

Resources Sharing

The Significance of the Book Gifting Ministry

(Part 1) -

Make the Resources Available

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Member of Book Gifting Team

In Hong Kong, if someone offers us a book, we may be hesitant to accept it due to concerns such as the book's "physical bulk" (occupying home space) among others. The value of books is diminishing due to information being accessible through the internet, the volume of information available and the speed at which information is updated, etc. Is the Book Gifting initiative still contributing to supporting pastoral leaders in their ministry in China? This is a question the Book Gifting team reviews and evaluates every year. We thank God that from the recipients' feedback, we are reassured of the significance of the Book-Gifting ministry. In this article, I would like to share one important contribution of the ministry: **making resources available to theological seminaries in China.**

1. Resources are introduced and delivered

China is a vast country, the coastal areas have easier access to different resources, but for churches in the inland provinces and remote areas such as Northwest and Southwest China, resources available to them is nearly nonexistent had the graduates not been receiving the annual Book Gifting pastoral packages. A teacher at a Bible school in the Southwest region sent us a message, *"Thank you for sending me a copy of **Jesus Driven Ministry** this year. There is a book by the same author in the school library, it was also sent by your organization. That book is **The Call to Joy and Pain**, I really enjoyed*



The annual Graduates Book Gifting Project enables seminaries to have the opportunity to get to know and get hold of available quality resources on shepherding.

reading it, and now I have the opportunity to read another book by this author. Thank you so much for making these resources available to us!"

2. Resources are trusted and utilized with peace of mind

Even though certain books are officially published in China, due to insufficient communications or unawareness of the “reputation” of individual books, churches in remote areas are often reluctant and conservative towards adopting new materials, i.e., “unsure if the materials are trustworthy”. When a pastor from Northern China visited us, she said, *“Thank you very much for sending books to our training centre! Sometimes although we hear names of certain Christian books, we have worries and fear to acquire them or trust their contents, but we feel comfortable using the books sent by CCL.”* In the past, the Book Gifting Team has spent a lot of time and effort liaising with the regulatory authorities in China. By God's grace and protection, the “China Seminary Graduates Book Gifting Project” has now not only gained recognition but also reputation, so much so that not only can the seminaries distribute the pastoral book packages to their graduates without worries, but the graduates also have peace of mind bringing these resources back to the workplace and utilizing them in their ministry.



Graduates feel comfortable bringing these resources to the workplace and use them in their ministry.

3. Unavailable resources now within reach

Some Hong Kong Christians think that we send books to graduates in China because they cannot afford to pay for them. This thinking is not entirely wrong. It is true that some of the poorer regions are financially impoverished. Yet there are times when pastors are unable to buy the books in China even if they have the money to do so. A seminary graduate in the Northeastern region shared, *“We were thrilled to receive the Book Gifting packages you sent us, our teachers immediately recommended us to use books in the packages because some of the books were not available even if the teachers had money to buy them. Honestly speaking, most of the books in the school are hermeneutical and theological in nature, books on church administration and spirituality formation are lacking, and the books you sent us neatly filled the gap.”* **Church Management Make Sense, Six Leadership Essentials** and **Sweeter Than Honey** are among the books highly recommended by the teachers.



Sweeter Than Honey is a useful preaching reference to teachers in seminaries in China, but they may not be able to purchase it regardless of affordability.

A senior once said, *"I wish to dedicate my lifetime to 'pour' as many quality spiritual books into China as possible."* Over the past few years, China has been tightening up its religious policies and publishing regulations, there is only a very narrow gap that remains open on its entrance. No matter how difficult the situation may be, as long as God permits, we will strive "to 'pour' quality spiritual books into China" to bless and strengthen the Christian community there.

Are you willing to join us in preparing these quality spiritual books for graduates of theological seminaries and for pastors in China?

In the first round of this year's Book Gifting, over 1,600 evangelists who completed their basic theological training already received the pastoral resource packages. Another group of students are graduating in autumn, packages for the second round of Book Gifting (800-1,000 packages) will be ready for dispatch soon. Please continue to support the 2023 "China Seminary Graduates Book Gifting Project", it is still short of USD 260,256. If you would pledge a gift of USD 52, half a Book Gifting set (nearly 10 books) could be made available to a theology graduate in China. May our Heavenly Father touch you to respond to this call. Thank you!

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~The above is part of the content of PFC issue365, 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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