

Book Giving



Book Giving – Paving the Way for a Deeper Relationship!

© William Fong
Associate Director (Development)

During my 12 years of service at CCL, I have come to realize that what matters in our ministry is not how professional we are, but rather how close we stay to the Lord!

In June this year, I joined some of our book giving trips, during which I had the chance to talk face to face with the book recipients. I was amazed at God's wonderful work over the years! In the past several decades, under God's graceful guidance, veteran co-workers have walked alongside many pastors in different provinces. In recent years, they have further established networks and mutual trust with many mainland churches and seminaries. While a number of restrictions have been imposed on mainland churches' activities from 2012 to 2018, our ministry has continued to thrive. God has responded in a wonderful way to the increasing needs of seminary graduates for books. We have given away 19,000 sets of pastoral materials to 19,000 new pastors!

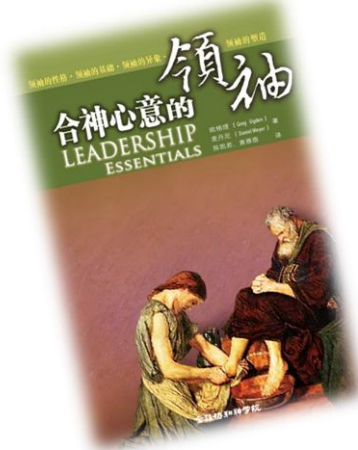
Book Giving, a Starting Point to a Deeper Relationship

In recent years, our book recipients have extended from students to teachers and even pastors and leaders in the church. While we merely provided resources in the initial stage of our ministry, we have now become friends of our book recipients, caring for their various needs. Through giving away (1) biblical and theological materials, "For the Glory of God", and (2) materials for developing mature leaders, "New Morning Mercies", we have come to know Pastor Yao who serves in a seminary in central China. She is applying for a two-year course outside of the mainland to equip herself with the aim to return to the seminary to better train up her co-workers in her province and its peripheral areas. In our visit to her in

October, our publisher gave her the book “Come, Let us Adore Him”. As believers celebrate Christmas year after year, they may sometimes regard the occasion as nothing more than a ritual, often forgetting that the arrival of Jesus Christ is the real meaning of Christmas. Meanwhile, pastors are also extremely busy during Christmas in preparing for the celebration activities. If leaders spending Christmas in an overseas country can read one article from the book each day during Advent, it will be good for them spiritually. We also met Pastor Zhou who is a teacher in a Bible school in southwestern China. She also hopes to go abroad to receive training. Both of them are pastors who will groom the next generation of pastors. Through giving them books, we would like to walk by their side in their service.

Giving Books, a Way to Train up Pastors

In November, policies in the mainland towards churches were tightened. We prayed fervently for the Lord to open a door for us to give books as a way to train pastors. With God’s grace, we had the opportunity to arrange for the author of the series “Discipleship Essentials” to conduct training for mainland leaders in one of the provinces of Eastern part in early November.



There are now over 1,000 pastors in this province serving full-time in several thousand churches. Seven years ago, they started organizing a retreat camp every year to serve about a hundred pastors, which means it would take at least close to ten years serve them all. This time, however, with the assistance of training resources, the training was conducted under the theme of supporting the church in using small groups to shepherd believers. We also explored the subject of micro groups, which



Pastors tried out the interactive shepherding model of “micro group”, which proved to be a valuable experience.

could effectively help believers grow spiritually. We were grateful to be able to put into practice the concepts expounded in our books in shepherding believers.

We believe that if God is willing, we can continue to give books in 2019 to graduates and teachers of seminaries as well as pastors to help them grow and serve. We invite you to join us in our ministry.



Reading – a Way to Empower the Pastors!

© Matthew Fung
Associate General Secretary (Publishing)
Publisher (CCL Publishing House)

On book giving trips¹, when handing our pastoral book packs² to seminary graduates, we always hope that they can fully make use of the books and regard them as partners in their ministries! We were overjoyed upon receiving responses on these books from graduates in different districts. When we repeatedly read what they had written, we were amazed from the bottom of our hearts that “these books do genuinely help them!” We thank the Father for using us and our books to serve this new group of pastors. Some pastors shared with us the following.

Pastor Zhou of Hunan Province said, “I particularly like the book ‘Ruth and Billy Graham: The Legacy of a Couple’. I am not married yet. I read about how the Graham couple helped each other and were both called by the Lord to serve Him. They have become each other’s faithful partner, used greatly by the Lord. In their lives and service, they manifested the ten core values of partnership: authenticity, humility, intimacy, focus, integrity, faith, global responsibility, empowerment and grace. They made use of their own gifts and worked closely to spread the Gospel around the world, hence becoming a channel of blessings to many. This serves as a great reminder to me. While I should take my role as a pastor seriously, I must also realize that marriage is not about a dream life led by a prince and a princess, but rather and more importantly, it should bless others!”

Pastor Chen from the central and southern region said, “The book, ‘Church Management Make Sense’ is unlike other books on church management. It not only expounds theories, but also discusses real, practical experience. Through case studies of actual churches, the book offers good guidance to new pastors like ourselves on how to tackle problems. I already bought this book (in paper form) when I studied the church management course. Now, we were given the e-book and I was elated. My sincere thanks to the book giving team for this e-book, since I travel all the time to serve in different places and the e-book comes in as a handy reference.”

Pastor Ma from the central and southern region said, “The book ‘The Bare Facts’ is very inspiring to me. Sex is the best gift from God to a couple, and only sex within a marriage is blessed by God. Not only can we have our next generation, but the couple can also get more intimate through sex. We should teach our children about sex in the right way for them to grow up with a correct attitude towards sex. This book has also assisted me in my church ministry.”

Pastor Zheng from Jiangsu Province said, “I like reading the part about the Bible in the book, ‘Listening: The Beginning of Theology’. In my ministry, I have discussed with brothers and sisters the relationship between the Old and New Testaments. This subject is covered

in the book which says that the Bible in fact points to Jesus Christ, while Jesus Christ himself confirms the Bible. There is detailed discussion in the Old Testament making prophecies on Christ's mission and the New Testament bearing witness directly to Christ. It has answered my previous query."

We thank the Father for bestowing upon us the mission of book giving, and for the chance to hear about and witness how our devotional publication resources have blessed a group of church workers, broadened their spiritual horizons and provided support to their ministries. May all glory and praise be unto the Lord!



This group of young and dedicated seminary students will probably play a pivotal role in the Chinese church's future development. Our ministries and your support for them are influencing the future!

¹ The trips for the 2018 Mainland Seminary Graduates Book Giving Plan started in May, supporting on average 100 graduates in each of the 50 seminaries, Bible Schools and training centres under the Plan.

² Every graduate receives a pastoral book pack comprising 11 books (in paper form) and 10 e-books, covering topics like hermeneutics, apologetics, disciple training, family, marriage and theology.

Please support the 2019 Mainland Seminary Graduates Book Giving Plan

Fund Required: US\$320,500

We want to serve 50 seminaries, Bible schools and training centres, each with an average of 100 graduates. Every graduate would be given a package of pastoring resources (HK\$500 is the subsidy for each package). Please pray and offer your support to the ministry and walk alongside the new pastors. Thank you!

Business as Mission

The Opportunities at the Border

© Dr Boaz Yeung
Lecturer of Leadership Training Institute

Since the newly revised Regulations on Religious Affairs was implemented, the space for ministry work in the mainland has become ever narrower. So is it then that we must stop everything that we are doing? When traditional evangelism and pastoral methods can no longer continue, our Heavenly Father has already prepared high-potential business ministry opportunities in southwestern China!

The large population of ethnic minorities, and neighbouring Burma, presents us with unreached peoples on all sides. The local government approves of faith-based drug rehabilitation ministries, and this makes it easier to do welfare work in the area. Moreover, though the brothers and sisters there do not run large enterprises, they have enough financial stability to support their own ministry work. When the heavens, earth and people align, does this not make itself a precious opportunity?

Unlike the coastal areas, the southwestern region has not received much support from overseas ministry organizations and churches. As a result, the local churches and business leaders have not yet grasped the strategy of business as mission. Therefore, we have chosen to enter this area to train and supervise what is lacking. In recent years, we have already begun workplace ministry work. We also schedule regular follow-up sessions. In addition, we support leaders in welfare, drug rehabilitation, ethnic minority ministries and Burma evangelism initiatives through our business as mission consultations. We have seen the first-fruits of our ministry, as a sign of our Heavenly Father's guidance!



We share the ministry of Paul, Aquila and Priscilla in the Acts of the Apostles to local believers working in business



The tea shop that student Xiao Ai runs

One of the first-fruits of our business as mission ministry is Xiao Ai (pseudonym) of the Bai people. She is the owner of a tea shop. She has joined our leadership training for believers in the commercial world for the last two years, and came to visit Hong Kong with our tour to see businesses run by believers in Hong Kong where we had exchanged of experiences regarding keeping to Biblical truths in a business environment. In September, when we visited the southwestern region again, not only did we care for and

guide Ai, we also joined her in supporting local evangelism and drug rehabilitation work.

We, along with Xiao Ai and the deacons of her church, had to go meet with Pastor N who was in charge of the Gospel drug rehabilitation ministry. We went to the rehab center to discuss with Pastor N and the workers at the center. Pastor N had just come to an agreement with another party regarding a collaborative effort which will see members of the rehab center work in a nearby farm to provide some income so that the center can continue to operate and evangelize former drug users. Nevertheless, the other party required some necessary guarantees for an amount of harvest so that the costs are covered. Neither Pastor N nor the rehab workers have any experience in operating a commercial enterprise, so they had no idea about the matter. I gave them some advice on operations regarding their commercial agreement, reminding them to pay attention to certain areas. Moreover, I asked Xiao Ai and the lawyers in her church to help follow up on some details within the actual agreement itself. I will be in touch with more consultation with Pastor N regarding this commercial agreement through the Internet later on.

We are so grateful that we can have the opportunity to serve in the southwestern region as described above. We hope that in future we can continue to train up more leaders in business like Xiao Ai, who are familiar with business as mission and can reach the unreached!

Please Support: Mentoring based Leadership Training

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

2019 Fund Required: US\$167,000

Through training and exchanges in mainland and Hong Kong, a target of 115 Team Coaches, 340 Shepherd Leaders and 460 Disciple Makers planned to be established.

Prayers

1. Walk with God

In 2018, mainland churches were subject to different degrees of control, which covers the ban on gatherings, strict check on students' religious beliefs, students being forced to sign undertaking not to believe in Christ, the ban on Christian publishing etc.

May the Lord protect mainland church leaders, give them wisdom in teaching believers the truth and deepening discipleship training, helping them cope with the challenges ahead with a strong Biblical foundation.



2. New opportunities

In a vast country like China, the religious environment varies from region to region, depending on human and circumstantial factors. The newly revised Regulations on Religious Affairs narrows the scope of the church ministry, albeit not banning everything.



In view of the obstacles to the traditional preaching and nurturing mode, may the Lord open the eyes of mainland church workers, help them develop new thinking, learn new ways of preaching, e.g. through business as mission, home-based Christian education, small group discipleship training, peer evangelization etc. May the Lord also prepare mentors with new thinking for the workers to help them witness for the Lord despite the difficult circumstances.

3. Walk with returnee believers

The past 30 years have seen a rising number of “Haigui” or overseas educated professionals who have returned from abroad. But unable find the kind of jobs they were trained for, and being stuck in low-paid, junior positions, some who had accepted Christ while studying abroad struggled to continue relying on God, due to frustrations and the blow to their self-esteem.



May the Lord help the returnees value the learning experience in their current jobs, instead of focusing on economic returns. May the Lord give wisdom to church leaders in teaching the returnees how to cope with life challenges with Biblical truths.

4. New boost for agriculture



The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China unveiled revitalization measures to enhance the production capability of villages. In recent years, a new breed of farmers has arisen in villages in Guangxi, among whom are university graduates, white collar workers from the cities, and native farmers. They develop large scale agriculture using advanced agricultural technology alongside the concept of green farming. They also promote their products on various platforms, selling fruits nationwide. The “new farmers” have set up co-operatives helping other farmers with planting and selling products.

May the Lord bless villages across China through the experience of the “new farmers” in Guangxi, so that not only can the economy in villages improve; farmers can also work outside less and stay at home more often to look after their parents and children.

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