Pray for China (Since 1974)

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(Part of the issue363)

**Resources Sharing** 

### **Sweetness in Snapshots**

Matthew Fung
General Secretary

It has been a long three years since we last met. In this recent encounter, the amazing scenes I saw and the tender witnesses I heard have drawn me once again close to the hearts of this year's graduates. Let me share snapshots reflecting their study, their lives and their struggles during this period.

## "The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict" on the library shelf, a sweet treasure awaiting their recipients!

"In the last semester, all students are required to complete an important book report on 'The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict'! As we live in rather remote areas, the teacher alerted us that the believers we serve are vulnerable to the influence of cultic or heretical

teachings. This book report as a condition of graduation is not merely a homework assignment, it is an important means of helping us consolidate what we have learned in the past four years. We will review and integrate key topics such as the reliability of the Bible, the authenticity of Jesus, and the importance of upholding the truth while we complete the book report. It is indeed a weighty book; with as many as 800 pages, it provides crucial and pivotal knowledge on pastoral care, spirituality nurturing and evangelism. We



The books 'The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict', now sitting on the school's bookshelves, are reserved for the graduating class. It is our hope that the book helps the graduates lay a firm foundation for ministry.

thank the Lord that each of us was given a Book Gifting package at the graduation ceremony which includes 'The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict', this book will certainly be an important reference in our future ministry!'

#### A reluctant goodbye to the sweet class and classroom!

"While living in the dormitory, we wake up early in the morning from Monday to Saturday. First, we attend morning prayers, then we begin our study in the same classroom, a place



This ordinary classroom is a place for learning during the pandemic, it is also a place for connecting and sharing of brotherly love among the students.

we not only are very familiar with but also extremely cherish, until the evening. As graduation is approaching, we are going to miss this classroom a lot. Looking back to 2019, we came to this school with great excitement. Then the pandemic broke out and we were quarantined on campus. Our study was suspended intermittently. Classes were conducted online at certain times. When normal teaching sessions resumed, all the lectures, self-study, test preparation, etc. that took place in this physical classroom became such treasurable moments! We especially look forward to the weekly assembly with keynote lectures conducted by scholarly teachers and lecturers. Like today, which is Children's Day, the

teacher discussed recent advances in child psychology and related development in theology. The lecture broadens our understanding and our view, it is a truly valuable experience!"

## Sweet home away from home, how we live together as family in the dormitory!

"There are eight students per room, 70 students per floor, and the 5-storey dormitory building is filled to its maximum capacity. For students and faculty members, this is our definition of living together! We are proud to say that even though each room is congested with four bunk beds, it is still very tidy, and there is no odor in the aisle where we hang dry our washed clothes. Although the beds are small, each is its occupant's own private space, and especially for female students like me, we decorate it joyfully with creativity and



style. Forbearance and empathy are basic private cubicles, it is also filled with principles in dorm life, and we treat each other unforgettable moments of everyday life.

genuinely like family members. During the early stage of the pandemic, I remember how worried and lost I was, yet I managed to get through it. It was exactly like the sign I hung on the door, 'One needs to have patience, uphold it with faith'".

It has been a difficult three years to study and to live amid the pandemic; yet a reference book, an ordinary classroom and a crowded dormitory are all sweet reasons for the graduates to be grateful and content. By God's grace, as of June 30th, the Book Gifting packages reached 30 seminaries and schools, and 1,631 graduates received the materials at the time they left school to commence pastoral ministry. They are going to face new situations and challenges. We invite you to remember these graduates in your prayers and continue to support all future endeavours of the Book Gifting ministry.

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# Please support the 2023 "China Seminary Graduates Book Gifting Project"

Funding: USD 330,770 still outstanding

Project goal: To supply 60,000 copies of literature resources to 4,000 recent graduates of 50 seminaries, Bible schools and training centres in China.

~The above is part of the content of PFC issue363, if you would like to read the full newsletter,

please contact us at pfc@ccl.org.hk, thank you!~

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