



“Call unto Me and I will answer thee” (Jer. 33:3)

*Called to Serve*

## **TRAFFICKED IN CHINA**

### **- PART 1**

Kan was born into a poor family in rural North Korea and the fourth daughter of six children. “When I was eighteen, my mother and older sister died because they could not find enough food to eat and became sick,” she shared. “No matter how hard we worked, we could not escape the misery of poverty.

I then learned from a friend that there was an opportunity for employment in China, so I crossed the Tumen river into China during the bitter cold winter of 2003. I planned to earn enough money to help my family for one month and then return home.

Unbeknownst to me, this employment opportunity turned out to be one where they trafficked women. I was forcibly sold to a Chinese family that needed a wife. This family was so afraid that I would escape that they even followed me to the toilet! I spent most of my days crying, because I was angry and very upset that I could not escape or earn money to support my father and siblings who were depending on me.

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One day, the relatives gathered and the family members removed my clothes to see if I was normal and able to bear children. I was then designated to be the wife of the son in the family.

I felt so humiliated and demoralized that I lost all hope and became depressed. I tried to commit suicide three times but failed. I was not even allowed to die, so I felt as though my only choice was to go along with this dreadful situation.

I worked in the fields and cared for farm animals, while being forced to be someone’s wife. During 2005, almost 2 years after I had left my home, I gave birth to a baby girl.

As I cared for my baby, I was given some freedom to go shopping and leave the house. A neighbour invited me to attend a nearby church. I was not a Christian, but the members and elders of the church were very kind and gave me various things for my baby, including a stroller. I was deeply grateful for the love that they showed me and was curious about their God.

I was involved in idol worship for many years, and perhaps it was the influence of evil spirits, but when I would enter the church building, I would get terrible headaches and feel sick.

One day, while the elders were praying, God miraculously healed me. The severe pain and feelings of nausea left me and I felt cleansed from the evil presence. I then started to attend church regularly, but could still not fully comprehend that Jesus was the Son of God.

Soon after, I heard that the police had come to our area to search for and arrest North Koreans who may have fled their country. I prayed together with another North Korean lady that we would not be discovered. We were very relieved when we later heard that the police had left.

God used this frightening experience to show me that He would answer my prayers and take care of me if I placed my trust in Him. That was when I decided to accept Jesus as my Saviour.

Shortly after, I was faced with an agonizing trial. My 1-year old daughter came down with pneumonia and the doctor said that she only had 15 days to live! I was so disheartened that I went to the church. I laid my daughter at the foot of the cross in front of the church as I broke down in tears and cried out to God.

‘Lord, why do you keep giving me these experiences that fill my heart with sorrow? Why did you give me this girl, just to take her away? I did not want her in the first place and now I have to bear the heartache of parting with her!’

I then looked up and could not believe what I saw. My daughter, who had been lying there with no energy, started to call out ‘mama’ and walk around! I was so surprised that I took her to the doctor. The doctor could not find anything wrong with her. I told him what had happened and he started to attend church and received Jesus as his Saviour!

My daughter was well and was running around as if she had never been sick. I was so grateful to God that I named her *Haun*, meaning *the grace of God*.

I was worried that I would eventually be discovered by the police and that they would arrest me and hand me over to the North Korean police. I knew that I would then be separated from my daughter, so I eventually found a way to escape from the family who had bought me.

I travelled with my daughter to a town in China, close to the North Korean border and found work as a travel guide. Raising Haun by myself was tough, but God sustained me through the difficult times and I felt that He was protecting and blessing us.

My knowledge of the Bible was very limited, but God used these words to comfort me and speak to my heart.

***No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond***

## THE MISSION'S OUTREACH - "PRAY FOR US"

- Bibles and Literature
- Audio-Visual Outreach
- Student Outreach
- Hospital Evangelism
- English Evangelism
- Outreach to the Elderly
- Evangelistic Meetings & Counseling

**OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION** to friends who have made bank deposits and notified us, and especially also to those friends whose donations we were unable to acknowledge. We endeavour to acknowledge all donations where possible, but often the information on the bank statements is insufficient.

■ Please notify us if you did not receive an acknowledgement and also if your address has changed.

It will be a great help if the NAME as well as the TELEPHONE NUMBER is clearly written on the Bank Deposit slip or Debit order or Internet Transfer.

■ We gratefully acknowledge the following deposits and transfers for which unfortunately insufficient information appears on our bank statements:

STANDARD BANK:- 16/2/2019, 20/2, 21/2, 28/2, 4/3, 6/3, 11/3, 16/3, 20/3, 22/3, 26/3, 1/4, 3/4, 16/4, 17/4, 20/4, 23/4.

ABSA BANK:- 26/2, 28/2 Bibles, 28/2, 1/3, 2/3 NLM printers, 10/3, 14/3, 16/3, 18/3, 26/3, 28/3 Bibles, 1/4, 2/4 NLM printers, 15/4 Somerset West, 15/4, 16/4, 18/4, 20/4/2019.

■ Cheques can be made payable to JAPAN MISSION and crossed. It is however not safe to send cash by post. A deposit can be made directly into the Mission's banking account at any branch of the STANDARD BANK or ABSA BANK, or a debit order may be used.

**MANY THANKS** once again dear friends. May God bless you.

Name of account: JAPAN MISSION

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*what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it* (1 Corinthians 10:13).

I was encouraged to press on as I pondered these words that came to mind.

Read the next issue to find out about the long journey Kan took to reunite with her family and share the Gospel with them. (The names have been changed and some details omitted in this story to protect their identities.)

## MINISTRY UPDATE

### - NORTH KOREA

Due to widespread poverty and starvation, many in North Korea find that the only way to survive is to make the illegal crossing into China, to find work to support their families.

Once in China, they face the danger of falling prey to dishonest brokers who often kidnap and sell victims into situations where they are forced to work without pay.

If caught by the authorities, they are either forced to pay large sums of money in bribes or returned to North Korea, where they are subject to severe forms of interrogation and torture. They are then treated as traitors and sentenced to prison camps where conditions are horrific.

As we continue the work in Japan, Japan Mission is also involved in sponsoring the work of those who help the North Korean refugees in the following ways:

1. Bringing the Gospel to the refugees through the distribution of Bibles and Christian literature.
2. Helping refugees make contact with honest brokers who will help them find legitimate work or a way to leave China.
3. Helping those who run Christian orphanages, where mothers who face desperate circumstances can safely leave their children.

**Pray** that many in North Korea who receive the Bible will find hope and come to know the Lord.

**Pray** that God will bless and protect the Christians and give them wisdom and courage.

## EVANGELISTIC PROJECTS

1. Japan Mission recently published a 200-page Japanese book, containing many testimonies of salvation. Copies have been distributed among seekers, many of whom have commented on how they have been moved by the stories and are better able to understand what it means to be a Christian. **Pray** that this book will be instrumental in the salvation of many.

2. The Japan Mission media team participated in the production of a video, depicting the salvation testimony of Rev. Yasutaka Yoshida, who found the Lord while in prison. He was a graffiti artist who became a minister and now uses his talent to share God's love. **Pray** that many young people will be impacted for the Gospel as they view this powerful story of God's forgiveness and grace.



*Rev. Yoshida explaining how he found a new life*

## FAITHFUL GIVING

We praise the Lord for the way He moves in the hearts of His servants to give towards these evangelistic projects. Once again, we have witnessed the Lord providing of our needs – according to His perfect timing.

Japan Mission is a faith mission and does not make a direct appeal for financial contributions. As the Lord guides us in ministry, we rely on Him to work in the hearts of His children and inspire them to give towards His work. We praise the Lord for those He has raised up to partner with us in this manner.