

The Next Mile After Graduation – Book Gifting Videos as Take-Off Fuel

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Associate General Secretary (Publishing) / Publisher (CCL Publishing House)

“Though students enrolled in the training course have graduated, online reading immediately ensues. I am now leading them to study the book ‘Love as We First Met’. The graduates’ enthusiasm is at an all-time high. They wish to get together three times a week to finish the book quickly...” This is the remark made by a teacher in the northern region training centre who not only distributes the book gifting packages to graduates but also organizes reading groups for them. While being thankful for the teacher’s hard work and the students’ enthusiasm, we cannot help but ask why the teacher is willing to make the extra effort to initiate the reading groups for the graduates when he is already so busy with preparation for classes for the new semester. We also wonder why the graduates are so eager and motivated to learn when they are already so busy adapting to work life and the accompanying pressure.

The book gifting team has been unable to visit the graduates and introduce the pastoral resources to them in person because of the pandemic. Yet since last year, the team has started filming videos to serve as study guides on selected books. It is hoped that through the videos, the graduates can hear the authors’ and the frontline instructors’ sharing so as to facilitate their comprehension of the key points, target audiences and application tactics of the books. The videos provide practical assistance to the graduates to face various challenges on the frontline and motivate them to keep pressing forward. We chose materials on marriage counselling and discipleship training for filming in the pilot phase.

Helping pastors to support couples

“In the church ministry journey, we come across brothers and sisters with numerous needs related to their marriage. Difficult situations and disputes often arise. Sometimes the relationship becomes so severely torn that it ends in divorce. The pastor wishes very much to help these couples resolve their conflicts and rebuild their marriage upon a healthy, firm and pious foundation.” The author of “Love as We First Met”, Dr. Benjamin W.H. Wat, fully understands these pastors’ aspiration, yet he also apprehends the challenges and limitations faced by individual pastors.



Dr. Benjamin W. H. Wat is the president of Bethel Bible Seminary. He and his wife, Dr. Wat-Lai, Rachel Y.K., have been married for over 40 years. They write the materials for this marriage enrichment together.

“Love as We First Met” is a book on marriage counselling included in the Book Gifting package that the graduates received. When we approached Dr. Wat and briefed him on our objectives for filming the video, he gave his consent without hesitation. In the video, Dr. Wat first provides an overview of the book to enable viewers to grasp the core concept. Then he stresses the importance of prevention over treatment in maintaining healthy marriages. He encourages pastors, *“Providing pastoral nurturing and teaching to couples to prevent their relationship from deteriorating is the most effective method to help the marriages of brothers and sisters.”*

Moving on to the implementation aspects, Dr. Wat’s practical suggestions include setting up small groups according to participants’ age and stage in life. It is his wish that *“Brothers and sisters who go through the ‘Love as We First Met’ marriage course could continue the companionship to watch out for each other, support each other, pursue healthy maturity of their marriages together. More importantly, the pastor could continue nurturing group members’ spiritual intimacy with God through bible study and prayer so that the Lord would become the centre of their life, marriage and family.”* He stresses that group members must maintain confidentiality of the discussion content. Group members should also respect, understand, accept and support each other. Novice pastors should ascertain group members’ consent on complying with such rules prior to recruiting them. Worship and prayer are indispensable elements whenever group meetings convene. They should constantly be reminded of the importance of focusing solely on the Lord and be keen to find out what He wants to tell them during bible study and reading of reference materials.



May the Lord make use of the materials to build up the marriages of the evangelists whom in turn can channel blessings to other Christian couples.

Besides being concerned about the usage of the study materials and ministry expansion, Dr. Wat also cares about individual graduates' overall wellbeing. He said, *"If you are married, I encourage you to study and discuss the materials with your spouse prior to leading the group."* In his concluding remarks, Dr. Wat's sincere regard for every graduate's calling and ministry is apparent. He said, *"You and I are partners in evangelism. God has called us to be His servants in this unique era, there must be a purpose and a plan, and He wants you to take part in the fulfillment of His wonderful will."*

Adding fuel, adding momentum

At the beginning of this article, I asked the question of why the teacher and graduates are so enthusiastic about starting the reading group. It is my belief that it is not only because the video gives a clear overview of the book's content and application; more importantly, it is because the viewers are touched by the authors' genuine support and encouragement to them. The authors' sharing of their personal experience becomes the graduates' fuel, they are energized to march forward on this path of full-time ministry. Lastly, we sincerely thank Dr. Wat, amid his tightly packed schedule, he accommodated the filming by giving up his lunch hours. He has really gone an extra mile for the graduates.

Please support the 2022 "China Seminary Graduates Book Gifting Project".

Fund Required: USD 307,692

Project details: More than 70,000 copies of publications will be distributed to 50 seminaries, Bible schools and training centres with a total of 4,000 graduates. Video clips highlighting the key contents of three selected books will be produced. These resources are aimed at helping graduates strengthen believers' spiritual life and build a healthy church.

Please pray for the Book Gifting ministry and support us, thank you!

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~The above is only part of the content of PFC issue348, 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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