

Cherish Every Opportunity to Host Visitors

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Exchange visits for pastors from China to come to Hong Kong cannot be taken for granted, and each completed trip is a blessing. In 2025, the Ministry Team hosted visits of pastoral leaders from China on more than seven occasions. Below are three of these visits:



Host leaders who are eager to learn

In February, a three-day “Leadership Forum” organized by the team was attended by 90 pastors and lay Christian leaders from China. This forum is held annually after the Chinese New Year; it offers participants a valuable opportunity for spiritual renewal and training. One leader shared, *“Under the guidance of Hong Kong pastors, the daily morning Scripture reading and personal meditation geared my heart towards the Lord.”* Another leader remarked, *“The speakers’ sharing coupled with visits to local organizations and churches were enlightening and triggered insights on the church’s roles in community service and urban mission.”*

A four-day-three-night “Bible Festival Camp (Experiential Learning)” immediately followed the forum. The instructors selected Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) as the focus of the camp. Through in-depth study of pertinent Scriptures, background, and experiential activities, the 30 young pastoral leaders gained new insights from passages they once thought they were already familiar with.

Host young leaders with dreams to pursue

In August, our team hosted a group of leaders from the Northern region. Checking our records, delegates from this church visited us eight years ago. At that time, the visiting members were older and more senior; they came mainly to learn church management and discipleship training. The team from this church that we hosted this time is different; all of them were young leaders under 40 years old. This is truly remarkable and delightful! These

young people are second-generation Christian leaders of their church. They were not previously acquainted with CCL but came upon the recommendation of their pastors.

This group of young leaders is exceptionally dynamic, expressive of their insights and aspirations during the exchange. We are delighted to see the rise of the younger generation leaders among Chinese churches; the pastoral challenges these leaders face are very different from those of their predecessors. Their sharing also “spurs” us to work harder in our ministry. *“One cannot rely on a single guidebook for life; instead, we must humbly journey alongside the travelers.”* This compels us to constantly examine and adjust the teaching and pastoral support we offer to the new generation of leaders.

Host a “fruit” of the “Living Word”

In September, the team hosted a church leader from the Northeast region who had never heard of CCL before but only the “Living Word”. She came to Hong Kong mainly for business matters but dropped by CCL because her “Living Word” teacher enthusiastically recommended her to do so.

While visiting CCL for the first time, as she listened to the team give an overview of the organization's ministry, she was shocked to discover that the preparation and publishing work of the “Living Word” originated here. Though it was the first time we met, the feeling was like a wonderful reunion of old friends. She shared with us how her life was transformed through studying the “Living Word”. The team had heard of her story before through our partners, but listening to her share it personally was deeply touching! She shared how the “Living Word” teacher had walked alongside her for years, being both mentor and friend, and how such companionship had profoundly impacted her spiritual life. A new believer whom she was mentoring came with her on this visit, this individual was also learning to become a spiritual mentor and companion of others.

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We thank our Heavenly Father for these precious opportunities to host, and we also thank all fellow Christians for your prayers and donations. Every cent and prayer offered is vital to nurturing the lives of pastors.

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## Turning Inevitable Pain into Catalyst for Growth

© Otto Lui  
Associate General Secretary (Ministry)

I met this lady when she came with several colleagues for training. She appeared sad and as though not having slept for days. During the break, she asked if we could talk privately. Noticing the way she looked, I knew I must find time to let her vent the steam.

### A quiet learner at the initial encounter

I have known sister Mu for over a decade. Her participation in church ministry began in her teens. She followed the lead of her spiritual mentor and joined a newly established organization in her hometown which is a third-tier city. She served various churches and learned the required skills through hands-on experience.

Throughout her journey, no matter how fierce the storms were, her heart for God remained simple and pure. I still recall the first time when she attended my class, she was very quiet, she did not respond to a single question I posed even after one whole week.

### Know each other more through subsequent contact

The second time we met was at the office of sister Mu's organization, she told me that she had attended one of my classes, and I awkwardly replied that I did not recall her presence. The objective of this second meeting was to coach the organization to build a team of coworkers. The occasion allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of sister Mu's character, growth experience, and the environment she was in.

Several years later, I heard that sister Mu had left that organization to start her own ministry. I wondered, *“Being only in her twenties, how long could sister Mu sustain a new organization?” “Did she truly believe she could do better than her predecessors?” “Could she find like-minded brothers and sisters to build a team?” “How many churches would endorse and support her ministry?” “Was ‘starting anew’ really that easy and common?”* My queries kept emerging...

### Continuous mentorship changes life

During the pandemic, I started giving online classes, sister Mu and I met again. She never missed a single session! I regularly made video calls to students to see how they were doing

and gathered feedback on the course. When sister Mu turned on her camera, she was sitting on her bed. She had just given birth to a baby. She told me that she kept her phone on for classes even while she was in labour and throughout her postpartum rest period! I was both surprised and deeply moved! However, as a new mother, to head an organization during the pandemic, the challenges and pressure she experienced must be tremendous.

Sister Mu made use of our rare chance to talk face-to-face to share the challenges in her marriage. Besides intimacy issues, she and her husband were not advancing at the same pace in terms of spirituality and calling, and her husband was unable to meet her expectations in assuming family responsibilities. She felt like she was shouldering everything alone. At the same time, there was serious disagreement among members of her team in her organization. She complained of the lack of unity among co-workers and worried the ministry could not continue. Exhausted both mentally and emotionally, she began questioning whether the organization was started by mistake and if she was merely pursuing personal interest, like her predecessors, rather than God's will?

Sister Mu's lengthy grievances and suspicions clearly manifest characteristics of burnout. During our conversation, I guided her to first refrain from blaming others and temporarily set aside the demands she imposed on herself. I encouraged her to examine her situation and get to know herself more. Later, she expressed the willingness to face her challenges alongside her family and coworkers, so we arranged courses related to character and personal growth for her. We know that the courses would not be effective if sister Mu did not open herself. As sister Mu is willing to learn and grow, her situation has been steadily improving since then.

Seeing her smile again while meeting her again this year, I said, *“What you have experienced is painful, but what you have learned through such experience is vital.”*

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Contemporary Church leaders in China can be grouped into the following generations
(Simple Classification)

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| <p><u>First Generation</u></p> <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 | <p><u>Second generation (over 60 years old)</u></p> <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 |
| <p><u>Third generation (41-60 years old)</u></p> <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 | <p><u>Fourth generation (30-40 years old)</u></p> <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 |



To support...

A Blessing in Reception

Let's work together to support the needs for serving leaders in churches in China!
Supporting the "General Donation for Mandarin-speaking Community Ministry"!

A sum of USD 10,900 is required on average each month, which includes:

- ✧ Hosting teams from China visiting Hong Kong
- ✧ The ministry team's travelling expenses to and from China
- ✧ Local missionary work

Thank you!

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~ The above is part of the content of PFC issue391, if you would like to read the full newsletter,  
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