

# morning tears newsletter

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## Editorial

### It's harder for mothers and girls

The consequences of a parent's imprisonment are usually dramatic for all family members. Sons, daughters, fathers and mothers all go through the painful process of partial or complete family disintegration. They have to find a new balance after the stressful pre-trial detention. Their degraded social statuses, the financial costs of prison visits and lawyers, the bad financial situations due to the disappearance of – often – the main income provider all add up to emotional turmoil that the imprisonment of a close family member generates.

Globally, an estimated 5% of all prisoners are women. Many are mothers. Being a mother in prison does not make things easier. Because there are fewer female prisoners, there are also far fewer women's prisons. This means children must travel far greater distances and spend much more time and money to visit their mothers. The distance is often the reason the imprisonment of a mother ends a mother-child relationship.

The child's outlook also becomes much darker when a mother is imprisoned. If a father goes to prison, the mother typically cares for the children. However, when a mother goes to prison, the father seldom provides care. Children end up with grandparents or in foster care.

Being a girl while your parent is in prison is also difficult. We hear girls complain more often about intrusive body searches during security checks upon entering the prison. In many cases, these body searches have bothered the girls so much that they become unwilling to visit. Again, this can cause the end of the parent-child relationship.

And, finally, the probability of being abused in alternative care turns out to be much higher for girls.



## Editorial (cont'd)

All of this adds up to what already is called the “implementation of a justice system”. And as morning tears becomes increasingly international and transnational, I can say to you: unfortunately, it’s the same everywhere. We try to tell the children as they live every day through their pain, that their love is real and that is why their grief is real. We try to offer them words of encouragement.

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## News

### New faces at morning tears introducing themselves

Cecilia Loughlin

Short-term intern in Beijing



My name is Cecilia Loughlin, and I am currently interning with morning tears Beijing for a month and a half. I am originally from Pennsylvania, USA, but have moved around with my family, including a 3-year stint in Shanghai, China, and 2 years in Tokyo, Japan. I am the oldest of three children and have two brothers.

I am currently a sophomore at The University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, and am studying finance and Chinese. I am an avid runner and love to cook. I have a passion for Chinese language and culture, and am therefore very excited to be in Beijing for the summer and experience working in China. I look forward to a wonderful and rewarding time working with morning tears.

### Making a difference with morning tears

The continued collaboration between the MAD (Making A Difference) and morning tears this spring and summer has led to several fundraising events. MAD’s fundraising has generated more than 10,000 RMB in donations to morning tears for which we are very grateful. The official handover took place on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of July in connection to the weekly MAD radio show ([www.udancecn.com/live](http://www.udancecn.com/live)), which Morning Tears was invited to take part in. Morning tears is very appreciative of the work that MAD has done and continues to do for morning tears. For more about MAD, please have a look at: [www.weibo.com/madent](http://www.weibo.com/madent) and [www.facebook.com/madentertainmentcn](http://www.facebook.com/madentertainmentcn).





## Market Day with the 4th graders of Shanghai Community International School

Morning Tears Shanghai was invited to speak at the SCIS school for an audience of 4<sup>th</sup> graders. The children were very interested in the presentation on morning tears and our work. The children had a Market Day coming up where they sold products they designed, produced and promoted themselves. They worked very hard for the Market Day and, in the end, more than 4000 RMB was donated to morning tears. We sincerely thank SCIS and the 4<sup>th</sup> graders for their efforts and support.

## Australian Shanghai Association (ASA) sponsors a family unit (8 children) for another year

ASA has once again chosen to sponsor a family unit for a full year at The Coming Home center in Zhengzhou, Henan Province. We are very grateful for this 'Home Provider' sponsorship and thank ASA for the continued and generous support!

Morning tears Shanghai coordinator Nora van den Broek (center) with two representatives of the Australian Shanghai Association.



## Belgium concerts by Symphonia Assai for morning tears



On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of May, two concerts were given by Symphonia Assai in Brussels and Hasselt, respectively. Symphonia Assai, led by Wouter Lenaerts, has been developing for several years into a most creative and professional symphonic orchestra. For these two special concerts, with benefits going to morning tears, Mrs. Anneleen Lenaerts, harpist at the Wiener Philharmoniker, also gave solo performances.

Left to right: Rudi Moesen (presentator), Anneleen Lenaerts (harpist/soloist), Wouter Lenaerts conductor SYMPHONI Assai



## Don't forget!!!

With the summer ahead we have no upcoming events but are preparing for the second half of this year.



## Morning Tears Annual Fundraising BBQ June 8th 2013



On Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>, Morning Tears held its 7<sup>th</sup> annual fundraising BBQ in the garden of the Belgium Embassy. With heavy rain the days before and after we were very fortunate that during the day it was dry, which allowed the more than 200 guests to enjoy the day fully. It was a family-oriented event with delicious BBQ food by Morel's, waffles and Belgium beers by the Tree as well as plenty of entertainment, fun activities and various bands performing live music. There was also a theatre play by the Beijing Play House. Due to the uncertain weather conditions, we raised less money than last year when we had more than 300 guests in attendance but the net revenue still exceeded 50,000 RMB. All of the proceeds go to Morning Tears. We also would like to thank the Belgium Embassy once more for their excellent support and the opportunity to make use of their garden.



## Beijing Children's Day concerts in cooperation with BICO and Green T House LIVING

The Beijing International Chamber Orchestra (BICO) nominated Morning Tears as the beneficiary of two concerts to celebrate Children's Day in China. On Saturday June the 1<sup>st</sup> the concert took place at the German School and on Sunday as an outdoor concert at Green T House LIVING in Shunyi. Both concerts included a performance of Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" with several of the children performing solos. The concerts were a tremendous success with more than 750 people attending – an amazing opportunity for Morning Tears to raise awareness about children of convicts and funds to support them. A total of 35,000 RMB was raised.



## Morning tears' strategy

Over the past months, we have been working hard on a number of issues, including our capacity-building work for childcare and protection in China. As part of this work, an important study visit took place from June 13-20, the press release of which is attached below.

The visit was a big success because Chinese policymakers could gain firsthand experience with European best practices and exchange views on how to best protect and care for vulnerable children. Their feedback was very positive and – even though we don't like to pat ourselves on the back – they expressed profound gratitude for the study tour and effort by morning tears.

### **Best practices in the care and protection for children of convicts: Chinese delegation visits Belgium and Germany**

A high-level delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs and key Chinese childcare experts visited Belgium and Germany from June 13<sup>th</sup> until June 20<sup>th</sup>, as part of a European study tour, to gain firsthand insight in best practices in the care and protection of vulnerable children and especially of children of convicts.

The Chinese delegation was led by Mme. Wang Hongli, Deputy Director of the Department of Social Affairs and Mme. Xie, Director of both the Zhengzhou Street Children Protection Centre, and the Chinese National Training Centre for staff of Children Protection Centres. In Germany, the delegation visited several model projects, including Projekt Chance, and met Treffpunkt e.V., an association also involved in the Coping Project. During a visit to the prison in Schwäbisch-Gmünd for female offenders, which hosts a special mother-child ward, the delegates also discussed standards on child care and protection with members of the state parliament in Baden-Württemberg.

The European visit had been organized by morning tears as part of a three-year project to strengthen childcare and protection in China. The project builds upon morning tears' 15 years of work for children of convicts in China and is carried out in close partnership with the Zhengzhou Street Children Protection Centre. A national-level impact is expected in China, according to four key objectives :

1. The development of an inspection unit for child protection in China under the Ministry of Civil Affairs.
2. Developing standard operating procedures to ensure childcare and protection when a parent goes to prison.
3. Creating and implementing training materials and plans on childcare and protection to be used in the National Training Centre.
4. Constructing a model centre for childcare and protection that can function as an example for other centres in China.

In Belgium, the delegation visited the Ministry of Social Affairs, the very progressive prison Leuven central, delegates from the European Parliament and the psychological support centre De Kade for adolescents of Leuven Catholic University.



## News from Coming Home Project - Henan

This is what happened at the Coming Home Program (Ai Tong Yuan)

- The Zhengzhou Youth League Committee donated movie tickets for 50 people. The children had a great time at the cinema followed by lunch at KFC J
- The May holidays brought more happy times as the children organized a BBQ and also celebrated several birthday parties.
- On May 17<sup>th</sup> the Zhengzhou eye's hospital examined all the children. This was organized by Beijing Ciai Zhijia, who deserves a big thanks ! It turned out some children have myopia or strabismus problems for which further treatment will be pursued.
- 12 students with master's degrees from Zhengzhou University paid a special visit to the centre where they talked and played with children.
- On Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, Children's Day, several children visited their parents in prison through visits facilitated by morning tears.
- From Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, nine children from the Coming Home Program visited Beijing. They went on several sightseeing trips and on Saturday they enjoyed and play at the Morning Tears BBQ. The bouncing castle was a big favourite.
- From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, French photographer Christian Jacques Heyer visited the centre to shoot material for an exhibition on children of convicts. Emphasis has been placed on photographs that give a good impression of the life of the children and the care for them whilst safeguarding their privacy. The exhibition is scheduled to tour to various Chinese cities and we are currently exploring the option of holding a parallel exhibition in Europe.

## Relevant Actualities

- China Daily reports on a film about female prisoners in the Zhengzhou Female Prison and the importance of contact with their family and children during incarceration:  
[www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2013-06/22/content\\_16645859.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2013-06/22/content_16645859.htm)
- Sesame Street to help children of prisoners:  
[www.nj.com/entertainment/tv/index.ssf/2013/06/sesame\\_street\\_jail.html](http://www.nj.com/entertainment/tv/index.ssf/2013/06/sesame_street_jail.html)
- In German:  
[www.spiegel.de/panorama/us-sesamstrasse-thematisiert-inhaftierung-von-eltern-a-907045.html](http://www.spiegel.de/panorama/us-sesamstrasse-thematisiert-inhaftierung-von-eltern-a-907045.html)
- Scottish governmental ambition for children of convicts  
[engageforeducation.org/2013/06/children-of-prisoners-the-innocent-victims-of-crime/](http://engageforeducation.org/2013/06/children-of-prisoners-the-innocent-victims-of-crime/)

## Finances

Together with financial professionals we are currently working hard to upgrade our financial management system in China to a double-entry accrual-based bookkeeping system and ensure that we fulfil all contractual obligations.

This work is also important for our planning and budgeting and, subsequently, our fundraising targets. With an increase in the scale of our projects (meaning we can assist more children) also our fundraising needs have increased, too. More on this in the next newsletter in October.



### **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.