



*Education-  
for a brighter future*

(Students of Changping Central School, Guangxi Province, China)



# The Salvation Army School Building Projects in Guangxi Province, China.



The old delapidated school building



New classroom with new desks and chairs. The desks and chairs were donated by the Ma family.

*For more than 10 years, The Salvation Army has been involved in poverty alleviation programs in Mainland China. We are deeply convinced that the first step towards helping the poverty-stricken regions get out of poverty is to build educational facilities and develop education in these areas. Therefore we place a high value on work in this respect, doing fundraising and putting in large amounts of resources in support of rural schools in China.*

*The Guangxi mountaineous region is one of our targeted locations. In early August, three of the four primary schools in Guangxi to which we provided assistance in school building were opened, providing services to the respective communities.*

*To commemorate the work of Ms Jocelyn Mah, China Development Department Project Officer, who lost her life in a traffic accident whilst on duty visiting programs in Anfai, the Changping Central School Jocelyn Mah Teaching Building and Guxiu Jocelyn Mah Primary School were named in her memory.*

*On August 4, more than 100 excited and happy children*



The new 3 storey Changping Central School building



Guangxi Provincial Government officials presenting an appreciation plaque to Lieut. Colonel Tan Thean Seng

*from Changping Yao minority group, Mengshan County, lined both sides of the muddy road leading to the new school to welcome people coming for the school opening, with colourful wreaths in their hands and chanting 'welcome , welcome'.*

*Amongst those who attended the ceremony were The Salvation Army Officer Commanding, Lieut. Colonel Tan Thean Seng and Lieut. Colonel Loo Lay Saik; the family of Ms Jocelyn Mah; Mr and Mrs Kevin Vane of Upton Hall School which provided the funding for the building of the school and the local officials who were involved in the project. Obviously, the most excited of all were the teaching staff and students who now have access to the brand new three-storey teaching facility.*

*The original school building had long been in want of repairs and its classrooms were unable to cope with the learning needs of more than 200 students. A new school building was to be built to provide reasonable educational facility for the students. Having inspected the site, the urgency of the program was verified, and that eventually led to the completion of the project in early 2003.*

*After the simple but formal ceremonies of flag raising, guests and students addresses and the setting off of fire crackers, Lieut. Colonels Tan and Loo began distributing gifts and candies to the children. As the children shyly received the presents, we sensed the feeling of joy in their hearts.*

*The following day the team headed off to Guxiu Jocelyn Mah Primary School in Teng County. The original school building collapsed during a typhoon and flooding last July. Students had been forced to continue their studies in the cow shed where classes had to be cancelled on rainy days. To solve the problem for the long-term, The Salvation Army provided subsidy for the construction of the two-storey school building, which was built on higher grounds in the village.*



Crossing a river on a barge to get to the school



Lieut. Colonel Tan and Kevin Vane cutting the ribbon at the official opening of the Changping Central School



Flag raising ceremony at Changping Central School

*A larger number of villagers and students were present at the opening ceremony. Many traveled from other villages especially to witness the important event.*

*The original building of Tunjiang Primary School Xinzhu Subsidiary School, the third new school to be opened, was also torn down as a result of the typhoon. The funding for the new two-storey school building was donated by Mr Chan Lam Tai. Mr Chan and his wife were present at the opening ceremony and brought along gifts of stationery for the children.*

*As Lieut. Colonel Tan Thean Seng said in his address, The Salvation Army believes that every student has the right to receive education. Yet, to the many children living in rural areas, such a right is not something to be taken for granted. Our aim is to help these young children receive a good education, so that they can have a brighter future.*

*The completion of those school building projects would not have been achieved without the support of many generous people. We are grateful for their support. We look forward to receiving even greater support for our work so that many more children would be able to benefit.*



Mr and Mrs Chan Lam Tai with students of Tunjiang Primary School. In the background is the new school building contributed by Mr Chan.



Villagers came to witness the official opening of the village school



Students taking the salute



Happy students



Lieut. Colonel Tan distributing gifts to students