

Witnessing the miracle

By **Tim**

I stayed with my teammates when I had my mission training in South Africa. One night, a village headman came to us for prayer for a young girl who was suffering a serious asthma attack.

The clinic was already closed for the day, so seven of us grouped together to pray; but the girl did not recover.

The call after the silence

I'm a very rational person and majored in science subjects at school. I have also relied on conservative spiritual teaching. Hence, when the young girl was having breathing difficulties, I thought the team should not count solely on prayer. I began planning how to get her admitted to the hospital in due course.

Sending her to the nearest hospital would have taken about 30 minutes. We, however, did not have any vehicles available. As this was an emergency, I suggested that our team leader contact the headquarters so that we could admit her to the hospital as soon as possible.

The girl suddenly made a whimper when I was preoccupied with thoughts on all possible next steps. She, with head facing down, sat down silently without any trace of movement and everyone around fell into dead silence. When the girl felt like passing out, she uttered a few words, "J-e-s-u-s! J-e-s-u-s!" All became dumbfounded right away. Afterwards, she gradually got a lot better, and her asthma stopped as well.

"Do you know who just saved you?" one of the teammates asked. She answered, "It is Jesus!"

Our team leader shared the scripture about the woman who suffered from a bleeding disorder and asked if the girl would surrender herself to Jesus. She said yes without any hesitation.

What shaped my understanding of God?

I tossed and turned all night long recalling what I had done at the girl's critical stage - I had been thinking hard with a view to send her to hospital as soon as possible. I had even come up with different backup plans.

If it happened somewhere else, I bet calling the ambulance would surely have been the quickest fix. The most amazing part was that the Lord let me, in person, witness the miracle. His almighty power triumphed over all my earthy plans. The Lord made it very clear to me - I AM WHO I AM. You have to believe ME in this way.

What shaped my understanding of God in these years? I kept asking myself this question. It seemed that I understood His almighty power only from a rational perspective. Deep down in my heart, am I really sure that He is above all? Or is He simply the one who lives up to my expectations?

His omnipotence cannot be measured or predicted. If I wish to be a missionary one day, will I always encounter experiences which are totally beyond my comprehension? Or are these instead special gifts from the Lord, glimpses of His power that He let me witness in person?

Tim is a member of Kwai Chung Peace Evangelical Centre and he was a participant of MDT in South Africa in 2018. He also served on Logos Hope for two years after MDT.



Life as missionaries in Japan

By **Matt and Mandy**

Matt and Mandy's family moved to the Hokuriku region of Japan for two years. Living in the suburban area as missionaries, they are learning to adapt to the etiquettes of Japanese culture. Very often, it begins with minor habits.

"Japanese always speak softly. People speak so softly that you can hardly hear what they said even when you sit next to them in a restaurant. We have to keep reminding our children not to speak loudly so as not to disturb others," said Mandy.

Japan is a disaster-prone country. The couple has realized that disaster prevention is necessary. "Almost every family in Japan has a survival kit at home. Although we are not living in the earthquake zone, disasters might occur anytime. For example, there was a snowstorm in Kanazawa last year, and snowfall reached one metre in one night. The heavy snow made driving dangerous; about 100 traffic accidents were reported just in one day," said Matt.

Reaching out to university students

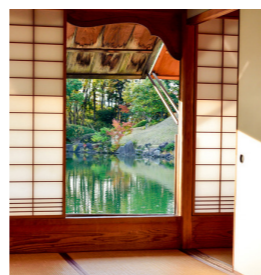
Japan is tough soil for the gospel. The vast majority of people cling to traditional beliefs and resist Christianity. Is it the same case for the new generation?

"It seems that they still believe in traditional religions, and yet they believe in themselves and technology, too. It is still not easy to share the gospel directly. However, when we joined the cultural exchange activities in a university, we found that students are interested in learning English. That's why we organise English classes and build relationships with them," said Matt.

"A student said she was not sure about her path after graduation, so did her goals of life. During the English classes, we talked about life planning and in this way I hope I can tell her some Christian values," Mandy added.

Pray for the church

The church in the area where the family lives is relatively traditional, with only 20 to 30 believers on average. "In most churches, people are not keen to serve. For example, the pastor of our church is already 79 years old but he has to handle most of the tasks by himself. Believers usually help out in daily operational matters only. They rarely take on responsibilities like spiritual teaching. We wish God will raise up more people to serve in churches," said Matt.



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OUR PURPOSE

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This year marks OM Hong Kong's 30th anniversary! Throughout the years, we have seen thousands of people respond to God's calling to bring the love of Jesus to every part of the world.

Following the motto of OM Founder George Verwer, "No idea is too crazy," we encourage young people to use their gifts creatively in missions. Adopting "No idea is too crazy" as our anniversary theme, OM Hong Kong would like to see more people become radical for God:

"For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God" (2 Corinthians 5:13).

In this issue, we are pleased to share the story of a young lady who discovered her passion to serve Pakistanis through OM.

Equipping young people for missions

Carmen joined OM Hong Kong as an intern in 2013 at the age of 21. Since then, she has served Pakistanis living in Hong Kong, who are mostly Muslims, and is now the Officer of the ministry.

Carmen developed a heart for Muslims when she met a Muslim lady in Hong Kong. "The lady was an Indonesian Muslim and was admitted to a hospital. She was quite desperate because she couldn't work. She wanted to pray, but she thought that Allah wouldn't hear her prayers because she wasn't a religious leader. She had also been taught that because she was a woman Allah would never hear her prayers," Carmen recalled.

Through this helpless lady, Carmen began to see the need to reach out to Muslims. She later joined OM's local and overseas short term missions in which she thought seriously about how to share God's love with Muslims.

In 2013, she was in Malaysia for a mission trip during Ramadan. "When I heard the Muslim prayer music, I felt very sad and heartbroken. God asked me if I would like to work full time to serve the Muslims - and I said yes," she recalled.



Carmen attended a training in the UK with youngsters from other countries.

Upon graduation in 2013, Carmen worked in OM in Hong Kong and became part of their ethnic minority ministry, which serves the Pakistani community in Hong Kong. "Since I joined the ministry, I got to know the culture of Pakistan and how to build friendship with Pakistanis. At the same time, OM has provided me with training opportunities that develop my ministry and leadership skills," she said.

"I'm glad that OM leaders have worked closely with me not just to serve. They take care of my spiritual life too. As a worker serving full time at a young age, I think OM is a platform for me to learn about missions and has allowed me to reflect on my faith so that I know what training I needed most," she said.

Youth Mission Fund

OM is committed to helping youth find their roles in missions through providing training and mission opportunities. As OM in Hong Kong embarks on the 30th anniversary, we have set up a "Youth Mission Fund" to equip and support youth who want to pursue missions. All donations will be used to support OM Hong Kong's local and overseas mission workers of ages 18 to 35.

You can play a part in passing the baton to youth participating in world missions. Please specify that your donation is for "Youth Mission Fund".



Serving Marginalised Women – Companion Ministry

So close and yet so far

By Candy (Companion Ministry Outreach Worker)

Since I was a kid, I have lived in a small community at New Territories and gone to church nearby. I thought I knew the ins and outs of this community. However, when I heard my priest encouraging us to care for our neighbors, I started pondering, "Who really is my neighbour?"

A few years ago, I started to understand the needs of the local sex industry. The Lord dramatically opened my eyes when I discovered a brothel in my community. The sex industry wasn't happening merely in Sham Shui Po, a poorer, ethnic neighborhood—it was happening in my own community! It dawned on me: aren't these also my neighbours?

A few brothers and sisters from my church also noticed the change. Some of them doubted that their neighbours could actually be engaged in the sex industry. They, from a practical perspective, even worried about their own safety and the possible crime increase in the neighbourhood. How should we, as Jesus' followers who embrace the principle of loving our neighbours as ourselves, respond when faced with neighbours like these?

I believe the first step is to pray. The next is to understand and to take action. We are no longer serving housewives that you can bump into from time to time. Those people focus primarily on preparing dinners for their families and helping their children succeed academically. In contrast, those in our new target audience have their own chapters published, such as hurts and pains resulting from failed marriages, broken relationships and childhood trauma. Are you willing to listen to their true struggles, which are so often hidden behind tightly locked doors?

Some fellowship members, after sharing their frustrations, prayed that our "neighbours" would hear the gospel soon. Isn't this the mission we should embrace? We wish, if given the chance to encounter "our neighbours" again in the future, to be granted kindness and meekness from our merciful Father to pray and care for their needs. Whenever we claim we have to spread the gospel throughout the world, we have to understand that this teaching does not mean simply traversing great physical distances. It also means reaching out to the neighbour who is so close physically but yet so far because they still live in the dark with no knowledge of the gospel.



The future is no longer a dream

"My dream is" Last summer, our short term mission team embarked on a journey with ethnic minority kids to help them pursue their dreams.

In search of dreams

This journey of "dream-catching" started with a visit to a local university, with an aim to help the kids learn about different subjects.

We shared stories of university life and encouraged the kids to think about their future. They shared some of their dreams: "I want to be a doctor! I want to be a photographer! I want to be a football player!"

To achieve their dreams, ethnic minority kids in Hong Kong have to overcome severe barriers, including social discrimination, language problems and financial difficulties. University isn't meant for everyone, but whatever the dream, we believe we can help unleash each child's potential.

You can do it!

To explore the childrens' talents, we asked them to participate in a drama performance.

The drama was about the journey of two kids in search of their dreams. One studied hard and eventually achieved his dream, while another experienced a number of failures before discovering his strengths and finding his path. We presented this drama with the hope that they will understand that learning and growth can result from easy times as well as difficult experiences.

During rehearsal, not all kids played their role well. Some were shy, and some lacked confidence in acting.

We encouraged the kids and gave them confidence while teaching them to remember the script and performance order. When it came time, the kids remembered their lines and performed with great facial expressions! They made it happen!

By walking with the ethnic minority kids in the love of God, we will help them discover that each of their imagined futures is no longer just a dream.

