

# Women's Ministry News

*Women to Women*  
a ministry of **OpenDoors**

## China

**This edition of Women's Ministry News is focused on China and South East Asia. Open Doors has received reports from its contacts in China that some house-church pastors have been interrogated and told to leave Beijing before the 2008 Olympic Games – whilst the world's largest Communist nation attempts to convince the world that it allows freedom of worship.**

### **Strengthened not shaken**

It was summer. School was out for a few months and house church leaders turned their attention to organising youth camps for their Sunday School children. Brother and Sister Shi were also making plans, even though they had been warned that they must cease children's activities on many occasions.

Keeping their plans secret from 70 young believers and adult co-workers was no easy task. The camp had been scheduled to last 15 days and would be held in a secret hideaway on the slopes of a steep mountain. A few small cottages would serve as temporary homes and were unlikely to attract the attention of local authorities.

### **A timely warning**

Careful preparations paid off. Camp was established and the children were enjoying



**Instead of being shaken, many Sunday school children are strengthened by persecution**

Source: Open Doors

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listening to the daily Bible teachings. However, early one morning one of the teachers received a call from her relative who worked in the government, a raid was scheduled to take place. A decision had to be taken swiftly – the camp would have to disband.

Speedily collecting their belongings, the Shis divided the children into small groups, it would make it easier to avoid detection and the younger children would be less likely to get lost. But where would they go? The mountain was steep and the only way to escape was a two-hour trek over the summit to the other side.

## A flight to safety

Shao Mei the Shi's 17-year-old daughter was appointed to lead a group of eight girls. Although she was frightened by the news of a police raid, she was no stranger to danger. On many occasions her parents had been forced to flee from the authorities whilst she sought temporary shelter with relatives. Now, as she fled to safety with the small group of girls, her mind was concerned for her mother, she had stayed behind with some of the teachers to ensure that the children found safety on the remote mountain.

Back at the cottages, Sister Shi watched as several cars packed with policemen from the State Administration of Religious Affairs arrived at the base of the mountain. It would take them half an hour to reach the cottages and she had to ensure that all the children had left before the authorities arrived. Her calculations were correct.

Police officers immediately began a thorough search for any evidence of recent but by the time police officers had reached the tiny dwellings all the children had begun their long trek to freedom. Vexed that their efforts had been in vain, the police officers arrested Sister Shi and took her to police headquarters for interrogation. Several tense hours later, they conceded defeat. No children had been found, not even a child's pencil case or exercise book could be evidenced. Sister Shi was released.

## Time for a decision

Meanwhile, Shao Mei had made a commitment. She had often seen her parents face danger and emerged with their faith strengthened. Now, a life choice was before her and a decision had to be made. One month later Shao Mei was baptised. The dangerous experience that could have shaken her faith had only served to strengthen her commitment instead.

## Please pray:

- » For the youth of China. That they can learn the Gospel message without fear of police intervention
- » For pastors and teachers in the unregistered house churches, that they will remain strong in the face of arrest and interrogation
- » That the training materials, which Open Doors provides, can be distributed to house church leaders without interference from the Chinese authorities.

# China

## Serving a new master



**The Word of God is the prized possession of female evangelists like Jael**

### Serving a new master

Jael had been blessed with a happy childhood. The youngest in her family, she had enjoyed a happy relationship with her four older siblings, two brothers and two sisters. All had completed high school with good grades and Jael decided to study business administration at university. Graduating well, she joined the workforce of a large company as a clerk.

Although she enjoyed her work, Jael was unsatisfied. Her job was stressful and after a few years she started to suffer from anxiety. Amidst the high pressure of work, she began to feel that her life was hopeless and she felt she had no sense of where her life was heading. Sleep became illusive and depression soon followed.

### A life-changing encounter

When a Christian friend invited her to a house church meeting, Jael felt she had nothing to lose. As she arrived in the middle of a period of worship she felt the peace that had eluded her for so long. Tears started to stream down her face, what was happening? These were emotions that Jael could not understand. That night, she received Jesus into her life – and slept soundly for the first time in months. Within a week her worries and insecurities had disappeared and so had all her sicknesses.

### Changing Direction

One week after attending church for the first time, Jael resigned from her company to serve the Lord in full-time ministry. As she underwent training, Jael's love of the Lord and His Word increased. She began to evangelise and eventually became a missionary, reaching out to young people in northeast and central China. Nothing deterred her, not even the attentions of the Public Security Bureau. Jael was no stranger to arrest and detention, but nothing stopped her from serving Christ though her ministry to China's youth. Watching the transformation in their lives

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as they came to know Christ was all the inspiration that she needed.

## A soul mate

When Jael met, and fell in love with, fellow-youth worker Mark they decided to serve the Lord together. Soon they had relocated to a university city where many young students could be reached to influence future Chinese families and friends with the Gospel of Jesus. A new house church soon followed with a focus on a ministry to the youth of the city.

Jael and Mark have now been in ministry for almost 10 years. With their three-year-old daughter, they continue to serve the

youth of China. Their vision to win souls for the Kingdom has never diminished as they have become spiritual parents for many young people in their church.

## Pray for

- » That their goal to add 100 new people to their church in 2007 will be achieved
- » That they youth will apply God's Word to their lives and in turn reach out to others with God's love.
- » For Open Doors in-country distribution, that co-workers will be protected during their work. They know that they are risking arrest and they must rely on God's protection.



**China's youth need to hear the Gospel from Jael and her husband**

Source: Open Doors

# Vietnam

## Christian widow stoned for spreading the Gospel message

When a graduate of the Open Doors' sponsored Galilee Bible School shared the Gospel message with Lien and her four children, their lives changed forever. Before long, the family idols were swiftly removed and their superstitious lifestyle gave way to belief and trust in Jesus.

### Spreading the Gospel

Lien had been the family breadwinner since her husband died in 1997. Although slight in stature, Lien built up her strength by taking produce to a village 10 kilometres from her home. Each day she carried her wares on baskets that hang from a bamboo pole that she carried on her shoulders. She began to share the Gospel with the local people who were receptive. After three years 100 tribal people had left their old ways behind and become believers.

When the local authorities learnt that Lien was preaching Jesus whilst conducting her business they lost no time in summoning her for interrogation. Despite her numerous visits to the police station nothing deterred Lien in her evangelism. She continued with her ministry even though the authorities and her relative brought strong pressure to try to persuade her to give up her faith.

### Attacked by night

Early in 2007 Lien opened her home to the new believers for Bible studies and discussion. One night after the last believer had left and those who were staying overnight were asleep, Lien's electricity was cut off, leaving her house shrouded in darkness. Before long, she heard the sound of large rocks striking her home. Looking out she saw a gang of 10 teenage boys, some were even climbing on her tin roof hoping to destroy it.

Lien's protests were ignored. The youth's then turned their attention to her, pelting



**A children's camp in Vietnam-from their lips God ordained praise**

Source: Open Doors

# Vietnam

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her with stones and rocks. Lien stood her ground, but when one large rock struck her on the head, she collapsed unconscious. Hearing the commotion, some of the believers came back trying to stop the attack. Her assailants fled, but Lien was injured.

As believers prayed, staff at the local hospital attended to her cuts and other injuries and Open Doors extended help by assisting with medical expenses. Later, after many stitches and a swollen eye, Lien left hospital, her resolve to continue to share Jesus undaunted.

## **Please pray**

- » For Lien and her children to come through this ordeal stronger in the Lord
- » That new believers will not be discouraged by this incident, but will be spurred on to a deeper relationship with the Lord
- » Although the work is often dangerous Open Doors co-workers work with Lien and other evangelists: pray for their protection.



**Carrying heavy goods long distances to market is normal in Vietnam**

Source: Open Doors

# Indonesia

## Christian widow re-builds her life after devastating attack



Nadi wants to thank everyone who has prayed for her

**Ibu Nadi will never forget the day a bullet fired by a Muslim militant tore apart her jaw.** As the pain racked her body, Ibu was unable to resist as her house was reduced to ashes. Her parents and children who survived the attack helped Ibu to regain her strength and nursed her back to health, but Ibu now faced life without her husband who did not survive the brutal attack by the Muslim mob.

### **The high price of falling away**

For a while, Ibu left the Lord. She had married a non-believer and stayed away from church and prayer meetings. However, after the death of her second husband, Ibu again resumed her Christian

walk. Her pastor's wife commented "It was such a high price to pay to regain her relationship with The Lord.

An Open Doors co-worker met Ibu four years later and with a small donation helped her to build a small but homely place. Ibu loved her new home; it had two bedrooms, a metallic roof rescued from the ruins of a former house, a kitchen and dining room – and a bathroom! Ibu has no electricity of her own, but neighbours allow her to plug into their supply each evening. Despite this shortcoming her house is a place of prayer and fellowship, and sometimes 30 believers manage to cram into the small dwelling.

# Indonesia

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Ibu and her daughters now serve in the ministry of hospitality. She has never fully regained the total sight of her left eye, which was injured when the bullet entered her jaw now several years previous. Ibu told an Open Doors co-worker "If I stay too long in the sun, my eye aches, just like there are pebbles inside it. When I sleep, I have to lie on my right side because of the pain. Please pray for my health".

## Please pray

- » For the complete recovery of Ibu wounds. As the families' breadwinner

her health is vital for her to continue working.

- » For her local church as they minister to victims and refugees of past conflicts.
- » Open Doors helps church workers like Ibu to continue their ministry, pray that Open Doors can continue to keep Christian ministries in this way.

**For further information on China or for the latest copy of the China Prayer Campaign. tel: 01993 885400 or visit the Open Doors website: [www.opendoorsuk.org/women](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/women)**



**Ibu's home, like many other believers, was burnt in the religious riots**

Source: Open Doors



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