

## **Writing Minister Prepares Gifts to Build up Life**

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General Secretary



### **Thrill to Share Publication with Comrades**

*"I'm thankful that the book is finally finished and has just been sent off for printing, but I can't wait any longer so I immediately placed an order with the distributor, I hope to give this good book to several pastoral leaders as soon as possible!"* Teacher Liu shared excitedly. Liu is responsible for the editorial of the publication of the Simplified Chinese version of *"The Call to Joy and Pain"*<sup>1</sup>. She wanted us to know what she had learned during the process and could not wait to pre-order the book for her comrades in ministry. We could feel her expectation and joy towards the availability of this book.

This brings me back to the days when I was visiting the Eastern region a few years ago and met this field minister. It is never easy to publish a new book for the church community in China. In addition to her teaching duties, Liu is responsible for the editorial work of the seminary's academic journals and lecture resources. She is also actively involved in publishing pastoral care and teaching materials that can be used by front-line ministers. Likewise, CCL has a long history of promoting the publication of spiritual writing. We have partnered with Liu for many years to facilitate copyright applications, production and printing, and to prepare the necessary documents to support her communication with various regulatory authorities. The approval process can easily take one to two years! Liu is our publishing comrade in China, we share the same eagerness and passion in making available spiritual resources for our church leaders. The publication path is rough, together we have overcome many obstacles over the years before coming to the present stage.

## Younger generation's Need is just as Important

In addition to her work in the academic institution and literature ministry, Liu also pays attention to building up the younger generation in her daily life. Some time ago, her relative's daughter failed to enter the university of her choice because she did not do well in the college entrance examination. The young girl was depressed. Knowing that this was a critical time for the girl's growth, Liu brought her home, spent time with her and comforted her. Liu said through the companionship and encouragement, the girl gradually emerged from the negative emotion of failure and distress and came back to her wonderful self. It was as if she had passed through the valley of sadness and reached the spring of joy.

I have known Liu for many years, she is always busy with her teaching and literature ministry. The way she spent time with the young girl showed she also cares very much about the younger generation. Liu is willing to walk with young people and find ways to build them up. Over the years, we have been working hard to support the church in nurturing the fourth-generation leaders, enhancing the influence of life mentors and guiding these leaders' spiritual development, service and growth. We are grateful to have partners like Liu who cares for the spiritual needs of the younger generation. Liu is nurturing the fifth-generation leaders in different settings.

## New Graduates Need Practical Materials

In the seminary, what teachers consider most useful to students is materials that integrate the didactic and application aspects of the subject matters. During one of our discussions, we mentioned to Liu that the book "*Jesus Driven Ministry*"<sup>2</sup> might suit the needs of frontline pastoral leaders. This book can help them learn Jesus' ministry from the Gospel narratives which should meet the teacher's and the students' expectation. Liu exerted her best effort to follow up on this suggestion, and we gave her our full support as usual. But the sudden outbreak of the pandemic forced everything to be put on hold! The pandemic prevention measures seriously affected the teaching and publishing work, and communication among all parties became very difficult. After a standstill of more than a year, Liu suddenly told me that she wanted to resume the publication process of the book. As a matter of fact, she had never lost her desire to prepare quality materials for students and the new generation of leaders. The pandemic was like a roller-coaster in the past three years, but with the Lord's grace, our wonderful partnership with Liu never wavered. Our perseverance eventually bears fruit, the Simplified Chinese version of "*Jesus Driven Ministry*" was published at the end of November 2022!



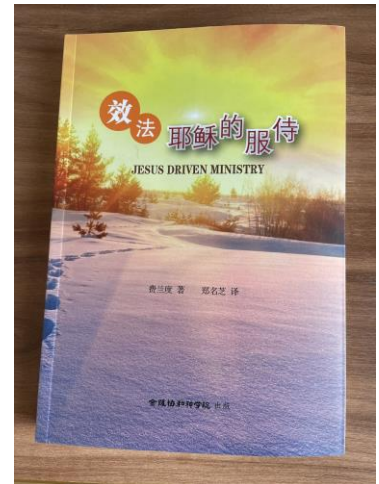
Teacher Liu is our publishing comrade in China, we have been working together for many years to prepare spiritual resources for our leaders.

## The Gifts from the Writing Ministers are Here! Get Charged, New Leaders, Off You Go!

Christian workers in the literature ministry are clear about their calling, they always fix their eyes on the Lord's grace no matter what hardship they encounter. They teach both by what they write and by what they do in order to build up new leaders. I invite you to remember the literature and publishing ministry in China. Although these ministers often face the frigid winter gale or walk in dark valleys with tears in their eyes, the faithful teammates and partners never let go but always wait patiently for the fruit of their labour to emerge.

“Jesus Driven Ministry” will be one of the items included in the “China Seminary Graduates Book Gifting Project” in 2023 to support new ministers in their frontline service. Pastors in China have a great need for written pastoral resources. Will you support us so that more and more of these precious gifts of ministry resources can be given to graduates and they in turn can channel blessings to more souls?

We sincerely invite you to respond by making your donations. Thank you!



May the Lord use “Jesus Driven Ministry” to help frontline pastoral leaders learn how Jesus serves as depicted in the Gospels.

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Note<sup>1</sup> Ajith Fernando, "The Call to Joy and Pain", in simplified Chinese (Nanjing: Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, 2019)

<sup>2</sup> Ajith Fernando, "Jesus Driven Ministry", in simplified Chinese (Nanjing: Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, 2022)

~The above is part of the content of PFC issue357, if you would like to read the full newsletter, please contact us at [pfc@ccl.org.hk](mailto:pfc@ccl.org.hk), thank you!~

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