

## Hong Kong Poverty

The number of poor people in Hong Kong had been reduced to 1,010,000 and poverty rate had been reduced to 14.7% due to the Comprehensive Social Assistance, Old Age Allowance, Low-Income Working Family Allowance as of 2017.

In 2017, the amount of family monthly income lower than hereunder mentioned is defined as poor:-

1-person household: \$4,000	2-persons household: \$9,800	3-persons household: \$15,000
4-persons household: \$19,900	5-persons household: \$20,300	6-persons household: \$22,500

In the 18 districts of Hong Kong, there are great differences in poverty. The poverty rate in the North District is the highest over all districts (17.5%). Subsequent order is Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Yuen Long and Wong Tai Sin. The poverty rate in Tuen Mun and Kwai Tsing is still above the average rate in Hong Kong.

### Highlight of Poverty

#### The story of an elderly, Mei Chun

We met Mei Chun and her daughter Ah Ping and learnt their miseries when she came up to get food from the Food Bank and apply for hot meals.

A few years ago, Mei Chun and her husband came from China to Hong Kong and lived off her daughter, Ah Ping. Since Mei Chun and her husband only arrived in Hong Kong for a very short time, they are not eligible for the social benefits from the Government. Ah Ping hands to take care her daughter, husband and her 90 years old mother-in-law. In order to care for her parents who survived strokes, Ah Ping rented another unit in the same building for her parents to live. If Ah Ping comes back home late, Mei Chun would have shit all over the house. Everyday, Ah Ping had to take care 3 sick elderly and was under pressures which cannot be released.

We delivered hot meal to Mei Chun and her husband. Further, our volunteers helped them to clean up their home. Sometimes, our volunteers pushed Mei Chun on a wheelchair to enjoy sunshine around the park.

Ah Ping was very happy and very appreciative of our care of Mei Chun and her husband.

In December 2018, Mei Chun had a stroke again and stayed in the hospital for a while. After returning home, Mei Chun had to stay in bed all the time and cannot take care of herself. At that time, we visited her and delivered hot meals to her continuously. We found that she scratched her ear and bled but her husband did not care for her. Our volunteers helped her clean up the wound. She cannot speak but through her eyes, we felt her helplessness. We cried to Jesus at her bed side and prayed for her healing. At the same time, we also asked Mei Chun whether she believe Jesus. Suddenly, Mei Chun shouted "I believe You! Jesus!" She shouted "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!" She pulled our hands and placed them on her head and heart to pray so that the God's healing and peace be with her.

In the past, when we delivered meals to Mei Chun and her husband, her husband just sat on the side indifferently. At that moment, as the husband watched Mei Chun experienced the love of God, he wiped his tears of joy and gratitude secretly.

Now, Mei Chun can go to toilet by herself through the help of others.