

St Andrew's Church
KOWLOON

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Thank you for supporting Christmas Action

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who participated in Christmas Action in various ways. Thanks to those who gave generously; those who came and packed the Christmas gifts, those who went to visit and handed out gifts to the elderly, the refugees and asylum seekers, the poor, the inmates and the friends in the Home of Loving Faithfulness.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all the leaders who helped in organising and coordinating volunteers in the various events: Andrew and Maranda Ngo, Caroline Chan for the St Barnabas Society and Home Christmas Outreach; Edwin Cheng for the Prison Ministry Christmas Outreach at Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institute; Pat Hanson, Lyn Skubala and Chris Chan for the Refugee & Asylum Seekers Christmas Party; and the Putonghua congregation for leading the visit to Elderly Homes.

Most of all, we thank you for your generous gifts that we received, so that we can share freely the love, joy, peace of Jesus with others in the Christmas season.

Shirley Cheng, Mission Director



St Barnabas Society and Home Christmas Outreach



Visit to Elderly Homes



Refugee & Asylum Seekers Christmas Party



Prison Ministry



Home for the 100th Sheep



Christmas Gift Packing

St Barnabas Society and Home Christmas Outreach

by Caroline Chan (Mid-morning Church)

On 8 December about 30 of us, mostly from the Saturday Growth Groups, rolled our sleeves up and prepared 55 Christmas dinner boxes for the poor and needy in the Western and Kennedy Town districts. Parents and children worked together to cook up a storm at the St Andrew's kitchen and then excitedly transported the food and other goodies to St Barnabas' Society and Home (SBSH). Guided by SBSH staff and volunteers, we headed out in four

groups to deliver the meals and gifts. Those we visited graciously welcomed us into their homes and chatted with us, despite the cramped living conditions and the fact that we were total strangers. One family even offered to share the food we delivered when one hungry little one looked longingly at the meal boxes! Another lady lived in a place with no electricity whatsoever but she was cheerful and thankful and shared with us some

survival tips. At the debriefing session afterwards, the SBSH staff encouraged us to think of how we had been blessed by the poor and the needy. Indeed, the gifts of food and daily necessities we provided paled in comparison to the warmth and cheerfulness we received in return. It was a wonderful experience for parents and children alike – a chance to serve those in need in a small way.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Christmas News from Global Partners



Decorating for Christmas 2012

Our family had several opportunities to share the good news over the last few days - thanks for praying for us. Here's a bit of what happened:

Christmas Eve, at our flat:

Our neighbours (a couple with their 17-year-old son) came over for hot spiced apple cider, cookies, and conversation. We don't know them too well despite living next to them for 3+ years... but they had also invited us over for dumplings on the winter solstice a few days before, so we are getting more acquainted. On Christmas Eve, we chatted casually for about an hour, and then we suggested doing some typical "holiday" things. So we read the Christmas story, explained it a little bit, sang "Silent Night" (in both languages) by candlelight, and then said 'goodbye' by singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." They seemed really touched to have been part of it, and it was a wonderful feeling to share the evening with them.

Christmas morning, at the kindergarten:

J.C. brought Christmas cookies on the 24 December, but there wasn't time for him to talk about what Christmas means, so he gave it a go the next day. The teachers made time for him to go up to the front of the class, where he read the relevant passages from his Bible-story book (in English). So 3 teachers and ~30 students heard the Christmas story, probably for the first time.

Day after Christmas, in class:

Luke arranged a fun day watching the Nativity movie (from ~5 years ago) with three classmates and three teachers, mostly non-believers. We had more than an hour of amazing discussion afterwards, talking about Jesus' actual historical existence, the reasons he came, the evidence for the events recorded in the Bible, the meaning of the different characters/signs/symbols in the Christmas story, etc. What a great opportunity, and right in the school! Only possible through your prayers and the Father's power.

Two days after Christmas, at Starfish:

Fiona also showed the Nativity movie and led discussion. Obviously the audience were all believers, but it was an important chance to help the girls and the local staff deepen their faith by better understanding the story of Jesus' birth.

These are small steps, of course, but they are exactly why our family has been called to this place. Thank you for supporting us in so many ways, and please do pray that these small steps will lead to greater things in the weeks, months and years to come.

Love,

Luke, Fiona, J.C. and Mali

Pray for Valerie from HOLF (Home of Loving Faithfulness)



Valerie at HOLF suffered from a fall while preparing for Christmas on 22 Dec, with a broken arm and leg, and a swollen face. She received surgery speedily the next day and is now recovering at the hospital. She is in good spirit and relatively pain free after the surgery. However, her left face is still rather numb which makes chewing and swallowing a bit of a problem for her. Please continue to pray for Auntie Val for speedy recovery, and also Wendy and HOLF at this time.

Response & Enquiry

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