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## **Giving Authority to the Next Generation**

### **China Church Ministry Working Report 2017 -- Summary**

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#### **Deep Cultivation to Create Solid Foundation**

◎ **Otto Lui**  
**Associate General Secretary (Training)**

In the past year, we have described our work in training the young leaders of China's churches as "Deep Cultivation and Careful Work".

What is "Deep Cultivation and Careful Work"? It is to dig deep holes in the soil and planting seeds there, so that the seeds can receive better nutrition and protection. With careful nurturing, these seeds germinate, and have strong growth.

We believe that this is God's way for cultivating people. Jesus spent three years living and working with the disciples. Through working and walking together, he planted the way of the Kingdom of Heaven deeply in their hearts, in order to call upon them to take up the great commission. In the same way, we believe that in addition to traditional theological training, young church leaders need people to walk beside them, to call on them to take up the great commission.



In fact, CCL had received this method of deep cultivation and careful work for leadership training 6 years ago. At the time, however, its practical implementation had not been grasped. Yet we believe that God will raise up various kinds of people with qualities that are suitable for their various times to lead His people. As of today, young leaders over 30 are taking up more and more the responsibilities

of developing the Church. They need life mentors to walk with them, not just for the sake of knowledge, but for the exchange of experience, and for encouragement as well; to affirm their heart for ministry.

We understand that establishing good leaders is the future of China and Chinese churches. Therefore, through our “Living Word” teaching material and Bible study training, we are building a firm foundation of biblical teaching. We provide leadership training, pastoral care and evangelism training for those who will carry the burden of leadership. We provide spiritual books to those seminary graduates who have just entered into ministry. Our life mentors walk with young ministry workers. We help Sunday school teachers to more effectively help the coming generation of leaders grow, through our Christian education courses.



In the past year, we have made numerous responses to the tightening of regulations regarding religion, and the increasing worries of the difficulty of participating in serving China churches. As in the 2014 Cross demolition crisis in Zhejiang Province, when no one could see a way forward at that time, the great doors of the Gospel were not shut. Those churches which had their crosses demolished still congregate, their focus is no longer on the building itself, but in their willingness to put more resources into building up spiritual leaders. At the same time, while opportunities to publicly publish material has decrease, yet through digital publishing, the effect of books has expanded enormously.

For these reasons, we believe that the coming year will bring many challenges, but God will greatly shower us with His grace. We deeply hope that you can continue to journey with us, with the leaders of China's churches, to face greater challenges to come.

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## Resource Publishing (Book Giving)

### Facing the Waves with the Fragrance of Books

© **Matthew Fung**  
**Associate General Secretary (Publishing)**



The new generation of leaders has access to comparatively better education and richer resources. At the same time, they face huge challenges regarding pastoral care and the changing social environment. In the following summary, I would like to share the situation facing those seminary graduates in the cities, countryside, coastal and mountain regions. I sincerely invite you to support these fresh troops for the Gospel in prayer and in donations!

**The Challenge of Simple Living:** After Pastor Li, who is only 22, graduated from seminary, he returned to the mountain regions to serve in a Black Yi (Ethnic minorities) church. He cherishes the opportunities he has had since youth to study in the city, before receiving the calling to study at the seminary. He is the only pastor in his church who has received a formal theological education, and one of a few who can teach in the Black Yi language. The village church of his hometown does not tithe regularly, and as a pastor he receives no regular salary. Though the conditions and quality of life cannot match those in the city, Pastor Li chooses the simple life. With the support of his parents, they serve the church together.

**The Challenge of Pastoring in the City:** Pastor Qin was recommended by her Senior Pastor to study at the highest level theological seminary in the nation. After graduating, she returned to her church in the city, leading lay-leaders in pastoral work and service. She faced high expectations. Pastor Qin understands that it is a rare opportunity to study theology, but the pressure is high, especially as believers in urban areas have increasing levels of education and work experience, while she only has junior level experience in managing groups. Wearing the garments of a pastoral graduate, she pays attention to books regarding leadership and management. She vows to read and learn for the sake of applying her knowledge and abilities.

**The Challenge of Staying the Call:** In the grasslands of the north, in a Bible school lacking in resources, a couple -- freshly graduated -- joins the work. They both have theology

degrees from a highly recognised institute, yet they have given up the comforts and recognition they would receive in the city to answer their calling. Returning to their homelands to equip pastors. They received the “pastor’s package” when they graduated, and this has become an important teaching and pastoring resource.

### **The Gift from A Thousand Miles**

In the past 5 years, we have found many donors, supported over 10,000 graduates, and given out more than 200,000 books. In May of 2017, our book giving teams have travelled over 17,000 kilometres over 20 days to visit 14 cities, in order to give out over 4,500



sets of “pastor’s packages” to over 4,500 graduates of 45 seminaries, provincial Bible schools, and Bible training centres--to partner with them as they step onto the path of pastoral ministry. The books given are appropriate for frontline pastoring, including Bible reference books, Bible study material, discipleship training material, and books on hermeneutics, apologetics, parent-child relationships, marriage and family.

### **Please support year 2018 Mainland Seminary Graduates Book Giving Plan**

We plan to support 50 seminaries, bible schools and training centres in 2018. Each institute has an average 100 graduating students. Each person will receive a “pastor’s package” (Subsidy per pack as US\$64). Total required US\$320,000.



## “Living Word” Leadership Training

### Passing the Baton onto the Young

◎ **Xiao Dong**  
**Frontline Worker in China Church Ministry**

We are grateful that members of the teaching team of the “Living Word” all have their unique special grace and talents. On top of experienced teachers born in the 60s, young mainland teachers born in the 70s, 80s and 90s have joined and instilled much vigour into the team. Having experienced abundant grace from the Word, teachers base their teaching on the Bible and commit to be each other’s companion in their service in the Lord. After having made observations in classes, the new-generation teachers have also joined the team and started taking part in the teaching work. Together, they have unleashed indescribable energy, and have served in the Living Word training on the mainland for five years!

To groom more teachers, the teaching team also picks young leaders in mainland churches for special training in the form of pre-studying prior to formal classes in order to pass on the teaching baton of the “Living Word”. Two experienced teachers will partner with one new teacher, and have online exchanges with the latter on how to prepare for Bible classes including studying the content, methodology and the thinking behind certain Bible verses.



Young leaders can share on the online platform their observations on the Bible verses. The two experienced teachers will then make supplementary remarks and discuss with the young leader how they can best help class participants understand the relevant verses, for example, using forms to assist participants in finding out the meaning of a certain passage. This kind of online preparation for leading Bible classes is a good way to train young leaders.

There is much cooperation among old and young members of the teaching team. Every evening, the teaching team will sit together and review the training during the day, and discuss how to renew oneself, adjust the curriculum, correct one’s attitude, etc. The ultimate goal is to help mainland church leaders acquire the teaching methods which can be applied

not only to Bible teaching in their own churches, but also to promote such methods to other churches near their own.

### Summary of the 2017 ministry

We have an urgent need to pass on the Living Word ministry, and we hope to train up young Bible teachers. In May and June 2017, the five-man teaching team adopted a new approach whereby different team members would share the ministry in eastern and northeastern China based on their own expertise and the curriculum required to be taught.

Despite the many challenges posed by mainland religious policies in 2017, we conducted in faith training in eight training locations in northern, northwestern, central and southern, eastern and northeastern China. A total of 541 leaders and group heads from different districts were trained in 11 training programmes.



## Cross-cultural mission

### The Mentor and Mentee Walking Shoulder to Shoulder Teaching with Both Words and Deeds

#### © Dr Boaz Yeung Lecturer of Leadership Training Institute

Joe is only 25 years old and has a son. He is a worker in a family church on the mainland and plans to become a missionary among the ethnic minorities. We have known each other for five years. In the old days when I studied theology while working, I went every month to the mainland to lead their brothers' group. The group was disbanded later. I got in touch with them again afterwards and found that this young lad had gotten married.

At his age, Joe has to take up heavy responsibilities, and it is quite hard on him. So in the past two years, once every quarter, I visited his church to help out by delivering sermons, conducting training and offering personal counselling. Based on my knowledge of him, and coupled with several years' worth of ministry experience, I have served as his mentor, assisting him in his personal development, family, church ministry and developing his business as mission. I teach him through both my words and my deeds. I encourage him to build his own leadership style, and attach importance to his relationship with his wife and co-workers. I also provide him with Bible materials and resources which can assist him in his church ministry and his business. Now, he has firmly established himself in the church, his business and his family.



*Joe visited the ethnic minorities village.*

Moreover, he has started the work of spreading the gospel among the ethnic minorities. He and his team go to the mountain area every month and I join them every now and then. Keen on pursuing further studies, he came to Hong Kong to attend our training programme in 2017.

### **Summary of the 2017 ministry**

China is a big country with a large population. How should we develop our ministry? I have gone from place to place in the past few years, and have used Internet as a platform to reach people in faraway places. At the same time, I have focused my efforts on a few key students and in several cities to help them in their work and church ministry, and develop their business as mission.

### **Please Support: Mentoring based Leadership Training**

*( providing Living Word Bible Teaching, Business as Mission and Six Leadership Essentials )*

2018 Fund Required: US\$270,000

Serve over 800 church leaders through 44 training and exchanges in mainland and Hong Kong. A target of 164 Team Coaches, 150 Shepherd Leaders and 440 Disciple Makers planned to be established in the upcoming year.

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