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MSI Bulletin

A CALL TO CHRISTIAN PROFESSIONALS

Your Life is the Message

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FINAL FAREWELL

by Susan H



Mr. Wang is 77 years old and lives in a nursing home. His wife died suddenly of an illness in April, which made him very sad. When the news came, we immediately went to his bedside to comfort him. We learnt that his daughter would come from America to take care of funeral arrangements. Because Mrs. Wang had died away from home and been cremated, their daughter planned on taking her ashes directly to the funeral parlor and not to the nursing home, where Mr. Wang was.

I remember the day when Mr. Wang learnt of the actual plan for his wife's ashes. It was already past five o'clock in the afternoon and everyone was getting ready to go home. Mr. Wang couldn't eat—he was so grieved that he wouldn't be able to bid farewell to his wife. He really wanted to send her off from

the nursing home, only he was worried that his daughter wouldn't agree.

A sense of mission filled my heart—I felt I must help him fulfill his wish. We contacted his daughter and told her what Mr. Wang hoped for. The process was not easy, but thankfully his daughter agreed to detour to the nursing home before heading to the funeral parlor with the ashes.

We waited with Mr. Wang at the gate of the nursing home, watching the car approach slowly. His daughter came out of the car and said to her father, "You won't be able to see anything." The urn was in a box. Mr. Wang reached for the box with a loving touch, before he reluctantly walked away. His desire to bid farewell to his wife was fulfilled.

The verse from Malachi 4:6 came to me: "He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents." ■

TO LOVE AND TO BE BELOVED

by Annie Y



We held a four-day, three-night summer camp for the Yiliang County University students who are in the school assistance programme. The camp theme was "Words of love: Love yourself, love others, love society". Activities comprised workshops on communication skills, conflict management, bridging dreams and ideals, and a movie appreciation time.

During the communication skills and conflict management workshops, students learnt to build positive communication skills through drawing, case presentations, videos, games and discussing experts' theoretical perspectives. Not only did these activities deepen their knowledge in communication and conflict management, they also enabled the students to understand and accept themselves.

The session on bridging dreams and ideals helped many students bring clarity to their dreams and goals, and gain

determination to strive hard to reach their goals. A medical student reaffirmed his aspiration to be a good doctor. Another student said that when he had his own family, his dream was to lead his family members to do meaningful work, like organising summer activities for students.

At the camp, the students watched a French movie, and realised that a love story about love didn't even use the phrase "I love you", since they could use different ways to express love to each other. After the camp, many of them responded that they realised the importance of loving themselves and others. They learnt that they needed to express love, ways to do so, and that they were always worthy of being loved.

We are thankful that the students had a rewarding summer camp. May their lives be filled with sunshine! ■

INTERCEDING TOGETHER

1. The Yunnan Chief Representative Office has seven workers, including three local staff. A couple of the four long-termers are either close to retirement age or lack good health. May the Lord bring younger long-termers to join the team.
2. Pray that businesses in Kunming will be willing to hire workers who are mentally challenged yet are also accompanied by an employment counsellor.
3. We are thankful that the projects in Kunming have gone well. For 2024, please remember the future direction of collaborations with the children's rehabilitation centre and the nursing home. In Yiliang County, we need suitable partners for the school assistance programme. Pray too for the special needs students in the career redevelopment programme as their internships begin in the second half of 2023.
4. So far in 2023, both Jianshui's Rehabilitation Programme and its Hospice Care Project have not gone well, especially regarding arranging external training for the county hospital's therapists. In 2024, there will be a one-week hospital visit for two county therapists. After that visit, may the Lord provide a suitable rehabilitation hospital willing to offer learning opportunities for one to three months, where the two therapists can further their studies.



The elderly are easily being neglected, but the Lord does not take them lightly!

Show respect to the aged; honor the presence of an elder; fear your God. I am God.

Leviticus 19:32 (The Message)

LOVE CHANGES LIFE

by Sanly L

A few months ago, I met a young man, taciturn and spiritless, who was unwilling to take the initiative to communicate with others. During one activity, I asked him how he felt. He said, "Teacher, I don't feel anything." I was so sad to hear that.

Later, I came to know him better and discovered he came from a broken family. His mother and two older sisters have mental health issues, but he does have a younger sister that cares deeply for him. When he was five, his mother left the family and his father did not know how to care for his children. Later, the young man left formal education after graduating from elementary

school, because he could not keep up with his studies. He became glued to his mobile phone and played video games all day and night and gradually became addicted to living trance-like in a virtual world.

Recently he was able to get help in a loving environment, receiving psychological and group counselling. I was amazed to see how he has changed after just a few months! He has begun to express his ideas, communicate with others and even tell jokes. He came back to life! His change and growth has been an amazing journey. Who is doing this work? It's Love!

SENIOR MINISTRY

by Timothy W

In line with its mission values, the Kunming team is collaborating with a like-minded nursing home. This will help enhance their services using multidimensional interventions, which are based on the concepts of "Fall Prevention" and "Dementia Care".

Throughout this time, we have experienced God's abundant grace: dietitians have provided careful guidance to promote balanced and healthy meals in the nursing home; training has further developed nursing staff skills so the elderly can receive high-quality care; guidance in medical and rehabilitation skills have improved comfort levels for the elderly; and rich recreational activities have made life more enjoyable for the elderly. With professional management training, the managers were able to set aside some unhelpful practices and gain a new, broader perspective of elder-care ministry.

Beyond the basic care services of a nursing home, this elder-care ministry gives special focus upon the intrinsic value of the elderly. By compiling and presenting their "life stories", the elderly recognise their own uniqueness while also gaining recognition from their families and communities. In doing so, their lives reveal God's story! ■

