

I wonder how many of you saw the news about the diver found dead on the shore near Newcastle with 50kg of suspected cocaine nearby. Thankfully the police have since arrested someone trying to flee the country, suspected of being behind the drug haul which went wrong.

I want to talk about someone who has done so much to help addicts overcome addiction, and one of those she has helped.

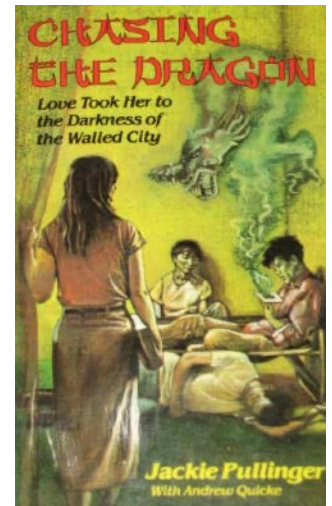
Jacqueline Bryony Lucy 'Jackie' Pullinger, MBE (born 1944) is a British missionary to Hong Kong and founder of the St Stephen's Society.

She has ministered in Hong Kong for over 50 years, from 1966. The early years of her Hong Kong ministry are chronicled in the book *Chasing the Dragon* (1980).

Pullinger graduated from the Royal College of Music in London having specialized in the oboe. At the age of 22 she wanted to be a missionary, so she wrote to various missionary organisations, but was unable to find support from missionary organisations, she consulted a vicar Richard Thompson.

At first she wanted to go to Africa, but then she had a dream that impressed upon her the idea of going to Hong Kong. She followed the vicar's advice and went to Hong Kong by boat in 1966. However, when she arrived she knew no one there and had only \$10 on hand. The only reason the immigration officers allowed her in was because her mother's godson was a police officer there.

She found work as a primary school teacher in the Kowloon Walled City which in the 1960s was not policed and consequently had become one of the world's largest opium producing centres, run by Chinese criminal Triad gangs. Later she established a youth centre that helped the drug addicts and street sleepers inside the walled city. She also taught music at St Stephen's Girls College



Jackie Pullinger's first book (above) and (below) Jackie and images of the walled city within Hong Kong.



In 1981, she started a charity called the St Stephen's Society which provided rehabilitation homes for recovering drug addicts, prostitutes, and gang members. By December 2007 it housed 200 people. The charity's work was recognised by the Hong Kong Government who donated the land for the rehabilitation homes.

The work continues.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackie\\_Pullinger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackie_Pullinger)

Ah Yin is one of the addicts Jackie helped overcome his addiction and he now works with her charity helping other addicts.

Ah Yin was the oldest of several siblings who grew up in the Walled City. His father was a drug addict and a gambler. His mother had to go out to work to support the family. So Ah Yin was parent to his younger siblings.

By age 10 he was normally out all night. By 13 he was addicted to heroin. In the following 15 years he was in and out of prison 10 times. He joined a triad gang. Then he noticed a change in one of his friends.

The friend had come off drugs and Ah Yin wanted to do the same. He did so with help from the St Stephen's Society, particularly Jackie. Now he works within the charity.

In the Society former addicts help those who are still addicted. He says: 'Jesus never leaves me. Every time I get things wrong Jesus picks me up again'.

You can find out more about Ah Yin and his amazing story, and the work of St Stephen's Society at the following website.

<http://www.ststephenssociety.com/en/p1.php>

Meanwhile let us pray for all addicts, for their families, for all who try to help them overcome their addiction, and also for God's blessing on the efforts of the law enforcement agencies to stop the drugs getting onto the streets by finding and arresting the dealers.

Christine Bradbeer



Jackie Pullinger, (above) and (below) Ah Yin at a St Stephen's Society Home in Hong Kong.

