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### **Ministry Starts Only After Book Giving!**

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We are grateful that, through the grace of God, CCL has launched the book-giving plan for graduates of mainland seminaries stretching over a distance of 23,000km. Each of the 3,000 graduates of 25 seminaries all over China could bring home around 20 volumes of Christian literature to help with their ministries.

What challenges will these graduates face when they begin their ministries? How can they make the best use of such Christian literature?



“I recall there being a schoolmate who had graduated for two years. He had to lead many training courses and Bible study classes in his ministry, and he asked, ‘How should I use the materials?’” Recently, I had the chance to listen to the sharing of a mainland pastor on his experience in walking hand-in-hand with seminary graduates. He shared what these new pastors really need. We hope to fulfil such needs and provide support to these pastors on top of our book giving.

The pastor said he always uses e-mails and mobile apps (WeChat or QQ) to answer questions from graduates. He said, **“I suggested to them what books to use for Bible study and what methods to adopt for delivering sermons. I would classify the books into different categories so that they know how to use them based on their needs. It is like preparing a book catalogue for them.”**

Many pastors of mainland churches are not adequately trained in theology. In remote regions where the general education level is relatively lower, these books have become the only reference for pastors apart from the Bible. Graduates who have received training for

several years in the seminary still require the guidance of veteran pastors. It takes time and effort to establish a pool of mentors who are competent and dedicated to leading younger pastors, and this cannot be done overnight. CCL is happy to see mentor-mentee relationships being established, with mentors influencing mentees through their life



experiences and guiding the latter to make the best use of Christian literature in their ministries. This can make their Bible teaching and preaching more effective.

The pastor honestly spoke of the tremendous challenges in pasturing these graduates. **“I told them that they should not blindly use the knowledge in these books, and reminded them of the importance of integrating such knowledge**

**with their real life experience. They should use these books in a lively way in their teaching.”**

The pastor said that whenever he receives enquiries from such graduates, he would respond to them as soon as possible and help them address problems in their ministry. Indeed, such commitment to serve warrants our compliment.

In helping mainland church leaders and pastors, the provision of appropriate resources is just a beginning. Mentors should offer guidance to them on how to use the books, in order to help themselves and to apply them in Biblical teaching.

Therefore, on the basis of book giving, we also need “life mentors” who can walk hand-in-hand with the pastors. We pray that God will help us groom such life mentors.

### **Support the 2016 “Book Giving Plan to Mainland Seminaries”**

We are grateful that God has helped CCL establish a resource network in the past. In 2016, we plan to distribute to graduates of 35 mainland seminaries, provincial Bible schools,



and training centres a total of 4,000 sets of pastoral books, including 100,000 volumes of the printed version and e-books, involving a total expenditure of US\$220,000. This will cover part of the production costs for the books and delivery costs.

For each offering of US\$55, a graduate will get a set of 25 books for his/her ministry. These are precious resources that can help the graduates in their service. If you feel moved to support the giving of spiritual resources, please contact us for details, thank you.

## **Start Training with Rice-cooking: Children Sunday School Teacher**

### **◎ Sister So**

To train a teacher, one must start with rice-cooking?

I'll have to start with the story of Sister Li, who lived in a small town.

Sister Li joined our children Sunday school teacher foundation course in April 2014 for the first time. Even though the level of education she had received was low, she was very hardworking. She was discovered and accepted into second level training. This is the strategy for



Teacher Wu observes the performances of the attendees on the side in order to give suggestions

training children Sunday school teachers in the mainland: train those who can train the next generation of teachers (train the trainers). These lessons need to be tailor-made in order to allow them to grasp how to effectively teach others to be children Sunday school teachers.

From completing foundation courses to helping students prepare lesson plans, and subsequently, giving them feedback -- can you guess how much time it took our training team (Teacher Wu and me)?

## Teacher Training Formula

1. Children Sunday school teacher foundation course (30 hours) + 2. Pre-lesson preparation (15 hours) + 3. Teacher training class (23 hours) + 4. Post-class follow-up (14 hours) = around 82 hours



After the class attendees prepare their lesson plans, Teacher Wu goes over the lesson plan and teaching material again with individual students and answers to their questions and difficulties. They make the final preparation and revision.



Teacher Wu observes and makes notes on the reactions and performance of class attendees after giving the first lesson demonstration.



Attendees convene an after-class review meeting. Each person shared what they enjoyed and learned from the class. Then, they gave their opinions on how the content and techniques for expression could be improved. Attendees needed to revise their lesson plans and supplementary teaching materials, so as to be used as a complete set of materials for future lessons.

I helped Teacher Wu with some of the workload. I was responsible for the distribution of all notes and handouts. It took me almost half a month working day and night to communicate with the attendees in at least 200 WeChat posts. One of the challenges we faced was that attendees were inexperienced with writing lesson plans. Even though they had Teacher Wu's lesson plans from her demo lesson, they could not grasp it. They tried very hard to write one but couldn't get it right. Both parties were very frustrated!

Under the guidance of Lord, I wrote "How to cook rice" as the demonstration of a lesson plan. The goal was to show them how to make a lesson plan with something they were all familiar with. Two days later,





I received the first lesson plan. It was orderly and had everything. The students finally understood how to write a lesson plan! I felt great consolation!

After the training, a kindergarten principal took the initiative to contact Sister Li. Though she did not have the qualifications as a kindergarten teacher, the principal invited her to be a teacher based on the way she taught children. At first, Sister Li was a bit worried, but the children Sunday school teacher training boosted her confidence. She also thought that she ought to contribute to the society, so she agreed.

To see Sister Li change from someone who lacked confidence to the first one who took the initiative in contributing what she learned; from someone who was deathly nervous to exuding confidence, it was a great encouragement to Teacher Wu and me. We see the changes in her life, and look forward to bringing up more trainers of Sunday school teachers who will pass on their knowledge as a blessing to the children in the mainland.

## Your Response

Due to changes in environmental factors and timing in the mainland, the three trainings (from now to February) have been cancelled. **A follow-up children Sunday school teacher training and an entry-level children Sunday school training have been scheduled for March to May 2016. The expected expenditures are US\$12,800.**

**If you feel moved to make an offering, please contact us for details, thank you.**

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## Prayers

### 1. Pastoral Needs of Christians in the Marketplace

Mainland believers are told not to love the world, but to serve in the church more, with there being few teachings available to them on how to keep their faith in the marketplace.

**May the Lord equip mainland pastors to provide relevant teachings for believers faced with various challenges in the marketplace.**



## 2. Public Health in a Smog-filled Environment

In December 2015, Beijing was covered by smog again, causing the authorities to issue the rare orange and red alerts, an indication of the most serious air pollution there thus far. The visibility in some areas was extremely low. Accumulated pollutants affected Tianjin and provinces like Hebei, Henan etc., affecting one another as a result of changes in wind directions.



**May the Lord help the mainland authorities deal with and explore feasible solutions for the smog problem with a serious attitude, to protect the health of the citizens.**

## 3. Electronic Platforms for New Pastoral Staff



Being new to their ministry, mainland seminary graduates, especially those serving as pastoral staff in remote areas, are in need of reference books and an easy access to electronic platforms.

**Thank the Lord for leading CCL in publishing valuable reference books such as *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* and *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*, and more. Recently, we also produced the e-versions of these books, which can be accessed by mobile phones. May the Lord guide the development of more reference books and electronic platforms for the benefit of pastoral staff and their congregations.**

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