clinic information.

Lydia took Shama and her kids to the clinic where the doctor prescribed some more medication. Then Shama told Lydia that she also had a toothache. Later we found out Shama has eighteen rotten teeth; Fourteen of them are badly decayed and need to be filled and the remaining four need to be removed altogether. The total cost for the treatment was going to be HKD1200.

Shama’s husband is a free-lance worker and does not have a stable income. Thus, each expense item does impose an extra financial burden on her family. One of the OM teammates shared Shama’s situation with a brother, who happens to be a dentist, from the same church. The dentist offered to provide free dental services to Shama and invited Shama to come to his clinic for treatment.

Three days after the procedure, an OM team visited Shama, and while her teeth problems were better, they noted that the already skinny Shama had become even more weary and exhausted. In conversation with Shama, they discovered this was because she was caring for her husband, who was ill as well, and her kids’ busy routines, and doing other housework. The OM workers prayed together with the family and one volunteer stayed to attend to her kids so as to ensure Shama could rest properly. Shama looked much better when the team visited her again the next day.

As Christians, we are the neighbours of the ethnic minority groups here. With the healing power and grace from the Lord, in addition to the love shared among the brothers and sisters, we all can experience the realness of our God.



Serving Ethnic Minorities – Pat Heung Ministry

From Far to Close

Though we meet people from ethnic minorities in our community every day, we may just walk past without speaking to each other. How can such a “close yet far” relationship turn into one with genuine interactions?

During OM’s summer programme, youth volunteers learnt to share their lives by singing, dancing and playing ball games with the ethnic minority children. To live out the value of “love is not self-seeking”, together with the children, volunteers reached out to the homeless, the senior scavengers and the street cleaners.

In just a few days, OM volunteers started to see and appreciate the beauty of the kids, and the kids felt the love and care from the volunteers.

Towards the end of the summer programme, a South Asian girl who seldom spoke, shared, “Thank you for sharing your love. Thank you for playing ball games with me. Thank you for speaking Cantonese with me patiently.” The volunteers were surprised by the sincere gratitude expressed. Only then did the volunteers realize that the kids do appreciate what they had done.

Ethnic minorities are often neglected by the rest of society. Through spending time together, volunteers and the kids have moved from being far removed from each other to closer relationships! OM workers hope that one day the children will experience not only the love from volunteers, but also the love from God.