



Mission and Work

ENGAGE - EQUIP - TRANSFORM

OUR TARGET GROUP :

Inner City Ministries targets the physical and spiritual oppression amongst the **South Asian ethnic minority** in Hong Kong caused by urban poverty. We are open to all within this minority group irrespective of culture and religious belief, however, in practical terms, 90% of those we serve are **Nepalese**. Of the 1.2 million people in HK who live with a monthly income below HK\$4,000, the Nepalese community is one of the poorest and most severely marginalized particularly by high unemployment, discrimination and the on-going inherited disempowerment that comes from widespread socio-economic privation.

OUR MISSION :

To bring effective and lasting **TRANSFORMATION** through **Christian Ministry** expressed in care programmes, education and vocational training.

OUR INTENDED IMPACT :

To engage, enrich, educate and empower our community members to **EQUIP** them to reverse and rise above the marginalization, dysfunction and disempowerment endemic in the community.

OUR CORE VALUES :

- We believe that Christian care ministry and Christian mission are inseparable.
- We are grounded in Scripture :

"I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10 NKJV

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers (and sisters) of mine you did for me." Matt 25 :40 NIV

"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." James 1:27 NLT

- We must be : **Trustworthy, Credible, Supportive, Competent, Responsible, Committed and Faithful**

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE :

- That in the provision of educational assistance in tutoring children in language, reading, skill based learning activities and positive behaviour reinforcement the educational prospects of children in local schools will improve.
- That through discipling youth and young adults in Christian life and mission we expand their vision and encourage them to seek a secure foundation for the development of their whole lives
- That through provision of practical workshops and life skills classes we enhance the prospects for women and mothers in the community
- That through vocational training we provide direct assistance for the unemployed to find work especially in the catering industry.

HOW IS OUR MISSION ACHIEVED:

- **Through our staff team** which has the cultural background, ethnic understanding and multi linguistic ability that enable an immediate rapport with the concerns of our target community. Their compassionate commitment to the mission and work, evident from the continuing success and integrity of our programmes, has built a relationship of trust that sets Inner City Ministries apart from other NGO's who aim to serve ethnic minorities in the area.
- **Through our volunteers** a large body of committed and well qualified adults and students who deliver much of our children's programme, who support us in fund raising, giving professional help where needed and in assisting staff who are called to help those in desperate need in the community
- **Through our ministry centre** which is well equipped to deliver our care programmes and which provides a safe and welcoming meeting place and our commercial Kitchen centre providing a training facility for the unemployed.
- **Through our programmes** which are designed to equip and enable but which focus upon building lasting relationships

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES

Children are particularly vulnerable as they suffer dysfunctional families, lack of attention at home, poor schooling and exposure to undesirable street life for long hours per day. Hence we focus upon...

Education For three evenings each week, about **40** children receive individual help with homework and in improving language, math and science skills, through the work of 15 or more adult volunteers, mostly graduates and in some cases teachers, as well as a similar number of high school students. As a result school teachers report improvement in studies and behaviour, children respond more positively to instruction and have an improved sense of ownership of their work.

Saturday Kid's Club has been running for over 7 years and **now reaches over 140 children** in the area with regular attendees numbering over **50**. Children receive broad Christian education through bible teaching worship and games. Our volunteers provide considerable support in this activity.

Summer vacation programmes. Our supporter and donor organisations offer a wide range of activities to support our summer programme which reach over **80 children for 6 weeks** in the summer vacation. Activities include sports, day trips, language learning, drama, games, music and themed Vacation Bible Schools.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMMES

Youth culture is affected by low self-esteem, poor employment prospects and substance abuse. Hence our programme focuses upon developing a leadership culture using worship, performing arts, discipleship training and mentoring to promote positive life choices, high levels of personal responsibility and active participation in outreach to the community.

Friday fellowship reaches out to between 10 - 15 young adults and a new and growing group of about 10 young teens. In addition to group activities we also encourage our young adults to partner with and mentor the younger teens.

Training. Our staff provides regular individual counseling, training to assist younger members and weekly in depth bible study. We also run a two week residential Discipleship Training Course in the summer in conjunction with YWAM for up to 10 candidates.

Outreach Every two months, our staff and young people reach out to our local community in our local parks using worship, drama, dance and personal contact both in English, Nepali, Hindi and Cantonese. **In 2011, we held 5 of these events** which have provided opportunities to widen our contact with the community at all ages. Each outreach culminates with refreshments and fellowship for newcomers at our centre.

ADULT PROGRAMMES

Unemployment is high in the community, especially amongst men of all ages and the resulting poor life choices and petty crime have a high impact on the community at large. Mothers are seriously disadvantaged often by language difficulties and cultural clashes. Our programmes directly address these issues.

Vocational Training Course addresses the immediate practical needs of the unemployed giving new skills and direction. This employment retraining course, instigated and taught by us in conjunction with Yang Memorial, has run for **four years** training over **150 recruits** more than 50% of whom have subsequently gained employment in the catering industry. **This year 19 trainees** have qualified from our two courses which are accredited by the Employment Retraining Board.

“Taste of Grace” In June 2011 we opened our catering teaching project – full time course in basic Commercial Cookery at our own facility in Yau Ma Tei. This course offers free comprehensive training for three months, work experience in restaurants, personal advice and counseling as well placements for employment in the catering industry. **5 trainees graduated in September** and we have begun a new course for **6 trainees** in November. We remain in contact with successful trainees to monitor the progress in employment.

Workshops. Through parenting classes, individual counseling and pastoral care, and practical workshops we have **reached more than 30 women and mothers** to equip to make significant changes in their lives. Through these the Gospel is shared in a friendly environment. Our new sewing and dress making workshop started earlier this year and teaches sewing machine skills through making children’s clothes for those in desperately poor countries. **12 women** so far have joined this. Our outreach to mothers has seen more than **20** take part weekly in our parenting classes throughout the year

Pastoral care and social service to individuals and families in great need, whether it is providing for those with insufficient resources, visiting in prison, aiding those who need help at immigration or in hospital is a central work of our staff. It is time consuming, unquantifiable in number and impact, but a key and crucial element in our provision of care for the community and the trust in which our staff and volunteers are held.

OVERALL IMPACT :-

Although not easy to measure in the short term, we know that the impact of our programmes is significant, lasting and dynamic: over the course of a year we see in excess of 200 men, women and children enter our programmes and whose circumstances improve as a result. Families begin to function adequately, men and women are empowered through learning new skills which they are able to apply and we see long term evidence of young adults making positive life choices. The impact of education and care in our children’s programmes is evident in the growth of self-esteem, higher expectations for their future and the resultant behavioral change as they grow knowing of the love of Jesus for them. Such transformation in the lives of the community has both a horizontal and vertical diffusion: these positive changes raise standards and continue to work dynamically in the family and wider community. Furthermore we communicate with and integrate directly into the Nepalese church community and so provide a framework for sustainable change.

For more information please visit our website
www.innecityministries.org