

On the Horizon: The “Rise” of Two Groups

© Ministry Team

When the ministry team reviewed last year's projects, the “rise” of the following two groups became apparent.

1. The Rise of Young Leaders in China

Young evangelists and Christian leaders (20-40 years old) in China are not only passionate, energetic, and dynamic in their ministry; they are also more knowledgeable, eager to learn, and more receptive to new trends or ideas. However, as their ministry journey unfolds, the tensions or struggles they face will increase and become more complex. We are ready to give them support on the path of their ministry. We wish they could possess the following characteristics:

- **Purity at Heart**
Support 1: We assist young leaders to seek, discern, and continually reaffirm God's calling of them to do His work;
Support 2: We assist young leaders to practice spiritual disciplines and self-examination so that their spiritual life is continually renewed.
- **Having a Peer Support Group**
Support 1: With an open and caring heart, we as spiritual instructors (life mentors) or mature Christians establish close bonding with the young leaders to foster their growth;
Support 2: We facilitate young leaders to establish close bonding with their peers who are as sincere and truthful so that group members can go through the highs and lows of life and ministry together.
- **Become an Insightful Spiritual Leader**
Support 1: We provide young leaders with opportunities and platforms to gain insights that stimulate their thinking and creativity;
Support 2: We strengthen young leaders' ability to integrate faith and life holistically.

2. The Rise of Mandarin-speaking groups in Hong Kong

Government policy has led to a rapid increase in the number of Mandarin-speaking residents in Hong Kong. This group includes professionals who come to Hong Kong under various

talent schemes, as well as students who come to Hong Kong to study in universities. In the foreseeable future, the Mandarin-speaking population in Hong Kong will climb further. We can do the following to respond to their different needs:

- **For Mandarin-speaking non-Christians:** Hong Kong is relatively open to different religious beliefs. Upon arriving here, they have the opportunity to explore the meaning of life. Churches in Hong Kong are seeing a big harvest field for the gospel as they reach out and build relationships with these individuals in their daily lives.
- **For Mandarin-speaking Christians:** Spiritual resources are more abundant in Hong Kong. Upon arriving here, they have the opportunity to receive further training. Seminaries offer Christian leadership training programs or seminars in their mother tongue helping the Mandarin-speaking Christians to become more competent and confident in spreading the gospel message.
- **For Mandarin-speaking pastors who come to Hong Kong to serve:** In the past, when they completed theology training and graduated from seminaries in China, most of these pastors received CCL's Book Gifting packages. Today, as they cross the border to serve, they continue to need published and online resources that they can trust. We look forward to collaborating with them in serving the Mandarin-speaking community in Hong Kong.

These are “signs”, but how can we continue nurturing these two major groups? Of course, with the Lord's approval, CCL will provide resources and nurture them directly. A more effective approach is to have CCL serving as a bridge, facilitating appropriate resources, partnership, networking, etc., to conglomerate, so that the path of growth and development becomes more perpetual, efficient, and fruitful.



Every year after the Lunar New Year, we prepare a learning platform for pastors from China to come to Hong Kong. A Leadership Forum was just held in late February. The theme of this year's event (The Keys to Sustainable Leadership) is shown in the picture. Nearly 40% of the attendees were young leaders.



We collaborate with different organizations to facilitate churches in Hong Kong with the desire to serve the Mandarin-speaking community to learn more about their targets and respond to their needs.

New Era: Going forward with Third and Fourth Generation Leaders

© Otto Lui
Associate General Secretary (Ministry)

In recent years, not only has the religious environment in China changed, but churches in large and medium-sized cities in China are also showing a different outlook. Through discussion and sharing with church leaders in China, I have observed certain changes and developments in churches in China, and would like to share with readers here.

Background

First of all, from the author's perspective, church leaders in China can be grouped into one of four generations according to the age at which they devote themselves to church service. To better understand each group's changes and development, their background and characteristics are summarized below:

<u>First generation</u>	<u>Second generation (over 60 years old)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They started serving at the church in China when it was reopened and was in need of a major overhaul• They became Christians before the Cultural Revolution• They received basic training (provided by western mission organizations)• At the beginning of China's reform and opening up, they led the church, tried their best to spread the gospel and plant churches• Now these leaders have either retired or rested in their heavenly home	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They grew up during the Cultural Revolution, had minimal education, and attended churches in rural areas• They started serving at the church in the 1980's• They learned how to preach and nurture the congregation through apprenticeship with older pastors• They witnessed the rapid growth of the church• Most of them have now retired

<u>Third generation (41-60 years old)</u>	<u>Fourth generation (30-40 years old)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were born in the 1970's and grew up in the city • Most of them have a college degree, some even have a Master of Divinity degree or higher • They have difficulty adapting to the traditional (apprenticeship) mode of training • They are often busy juggling work and academic advancement • They are the current church leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of them were born in the 1990s and are mostly the only child in the family • Many of them have travelled or lived abroad or have exposure to foreign churches and access to theological information through social media • They have no experience facing major political campaigns against the church of any kind • They have a strong desire for role models and peer support

China is a big country and keeps changing. The above categorization does not reflect every situation of the entire country, and there are significant differences between urban and rural areas. However, from the perspective of leadership development, not only do we give support to church leaders' ministry, but more importantly, we emphasize companionship through which to potentiate the impact of their work.

Episodes of Our Companionship with Third and Fourth Generation Leaders

The author and his team of co-workers have had the privilege of partnering with third and fourth generation leaders, and we have even witnessed how they nurture "fifth generation" leaders. The focus of this series of articles is not to discuss the theoretical basis but to share and report real-life experiences of these younger generation leaders in the companionship.

These young leaders have not undergone the hardships of the first generation leaders, they also have not faced the inaccessibility of resources that the second generation leaders experienced. However, it does not mean that they do not have struggles and difficulties. As far as the author can see, their challenges are different from those of their predecessors, and it is difficult to compare them with other groups, yet they are still going through life with blood and tears.

All the stories in this series are true, but the names and some parts of the stories are deliberately altered in consideration of the situation of the people involved. The main characters are aged between 30 and 50, and they come from big cities such as Beijing and

Shanghai, as well as from small towns in the Northeast, mountainous areas in the Southwest, and second- and third-tier cities in Central China.

It is hoped that the series of feature articles will give readers a three-dimensional overview of the situation and development of the church in China today as seen by the new generation of church leaders.

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## We sincerely invite you

To support...

### **New Frontier: Mandarin-speaking Community Ministry 2025**

#### **Key Programs in 2025**

##### **1. Supporting 3,000 novice pastors**

A pastoral set consisting of nearly 12 literature resources for each graduate of 50 seminaries and bible schools in China (around USD 167 per package)

**Funding required: USD 500,000**

*<Project: Literature Ministry (Resources Giveaway)>*

##### **2. Supporting 40 pastors serving in Southwestern, Northwestern, Northern and Central Southern regions etc.**

Each of them is provided a monthly living subsidy (average USD 615 per month per pastor).

**Funding required: USD 295,200**

*<Project: Support for Evangelists>*

##### **3. Support 100 experienced pastors**

Provide comprehensive training, including:

**Resources:** Publish one title of the “Living Word Bible Teaching Series” and produce 12 teaching videos

**Online and in-person training:** Conduct around 300 Living Word Bible teaching training sessions, around 120 training sessions on workplace, family and church leadership development

**Funding required: USD 205,128**

*<Project: Leadership Development Ministry>*

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~The above is part of the content of PFC issue383, if you would like to read the full newsletter, please contact us at pfc@ccl.org.hk, thank you!~

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