

World Impact Network

NEWS

WIN Stands Uniquely Poised to Help Earthquake Victims...

World Impact Network partnerships in China are already mobilizing help to Earthquake victims of Sichuan province in Central China about 900km from Beijing . All donations received will be distributed to Chinese doctors and other personnel working with Asian Outreach and Action Love to bring much needed aid to the victims affected by the Earthquake. Donations can be made to World Impact Network, earmarked 'Earthquake China' and sent to 12819 S.E. 38th Street, #53, Bellevue, WA 98006 or can be donated online by visiting www.worldimpactnetwork.org



WIN's President, Peter Van Breda Reports on China...

China Today

The dazzling growth of Christianity inside China began in the late 1970s at the end of the Cultural Revolution. During that period, up to 7 million people died from widespread violence and famine. At that time, there were an estimated 3 million Catholics and Protestants in China. Three decades later, estimates of the number of Christians vary widely, but the new estimates of up to 130 million comes from Ye Xiaowen, the head of China's State Administration of Religious Affairs.

The greatest new growth of Christianity is in urban areas. China's economic explosion over the last 20 years has profoundly changed this country of 1.6 billion people, not least its Christians.

Many analysts now see three (often overlapping) groups of Christians inside China: First, the Three-Self Church which is registered with the government. Second, the traditional house-church movement that has rejected oversight and registration. It has been the strongest in rural areas. Third, the urban house church which is not part of either state church or the traditional "underground" church.

Along with Chinese Christians' strong emphasis on church planting, several additional factors are driving huge changes in the makeup of Christians in China. First, rural Christians have moved to the cities, causing the growth of the once-burgeoning peasant Christian movement to level off. It is in fact estimated that 30 million people move to the cities every year. That is like all the people in the country of Canada packing up and moving across the border to the USA each year. A second factor is the Chinese who have been educated overseas. As China opened up, many went abroad to study, and in the West, many became Christians. These students have returned to China and are ready to use their influence for the good of society and the church.

A final factor is China's moral vacuum. The Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989 left many people questioning government values. The killing of unarmed protestors destroyed China's pro-democracy movement, but it also destroyed the nation's soul, says one Chinese leader.

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SPRING 2008

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world impact network
meeting needs around
the world

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Stories of Three People Who Have Received Hope from Renewal Food Bank

Haleigh (not her real name) has been using the Renewal Food Bank for nearly a year now. She is a forty one year old with a husband and four children. Haleigh had been a flight attendant for several years with a major airline when she went on maternity leave four years ago after the birth of her first child. Three more children later she is still on maternity leave after having just given birth again just two months ago. Since her initial leave with the airline four years ago, flight attendants have had to take large pay cuts to keep the airline flying. So for her to pay for day care for four children in order to go back to work would end up costing her more than she would earn. On top of this her husband lost his high paying IT job last year when his company went out of business. He has not been able to find work so the family has no current income. They also have no medical insurance, and currently have over \$20,000 in medical bills. Robin said that our food bank has been "a tremendous help", especially with diapers and formula. She has also used Hopelink on occasion but said that she much prefers us because we have much more of a variety and she gets to shop!

Susan is a single mom with two young children. She has been a Renewal client since the summer of 2005. Susan is unable to work because her oldest son has a disability and requires full time care. The family has no contact with the children's father and Susan has a restraining order against him. He provides no child support. Besides all this Susan has no family in state. All her family lives on the East coast, so she has no real support system. Susan's other son suffers from ADHD. Her only income is the disability her oldest son receives, welfare payments she gets, and food stamps and medical coupons. Susan told me our food bank has made a big difference for her over these past years. Our food bank gives her hope when she often feels things are very hopeless.

Food Banks? God's Work.

In this lifetime I thought the blessings of my first-rate education, training and experience would limit my contact with food banks to donations -- that I would traverse Life without needing assistance from others. I was wrong.

And now, my situation is worse than ever. I have exhausted all of my resources -- unemployment benefits ended last October -- and still no employment. Now in my eighteenth month. . .

'2-1-1', the local public assistance hotline, introduced me to Renewal Food Bank. I just made my fourth visit here (missed one week with no gas) and it

has sustained me.

To be sure, this operation will not replace your 'garden-variety' supermarket. It doesn't try to do so. The limitations imposed on a 'bank' wholly dependent on commercial donations are real and pronounced. You won't find a wide variety of fresh produce, dairy and eggs are all but non-existent, fresh meats largely unavailable, beverages are very limited And the gourmet delicacies you may be used to are just not there. You get used to it.

My biggest fear? Nutritional value. I was afraid I would be limited to white bread, macaroni and cheese and Pop Tarts. Instead, I find a variety, pasta,

canned fruits and vegetables, dried beans, tuna, pastry items and more. Frozen ground turkey has been available lately. You will even find some organic packaged products. Some toiletries and pet food (yea!), too. All available in limited quantities.

The volunteers are there because their 'heart' is there. They won't find you a job and they won't anoint you with sudden 'sustainability'. But they are engaging and personable and will lighten the mood. On my first visit, they immediately recognized me as a newcomer and put me at ease with the knowledge that I was in good company. I am. Rich



Prayer for Jim McBride

Jim McBride, featured in our previous newsletter, was recently diagnosed with Leukemia. We are grateful that it is the treatable kind. Jim is a beloved partner of World Impact Network and has worked extensively in nations like Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Kenya bringing much needed water safety skills training to thousands of leaders. Please continue to pray for health and strength for Jim.

Renewal Food Bank's Partnership with the City of Bellevue's Teen Closet Provides Clothing for more than 2,000 Teens

The Bellevue Youth Link Teen Closet program began in 2001 as a youth initiative to provide clothing for homeless teens in Bellevue based from the biennial Youth Involvement Conference sponsored by Youth Link. Teen Closet had its modest beginning operating in the basement of Ground Zero Teen Center reaching 10-15 youths per month as supplied by clothing donations dropped off at the doorstep of the center.

In March 2004, Youth Link developed a community partnership with Plato's Closet in Bellevue, Timberland Clothing Company, and World Impact Network expanding to meet the growing needs of the community. Thus, in February 2005, Teen Closet opened its door for their monthly distribution events

at WIN and have expanded its reach to provide an average of 40-50 new and returning teens and families during the Renewal Food Bank operation every last Monday of the month. Thus far, Teen Closet has been able to provide much needed clothing for more than 2,000 teens and families in the area!

From storage to distribution, WIN has been a valuable partner to feed, clothe and support local families in our community. WIN as a base for Teen Closet, will help its future expansion to include satellite operations in other parts of the community.

To learn more about us or to get involved with the Teen Closet program, please contact Youth Link at

Ways You Can Help WIN Raise Funds:

- Host your birthday party in honor of orphans in Africa
- Host a Tea
- Donate Money or Stock
- Coordinate a food drive at your office, school, place of worship or social club
- Make a donation in someone's name
- Collect your small change for the food bank
- Designate World Impact Network through your workplace giving campaign
- Make a planned gift through your will.
- Host a fund raising event at your home.
- Each time you attend a seminar or conference, think of a leader in a developing nation you could sponsor.
- Volunteer your time for the food bank, youth program; talk time, or special fund raising events.

If you have questions please call WIN office at
(425)643-8246 or e-mail
lauren@worldimpactnetwork.org

*Continued from **China Today** on p. 1...*

A Turning Point

I have worked on and off in China for many years but in April 2006 I had the privilege of traveling to a province of China where for a week I taught a large group of urban church leaders. Although the vast majority of them have undergraduate degrees, many of them have graduate degrees; I realized that there was no systematic theological training for these emerging church leaders.

As World Impact Network we decided to partner with Asian Outreach (a Hong Kong based missions agency) and a USA accredited graduate university, to provide a Masters of Theology and a Doctor of Ministry degrees in China. In other words these leaders are studying in China, under Western professors, and earning a US accredited theological degree. The program started a year ago and to date we have 73 registered students and this is only the tip of the iceberg. I anticipate that by the end of next year we could have upward of 200 leaders involved in this program.

Would you consider partnering with us in this unique opportunity to train these leaders by agreeing to sponsor a student? Sponsorship can start as low as \$100 per student per course. This is the first USA theological program in China where the students can actually earn a USA accredited degree and so be part of influencing the future church in China for God.

Meeting Needs Around The World

Food Bank Volunteer spotlight on James Roberts



Our volunteer spotlight for this issue is James Roberts. James started volunteering at our Renewal Food Bank at the end of January this year. James has helped anywhere from one to three times each week. Besides his work with World Impact Network, James also volunteers at the Starlight Starbright Foundation.

James is a former Microsoft employee who now teaches part time at the University of Washing-

ton and is also self-employed, being involved in many projects. He and his family spend their summers at their quiet, secluded island home. During the school year they live in Redmond.

James says " I like being here at the food bank because I'm selfish and lazy, when I'm here it makes me feel good". It's easy to be a volunteer at Renewal because it's well organized and I feel like I am impacting people. I also feel that I am respected by those within the organization and by the clients".

James has been a great addition to our team of volunteers! He fits in very well with everyone! He is easy to work with and is a hard worker. I think what impresses me the most about James is his graciousness to our clients. I believe that is one of our strengths as a team here at Renewal. We have always had volunteers who value the dignity of our clients, making them feel at ease and respected. James has in a short time become a valuable asset to WIN.