

The Best Present

Christmas is a time when many people express love by sending presents to their loved ones. What is the best present?

What makes the best present varies from person to person. The sender needs to know the recipient well if he or she wants to pick a suitable, if not the best, present.

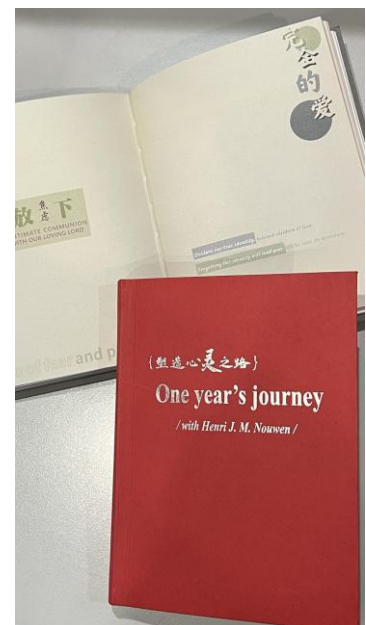
In the context of our Mandarin-speaking Community Ministry, we are in touch with various pastors and Bible teachers in China, they often put the needs of their flocks before their own, they care about their flocks, and they are dedicated to teaching and nurturing the sheep. What is on their mind when it comes to preparing presents for their flocks? A pastor once said, *“The present is small, the wish it carries is huge.”*

Have you ever had this idea? Pastors and Bible teachers lead believers to the Lord, teaching and nurturing them to become disciples pleasing to the Lord. Their work itself is a “best present”!

Or how about this? Pastors and Bible teachers have an intimate relationship with the Lord, the sharing of their life experience is also a precious present to the flock.

Quoting a China pastor’s sharing, see if it resonates with you in any way.

“During Thanksgiving month, I want to use words to express my relationship with God the Father, use pen and ink to tell Him what is in my heart, recount His mighty deeds every day, and as a beloved one, I want to take notes of all my strong feelings and struggles. The use of a pen and a notebook can invigorate life by reactivating memories, revealing inner thoughts, expressing hidden emotions, and it can display the abundance and complexity of what we see in the world.”



The Present

Our team of co-workers has just returned after visiting evangelists in the Eastern region, they shared the following two episodes that impressed them deeply:

Episode 1: “Being Present” is the Best Present

With the help of our co-worker, we paid an unannounced visit to a young evangelist. Through her participation in our leadership training, we have known this evangelist for almost ten years. She used to be involved in writing and editing Bible teaching materials, but due to changes in the external environment, her ministry has been suspended. Now she only serves intermittently, even her church life has become unstable. The moment she opened the door of her home and saw us, her eyes became filled with tears. Due to our tight schedule, the stay was brief.

Later on, she sent us a message, *“Your visit today touches me exceedingly! Despite the shortness of your stay, knowing that it matters to you to care about and remember me is such great joy.”*



Despite our visit being a surprise, the host family quickly put together a table full of food to welcome us.

Episode 2: Responding to a Need “at Present” is the Best Present

We had the opportunity to meet with another co-worker who said, *“I’m here with a need.”* He then shared with us the challenges he had in Bible teaching.

“Unmet needs in Bible teaching are just too numerous. There is a wide range of target individuals, geographic locations, and groups that need different modes of teaching and the nature of the problems that they encounter is very diverse. How do I tackle so many issues?”

Not only does this co-worker wish us to listen to and understand his difficulties, but more importantly, he is also looking upon us for immediate directions and practical solutions to help him respond, or he will be going away in disappointment.



The Bible teacher uses the “*Living Word - Matthew and Mark*” in bible study teaching. As the “*Living Word*” materials are geared towards student-oriented learning, though this is not the first time the teacher has led the study of this text, the questions brought up for discussions are different due to a different mix of students. Every lesson is a chance for the teacher to grow.

The Mandarin-speaking Community Ministry of CCL supports pastors in China at different stages of their ministry through three specific programs:

1. For **novice pastors** (seminary graduates), literature resources are provided
2. For **pastors**, living subsidy is provided
3. For **experienced pastors**, comprehensive leadership training is provided

To the co-workers’ team, it is more important that these three programs serve as platforms or channels through which we can consistently show concern, affirmation, and encouragement to the pastors.



We sincerely invite you

To support...

Those Who are Serving in China Need Your Support and Care

China Seminary Graduates Book Gifting Project (2025)

Project: Literature Ministry (Resources Giveaway)

Target: 3,000 seminary graduates/novice pastors

Support: A pastoral set consisting of nearly 12 items for each graduate

Fund required: USD 500,000 for the year [around USD 167 per set]

Support for Evangelists (2025)

Project: Support for Evangelists

Target: 40 pastors

Support: Monthly living subsidy

Fund required: USD 295,200 for the year [average USD 615 per person per month]

Comprehensive Leadership Development (2025)

Project: Leadership Development Ministry

Target: 100 experienced pastors/Shepherd Leaders

Support: Conduct around 300 “*Living Word*” Bible teaching training sessions and provide pertinent resources,

Conduct around 120 training sessions on workplace, family and church leadership development

Fund required: USD 205,200 for the year [average USD 2,052 per person for one year]

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*You're sincerely invited to support us. Thank you!*

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~The above is part of the content of PFC issue380, if you would like to read the full newsletter,
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