
SONS & DAUGHTERS
ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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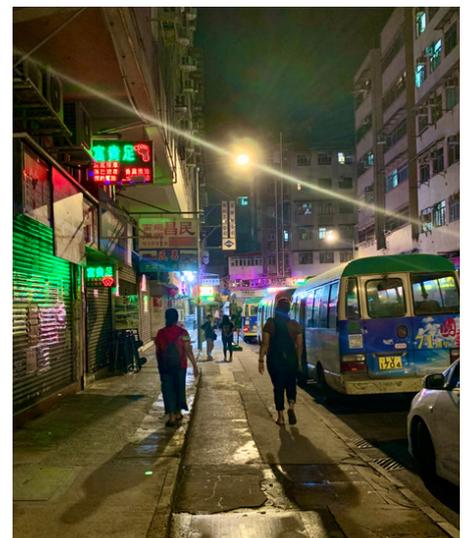
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

2020 was an unprecedented year for this generation. As each of us adapted to the challenges of life in a global pandemic, Sons & Daughters experienced the same. As our ministry adapted to this new reality of social distancing and restrictions, I was greatly encouraged by our team's creativity, such that the work of reaching and walking alongside those caught in sexual exploitation continued unabated.

2020 was also marked by a season of growth in the ranks of S&D, as we welcomed new staff members and volunteers, and celebrated God's faithfulness in raising up a generation to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with Him.

The same applies to every one of S&D's supporters, both institutional and individual - it is because of your faithfulness to this mission that we can continue amidst these difficult times, and look forward to complete transformation across the red-light districts of our city. As you read this annual report, know that we are giving thanks for your unwavering partnership with us.

- Jeremy Tam, on behalf of the Board of Directors





Mission & Vision

Sons & Daughters helps those caught in sexual exploitation to reclaim a life of love, family, and freedom in Christ.

We long to witness transformation in the red light districts of Hong Kong. We strive to see workers, managers, and customers abandon the sex trade. We aim to help those who are caught in sexual exploitation walk freely into their destinies as sons and daughters of God.

WHO WE ARE

This year has been full of change and growth, including the addition of two more team members! In May, we bid farewell to Emily Lai, while our volunteer Constance Tong took the reins of our social enterprise. Belicia Wong and Emily Kusunoki then joined as Volunteer/Drop-in Centre managers in July.



Janice Chan
CEO



Emily Lai
Operations Manager (until May 2020)



Constance Tong
ReStore Manager



Belicia Wong
Volunteer / Drop-in
Centre Manager



Emily Kusunoki
Volunteer / Drop-in
Centre Manager

STATISTICS

Outreaches 121	Outreach Interactions 879	Online Outreach Interactions 16
Drop-in Centre Participants 21	Casework Sessions 75	Counselling Sessions 110
Hours of Volunteer Training 56	Hours of Skills Classes 671	Befriending Meetings 10
New Volunteers 29	Masks Given Out During COVID-19 3000	Total Gifts Given 3948

15 outreaches
to Yuen Long



30 outreaches
to Temple Street



12 outreaches to
to Wan Chai



62 outreaches to
Causeway Bay



Wan Chai team moves online
after the clubs and bars close,
begin with 2 "netreaches" to find
those who went underground
during the COVID-19 restrictions

OUTREACH

In 2020, Sons & Daughters conducted 121 outreaches, reaching over 879 people working in the commercial sex industry—even amidst the COVID-19 global pandemic. The year began with protests scattered throughout the city, then ended with strict restrictions and closures on all bars and clubs. Due to safety precautions during outbreaks of the virus, some outreaches had to be cancelled and our teams continued to meet for prayer online. We witnessed a sharp decline in international women because of border closures, while the number of local women and those being brought in from mainland China increased.



CAUSEWAY BAY

The Causeway Bay team has been faithfully going to two brothel buildings on an alternative weekly basis throughout the year, working hard to connect with these women individually as they have a growing amount of free time due to the pandemic. Many of these women work to support family during economic hardship, so we have seen a growing interest from them for English tutoring with both mother and child, skills classes, or long conversations about life. Our team supported the women through personal tragedies, such as a robbery at knife-point, a physical attack from a customer, stalking, threats and harassment, and some scary medical diagnoses. We found that it is in these moments God has used us to speak light into the darkness that these women face, to give them hope and prayer during a time they feel they are at their lowest.



TEMPLE STREET

God continues to draw our attention towards women coming in from mainland China. It grieves us deeply to see that some of the women our team encountered towards the end of the year were very young (late teens), and were being brought in groups over the border for prostitution. Police raids were a common occurrence in 2020. Sadly, the team heard many stories of the women being punished more often than the pimps and traffickers. We walked with a mamasan through her ordeal of being arrested and imprisoned. She gave her life to Christ and began to attend church before she was incarcerated. It was a blessing to witness the strength and hope that drew from Jesus while awaiting her court date, and she continues to grow in her faith while serving her sentence. We continue to pray for more Chinese speakers to be added to this outreach team, and for new opportunities for us to build beautiful connections with these women, as well as the mamasans and pimps.

OUTREACH

YUEN LONG

This year the team had fewer opportunities to connect with the women in Yuen Long due to multiple waves of COVID-19. Despite fewer outreaches, they were able to celebrate the Mid-Autumn festival with mooncakes and worship in the park together with the women. There has been a decrease in the number of women, especially international women, on the streets of Yuen Long. There is still a spiritual darkness, with frequent accounts of physical violence towards the workers in this area. We have also noticed that some women have to work out of their own homes. There is a growing need for more Chinese speakers on the team as the demographic of the workers is changing, and with Yuen Long being so close to the border.



WAN CHAI

This was an interesting year for the Wan Chai team, as the start of year saw clubs being filled with international women, in the attempt to recoup profits lost over the previous year of political turmoil. Then, as the pandemic hit and borders closed, new women were unable to enter Hong Kong and the clubs seemed to dwindle in numbers each week. The team continued to meet with the women and mamasans until the restrictions of bar closings by 6pm were put in place. From there, the team continued to pray faithfully and did a number of prayer walks in the area, until we witnessed 9 strip clubs shut down completely by November! With the closings and lack of physical presence of workers in the clubs, the team decided to move their efforts online to try and engage with the workers who largely seem to have switched to advertising their services online.

ONLINE

We jumped back into online outreach at the end of this year as clubs and bars closed indefinitely, and we found many women were moving online as well. The pandemic was definitely changing the landscape of commercial sexual exploitation, including the push for workers to make an online profile. After specific training for navigating the new virtual and spiritual obstacles, we have been connecting with workers via websites. Although we have not yet met anyone face-to-face, it was a good start in approaching/researching additional locations of the commercial sex industry.



OUTREACH



"It was quite an experience building up the new team whilst going back and forth with outreach and zoom prayer. Despite circumstances, the team was able to grow together and build relationships that have made this season so beautiful! By the third quarter of the year we began to see God answering our prayers in shutting down bars and clubs. We saw God move in the lives of the mamasans as they began to recognise the power of prayer. One mama told us, 'There's no use worrying or getting angry—just pray—you will feel so much better.' This encounter has encouraged not just myself but the entire team to see the seeds sown come to fruition!"

- Abigail Malcolm, Wan Chai Team

DROP-IN

Our drop-in centre, Promise House, is a safe space for women to come and be a part of a greater community filled with love, hope, and trust. For the first half of the year, our drop-in team asked God in prayer, for a direction, and got the word "FUN". With this, the team focused on providing just that with board games nights, Just Dance days, fitness, sewing and baking classes.

Promise House also serves as a place for crisis intervention. Thanks to our church and individual donors, we have consistently been able to provide emergency clothing, diapers, medical masks, feminine products and other daily essentials to meet the needs of women during this challenging year. We collaborated with partner organisations to refer women to access medical treatment and emergency housing

In 2020, we equipped 24 new team members, through our New Volunteer Training Program, to serve in Outreach, Drop-in and Aftercare. We also delivered top-up trainings to our existing 40 volunteers, including topics such as understanding trauma, and the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) for non-refoulement claims. We believe that continuous learning and development for our volunteers is essential to effectively walk alongside the women as they encounter the complex and multiple issues associated with commercial sexual exploitation.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We are thankful for the precious times we had with the women in small celebrations for various holidays.

During Mid-Autumn Festival the women made paper lanterns, learned about the traditions of mooncake eating, and the folklore of how Mid-Autumn came to be.

On Christmas Eve a few women dropped by to share the spirit of giving and joy with food and games. We played the traditional game of pass-the-parcel. Each layer of the parcel revealed a fun challenge or a gift to celebrate the year 2020. We shared lots of belly laughter with women with the challenges - from singing a Christmas carol on the streets loud enough for the rest of the party to hear from the 13th floor, and even helping brush someone's teeth!



DROP-IN

TRAINEESHIP FOR LOCAL WOMEN

In late October, we piloted a new eight-week Traineeship program specifically catered to local women. Three women who we had been visiting on outreach made the decision to step out of the brothel and have since been coming one a day to learn candle-making, and business skills. It has been incredible to watch their journey so far - going from a place of hopelessness to being able to dream again. They have each expressed the desire to leave the commercial sex industry for good, with hopes such as opening up a candle shop, or training to become a careworker.

ALPHA COURSES (CHINESE & ENGLISH)

We have been so blessed to not just be able to start one Alpha course, but TWO! Our first Chinese Alpha began late in November for the three women in our Traineeship program, and an English Alpha began in October for five international women. It has been a continuous journey of digging deeper together to explore life, faith and meaning.



CHINESE & ENGLISH LESSONS

Thanks to our bilingual volunteers, we have been able to further build our relationships with the women we have met on outreach by empowering them to develop their language skills in Mandarin and English. Mandarin lessons focused on numbers, names of locations, things you like as a person, and Christmas phrases. Self introductions were touched upon for English lessons as well as verb tenses.

"I praise God that I was able to come here to Promise House to do the traineeship. I am finally getting paid to do something that I love and enjoy. I'm so thankful that I can earn money that I am proud of earning. I really want to turn my life around."

-Sweetie, beneficiary attending our traineeship program

AFTERCARE

"Victorious" is the word that best sums up 2020 for the women in S&D's Aftercare programme.

Two more women graduated after 18 months living in Family Home and working with our incredible Aftercare team of caseworkers, counsellors, and class instructors. Together, steps were forged towards planning and preparing for life after leaving commercial sexual exploitation. During their time with us, the women conscientiously crafted products to be sold in our social enterprise, ReStore, and worked with their caseworkers to implement their own personal fundraising projects. God blessed the fruit of their labour and each woman left with enough funds to start a new life and career back at home, and more importantly, a renewed heart, mind and hope for the future.

Despite the immense challenges of 2020, we have continued to experience God's faithfulness and power in the women's journeys of restoration and growth. We celebrated milestones and victories; persevered together through the storms; and marvelled at the beautiful way that God weaved all the parts together. Here are some of the highlights...

Dawn

Dawn graduated from our Aftercare Programme in November. She enjoyed learning sewing, candlemaking, hairdressing, business start-up skills, and financial stewardship. Through our discipleship programme, she also embarked on an exploration of her long-term life goals. Together with her caseworker, she learned to access the support of the online community through creating her own crowdfunding campaign. She was amazed and deeply encouraged by how warmly and generously you all received and supported her through your giving! She is now poised and excited to finally be reunited with her daughter and to start a new career back at home!

Paris

Paris graduated from the Aftercare Programme alongside Dawn. She flew home in November, ready with her business plan and exit fund, for a long-awaited welcome home from her daughter and close family members, and just in time for Christmas. As her caseworker put it, she was "ready to rock!". The months of waiting and uncertainty as she watched the pandemic impact her country was an incredibly stressful and testing season to weather. Paris persevered, remained focused on her goals, and held onto the promises of God until conditions became possible for her to go home. She is now settled in her own apartment, completing her studies, and lining up the pieces to launch her organic eco-beauty business.

AFTERCARE

Update from Exodus

After completing S&D's Aftercare programme and returning to Africa in 2018, Exodus founded a school to serve those in her local community who could not afford it, where she is now the proud Principal. Continuing to be a pillar of her community, Exodus rose to the challenges brought to her village by the pandemic. She shared that schools were ordered to close for several months. Many in her community had lost their source of income due to restrictions on movement and businesses closing. Families were going hungry, and domestic violence was spiking at an alarming rate. Instead of backing down and retreating, Exodus decided to use her school as a base to implement a food distribution programme. Together with her teachers, she packed and delivered essential food items to the families of the children who were enrolled in her school. We joined her to intercede for those who were trapped in situations of violence and desperation as she reached out to offer physical, emotional and spiritual support. We praise God for the mighty warrior that He has raised up in Exodus, and for the privilege to be able to continue to share in her journey.



Teachers from Exodus' school distributing essential food packages to local families during COVID-19



AFTERCARE

Update from Precious

When the pandemic hit, it seemed that Precious' plans to start a nail salon with the diploma and exit fund that she had gained from her time with S&D had screeched to a halt. The country was enduring months of lockdown, poverty worsening all around. Opening a new business seemed impossible. During those months, Precious refused to let time go to waste. She turned her energies towards praising God. She acquired a keyboard and taught herself to play. Our hearts were warmed and encouraged by the videos shared of her singing and playing keyboard in worship to Jesus. She knew that darkness doesn't win. She poured herself into expressing the Light and Hope that God is, and did not give up. In August, she secured a premises for her salon, set to work on renovations, and is now the proud owner of a flourishing nail and hair salon.



Precious' beautiful new salon, now also providing employment to a local barber and training to a local youth



Unbeknownst to us, Precious had been sharing her exit fund with her community, using the funds to build a church! With the funds raised through your generosity in 2020, God is using S&D to raise up new churches around the world! She now leads the prayer and worship ministry in her church, and reports that business is going well at her salon.



Meetings in the newly built church

RESTORE

ReStore is our social enterprise that supports men and women coming out of exploitation to reclaim a life of independence and freedom. We aim to raise the income and improve the living standards of our beneficiaries by providing them with training programs where they can realise their talents and capabilities. Discovering their potential enables them to re-imagine a positive and fulfilling life and empowers them to be reintegrated into their community. Our mission is to...

RECLAIM FREEDOM

We empower men and women caught in exploitation to reclaim a life of autonomy.

REFRESH VISION

We provide a holistic care program and skills training for all our beneficiaries to recover their talents and abilities.

RESTORE IDENTITIES

We walk alongside every individual, helping them discover their intrinsic value, leaving behind their past and restoring self acceptance and dignity

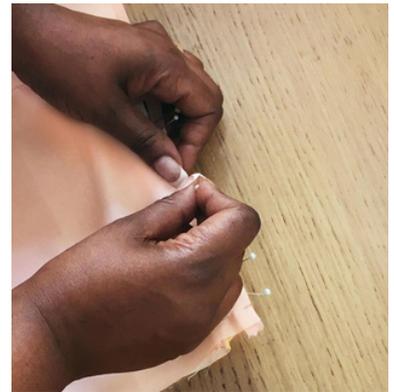


At the beginning of this year, we continued training the women in our transition program to sew aprons, cosmetic bags, and make candles. We also added new items to our product line. We trained additional women from our drop-in centre to make our newly-developed eco-friendly beeswax food wraps, and towards the end of the year, three of the women whom we had been meeting on outreach made the decision to step out of the brothel and join our 8-week traineeship. They have been learning to make our brand new collection of candles using all natural materials and organic oils.

With this year's pandemic situation, many of the physical market sales that we had lined up were cancelled, but with the help of our volunteers, we were able to start partnerships with local retail businesses to have our products consigned at their shops for extra exposure. We were proud to be featured in local news publications Sing Tao and Ming Pao, as well as Elle magazine and Cosmopolitan.

RESTORE

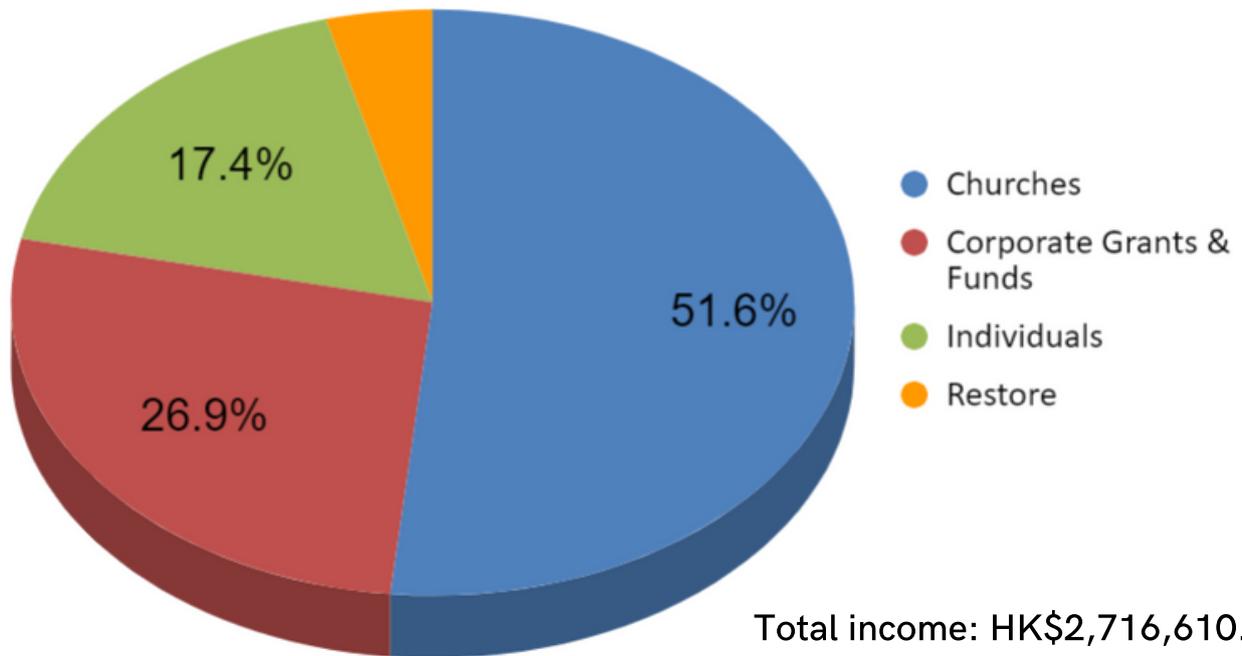
During our 8-week traineeship, one of the ladies shared that she was not to be familiar with God at the beginning, but as we went through the weeks, she began to pray to God during the most desperate of moments and was amazed at how God answered her. A few weeks later, she expressed how thankful she is to God to have brought her to S&D to learn a new skill, and that this is something that no one can take away from her. We were encouraged when she shared that her dream of one day starting her own business using the new skills that she has learnt - God is really working in her life and showing her a new light and path!



"I was so touched and encouraged by the local ladies as they shared how they want to explore a new career path in the midst of the personally challenging times they're going through. One is even looking into courses in elderly care, and another was praising God for multiple things throughout the day together. I really felt the Holy Spirit's movement within these women, and in the genuine joy they have whenever we see them and how keen they are to learn new things."

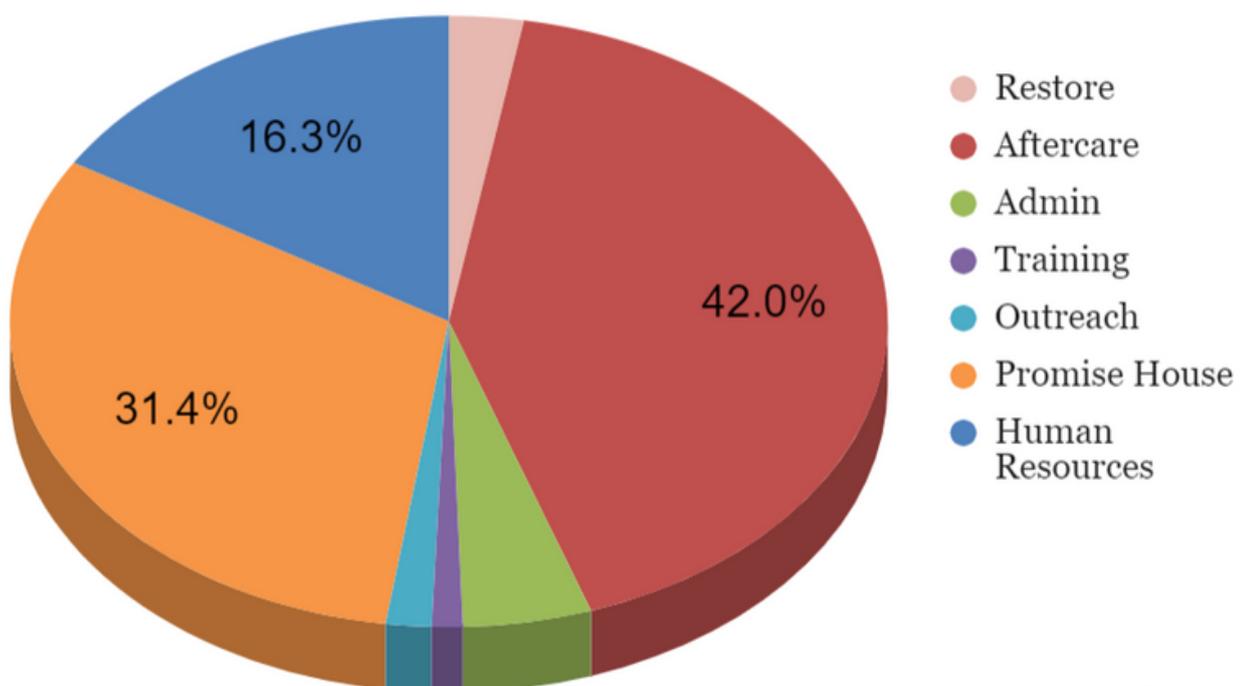
- Constance Tong, ReStore Manager

Income



Total income: HK\$2,716,610.48

Expenditure



Total Expenditure: HK\$1,417,777

APPRECIATION

We give thanks to our Mighty God, who amidst the chaos, confusion and losses of 2020, revealed His strong arm through the seemingly impossible victories which we have seen this year. We have truly marvelled at how God has blessed the Sons & Daughters, in ways that have been beyond what we could even conceive...even using S&D to build churches and raise up leaders across the world!



And a huge thank you to our supporters who contributed in so many ways including donated time, items, and money to support our work. We are deeply grateful for our amazing team of volunteers, who form the backbone of Sons & Daughters - we couldn't do this without you!

