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ANNUAL REPORT

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This year has seen the work of AVP continuing in Hong Kong.

Since the five day workshop conducted with Ms. Kathryn Liss from the US in January of this year, another five workshops have been conducted at the Caritas Wong Yiu Nam Centre. A staff member at the Centre is now an AVP facilitator. He has been instrumental in arranging and scheduling the workshops. Support for the program at the Centre is strong and further workshops are planned for the coming year.

Four university students who had participated in the joint five day workshop between Baptist University and Zhongshan University in January joined the facilitation team for the Basic Workshop held at Baptist University in March. As new facilitators, they commented that even though they had participated in some of the exercises before, the different group and their different role gave them new perspectives and insights.

During the year AVP started work with the elderly. Four workshops, both Basic and Advanced, were held at different elderly centres. Staff and members participated together. Each group of participants in a workshop have their own requirements and the elderly are no exception. Adjustments must be made to some of the games and special attention paid to health matters. Nevertheless, workshops for the elderly have been just as lively as workshops for the youth, with lots of learning opportunities. Some staff members have noticed a definite change in certain members after the workshops. More work with the elderly is anticipated in 2009.

Unfortunately, the work at the Caritas Tuen Mun Marden Foundation Secondary School seems to have been put on hold. At least one, if not two, of the student facilitators who were providing mini-workshops for their classmates will be leaving the school this year. Conducting the mini-workshops has provided a good experience for the students and when conditions change, we look forward to starting up again.

Translation of the AVP manuals has been progressing. A number of the manuals are now completed and work is continuing on the remaining ones.

With workshops already planned for the first three months of 2009, AVP is set to carry on with its work in Hong Kong in the coming year.

Rose Allender
Facilitator