

These are the
ASIA TIMES

Mission Newsletter from John & Susan Mehl
LCMS World Mission



HONG KONG - Carol Halter (pictured fourth from the left), a deaconess and 30-year missionary veteran based in Hong Kong, works closely with some of the homeless people in the city, known as "Street Sleepers." Part of this effort is an annual holiday party held in January for a group of 35-40 Street Sleepers that she knows. Members of our Lutheran English-speaking congregation, Church of All Nations (known as CAN) have assisted Carol with this event for many years.

At the party, Street Sleepers receive a special meal, clothing, and a bag of food to take home. They also see and hear the story of Jesus birth as it is shared through song, mime, and a message by a Chinese pastor. In addition, the event has a ripple effect, as many who come also take food and clothing for

friends and acquaintances. —One older woman took away two large bags for people in a leper colony.

In the past, the party has been held in the few small rooms of Carol's office, but this year a local Chinese Lutheran congregation provided space in a school building for the party on January 12. God provided some warm and beautiful weather so that the street sleepers could easily get to the party. Two Chinese congregations provided appropriate food for the meal, some clothing donations, and a team of willing workers who spoke Cantonese.

From CAN, a group of 20-25 young people and adults traveled together by bus with a large quantity of donated Christmas cookies, candy and snacks. Earlier in the week, 15 huge bags of clothes had been sent ahead from Hong Kong International School, the school the LCMS started 40 years ago and the one that Ted attends.

In the past, Donna and Dennis Oetting took a lead role in working with Carol in organizing the party. The Oettings returned to the States in the summer, so Susan had the opportunity to coordinate the participation of CAN members, and for her, the party was a great lesson in what can result when many of God's people have a chance to use the gifts God has given them. Gifts of giving, hospitality, service, administration, exhortation, evangelism, were all evident as the day progressed, both from various church members "hosting" and from the Street Sleepers themselves.

Thanks to Katie Werth for the photo.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for all those who live on the streets of Hong Kong.
- Pray for the ministry of Deaconess Carol Halter who serves Chinese people well.
- Pray for the young people who helped, that they continue to learn the joy of giving.

CONTACT INFORMATION

susan.mehl@att.net
john.mehl@lcms.org