



A Flower Blooms

by Yuko Wilkins, Cambodia

I was asked to teach a sewing project for the girls at Garden of Hope, a ministry in Cambodia that provides a home for girls rescued from trafficking. The project was not to be an income venture. It was rather an opportunity for the girls to concentrate on an activity and give them confidence in their ability. As a result of the abuse many of them have suffered they are often unable to focus their thoughts for a long period of time.

Jumpao, whose name means “magnolia,” has had even more difficulty than most of the girls. When she was about 9 years old her mother left her in the jungle. This was one solution to deal with a girl who has, to a degree, a mental disability. No one expected her to live, but she did. One day a Christian woman found her. Because she had been sexually abused, eventually Jumpao was brought to the Garden of Hope. It was there I met her.

I didn’t approach Jumpao but let her decide to come to me when she was ready. One day while I was sewing with the girls she sat next to me. When she began to sew, Jumpao always sewed the same thing – she always made crosses.

I found out that Jumpao believes in Jesus in a very interesting way. Garden of Hope is near an airport. One day when a jet flew overhead Jumpao jumped up and down excitedly. She said, “Jesus went up in the sky and someday He will come back to take me to the sky.” I don’t know how she came to believe; she possibly understood the Bible stories shared at the home.

Jumpao has changed the way I see things. I am so glad God let me meet her. Although trafficking causes great sadness in this world, there is no place God’s reach does not go. Jumpao is a beautiful flower blossoming by the grace of God.



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