

# hands for the harvest

servicing the world

SEED

*"...What a huge harvest" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!"*

Matthew 9:34-38 (The Message)

In a brightly lit room, a group of industrious women with disabilities bend over beautiful cloth.

These are the women of Dorcas Design. Around the room hang the creative product of their newly-acquired skills. Quilts, baby clothes, tote bags, jewelry bags, Bible covers and other lovely finished products wait for shipment to buyers.

Dorcas Design is a newly established micro-enterprise that focuses on empowering women. Under the direction of Ruth Winslow, Dorcas Design was created by a group of women who are victims of Hanson's disease (leprosy). Rejected by family and stigmatized by society, these women had known only desperate poverty and a life with little hope. Through Dorcas Design they are learning life-sustaining skills, gaining confidence in their ability to function successfully, and coming to know the love that was the motivation of their namesake – Dorcas of the Bible.

The biblical Dorcas was always doing good and helping the poor. Desiring that they, too, might be known for these qualities, the women of Dorcas Design have extended their hands to the far west of the country to meet the needs of Mihrigul and Berabiyem, two young ladies who were orphaned. These nineteen-year-old women also struggle with disabilities and rejection.

Ruth Winslow and master sewer Auntie Yang traveled to teach Mihrigul and Berabiyem to make the quilt tops for a line of newly-designed baby quilts. Both were very adept students, and within a week, had conquered this difficult pattern and were producing lovely products.

SEED has been extensively involved in marketing Dorcas Design products in the U.S. among Free Methodist churches. Since the profits made on the U.S. marketed products are greater than can be realized in local Chinese markets, these U.S. sales are helping Dorcas Design become self-sustaining. Having experienced the meaningful life that having life-sustaining skills bring, the women of Dorcas Design want to pass this blessing on to others. SEED is committed to help these women reach their goal.

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