

SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Hyun Sook Lee, World Director

Email: *misilhs@yahoo.com*

In our Social Service Department, we cannot leave out the important Visitation ministry.

We visit those who are sick and those who are in a difficult situation and those with disabilities and those that are in nursing homes, orphanages, and prisons. The reason why we visit them is to comfort and encourage them, to give them hope and strength. But at times, we are the ones that are encouraged and strengthened through the visitations.

One of the ministries that I am involved with is building public restrooms in poor villages without restrooms with mission teams. It isn't easy to visit and reach out to Muslim families other than your neighbors due to the strong Muslim influence in Indonesia. We contact a village and we go there together with the mission team. One group starts to construct the public restroom and the other group starts to visit the homes in the village. During the afternoon we gather the children that are back from school and prepare different programs for them. We have a great time together.

Public restrooms are something they need. They consider providing for their family and providing education to their children more important than restrooms. Providing the basic necessities for them helps them raise their quality of life and allows them to live a happier life.

It is also an opportunity for them to experience God's love. Even though we cannot directly evangelize them, we can share God's love by helping them and serving them with a sincere heart.

Even though they were taught to avoid Christians, no one can resist the loving work of God's loving children. When we hold their hands that are rough due to a hard day's labor, their hearts begin to melt and when we say words of encouragement, their hearts begin to open up and they smile back to us. When we visit patients that haven't been cared for and that have been lying down for a long time due to their illness, they do their best to thank us for visiting them. They look at us as if they are looking upon angels.

Even though we don't tell the people there, they know that we are Christians. At times they just observe us without saying anything, but after a day or two, the love of God that is in us touches their hearts. When it is time for the mission team to leave, they embrace us and cry with us because they don't want to see us go.

We must do good to our brothers and sisters of faith. But it is through our sincere actions that we can share about God to those who don't know Him. God came to us first, we who were ignorant and lost. Our hearts were melted by His love. Let us give ourselves to the Lord so that God's amazing love can be delivered to those who need it.

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)