

St Andrew's Church  
KOWLOON

## GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

# JOY PAULSEN

### To be a disciple of Jesus and help others do the same



Mei was 13 when she came to one of our Sunday school teacher training courses. For 5 days, she never spoke, never made eye contact. Carmen (a trainer) tried just to get Mei to smile.

Three months later, Mei was a different person; lively, engaging, talkative. What changed? Sometime during that first training, God healed Mei of a seizure disorder that had kept her out of school. So Mei went home and started teaching Sunday school.

Another six months passed. Mei was readmitted to school. She has decided to become a pastor and asked for us to pray that she catch up with studies so that she could attend seminary.

God transformed Mei into a disciple.

Teacher Yan brought students to one of the summer English camps. She noticed how the international teachers engaged the students. She wrote:

"The foreign teachers' teaching ways are quite different from ours. In their class, students never felt nervous and shy. Our students were afraid to speak English in class before, but in the English Summer Camp they could speak loudly in class and after class they could also communicate bravely with our foreign teachers."

When I saw Teacher Yan that December, she asked me, "Can you help me find a Christian church? I have decided I want to believe."

Teacher Yan watched God's love transform students and decided that she wanted that love, too.



These are three precious sisters, Lillian, Carmen and Candy. Together we developed the training course for Sunday school teachers and brought it to churches in Sichuan, Henan, Fujian and Anhui. I am convinced that this whole program came into being on the back of the prayers of St Andrew's 3-6 year old Kidzone class back in 2007. It was pure joy to watch these three ladies deepen their love for Jesus and put that faith into practice.

In the past year, they have all become mothers. Each is planning to raise her child to know Jesus and follow Him with their whole hearts.

God transformed them into disciples who are already discipling others.

We met Mao Lin when distributing book bags at a poor school. She had a leg injury from her infancy that never healed. With the help of



the international community, she got surgery and rehabilitation.

On her first day she was allowed to stand, she proclaimed: "This is the happiest day of my life. Not only can I stand on my own, I have decided to become a Christian." Her mother also decided that day.

At her factory, Mao Lin's mother told "everyone" about Jesus' love, shown through the foreigners. When the foreigners visited the factory, the factory managers shut down the machines to welcome the visitors and to hear their message.

God brought light to a family and a factory, starting with a school-bag project.

Without my partnership with St Andrew's none of these transformations would have happened.

✉ Joy - [mjoyinChina@ac-post.com](mailto:mjoyinChina@ac-post.com)

## GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

# Food with Dignity

For most people living here in Hong Kong, food never seemed to be scarce. It is hard to imagine that there are people struggling to have enough to eat each day and not to mention the limited choices of food they can receive.

In-kind food assistance was first introduced in 2006 for refugees and asylum seekers, they would have to queue up to collect food every 10 days at limited food suppliers. However, food that they receive is often different from the food that they ordered, both in quantity and variety. The quantity of food is often not sufficient, particularly perishable items such as fresh meats, vegetables and fruits, which only last a few days. This problem is compounded by the fact

that no adequate storage (both space and refrigeration system) available, no cooking facilities or cooking utensils for perishable food items, and long distance to travel for collecting food items. The quality of food was also questionable with complaints of rotten vegetables and fruits and expired canned goods, dairy products or even rice.

Recently, the Hong Kong government introduced a food coupon system for refugees at Wellcome supermarkets, noting that they will soon introduce an

e-voucher scheme and plan to negotiate expanding the programme to other supermarkets. They also pledged to introduce a mechanism to adjust the level of assistance annually to the Consumer Price Index.

Although there are still rooms to be improved of the new food coupon system, it significantly improves the quantity and the quality of food that refugees and asylum seekers receive each day. It gives them right and dignity to choose their basic need of food.

**It is a real policy reform after long fought campaigns of many churches and NGO's including St Andrew's Church.**

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)*

**To God be the Glory!!**

### Luke, Fiona, JC & Mali: Help us empower women-at-risk



They are one of the Global Partners and Fiona was involved in starting the Starfish Project in the city they served four years ago. They would like to invite you to play an active part in this meaningful ministry right at your workplace!

#### **What is Starfish Project?**

It is a business that serves women-at-risk in a closed country in Asia. They do outreach to build friendships with these women and provide the counselling and medical support. They encourage them to leave their old lifestyle and come to work and live with them.

#### **What do these women do once they join Starfish?**

They provide them a shelter where they can stay, and help them think through how to rebuild their lives, from money management to cooking. They provide daily Bible studies as well as individual mentors, who can journey with these women, listening to them and praying with them. They also train them to make jewellery, so that they can earn enough money (in a safe, sustainable job) to provide for themselves and their families.

#### **What is the biggest challenge for Starfish Project right now?**

Over the years the project has grown – they have tripled their number of employees! They are hoping to expand the market for their products so that they can continue to provide these women with a reasonable income plus benefits.

#### **How can people at St Andrew's help out?**

They need your help to promote Starfish products (see [www.starfish-project.com](http://www.starfish-project.com)) at your workplace. For example, it would be really helpful if you could arrange for them to a meeting room over the lunch break for our volunteers to come and sell Starfish jewellery. Profits are used to pay the women's salaries and to cover the running costs of the project (rent, materials, etc). If you are interested in helping them, please contact our HK sales representative – Cathy Chan, [cathychan.ho@gmail.com](mailto:cathychan.ho@gmail.com).

## Response & Enquiry

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