

Living
water
for All



God Brings
Changes!

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Without A
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MSI Bulletin

A Call to Christian Professionals

Special EDUCATION

GIVE THANKS | by Joy Tai
— to God for His help thus far



While everyone was busy washing and cooking vegetables, a tall and well-built boy sang out, "Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me..." In the Saturday morning life skills group, five autistic boys are learning how to cook, with guidance from their parents. A few of these boys have completed their schooling and a few others have been expelled from school for offensive behaviour. Since their parents did not wish the boys' situation to deteriorate further, they came together to form a support group, with the help of special education teachers and volunteers. There are many similar families hidden from public view. These families need care and support.

At the end of 2004, MSI colleagues began visiting families with autistic children in order to better understand their needs and how to help them. During festive occasions, the parents were encouraged to take their children out to celebrate. Not only were the children happy, the parents also had the opportunity to interact

and encourage one another.

Between 2007 and 2010, MSI assisted the Disabled People's Federation to set up the first autism rehabilitation centre in the province. In 2011, the service centre directed its focus to a 'Parents Support Group' in order to help the parents. The parents greatly appreciated a platform for mutual assistance and the resulting benefits. In 2014, they started the registration process with the Civil Affairs Bureau for a community organization. It was successfully completed by March 2015. The number of families who participating in the support group increased from six in 2011 to a hundred in early 2017. The parents exchanged information, organized parent-child summer camps and thanksgiving activities, worked together in hand-crafts and shared mouth-watering recipes! They shared each other's joys and sorrows.

In 2014, the local Three-Self Church started an 'Angels' Class' for children

with disabilities. This was very heart-warming. It included music and drawing lessons, and attracted many parents who enrolled their little ones. The visible changes in the children were amazing and moved the parents deeply. At Christmas in 2017, we praised God that we could hear the children sing on the Lord's day!

Over the last couple of years, there has been an increase in new service agencies for children, but the service agencies for adults are not enough. Consequently, in the future, MSI will focus on the provision of services for adults. Hopefully in 2018, we can organize some seminars and provide training for job seekers.

Our Father has been trustworthy and dependable every step of the way. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. In the same way that He made use of the five loaves and two fishes, anyone with even a small measure of willingness can have a place in His work. He is the One to whom we give thanks! ■

INTERCEDING TOGETHER



GOD BRINGS CHANGES!

by Noriko Soga

1 With government requests for MSI to participate in some new sites, we need more medical and other professionals to join our teams. Pray that more volunteers, either long-term or short-term would join our work in inland China.

2 Pray for members who are applying for work visas under China's new visa regulations. May our workers find favour in the eyes of the officials. Pray also for a new generation of workers as China's age limit of 60 for most work visas presents a challenge for our older workers.

3 Pray for the development of training teams that can help local like-minded non-profit organizations to better serve their communities by providing specialist training. Our teams hope to provide training in the areas of elderly care, rehabilitation, and special education.

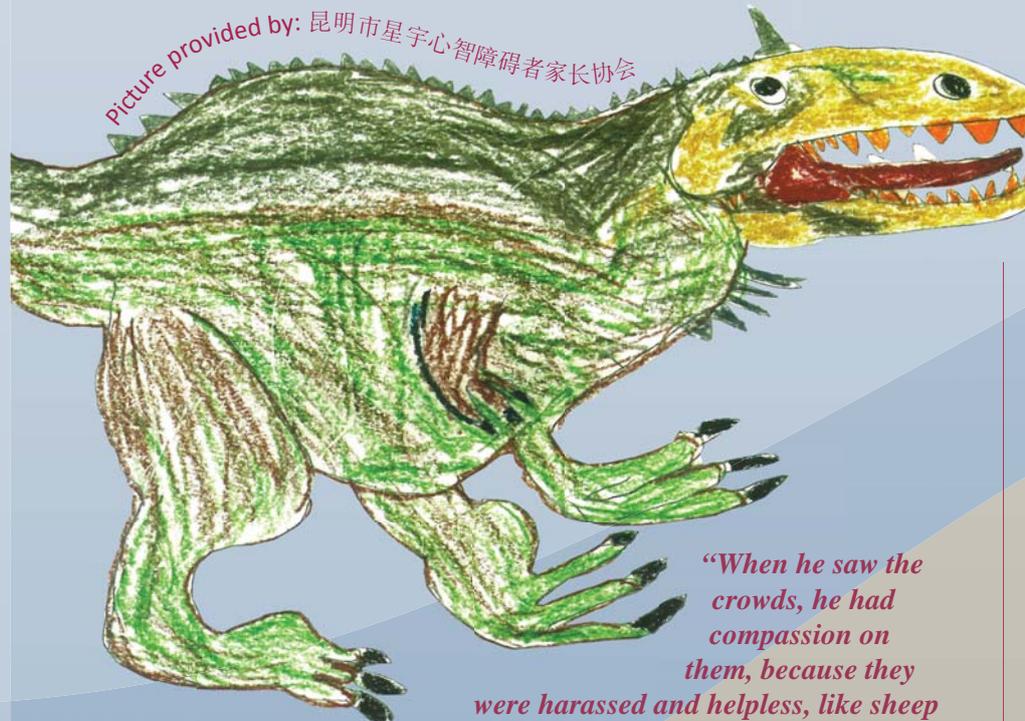
4 We need to train and develop new leaders for the field. Especially as members retire or leave the field for a variety of family issues, there is a great need for good leadership in our sites. Pray that new leaders will rise up to this challenge.

5 Pray for teachers, dorm parents, and home schooling assistants who are willing to serve the children of our workers. Children's schooling continues to be a major concern for parents who are working in a cross-cultural setting.

"For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you." (Isaiah 60:2)

Xing Xing is a boy who is intellectually challenged, and he does not speak because he has an ear problem. When I met him for the first time, he was seven years old and lived with his father in a small mountain village. He was often naughty: people scolded him and raised their hands, threatening to slap him. They did not teach him about right and wrong, because they thought he was stupid and could not learn.

One day, we played and drew on paper with coloured pens. Xing Xing was happy playing with the coloured pens. This was something he seldom did in his village. Then he started to draw lines on the wall. "Stop!" said one of his neighbours, scolding him. But he did not listen and became even naughtier. When I saw this happening, I took the coloured pen away from him and gave him a rag to clean the wall. At first, he did not know what to do with the rag, but after I showed him how to clean the wall with it, he imitated me. He scrubbed the wall a couple of times, and after that he only drew lines on the paper. He discovered that drawing lines on the paper is more fun than doing it



"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36)

Little Rock is a 12-year-old autistic teenager who has never had a chance to go to school. Ever since he was a child, he has had to stay by his father's side. In order to take care of Little Rock, his father has an online business. His greatest wish is to enable Little Rock to attend school. However, this seemingly simple wish has yet to be realised. Because he has to follow his father around, Little Rock's daily routine is very irregular.



Picture provided by: 昆明市星宇心智障碍者家长协会

on the wall, because if he drew on the wall he had to clean the wall and wash the rag!

Xing Xing could learn things if he was taught in the right way, but his father did not want to teach him. At that time, there was a special education school in the county seat in that area, but it was only for deaf and dumb children. Xing Xing did have the ability to learn, but the environment around him did not provide much hope that he would learn anything. As I faced this reality, I was tempted to despair, so I called on God and also asked my friends to pray for Xing Xing.

Three years later, I had an opportunity to visit the special education school in that county seat. It was just before the start of afternoon classes and the students were heading to the classrooms. A boy caught my eyes: it was Xing Xing!!! He looked so different from when I had seen him three years earlier.

His face was bright, and he managed to communicate with his friends using sign language. The school had started to accept intellectually challenged children that year and Xing Xing was among the first batch of students. His neighbours had helped him to enter the school.

In this mountainous area, intellectually challenged and physically disabled children have very few chances to enter school. This is because the geographic isolation results in a lack of social and human resources. Man cannot change these circumstances, but God can use us to open doors so that children can receive special needs education. Please remember these children and their families. God hears our prayers. He is the one who can break the bondage and change their lives. "Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you[them]." (Isaiah 60:1) ■

Like Sheep without A Shepherd

by Jean Cin

He eats when he feels like it and sleeps in the car when he is tired. His father says, "I am getting older and don't have the energy to take him out to play." It's very hard for this boy to spend twenty four hours a day with his father. Now that he is a teenager and has a more rebellious attitude, the father-son relationship is full of tension. As I watched Little Rock growing up day by day, I thought, "he really needs a better environment where he can develop and mature." And so he joined my class.

I spend three mornings a week equipping autistic youths with basic life skills. This includes domestic and social skills. In 2017, after a year's training, I noticed that Little Rock had made good progress. He had adjusted to different routines, and developed a strong interest in cooking. During the life skills class, he was more enthusiastic than the other boys and was reluctant to leave the kitchen. I found him to be very clever - a very promising child. So it is very unfortunate that circumstances

have kept him from attending school. He has been deprived of opportunities to learn the norms of social behaviour, leading to further alienation from the community.

In addition to the autistic teenagers like Little Rock (who have been kept out of the education system), there are others in my class who have been able to complete their schooling. Although these teens have different educational experiences, I saw that their parents share a common concern for their children's future. These families are like sheep without shepherds; without support from the community, how can their children fit in? They are like sheep who do not "belong" in the flock; they yearn for care and direction so that they would not be wandering and lost. ■





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ABOUT MSI

MSI Professional Services is a non-profit organisation serving the holistic needs of the people in inland China. Committed Christian share Christ's love with their lives, promoting meaningful exchange, and cooperating with the Chinese government and other entities to equip local communities to serve China's vulnerable populations.

- Medicine and Community Health
- Educational
- Business Consulting
- Community Development
- Agriculture

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MUSTARD TREE
LEARNING CENTRE

树恩成长中心

Professional services for Special Education Needs (SEN) children

Mustard Tree was registered in May 2017 and started operating in September the same year. It has been set up to nurture children to reach their full potential through professional holistic education services under girded by Christian character values.

Mustard Tree's services

Providing support and advice for parents is a central means of holistic outreach. Our aim is to work with local brothers and sisters providing them with training in counselling and holistic ministry so they can journey with the families we serve. The services include:

- Learning support services for children with mild learning disabilities
- Enrichment classes such as English, creative thinking and problem-solving

Mustard Tree Prayer Points

Please join us by praying for this new enterprise. We are praying for:

- a manager with experience running a small business, preferably in the education sector
- experienced SEN teachers, speech therapists, counsellors, English teachers, and teachers with a background teaching creative thinking, problem-solving etc.

Take a look and see what Mustard Tree has to offer

<http://u4525596.viewer.makaim.com/pcviewer/VMFQ154Z>



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