

Resources Sharing

The Significance of the Book Gifting Ministry (Part 2 of 2) - The Expanding and Sustaining Impact of the Resources

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“China Seminary Graduates Book Gifting Project” started in 2012. We thank the Lord for using the project team to supply practical resources to each year’s graduates before they commence pastoral ministry in the frontline. Throughout the years, the Book Gifting team realized that besides providing graduates with valuable resources that they can use with confidence in a single package, it is very important that they find additional resources within reach thereafter. Making the resources available and ensuring their continued accessibility is crucial to expanding and sustaining the impact of Book Gifting. Multidimensional evidence from the frontline tells us that God is indeed working in our midst.

Resources reaching new “distance” – Serving the hidden pastors

Bible schools and training centres in remote areas gain access to various resources through the Book Gifting ministry. A teacher at a training centre for ethnic minorities said, *"Thank you for the books given to us, they are very precious! Although the books are in traditional Chinese, we (who know both Chinese and the ethnic minority languages) will read them carefully, translate pertinent parts and prepare handout notes based on the specific pastoral needs of the ethnic minorities to support the village students in the mountain or forest areas."* The Book Gifting ministry is designed to serve 50 institutions directly each year. Yet the resources are reaching a far greater number of pastors beyond the initial



Ethnic minority teachers select and translate relevant contents from the books they received and prepare handouts for use by students from the mountain areas who are learning how to deliver pastoral care. Please remember them in your prayers!

recipients. Although these pastors labour in hidden corners out of our sight, God remembers them and uses the Book Gifting resources to encourage them and support their ministry.

Resources reaching new “height” – Attaining the status of theology textbook

God is using the Book Gifting ministry to help both recent graduates as well as seminary students. Meanwhile, individual items in the book packages are being used as textbooks in theology education. When the team visited a Bible school in the Northwest region, the teacher said, "We have included one of the books, *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*¹, in our required reading list for the apologetic course. We became acquainted with this publication through Book Gifting and found its contents very solid. It facilitates theology students to think logically and build a firm foundation for their faith." The believers in the Northwest region are facing fierce attacks from heretics. If their grasp of Biblical truth is not strong enough, their faith can be easily shaken; sometimes even the preachers might become confused and unknowingly deliver inaccurate teachings. It is not difficult to imagine how much harm it can bring to the spiritual lives of the faith community. As first-year students are required by their teacher to submit a book report on *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by the end of the semester, this local Bible school has ordered more than 10 copies of the book to be placed in the library for students to borrow. We are thankful that an item in the Book Gifting package has become a seminary textbook to be used for the training of God's servants!



We thank the Lord for His provision, *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* continues to be published in China and becomes a useful reference for teaching apologetics to build up faith and counteract heresies.

Resources reaching new “depth” – Nurturing sheep as well as shepherds

A teacher at a training centre in the Northern region shared, "I formed a group with the graduates to read the book *Love as We First Met*² in one year. The students were exhilarated after watching the video presentation you sent us. They took this reading exercise seriously and actively participated in the group sharing every week." *Love as We First Met* is a Bible study guide for shepherding married couples. In China, marital relationship is not an easy subject for pastors to discuss among their own circles, not to say with others, the author was thrilled upon receiving this teacher's message! One of the

¹ Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, Simplified Chinese Edition, (Beijing: China Religious Culture Publisher, 2006).

² Benjamin W.H. Wat and Wat-Lai, Rachel Y.K., *Love as We First Met*, Simplified Chinese Edition, (Shanghai: CCC/TSPM, 2019).

graduates shared in the group, "For the past two to three years, my husband and I have been sleeping in separate rooms because he always snores, which makes it difficult for me to sleep well. But two days ago, I did my homework following the book's instructions and wrote a thank you note to my husband. As the same time, I was reminded by my teacher, so I decided to share the same bed with my husband again. Although his snoring still disturbs my sleep, I feel so good, I have long missed this good feeling of togetherness." With the help of their teachers or coaches, the theology students are able to make better use of the books they receive. The resources not only help them serve, but also nurture the overall well-being of their own spiritual lives and that of their families as well as strengthen their interpersonal relationships. The feature article in this newsletter showcases another example. Under the guidance of our co-workers, a Bible School in the Central Southern region is making effective use of the book "Discipleship Essentials".



Upon graduation, the students went back to their hometowns to serve. But through the internet, they can study together again under the guidance of the teachers and have sharing with one another.

Looking back over the past ten years or so since the commencement of the Book Gifting project, graduates of seminaries have been provided with important resources at the starting point of their ministry. God has extended the project beyond its original targets and boundaries, including the opportunities to publish materials in China, mentorship and coaching, and so on. The impact of the resources multiplies, and they "reignite" believers' lives as the nurtured graduates use the resources to teach others. We sincerely urge you to take part in this initiative by offering a gift of USD 52. This will make available half a set (about 10 books) of pastoral packages for a seminary graduate in China. Thank you!

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~The above is part of the content of PFC issue367, if you would like to read the full newsletter, please contact us at pfc@ccl.org.hk, thank you!~

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