

# morning tears newsletter

Volume 8, No 4, October 2013

## In this issue

Editorial

News

Strategy

News from Coming Home Project - Henan

Relevant Actualities

Finances



## Editorial

### Children of prisoners need their fathers too

Roughly five per cent of all convicts worldwide are women, 95% of convicts are men. Many of these men have families and have children. Although studies and exact data are scarce, it is estimated that around 60% have one or more children under 18.

When a father goes to prison, the mother will still take care of the children. And she will be left to deal with a bulk of problems alone. These problems are not just social but often also financial, as the father is frequently the main income provider for the household. There is, however, more to it when the father no longer takes part in the daily life of a family. Whereas academia in the past focused predominantly on the role of the mother more recent studies have started looking into the role of the father in the emotional and psychological development of a child. While growing up, children need to have both parents to learn from. While the mother-child-bond provides security, reliability, comfort and stress reduction, the father-child-bond aids curiosity and the safe exploration of the world. Often fathers tend to provide less support than mothers, thereby enhancing their children's autonomy.

A father in prison proves to be a difficult role model for a child. Many fathers in prison fight emotionally with wanting to still be "a good father" to their children. The absence of a father can have negative effects on the child's self-esteem, self-control, the child's well-being and performance at school. Furthermore children growing up without a father, especially boys, are more prone to criminal behaviour.

The UN convention on the Rights of the Child asks for an uninterrupted relationship of a child with possibly both parents at all times. By alerting fathers to the important role they can still play whilst being in prison and



## Editorial (cont'd)

via prison visits we see that we can make a difference. Psychological support, both inside and outside of the prison, can support and stabilize the relationship of the prisoner with family outside. Only established relationships will help to ease the difficult transition back into free life and will significantly lower the chance to “fall back into old ways”. It can also break the negative cycle of a possible criminal future “career” for the child, supporting the children to reach their potential and to grow up as happy healthy children.

Uschi Germer

Representative Morning Tears Germany

[uschi.germer@morningtears.de](mailto:uschi.germer@morningtears.de)

## News

### New faces at Morning Tears

Cecilia Loughlin, Alice Stagg and Laila Haxthausen have finished their (summer) internships at Morning Tears Beijing and Shanghai. To all three a big thanks for their great assistance!

Aline Mathis

Intern at Morning Tears Beijing



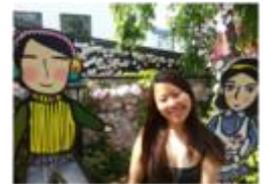
My name is Aline Mathis. I am originally from Reunion, a French Island located in the Indian Ocean, and I have been living abroad for the last 7 years. I am currently working on a master's degree in French-Chinese Translating & Interpreting Studies at Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) and I am graduating this year.

I was also in Beijing last year, and experienced both student life as a master's student and work life, working for the Administration and HR Manager for The Earth Media Group (TEMG). It turned out to be a challenging position and helped me grow in maturity concerning the functioning of a company, both Chinese and foreign. I also took up several temporary interpreting missions for a wide range of customers, experiencing on the ground the difficulties an interpreter has to cope with.

After two months of my systematic refusal of unsatisfying job offers due to their lack of meaning, I have finally found Morning Tears and I feel confident that this NGO will lead me down the right path. I look forward to a wonderful and rewarding time working with Morning Tears for the next 6 months.

Line In Juul Madsen

Intern at Morning Tears Shanghai



My name is Line In Juul Madsen. I have a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Copenhagen where I graduated in 2011. My specialty is international health issues with a focus on Asia. I have always felt at home in Asia and I am now looking forward to exploring China. I was adopted from Korea to Denmark and this year I decided it was time to go back and live in the country I was born in. I was living in Seoul for half a year taking Korean language class and working as an English teacher, before I came to Shanghai.

Before I moved to Korea I was working for ADRA Denmark as their communication coordinator and at the same time volunteering at an awareness campaign for The Danish Family Planning Association. I love working with projects that matter and I have always known that I wanted to work for an international NGO. I enjoy meeting and working with people from different cultural backgrounds.

I am a very positive, outgoing and adventurous girl who loves food, diving and travelling. I am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities within Morning Tears and I am sure I have six very exciting months ahead of me.



## Green Apple international restaurant sponsoring Morning Tears!

Morning Tears and Green Apple have teamed up to help children of imprisoned parents. The cooperation includes a donation by Green Apple for each pizza sold, we are featured in their menu and the restaurant is distributing our flyers. In addition to this, at events hosted by Green Apple we can promote ourselves by having a booth.

For Morning Tears this is a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness and funds, and we look forward to continuing the cooperation.



## Morning Tears and Shanghai Young Bakers in partnership

On August 25, the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Shanghai Young Bakers program took off. This also marked the beginning of cooperation between Morning Tears and Shanghai Young Bakers.

Shanghai Young Bakers (SYB) is a charity program providing a one year fully-sponsored opportunity for French bakery training to disadvantaged Chinese youth (aged 17-23), enabling them to find qualified jobs and lead independent lives after graduation. The students follow classes in a traditional Western bakery combined with a practical internship in international hotels. To support them further they receive training in diverse fields including communication, English, finances and management.

One of the children of the Xian Re-unification and Assisted Living project, Zhou Han, was very enthusiastic when first learning about the program. Her strong motivation got her through the selection process. When the training is finished in July 2014, she will be better qualified to find a job. We are very happy for Zhou Han and hope she will have a lovely year learning the ins and outs of the profession. Perhaps one day her products can be tasted all over town. If you want to learn more about SYB please visit their website:

[www.shanghaiyoungbakers.com](http://www.shanghaiyoungbakers.com).

## Charity Christmas Ball of The Oxford Cambridge Club Beijing

Morning Tears is proud to announce that we have been selected as the beneficiary of the 2013 Charity Christmas Ball of The Oxford Cambridge Club Beijing. The Oxford Cambridge Club Beijing is the official forum for Oxford and Cambridge University alumni living in Beijing to network, socialise and share ideas. All proceeds will go Morning Tears in support of the Coming Home Program.

When: 13 December 2013, 1900hrs

Where: Legendale Hotel, Beijing

Who: 300 influential OCCB members, guests:

Andrew Hamilton, Vice Chancellor, Oxford University

HMA Sebastian Wood, UK Ambassador to China

## Don't forget!!!

Morning Tears is always looking for organizations offering internships and training programs for children of convicts. This gives our young people a possibility to develop their qualifications. If you have ideas, please contact us at [info@morningtears.org](mailto:info@morningtears.org).



## Hilton Beijing Christmas Train

Morning Tears will also be the beneficiary of the Hilton Christmas Train. Last year this event raised 100,000 CNY for Roots and Shoots (Dr. Jane Goodall's Foundation). Sponsors can have their name on the train, which circles the big Christmas tree in the lobby of Hilton Beijing. The Christmas tree will be formally lighted on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December during the large annual Christmas Bazaar.



## Dulwich College Beijing - Annual Dinner Dance

Morning Tears will once again partner with Dulwich College Beijing as the beneficiary of the Annual Dinner Dance on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November in Beijing.





# Morning Tears' strategy

Raising awareness for the situation of children of convicts is an important part of our work. Over the past 15 years Morning Tears has also built up extensive first-hand experience on the challenges and trauma's children of convicts face. In recent years, Morning Tears has been working at all levels, from the local level in countries like Cambodia to the global policy-making level at the United Nations. In turn, this benefits our stakeholders and children as we also learn and stay up-to-date with the latest policy developments and insights in academic research.

Koen Sevenants, Founder and Executive Director of Morning Tears, was asked to be a guest speaker at an international Panel Discussion on Human Rights of Children of Parents Sentenced to the Death Penalty or Executed. Whilst re-iterating that Morning Tears focuses solely on the children and not on the justice system itself in any of the countries that we work in, he outlined what it means in practice when a parent receives this sentencing. Whereas a long-term prison sentence itself can already be a traumatic experience for a child, the permanent lose of a parent can be especially difficult. Without adequate care and guidance through this process the emotional impact on the child can be severe and long lasting.

PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève

child rights connect  
together the age group for the 21st

Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève

Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations Office, World Trade Organization and Other International Organizations in Geneva

On the occasion of the 24<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Human Rights Council

**The Permanent Missions of the Kingdom of Belgium, Norway, Switzerland and Montenegro and the Child Rights Connect Working Group on Children of Incarcerated Parents**

Cordially invite you to a Panel Discussion on

**Human Rights of Children of Parents Sentenced to the Death Penalty or Executed**

**Thursday 12 September, 1-3 p.m.**  
**Room XXIII, Palais des Nations**

Speakers:

**Dr. Sandra Jones**, Associate Professor, Rowan University, USA

**Mr. Francis Ssubi**, Executive Director, Wells for Hope, Uganda

**Mr. Koen Sevenants**, Executive Director, Morning Tears International

**Mr. Oliver Robertson**, Penal Reform International

*Refreshments will be provided*



©All rights reserved by Tartan Samurai



## News from Coming Home Project - Henan

Whereas summers are normally quiet, the summer this year marked the arrival of another group of children and a special holiday. This is what happened at the Coming Home Program (Ai Tong Yuan):

- Holidays are special for any child, but often for children of prisoners it is only something they can dream about. At the Coming Home Program we try to give the children a life as normal as possible. This year a group of 25 children with caregivers enjoyed the fresh breeze of the sea and the beach at Rizhao. In their own words: 'fantastic, super and wet.'
- In close cooperation with our Chinese governmental partners and the (prison) authorities, two groups of eight children have recently arrived. Interestingly, in the past we used to have more girls than boys, but out of the most recent addition of 16 children, there are 14 boys and only two girls. Due to the uneven number of boys and girls we rearranged some of the family units. With the arrival of the new children the project has reached its current maximum capacity of 56 children.
- On Friday, the 6th of September, a high-level official delegation from the Province of Henan inspected the Coming Home Program. They were very satisfied and impressed with the living environment of the children.

## Relevant Actualities

- **For Women, a Second Sentence**

This opinion in the New York Times points to the importance of keeping families together during the incarceration of a parent and as a way to 'reduce crime and to stop a cycle that can condemn entire families to the penal system'

Source: [www.nytimes.com/2013/08/14/opinion/for-women-a-second-sentence.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/14/opinion/for-women-a-second-sentence.html)

- **Keep female prisoners close to family**

This is another article on the importance of family ties during the incarceration of female prisoners by Nancy Gertner (retired federal judge and a professor at Harvard Law School) and Judith Resnik (professor at Yale Law School).

Source: [www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2013/09/03/keep-female-prisoners-close-family/eQf4dCawmOGmQ41Ap53GxL/story.html](http://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2013/09/03/keep-female-prisoners-close-family/eQf4dCawmOGmQ41Ap53GxL/story.html)

- **COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD HOLDS SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION IN GENEVA FROM 16 SEPTEMBER TO 4 OCTOBER 2013**

Source: [www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/%28httpNewsByYear\\_en%29/FF135C0F379650C4C1257BE40036CC45?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpNewsByYear_en%29/FF135C0F379650C4C1257BE40036CC45?OpenDocument)

## Finances

The upgrade our financial management system in China to a double-entry accrual-based bookkeeping system is still in full but good progress.



### **morning tears Belgium**

BNP Paribas Fortis  
 Account No: 001-4495454-65  
 IBAN: BE 18001449545465  
 BIC/SWIFT: GEBABEBB

### **morning tears Netherlands**

ABN Amro  
 Account No: 45.75.13.764  
 Stichting Morning Tears Nederland  
 IBAN: NL81ABNA0457513764  
 BIC/SWIFT: ABNANL2A

### **morning tears Spain**

La Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions  
 Account No: 2100.0233.99.0200332319  
 IBAN: ES28 21000233990200332319  
 BIC/SWIFT: CAIXAESBXXX

### **morning tears Denmark**

Danske Bank  
 Account No: 10490189 Reg. Nr. 1551  
 IBAN: DK14 3000 0010 4901 89  
 BIC/SWIFT: DABADKKK

### **morning tears in China**

Bank of China, Beijing Xi Cui Lu Sub-Branch  
 [中国银行北京西翠路支行]  
 Account No: 3259-5481-6793  
 Beneficiary: Guo Zhi Hong (郭志弘)  
 BIC/SWIFT: BKCHCNBJ110

*morning tears rebuilds the world for children who have lost their own world.*

morning tears rebuilds the world for children who have suffered or are suffering heavy emotional pain.

We focus particularly on:

- children whose parents are in prison;
- children whose parents have been sentenced to death;
- children who have been abused or neglected;
- orphans;
- children who haven't been registered at birth, and thus have no rights;
- street children.

morning tears has been operating since 1999 on an informal basis without legal structure. However, in March 2005 morning tears became a formal non-profit organization registered under Belgian Law. Currently, morning tears has offices in Belgium, Spain, The Netherlands, Denmark, France, Italy, the USA and China.

morning tears is run mainly by volunteers. These volunteers are mostly professionals from the social sector or development aid workers, although we also have journalists and engineers in our group.

The running costs of morning tears are kept very low, so that donations can go almost entirely to the children in need.