



# Newsletter

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## Editorial

### Children of parents who are in pre-trial

People who are on trial are persons who, in connection with an alleged offence or offences, are deprived of their liberty following a judicial or other legal process but have not been definitively sentenced by a court for the offence(s). There are different stages during the pre-trial: (1) The 'investigation' stage, when they are interrogated to see if there is justification for bringing a court case against them; (2) The 'awaiting trial' stage, after the investigation has ended and a decision has been taken to bring a court case; (3) The 'trial' stage, when the trial actually takes place; (4) The stage when they have been convicted by the court but not yet sentenced – the 'convicted unsentenced' stage; (5) And the 'awaiting final sentence' stage, when they have been provisionally sentenced by the court but are awaiting the result of an appeal process, which occurs before the definitive sentence is confirmed (source: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta>).

Children who have a parent in pre-trial see it differently. *My father or mother is in prison, but the judge will soon know the truth. And my mother or father will come back. For now, I hold on. All those children who are bullying me will really open their*

*eyes when they see me next month happy in the arms of my parents. And then the final judgment comes. The parent does not come back. The child is full of anguish and despair. The world collapses. Or another scenario is that substitute caregivers or the remaining parent tells the child that the other parent is in hospital or traveling during pre-trial. However, the children often discover the truth though bullying or questions from people around them. The lie can't stand. After the trial, children will surely find out their parents have been sentenced. *The bullies told the truth.**

On any given day, there are nearly 2.5 million people held in pre-trial detention and other forms of remand imprisonment throughout the world. The social environment also issues a "guilty" verdict upon the child. The reason: being his or her child.

The blessing of having a parent of whom to be proud then turns into a nightmare. It is at these moments more than ever that the child must count on the community. And it is at these moments that we – the members of that community – nearly always fail.

Koen Sevenants  
[koen.sevenants@morningtears.org](mailto:koen.sevenants@morningtears.org)

## What's up in morning tears? (./..)

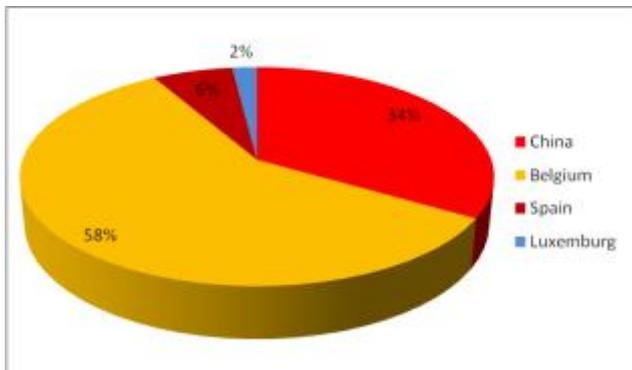
### • Morning Tears receives award

The Chinese government grants the prestigious "China Charity Award" to morning tears. The China Charity Award is the highest government award in China to praise the individuals, institutions and projects which have made outstanding contributions in the area of disaster relief, supporting the elderly, disabled, orphans, relieve the less privileged, student, medical help, support for arts and culture, environmental protection and other area of public welfare and charity.

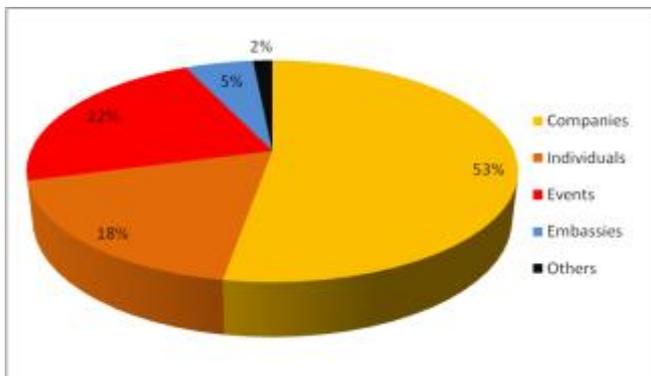
Morning Tears Coming Home Project won China Charity Award 2010 as the Most Influential Charity Project. The award was handed over in Great Hall of People, at Tiananmen Square on April 9.

## Financial Barometer

In 2009, we raised a total of 2,153,619 Chinese Yuan and spent 2,077,325 Chinese Yuan on Morning Tears' children.



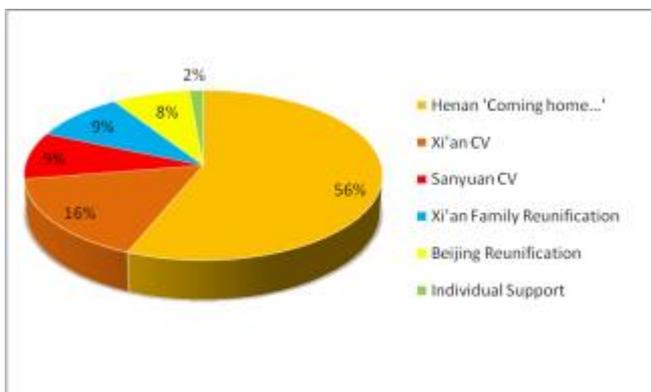
- 58% of donations came from Belgium.
- The income from China accounted for 34%.



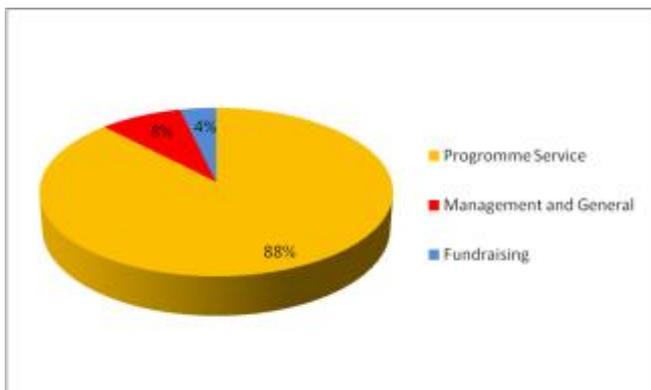
Most donations from within China came from companies.

Other interesting facts:

- About 78% of all donations were earmarked. Morning Tears and donors agreed upon how the money would be spent before the donation was made.
- Morning Tears was requested to issue tax deductible invoices for about 74% of all donations in China.



In 2009, about 56% of expenditures were allocated for the Henan Coming Home project. This is because the majority of the program's construction work was completed and paid for in 2009.



The percentage of overhead expenditures was kept below our target of 15%. In 2009, we spent 8% on Morning Tears' management costs and about 4% on fundraising costs.

## Morning Tears' Strategy

In the previous newsletters we explained that Morning Tears uses research-based minimum standards for childcare and protection. In our standards we differentiate seven quality areas, namely: planning for care, protective care, personal care, health, environment and safety, caregivers, management and administration. Here, we will discuss the fourth quality area: Health. For this quality area we use two standards.

### Standard 4.1: Children's diet is sufficient for their nutritional needs

- *Caregivers must ensure that children have adequate amounts of properly prepared, wholesome and nutritious food in accordance with local dietary habits.*
- *Caregivers promote healthy eating habits*
- *Staff implement effective and current food-handling standards and hygiene practices*
- *Mealtimes are pleasant occasions and provide an environment for social learning and positive interaction*

#### Why is this important?

- The foundation of future health is established in childhood. Food has not only nutritional value but also social, educational, and emotional value
- Food that is familiar and tastes good, and is offered in a caring way can contribute to the child's sense of well-being and security

### Standard 4.2: Children have access to preventive and remedial healthcare

- *Caregivers must promote the health of the children and make arrangements to ensure that medical, dental, and optical treatment is made available as required*
- *Children receive basic health checks on arrival and at regular intervals, including immunization*
- *Health records are kept and updated in regard to height, weight, etc, incidents such as illnesses, medications received and other actions taken*
- *Caregivers recognize the important role of health education and seek opportunities to promote healthy attitudes to sleep, hygiene, diet, sexuality, alcohol, drug and solvent abuse*
- *Caregivers take a proactive approach to healthcare and HIV/Aids, emphasizing good hygiene, health and safety practices in the environment. That includes that staff ensure that children are dressed appropriately for indoor and outdoor activities and that rest/sleep and dressing procedures encourage self-help and meet individual needs for safety, rest and comfort*
- *First aid kits are available for accidents and emergencies and staff know how to use them*

#### Why is this important?

- Institutional settings are associated with outbreaks of illnesses due to the close proximity of people experiencing group living. Measures to counteract and control the spread of diseases is therefore very important
- In order to provide emotional stability for a child, and a sense of safety and being cared for, the child has to know that care will be available in the event of sickness; providing basic care and attention to a sick child is one of the simplest ways of forming an attachment

In the next issue we will present quality area 5: environment and safety.

## Feedback

This is the second issue of the fifth volume of our quarterly newsletter. Your feedback will help us to improve. Also, we will be happy to include your contributions or announcements. We look forward to hearing from you. Please mail to: [info@morningtears.org](mailto:info@morningtears.org).

If you want to get our previous newsletters, visit our website at [www.morningtears.org](http://www.morningtears.org), You can download them from the site.

## Gold Sponsor



Morning tears welcomes our new gold sponsor!

You want to become a gold sponsor as well? Please contact [koen.sevenants@morningtears.org](mailto:koen.sevenants@morningtears.org)

## What's up in morning tears? (../..)

- **New website for Spain**

Morning tears Spain has a new website. You can find videos, project descriptions, updates, background documents, ways to do donations over the internet and contact info about to become involved. The website contains a lot of visual material and will be frequently updated. Check it out: [www.morningtears.es](http://www.morningtears.es)

- **Donation of Bencham Beijing**

The morning tears children were also this year beneficiaries of the gala of the Bencham, the chamber of commerce of Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg. Morning Tears received 40 000 RMB (about € 4000) that will be used to pay the decoration and furnishing of one family house in the “coming home program” in Zhengzhou.



- **Morning Tears at the world expo**

The world expo in Shanghai is about to open. When you go there it will be hard for you not to see the presence of morning tears. An ongoing video of Morning Tears will be shown in the Belgian-Chinese friendship corner in the Belgian-European Pavilion. We also have a permanent booth on the Nordic light house. Here we will do many things, e.g. Morning Tears Denmark will distribute free hotdogs. People can give a donation which will go to morning tears. And the best news is that the list of companies that partner up with us at the world expo is getting longer every day. Please contact us if you are interested. It has no financial costs. You simply allow us to be present during your event at the world expo.

## Impressions

**Impression...** portrayal, depiction, rendition, interpretation

**Impressions...** a new corner in our newsletter where pictures, drawings, poems, letters, songs give us impressions of the souls behind the faces

*"You know Morning Tears. You have seen me in pictures. You have read stories about me. You know my parents are in prison. What do you know about my life in the Children Village? I am here to tell you."*

Written by: Cai Xiaolong

Translated from Chinese by: Esther Yu

I have a special family where a lot of children with the same family background live happily together. We all have sad memories as well and we all went through some unfortunate and difficult situations.

For the past six years I have spent a wonderful childhood here. I have enough to eat; I have warm clothes and I can play happily with the other children.

My friends are all friendly and they have sympathy for me. When we are together we play sports, tell each other jokes and share snacks. They help me whenever I am in trouble. On weekends we often cook delicious meals together and share our stories. I can't change my own family background, but I can change my attitude towards the world.

In the Children Village we consider each other as blood brothers and sisters. All of us suffer from bitter experiences and memories. At night we often lie on our beds and listen to the sounds of the wind in the trees and we share our sad childhood memories. After sharing these stories, everyone is usually very quiet and deeply saddened.

During the Moon Festival I feel extremely lonely. This is usually the time that families in China are together and celebrate their bond. My life knows a lot of darkness without any parents' love. My parents abandoned me when I was only a baby. I must stay strong and positive because I know that laughter is the best medicine to kill sadness.

Written by: Mei Xiaoxia

Translated from Chinese by: Esther Yu

Both my parents are criminals and this has had a huge impact on my childhood and my happiness. I have been living in San Yuan Children village for the past nine years.

There is a boy here, who we call 'close brother'. He helps all of us when we are in trouble and we share our happiness with him. He has taught me that 'when you smile at the world, the world will smile back at you'.

All the children here understand the real meaning of friendship. It is like the gold key that can open our mind and allow sunshine in the world. Friendship is like the best medicine that can cure our pain and that helps us to escape from the sorrow we feel.

Morning Tears is a priceless organization because they don't discriminate based on biases and prejudices. Their love is powerful and graceful. I am so grateful to this organization and all its volunteers. It's because of them that I can have a positive attitude towards life even when I feel it is bittersweet.



## Heart2Heart

By: Katleen Mentens

### A Red Heart

Lu Bo is angry. He doesn't know why, but angry he is. He feels this uncontrollable rage gurgle to the surface, right under his skin. He feels it in his fingertips that clinch together in raging fists. He feels it in his jaw that tenses up in an aggressive urge to bite. He does bite and he does beat. Preferably his younger brother but ultimately he doesn't care who falls victim to this wrath. As long as he beats or bites someone, he feels this anger, this fury flow out of his body so that he can breathe again and become aware of where he is.

He has been at the Ai Tong Yuan Children Village for two months now. His grandparents told him this is his new home. His little brother treats it like home and seems happy. Lu Bo is not. He is angry: angry for having a father in prison and a mother disappearing; angry for having grandparents that succumbed to their poverty and dropped him off at Morning Tears where people seem to genuinely care about him. He can't stand them. Their attention and care and interest make him sick to his stomach. He doesn't deserve to be here. He doesn't deserve to experience contentment, let alone happiness. What kind of people would want to care about the son of a criminal dad and a spineless mother; or a grandson of possibly the poorest grandparents in the world? Why do these people care? Why would these people want to spend time with him? The other children evoke the same emotions. How can they be happy and find joy in play? How dare they smile and laugh? Where do they find the audacity to invite him in their games? He doesn't deserve this. So he bites. And so he beats.

In creative therapy, when asked to draw an image of his mother, he draws a big black heart. He is asked to explain and he says that his mother must have a dark heart for abandoning him and his brother. The caregiver asks whether he thinks it is possible that this big black heart is not his mother's but his own. Is it possible that he has cut himself off from his emotions so that he no longer would feel hurt? Is it possible that he can bite and beat other children because he doesn't allow color in his heart?

Lu Bo starts thinking. He doesn't want to have a black heart. He wants a red one, a bright red one. It would look better on paper too. He must find out how he gets about to changing the color of his heart. He asks his caregiver and she tells him to try and use words instead of his fists and teeth to express this anger that he has bottled up inside of him. She tells him that she will be the ears that listen. And so he talks; and so she listens.

And very slowly Lu Bo feels the tension in his stomach dissolve. He feels this energy flow to his brain and mouth as he finds the right words to express his emotions. He feels the salt of his tears warm his cheeks. He feels the veins in his heart opening up and fill with color.

He no longer has a black heart. It colors red whenever he shares his thoughts and emotions; whenever he plays with the other children; whenever he laughs at jokes of others, whenever his little brother hugs him. He no longer has a black heart. He has a red one, a bright red one. Things of which the child is not aware of the connection anymore. Delayed responses to trauma can occur within the first year following the trauma or many years later.

## News from the World (../..)

### South-Africa: early childhood care in prisons

Bongiwe Mthembu has spent the first 27 months of her life in the women's section of Westville Prison, near the port city of Durban, South Africa. She was still in the womb when her mother, Jabu, 37, was sentenced to an eight-year jail term for identity fraud.

The toddler and her mother share a cell, newly painted in pink; every morning she goes to a crèche in the prison with 11 other children of offenders; in the afternoon she returns to the cell.

Source: <http://thecitizen.co.tz/news/3-features/926-innocents-languishing-behind-bars.html>



#### **morning tears Belgium**

Fortis Bank  
001-4495454-65  
IBAN: BE 18001449545465  
BIC/SWIFT: GEBABEBB

#### **morning tears Netherlands**

ABN Amro  
45.75.13.764  
Stichting Morning Tears Nederland  
IBAN: NL81ABNA0457513764  
BIC/SWIFT: ABNANL2A

#### **morning tears Spain**

La Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions  
2100.0233.99.0200332319  
IBAN: ES28 21000233990200332319  
BIC/SWIFT: CAIXAESBXXX

#### **morning tears Denmark**

Danske Bank  
10490189 Reg. Nr. 1551  
IBAN: DK14 3000 0010 4901 89  
BIC/SWIFT: DABADKKK

#### **morning tears China**

Bank of China, Beijing Branch [中国银行北京分行]  
No.8 Ya Bao Lu, Beijing, China [中国北京雅宝路8号]  
Account No: 4160300-0188-026239-0  
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 and China.

**morning tears** is run entirely 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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[WWW.MORNINGTEARS.ORG](http://WWW.MORNINGTEARS.ORG)

## News from the World (./..)

### **US: Video Visitation Connects Kids With Jailed Parents**

A 2½-year-old boy who was just six months old when his mother was incarcerated recently reunited with her thanks to web video conferencing the state approved.

Source: <http://cbs4.com/local/parents.jail.visitation.2.1575643.html>

### **Russia to pardon more than 300,000 convicts**

A record number of convicts could be released from Russian prisons ahead of the 65th Victory Day festivities in a presidential initiative to make the penal system more humane.

As 300,000 inmates make up almost a third of the entire Russian prison population, wide-reaching effects on the prison system are expected.

Source: <http://rt.com/prime-time/2010-03-22/russia-amnesty-300-thousand.html>

### **UK: Changes to women's prisons will harm children**

Campaigners have said that a government decision to reclassify women's prisons will unfairly disadvantage the children of prisoners, who are now likely to have less access to their mothers.

Source: <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/11502>