

# Mainland



# Brief

Issue no. 21

June 2009

Mainland Service Desk

Caritas-Hong Kong

## From the Editor

After the publishing of our last bulletin, we received donations for the Gansu drought. It wasn't very much; nevertheless, it is heartening that people would respond to our call for action during the time of a severe financial downturn. I want to give a big 'thank you' to all of our benefactors for their generosity.

In this issue, we will report on the various services we've been providing on the Mainland, as well as the needs of one home for the aged in Hebei.

## "Rosary Well" in Inner-Mongolia quenches thirst for thousands

Hechenggong Parish is in a remote area of Inner-Mongolia: in Wengniute Banner, under the administration of Chifeng City. Approximately 1,000 (some 300 households) villagers live in Hechenggong, but only 30 households have wells. Those who did not have wells would have to fetch water from households that do. It goes without saying water shortage is a huge problem here, and as a result of that much of the farmland is laid waste for lack of water.

The parish priest who wanted to dig a well near the church to provide water for everyone in the village managed to raise 10,000 Yuan from local donors. However this was a long way from the 50,000 Yuan needed. He then wrote to Caritas Hong Kong to ask for help. Subsequently, with support from Rosary Church in Kowloon, a 100 meter deep well was built. To show their appreciation, the villagers named it the "Rosary Well".



The "Rosary Well" in Hechenggong Parish, Inner-Mongolia



Villagers fetching water from "Rosary Well".



The story of a graduate trying to return love he received: not easy

**IT IS A BLESSING TO BE ABLE TO HELP OTHERS,  
OR TO BE HELPED**

From 1996 onwards, 525 needy young people in 19 provinces receive scholarship from Mainland Service Desk for their vocational training or post-secondary education. We have, since 2002, asked each beneficiary of the program a commitment: that he/she would after graduation, to his best ability and within a specific timeframe, to help other needy children in his community to have the same chance he had. We asked the very same of Zhao Zhi-jun from Hebei Province, but we never heard from him since his graduation in 2006. We wrote him again last year. When his reply came, it stirred up a variety of emotions. In his letter, Zhi-jun told us about the good deeds of Huo Zhen-feng, who is another graduates of our program. Both their lives changed, but in different ways, as a result of our program. Equally, their stories are touching and we feel deeply gratified. This is what he wrote:

List of the Beneficiaries	
Province	Beneficiaries
Fujian	9
Gansu	4
Guangdong	4
Guangxi	1
Guizhou	1
Hebei	64
Hubei	28
Hunan	301
Jiangsu	1
Jiangxi	12
Jilin	5
Liaoning	2
Shaanxi	32
Shandong	3
Shanxi	18
Sichuan	4
Xinjiang	1
Yunnan	34
Zhejiang	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>525</b>



Dear Caritas-Hong Kong,

Cordial Greetings! First of all, I want to offer my sincere and deeply felt apologies, to you and to my benefactors. Then I want to emphasize I am not one who would forget about the 'good deeds' bestowed on me and one who cares not to return the favor. I'm poor, and I'm not good enough in managing matters of importance, but I'm not a bad person.

After my graduation, I found a job with a construction company in Xian. But even before my graduation, I often felt discomfort in my head, which I never paid much attention to. One day a little over a month after I had started working, I fainted in the office. I was sent to the hospital and a tumor was found inside my head. They had to operate on me as soon as possible, or else I would not have lived. The operation was a success, but I was in debt for more than eighty thousand Yuan.

While I was still recovering from my operation, they found that my mother had breast cancer. She had to have a surgery, followed by chemo-therapy, which added another twenty thousand Yuan to my debt-load. To be near to my mother so I could take care of her, I returned to Hebei to work for a small company. My salary now is 1,600 Yuan a month, which is not a bad salary in a small provincial town. Whatever is left after paying for our daily needs, it is used to pay back my debt. It is because of this, I'm incapable of fulfilling my commitment to Caritas-HK, and the reason why I did not write to you. I beg for your understanding, and forgiveness.

I received 4,000 Yuan from Huo Zhenfeng in January, this year. He told me that I need not repay him. What he asked of me is that I will, when my economic situation turns around, give the money to people who are in need of help. He was doing it because Caritas-HK had paid for his university tuitions.

I always remember it was Caritas-HK that paid my university tuitions. I always thought about doing something for needy people. When the earthquake struck in Sichuan, I went there to work as a volunteer. The conditions were quite lacking when I first got there: each day, there was only one piece of bread, one instant noodle, and a bottle of water. But I felt unparalleled peace in my heart, because I was able to serve victims of the quake.

It's truly a blessing to be able to help others, or to be helped. Although I wish I can always be the former.

I want to say to you once again that I'm sorry! I'm not able to fulfill my promise to Caritas-HK at this time, but I am a true believer that one should return 'love', with love. And I will do that when I am capable. I will pass on the torch of love....

Zhao Zhijun (Hebei)

Dec. 20th, 2008.



## A voice from afar...

China is facing the challenges of an increasingly aging population. Although the main mission for the Sisters of the order 'Mother of God', in Daming County, Hebei Province, is to care for handicapped children, they are also concerned about those who are homeless and elderly. These old folks lived far apart. With only a few Sisters to serve them, an Austrian priest helped by building a home (in two years) that can accommodate 80 old people in Daming County. The construction was completed last year. The 'home' mainly caters to homeless old folks. To be self sufficient, a portion of it is reserved for those who can afford to pay. Other sources of income include a clinic run by the Sisters, and farming.

Still, the home needs much improvement. The Austrian priest who has been helping the Sisters is already advanced in age – more than 80 years old – and is no longer able to engage in fund raising activities. They are now requesting Caritas Hong Kong for help. Below is a list of their needs:



Item	Quantity	Amount (Yuan)
1) Large size solar heater	1	13,000
2) Haier brand large washing machine	1	6,000
3) Large refrigerator	1	3,000
4) Yonghong brand noodle machine	1	2,000
5) Flour mixing machine	1	3,000
6) Disinfecting cupboard	1	1,950
7) Gas stoves	2	3,250
8) Water boiler	1	2,500
9) Drapes for 89 windows (Sisters do sewing)	400 metres	14,000
10) Dining table with 6 chairs	10 set	6,500
11) Tables and chairs	25 set	3,250
<b>Total:</b>		<b>58,450</b>

### We need your generous support!

You can send us a crossed cheque made payable to "Caritas-Hong Kong" with "Support on Hebei Elderly Home" marked on the back, together with the contact information. Please mail to: Mainland Service Desk, Room 505, Caritas House, 2, Caine Road, Hong Kong.

Official receipt will be issued by Caritas-Hong Kong for tax-exemption purpose. For enquiry, please call 35892259 / 35892500. You can also email to [mainland@caritas.org.hk](mailto:mainland@caritas.org.hk) for more information. Thank you.