

Partners in Action

Christ's Steward Shouldering Multiple Roles

© Xiao Tung
Frontline worker in China Ministry

Evangelists who serve churches in remote areas in China are frequently shouldering multiple roles. This is not necessarily because they are highly competent, but it is often the only way to cope with their living conditions and make ends meet. One of these evangelists is Chen who is a recipient of the Living Subsidy for Evangelists.¹ His church is located in the Southwest, in a region with a dense settlement of ethnic minorities and where pastors with theology training are scarce. Chen serves as a church pastor, a Bible class teacher as well as a farmer and the head of the family.

From church evangelist to Bible class teacher

In order for the Bible class students to complete their training, they are required to take some courses in the curriculum that are taught by Theology graduates. The municipal senior pastor assigned Evangelist Chen to take up the teaching role. Chen began teaching the Bible class in June 2022. Soon he realized that it is very tough to teach because the majority of these students are ethnic minority believers who only understand their own dialects. Furthermore, there are no reference books in languages other than Chinese, which means there are no reading materials available to the students.

Nevertheless, Chen did not become discouraged. He still tried his best to teach. He said, *"Looking back to the days from June to early August last year, I conducted 84 hours of intensive teaching with exegetical preaching as the major*



Evangelist Chen teaches ethnic minority believers at a Bible training class.

focus. Although I was limited in knowledge, eloquence, and spirituality, the Heavenly Father had been doing mighty work among us. When the short-term training was over, the students' comments on the course were very positive, and teachers of other courses also found that some students had improved in their preaching. Glory to the Lord!" In addition, Evangelist Chen shared an incident with gratitude. He said, "In the past, county churches needed to fund their own training classes. The pandemic resulted in a reduction in church offering received, making it impossible for county churches to cover the financial needs of the training classes. The teachers, therefore, wrote prayer letters to brothers and sisters and told them about the churches' difficulties. Our thanks to the Lord! He takes care of our needs through the love of His children, they are willing to respond."

Triple identities: A pastor, a teacher, and a farmer

Evangelist Chen was primarily teaching or preparing for the Bible class every morning from Monday to Saturday. He is also busy with his church ministry. He visited three minority churches in the neighborhood. He served the congregations by preaching and he nurtured Christian co-workers by talking and sharing with them. He said excitedly, "While preaching, I feel the desire and joy of brothers and sisters in corporate worship, and while conversing with the co-workers, I know for sure that the Lord will not let His sheep go astray. Thank you, Lord!"



Evangelist Chen preaches in ethnic minority churches.

With his tightly packed schedule, Chen only has time on Saturday afternoons and after Sunday services to be with his family and labour on his family's field.



Evangelist Chen uses the hand-held tractor to plow the soil in his field with the limited time he can spend on farming.

He said farming is a necessity because the crops support the basic needs of the family. He showed me pictures of his family's field and the tractor he uses to plow the soil. He also shared his own sweaty tales of toil. His busy ministry schedule, however, does not allow him much time to plow. In a soft and firm voice, he said, "Compared to our neighbors' fields, my family's is obviously much behind in harvesting. But I am not too worried. Although the hardship my family has to tackle is real, the supply of food and clothes has not run out. Since graduating from the seminary, the Heavenly Father has been using me to channel His blessing to many brothers and sisters in need, and they have trust in me." The financial burden on Chen's family is not light, but Chen has never thought of scaling down his ministry to give himself more time to make a better living.

Despite being busy, Chen tries his best to spend time with his wife and two young sons. May the Lord always give Chen good harvest from his fields and shower his family with blessings!

¹ Since December 2018, Evangelist Chen has been receiving the "Living Subsidy for Evangelists".

Please support the 2023 “Living Subsidy for Evangelists”

Evangelists in China are serving faithfully despite their difficult circumstances. We invite you to remember them in your prayers, get to know them more and take actions to help them meet their needs!

Funding required: USD 205,128

Project: To support a total of 40 evangelists serving in the Southwest, Northwest, South Central and Eastern regions in China.

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~The above is part of the content of PFC issue362, 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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