



### MSI PROFESSIONAL SERVICES LIMITED

#### HEADQUARTERS

Room 702, Win Plaza  
9 Sheung Hei Street  
San Po Kong, Kowloon  
Hong Kong SAR, China

[www.msips.org](http://www.msips.org)

## MSI REGIONAL CENTRES

If you are interested in being part of MSI's services in China or would like to know more information, please contact your local regional centre representative:

#### MSI Australia

**Matthew Lee**  
msi-au@msips.org  
Tel: +61 2 9868 4777

#### MSI Korea

**Hyung Soo Han**  
msi-kr@msips.org  
Tel: +82 10 3201 2971  
[www.msips.or.kr](http://www.msips.or.kr)

#### MSI Philippines

**Imelda Tongco**  
msi-ph@msips.org  
Tel: +63 2 931 0350

#### MSI Thailand

**Kanika Srisilpavongse**  
kanikasri@yahoo.com  
Tel: +66 81 835 0237

#### MSI Canada

**Eric Ma**  
msi-ca@msips.org  
Tel: +1 647 339 2089  
[www.msicanada.org](http://www.msicanada.org)

#### MSI Malaysia

**Debbie Loh**  
msi-ma@msips.org  
Tel: +60 3 4257 9255

#### MSI Singapore

**Amy Tan**  
msi-sg@msips.org  
Tel: +65 6472 2564

#### MSI UK

**Martin Symonds**  
mas1947@gmail.com  
Tel: +44 7496 372510

#### MSI Hong Kong

**Almond So**  
msi.rc3@msips.org  
Tel: +852 2394 5288

#### MSI New Zealand

**Jonathan Lam**  
jshlam@hotmail.com  
Tel: +64 21 217 5433

#### MSI Taiwan

**Tina Chang**  
msitwp@gmail.com  
Tel: +886 2 2242 7358

#### MSI Indonesia

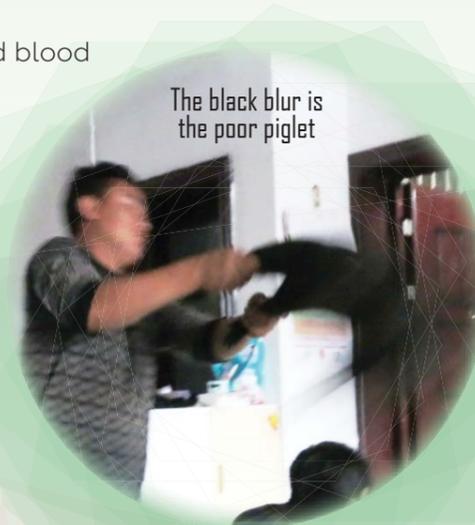
hqinfo@msips.org

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of the Nosu people there was already an understanding of the need to shed blood in order to atone for wrongs they have committed.

Our children still talk about that night with the flying pig. We are thankful to have been given a special glimpse into the lives and hearts of our Nosu friends. We pray that our Nosu friends will come to know that God gave His son as the sacrifice, so our sins are forgiven and we can celebrate new life in Christ.

*"God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished." (Romans 3:25)*



The black blur is the poor piglet

When we arrived at Rose's home, we found her large family already gathered, busy preparing for dinner. Some were plucking the feathers of a chicken and others were setting up the open cooking fire. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary except for a small burlap bag

## ABOUT MSI

MSI Professional Services is a non-profit organisation serving the holistic needs of the people in inland China. Committed Christians 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.

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

#### GENERAL ENQUIRES:

Tel: +852 2394 5288  
Fax: +852 2390 3449  
Website: [www.msips.org](http://www.msips.org)

For queries or feedback regarding our publications, please contact: [hqinfo@msips.org](mailto:hqinfo@msips.org)

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Living water for All

Living among the

MINORITIES



Pigs Really Can Fly

by Wendy (Hou) Cheung

"It was so kind of you to see my child when he was sick. Thank you also for helping my friend's daughter. You and your family must come to my house for Torch Festival!" Rose said to me.

Rose is a local Nosu lady our Zhaojue team has known for over 15 years, and there was no way we could refuse her invitation. We didn't know much about the Torch Festival at that time, other than it somehow involved torches. But having been to the homes of other Nosu friends, our kids were excited to go and eat the traditional dinner of barbecued pig (which they loved). And besides, "playing with fire" sounded fun! We were thankful for this opportunity to learn and be part of this special Nosu tradition with our local friends.

curiously moving on its own in the kitchen corner. Then much to our surprise, out of the "moving bag" popped a little black piglet. "What's going to happen to the pig?" asked our young daughter. We would soon find out.

First, Rose, along with her husband and son, crouched down on to the living room floor right in front of us. Then a man picked up the piglet by the hind legs and began swinging him in large circles over the heads of Rose's family, while another man (a "Bimo", or Nosu shaman) chanted in their local language. After a minute, without any warning, the Bimo took out a large knife and killed the piglet right before our eyes. Needless to say, our family was a bit shocked!

Later, during dinner (the piglet had reappeared as the main dish), Rose explained that this ceremony was to protect her family from evil spirits and to bring them blessings in the coming year. It dawned on us that the pig was a sacrificial offering to appease the spirits that they feared so much. Deep in the belief system

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Rehabilitation training programme for children with cerebral palsy (CP)

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# MSI Bulletin

A Call to Christian Professionals

# INTERCEDING TOGETHER



Thank God for continuing opportunities to work with local governments in some of the more remote sites in Southwest China. Pray that we can mobilise the necessary experts to assist with these projects.

Pray for our medical workers to have stamina and creativity as they provide health education and promote nutrition to mothers of newborn babies in remote areas. Also pray that community development projects will have a positive impact on the lives of village children.

According to statistics, Sichuan Province has a very large number of both migrant and left-behind children. Please remember this great need for adequate care and ask the Lord to send more workers.

Pray for our team at the HIV Centre in Zhaojue. They are exploring the possibility of starting a new project aimed at educating villagers about HIV and the importance of treatment. They also hope to distribute the HIV medication directly to patients in the village. Hopefully this would increase compliance and treatment success.

Pray for the preparation of short-term teams heading to the field during the summer months. May the volunteers be prepared to share their lives as a witness to the love of God.

## Rehabilitation training programme for children with cerebral palsy (CP) by Fay Hii

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27)*

Ni is one of the mothers who comes to the rehabilitation training programme for children with cerebral palsy (CP). She is small and slight, and not particularly tall. She is older than most mothers, having married in her 20s, and also has had more education. She has a red birthmark on her face. Ni's first-born, a son, has cerebral palsy that affects one side of his body.

I first met Ni in 2015 when she and her son came for the second intensive CP training programme. It was intensive in the sense that the parent and child would come for training every day. For most of the participants, it meant staying at the hostel in the rehabilitation building of DPF (Disabled

People's Federation). It meant staying in unfamiliar surroundings for two or three weeks with unfamiliar people and without the comfort of home or the usual support of other family members. It meant having an unfamiliar routine. It meant leaving other children behind for two or three weeks. Often, it was also a lot warmer in the hostel in town compared to their homes up in the mountains. But they came, because they hoped that something could be done for their child.

Ni stood out from the rest. Not only was she cheerful, quick to learn and quick to help, she also had good parenting instincts. She was quick to grasp the rationale of rehabilitation and made the transition to letting her son do what he could, instead of doing everything for him. She also gave him positive encouragement quickly when she saw

us modelling it. She helped the other mothers learn and adapt, explaining things after class in Lisu as one mother to another mother. We learnt that Ni was a Christian.

Also, as time passed, we came to know her many heartaches. It was difficult to go to church with her son as people did not understand. She had to be strong for her family. We rejoiced with her when we found out she was pregnant with a second child. We cried together as we gave her the news that her second son should be tested for Down's Syndrome. This was the little brother she and her husband had hoped would be the one to look after her eldest son when they were gone. She shared how, many a time, she has stood and cried out to God in the middle of their field on the mountain side.

For the Lisu, any disfigurement or ugliness is regarded as a curse or punishment from God. If a person was disfigured or had a child with a disability, then they must have sinned against the heavens. This notion is common even in

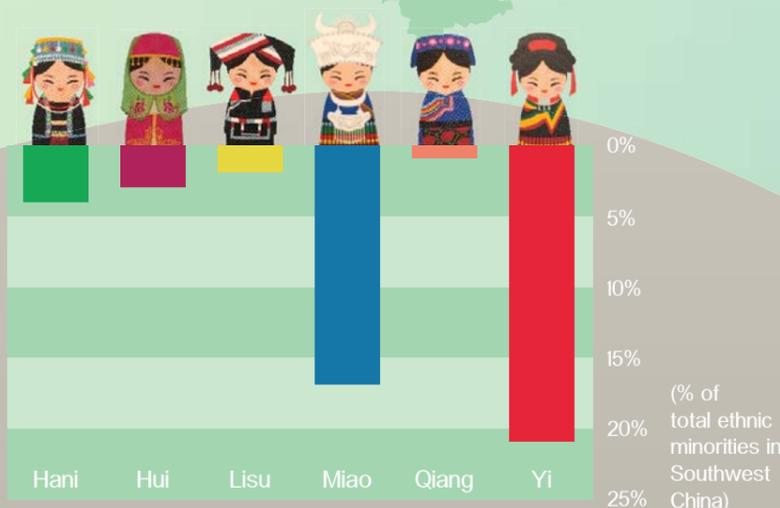


One of the training sessions. This doesn't show the tears and tantrums that often go with it.

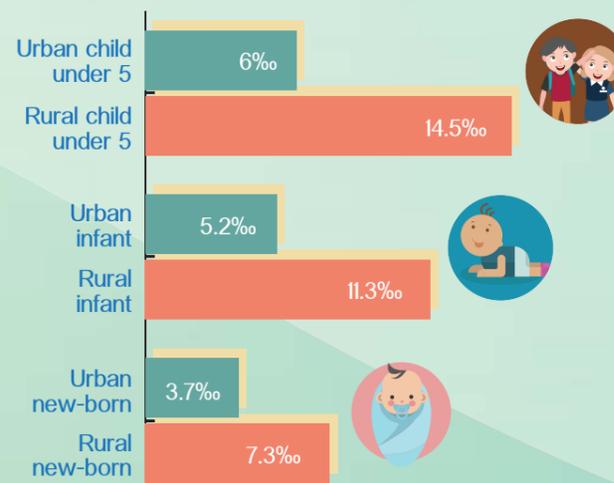
the Lisu church. Yet the church is Christ's body, through whom we all, disabled and scarred in some way, are to be embraced and accepted. And those who the world considers weak God considers indispensable to his church (1 Corinthians 12:22-27). Will you consider today embracing weaker ones into your church family? Please ask that the church here will love these weak ones and embrace them into their church family.

### MINORITIES MSI serves

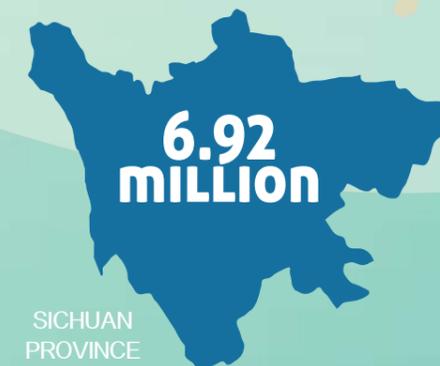
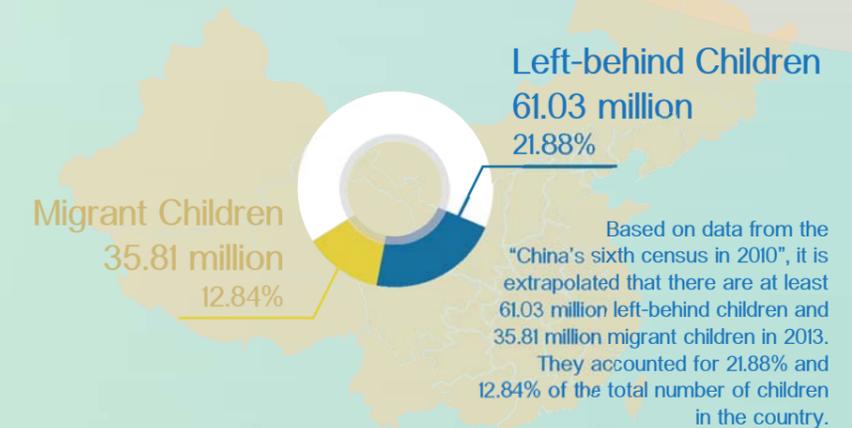
Southwest China (including Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Chongqing, and Tibet Autonomous Region) is the region with the largest number of ethnic minorities, including the Bai, Yi, Shui, Dong, Miao, Nu, Menba, Yi, and Tujia ethnic groups. Below are the six minorities MSI serves in Sichuan, Chongqing and Yunnan.



### Urban and rural children's MORTALITY RATE (2013)



### MIGRANT and LEFT-BEHIND CHILDREN in China (2013)



Sichuan and Henan share the largest left-behind children population among other provinces in China.

**11.34%**  
 of the rural left-behind children are based in Sichuan.

<http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/pcsj/rkpc/6rp/indexch.htm>

[http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/zxfb/201501/t20150129\\_675797.html](http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/zxfb/201501/t20150129_675797.html)

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.gov.cn/jrzq/2013-05/10/content\\_2400061.htm](http://www.gov.cn/jrzq/2013-05/10/content_2400061.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://news.qq.com/cross/20151229/8c83R2Qq.html>