

“ Looking ahead with eagerness: in 2016, what will the campaign be like? How will the pastoral resources be conveyed to seminary graduates... we have set the following goals: the expansion of beneficiary seminaries from 25 last year to 35 this year – although it will take a leap of faith, we look up to the Lord to make the way!

A Leap of Faith – 2016 Book Giving Plan for Mainland Seminary Graduates @ Zhong Guoxin

Looking back with thanks: in 2015, over 280 donors and 4 local/overseas partner organizations joined the plan. We travelled 23,000 kilometers to give books out under the “Book Giving Plan for Mainland Seminary Graduates”. For around 3,000 graduates of 25 seminaries and provincial Bible colleges, about 20 books were given to each of them.

Looking ahead with eagerness: in 2016, what will the campaign be like? How will the pastoral resources be conveyed to seminary graduates?



“In churches in Northwest China, a major portion of the pastoral staff have not undergone formal theological training and many of them received only limited education as well. Thus, these books have come to them as the only spiritual readings apart from the Bible.”

“They want to have more reference books, in particular the electronic dictionaries, since they can use them on the phone... In facing great pressure from work, fresh graduates look forward to lightweight or electronic commentaries and references, which would be of a particularly great help to seminary students in remote areas,” a seminary teacher so described the importance of such resources to graduates.

In response to such needs, we have set the following goals: **the expansion of beneficiary seminaries from 25 last year to 35 this year – although it will take a leap of faith, we look up to the Lord to make the way!**

Last year, to each of the 3,000 graduates, 3 electronic books were given; and 1,000 of them received 2 further sets of electronic Bible tools – *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* and *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (loaded on the mobile phone, they are virtually a pile of reference books in the pocket, offering 5,000+ vocabularies for checking on the go). **This year we are prepared to give out up to 8 electronic books, which also entails a further faith leaping.**



Are you willing to join this journey of faith with us?

Your Support

We plan, in the coming April to May, to arrange 4,000 sets of pastoral books# to be distributed to graduates of 35 mainland seminaries/provincial Bible colleges/regional Bible training centers in various locations. Each set requires a funding of US\$54 (in total US\$216,000, after deducting offerings already received). We hope that the needed fund will be acquired by March, enabling a timely delivery of the books.



We earnestly request for your unsparing offering for this important plan. If you feel moved to do so, please contact us for details, thank you.

**# “2016 Book Giving Plan for Mainland Seminary Graduates” — Proposed book list
(updated on mid-February)**

<p>Printed copies (Simplified Chinese) (Some of the following books will be given to the graduates of Bible training centers):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moulded by His Word ● Relational Leadership ● Key Bible Concepts ● Six Leadership Essentials (Title for the CCL 45th Anniversary in 2016) ● The Living Word Curriculum Series — Teacher’s Guide ● The Living Word Curriculum Series — Study Guide ● Be Series — Be Basic Be Obedient Be Authentic: Genesis ● Be Series — Be Amazed: Selected Minor Prophets I ● Be Series — Be Concerned: Selected Minor Prophets II ● Be Series — Be Heroic: Selected Minor Prophets II ● The 2:7 Series (Original Version) – Book One ● The 2:7 Series (Original Version) – Book Two ● New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* ● Why True Love Waits* ● Answers to Tough Questions* ● New More Than A Carpenter* ● 6A’s of Parenting* ● The Father Connection* ● The Bare Facts/Straight Talk With Your Kids About Sex* 	<p>E-books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology (I,II) ● Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible ● The Leadership of Pastor ● The God of Extreme Mercy ● New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* ● Why True Love Waits* ● The Father Connection* ● The Bare Facts/Straight Talk With Your Kids About Sex*
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Remarks: * offerings of which have already been received

The Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with Fellow Travelers

@ Xiangdong Liu

The proverb says that walking a thousand miles is better than reading a thousand scrolls. Today I say it this way: be thankful to those who walk with you on your journey.

Pastoral staff in the mainland, especially those who are in remote areas, need more than material support. They also need fellow brothers and sisters to walk with them. For many years, CCL has supported pastoral staff in Southwest China. We are grateful to have the support of Teacher Chow, who is from a local Bible school. In November 2015, undaunted by the difficulties, he drove 1,000 km over 3 days to spend time with our workers in visiting 3 pastoral staff.



5 years ago, when I first entered ministry at CCL, I heard a colleague talk about a time when she was visiting minority groups in Southwest China. To enter into the Miao village, one has to brave a bumpy 8-hour drive. Who would have thought that I myself would go to the Miao village in recent months! I got to experience the difficult road first-hand —collapsed roads, mudslides; our car positioned between the mountain and the side of the cliff. Meanwhile, the car bobbed up and down. It was like sitting on a spring with wheels. It was the worst in those 30 minutes before arriving at the church in the village. The road was covered with rocks. It was only because Teacher Chow visited the students so often that he was able to drive so quickly and confidently. The rest of us were barely holding on to our seats!



While I was chit-chatting with a student of Teacher Chow's, he said that Teacher Chow led other brothers and sisters from different areas to visit from time to time. When they saw the harsh environment that he was in, they were often moved to support his monthly wages.

Even though it was not a lot, as he looked at Teacher Chow, I could see the respect and contentment in his eyes.

On the road, we saw many stockade villagers having wedding banquets on the side of the street. Full of emotion, Teacher Chow said, “When I do my training in any part of the province, I make a strong emphasis to every pastoral staff—unless it is a wedding or a funeral, do not attend any banquet. I ask them to sign an agreement. Firstly, this action breaks the tradition. Secondly, how would the pastoral staff have money for the gifts? I



“Full-time Pastoral Staff Offering Box” of the Gala Church

would rather you spend that money on supporting pastoral staff than on eating and drinking.” When he is doing grassroots church training, he always encourages those who are working to give to the church whenever they return to the stockade villages. He also tells the pastoral staff to encourage young people in this way.

In the beginning of 2015, the Gala Church hung a “Full-time Pastoral Staff Offering Box” on its wall. It was the first church in the county to do so. This allowed believers to support the full-time pastoral staff in the church. However, the reaction was less than enthusiastic. The church is largely composed of the elderly and young children. Old believers gave out of their disposable income selling oil and chicken, yet the amount was quite little. Then, a young brother working elsewhere came back and offered a considerable amount so that the church could install a sound system, but this did not have a direct impact on pastoral staff.

Teacher Chow’s methods and executions appear to be simple, but he breaks the tradition and let believers consider the role and need of pastoral staff. We need more people like Teacher Chow who are willing to walk alongside us and become good partners with CCL in supporting mainland pastoral staff, in understanding their needs. May the Lord provide more of such brothers and sisters.

Your Response

In 2015, we supported 4 pastoral staff in Southwest China. In total, we have supported 25 pastoral staff in the mainland this year. This covers the East, North, Northwest and Southwest China. We thank everyone who has supported us financially. By the end of January, we had raised over US\$64,000, with a shortfall of US\$51,000. If you feel moved to make an offering, please contact us for details, thank you.

Prayers

1. Worsening Smog in Beijing



The heavy smog in Beijing has recently caused secondary and primary schools to cancel classes. Hospitals also saw a rapid rise in patients suffering from respiratory diseases. Low visibility has led to a spate of traffic accidents such as collisions involving several vehicles. People stay indoors more often now and wear masks whenever they are out.

May the Lord help government departments, officials and the public to pay more attention to smog and to solve the air pollution problem. May He bless patients with a speedy recovery and protect drivers' safety in bad weather.

2. The Rising Opportunities for “Business as Mission”

In view of the rising opportunities for “Business as Mission” to be brought about by “One Belt, One Road”, more mainland Christians need to be equipped to be leaders in the marketplace, especially in the business and industrial sectors.

Please pray for God’s guidance of ministry training for believers and the provision of resources, so that believers can face the challenges of “Business as Mission”.



3. Support for Full-time Pastoral Staff

Quite a number of pastoral staff and seminary students in remote villages have barely any financial resources. All they have is a limited income from farming. They are dedicated to their ministries, despite the fact that they have to face financial pressure.

May the Lord move more mainland believers to provide financial support for full-time pastoral staff and understand the vital role they play and the needs they have.



4. The Needs of Mainland Seminary Graduates



The pastoral staff in quite a number of churches in remote areas have no theological training at all and are in great need of appropriate tools and reference books in support of their ministry.

May the Lord help mainland seminaries equip their students properly. May He pave the way for the development of an e-reading platform to support pastoral staff in remote areas.

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