

The unsaid words behind the postcard

The Joyful Evangelist



Here is the artist's story ...

This painting was engraved by Ke Li using acrylic, knives, and paint brushes on wood.

Ke Li is an evangelist in China, he is very committed to serving the ethnic minorities and teaching the Bible. He studied art before he responded to his calling, and thereafter he travelled extensively in China, using photography to document local customs and colours. Now he uses painting as a means to partner with CCL allowing the life and ministry of field evangelists to be seen, and to promote missionary education so that Hong Kong Christians can know more about God's work in China.

The newly revised Regulations on Religious Affairs which stipulates all religious-related activities be managed by the United Front Work Department was implemented in 2018. Since then, churches in China have been facing challenges to various extents. Involved government departments stepped up their supervision of churches, even study programs that used to be exempted are now "regulated", thereby significantly limiting church activities and evangelism. Social service organizations with religious affiliations were forced to cease operation, foreign or overseas support to these organizations is no longer welcome, which drains poverty relief efforts and the provision of social services.

When an artist visited a church in a remote area, he met an evangelist from the local church who was showing joy despite the difficult circumstances.

The artist asked the evangelist, "How come you can still be so joyful?"

The evangelist replied, *"This is simple. The immense love of Jesus Christ as shown on the cross is all that matters!"*

Nothing outside clutters, only the true joy inside matters;
True joy is infectious and changes oneself and others.

The artist was deeply touched by the joy he saw in the life of this evangelist.

Bright colours have been conventionally chosen to express joy. However, the background of this painting is somewhat dark, with a feeling of turbulence, representing the hardship faced by the church. Amid such a situation, the main character simply stares at the cross.

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## **Our Heavenly Father's Love for Churches in the Northwest**

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Member of Book gifting team

We know relatively little about the churches in the northwestern region. The greatest difficulty faced by the churches there is the government's regulatory measures targeting local religions, Christianity is not exempted, and the churches in the Northwest have been subject to stringent control and supervision. Church coworkers cannot move around as freely as they wish and contact with the outside is restricted. It is not easy for outsiders to enter the region, opportunities for local coworkers to pursue further studies are next to nothing. It takes no effort to imagine how much the local churches are yearning for resources and support!

Thus, CCL has particular concern for the churches in the Northwest wishing they could have access to resources which they might receive and use with peace of mind. We thank our Heavenly Father for His graciousness in allowing the Book Gifting team to serve the seminary graduates in the Northwest through the "China Seminary Graduates Book Gifting Project". Since 2012, despite the tightening of local religious policies and the pandemic, over 600 seminary graduates and nearly 1,650 Christian coworkers in the Northwest have been continually receiving literature resources to aid their frontline ministry. The project has been

ongoing for over 10 years, it is propagating because a strong relationship and mutual trust has been built up between CCL and the recipient churches and seminaries.

Apart from receiving pastoral care resources, the feeling of loneliness is particularly strong in this region as local Christian workers are almost completely cut off from the outside world. Thanks to the Lord's providence, one of the local Christian workers has become our partner and we have been supporting him with a living subsidy. This support has not only been financial, but also in understanding his struggles, giving him timely responses, and vigilantly praying for him. Over the past 20 years, this coworker has gone from being a young Christian leader to a pastor and is now primarily responsible for the Bible teaching ministry in North China and Northeast China.



Thank you, Heavenly Father! May the "China Seminary Graduate Book Gifting Project" continue to provide shepherding resources and be a blessing to local graduates year after year.

Even though the churches in the Northwest are facing many difficulties, they are growing and thriving in unexpected ways. Every time CCL coworkers have the opportunity to visit them, we are amazed by how much love and care our Heavenly Father has shown to the churches there and how fast the spiritual lives of believers are growing! Hong Kong Christians would be as deeply encouraged as the CCL team if they knew more about the experience of the churches there.



With a trusted relationship already established with churches in the Northwest, CCL has been supporting frontline Christian workers in the area with literature resources.

# Be a partner to Churches in the Northwest

Ratio of pastor to believers in the Northwest is 1:1,500-2,000

✓ Donation support is needed

If the Lord is willing, we wish to provide churches in the Northwest with

**a. Literature resources [Project: Literature Ministry (Printed and Electronic Resources Giveaway)]**

Target: 200 novice graduates from 4 seminaries and Bible schools

Resources: Each graduate is to receive a literature set containing 15 items

Fund needed: USD 30,800 (USD 154 per set of pastoral care package)

**b. Living subsidy [Project: Support for Evangelists]**

Target: 2 field evangelists

Subsidy: USD 577 per month per person

Fund needed: USD 13,848

**c. Leadership training [Project: Leadership Development Ministry]**

Target: Pastoral leaders in the Northwest

Training: Conduct 66 sessions of the "Living Word" Bible teaching training and organize 60 seminars and exchanges on family, marketplace, and church leadership

Fund needed: USD 35,532 (USD 282 per session)

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~The above is part of the content of PFC issue370, if you would like to read the full newsletter, please contact us at pfc@ccl.org.hk, thank you!~

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