
Mandarin-speaking Community Ministry Working Report 2025 – Summary

Theme Article

Empowering Leaders – Going Through Inevitable Pain

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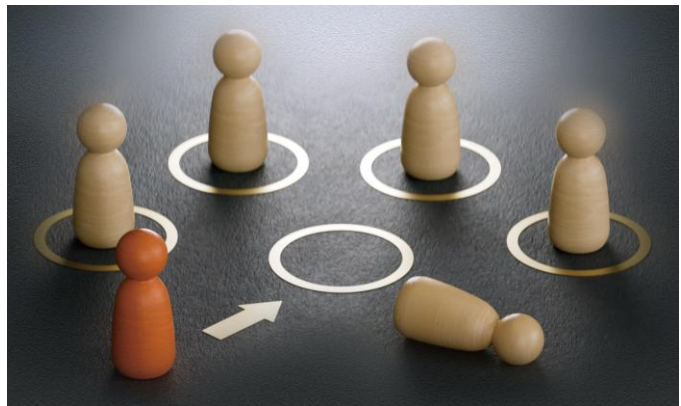
We are stepping into the sixth decade of CCL's service for the Mandarin-speaking community. Looking back, we discover that we have, in fact, inherited the genes of empowerment from the China Inland Mission. Back then, the organization trained up quite a number of local leaders, so much so that the Chinese church could be reborn even after the 10-year Cultural Revolution, ushering in a booming period in the 80s and 90s.

In terms of leadership development, CCL does not require others to follow our approach or encourage replicating successful overseas models. The Chinese church must find its own path forward, which is the only way to foster healthy church growth. In the empowerment process, pain is unavoidable.

Pain points of empowerment

We have established three kinds of relationships with co-workers in China: 1. We learn from them and see what true faith is from their experience. 2. We are partners who support each other. 3. We are like mentors and apprentices to each other – we do not take on disciples or even regard them as our students. Yet, owing to cultural habits, they would call us teachers.

Based on this mentor-apprentice relationship, we need to let go and let them try. More importantly, we must let them make their own decisions on how to respond to the many problems they face in their daily work. By their habits, as they see you as their “mentors”, they will seek your advice on major decisions or even ask you to decide. However, the church is theirs, and the responsibility lies with them. So even if we know that there may be potential problems in their decisions, provided that the consequence is manageable, we should let go and let them try. Getting hurt is common, but they will grow afterwards. It is hard to give them a free hand, but this is necessary.



Letting go means also taking it easy, but pain points are bound to arise in the process. It is not easy to let go, and it is even more difficult to take it easy. After letting go, there may even be struggles on whether we should “take it back”. One can only look up to God constantly for guidance.

Based on personal reasons or factors related to their environment, the leaders being nurtured do not necessarily mature. This year, a partner even passed away unexpectedly, and our pain was indescribable. Yet, when we calm down, we must acknowledge that they belong to God and their future is in God’s hands. We all must learn how to follow God’s footsteps.

Rewards of empowerment

Being able to influence a leader and witnessing the leader’s soaring success is the greatest reward God gives to those who nurture others. To see a leader grow gradually, make sound judgements in difficulties, and become a mature leader bringing up generations of church leaders is God’s greatest encouragement to us.

Over the years, the writer has witnessed the growth of many leaders in the Chinese church who are of different ages and backgrounds and going through different experiences. Spiritual growth takes time, and eight to ten years is the minimum. In the face of the changing environment, we do not have a formula for growth applicable to every circumstance. We seek, act, observe, and plan at the same time as we walk alongside these leaders and witness God’s work on them.

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## Build Connections and Pool Resources

In nurturing church leaders in China, since 1973, our team has always believed that God is the provider, the giver of manna, and that all human efforts, material resources, soft and hard components are His gracious gifts. Over these five decades, team members have changed, and successors transitioned; yet in every era, the Lord enables the team to go through the same cycle, a “manna” learning cycle: waiting for manna → gathering manna (taking action) → testifying the experience.

### Waiting for manna: Fund sourcing and networking

The team has been serving local churches through mission education, seeking and building connections with like-minded partners. We have been invited to teach Sunday school sessions on mission or conduct programs like “Great Work in Minorities” during fellowships and small groups at various churches. This helps Hong Kong believers better understand the Lord's work among the Christian communities in China and encourages their participation and support.

Starting from the second half of 2023, in collaboration with several different organizations, CCL has co-hosted gatherings focused on serving the Mandarin-speaking community in Hong Kong, hoping that local churches would reach out and serve this community more effectively. The “Mandarin-Speaking Community in Hong Kong Study Follow-Up Seminar” was held last June, bringing together a group of like-minded individuals sharing the same aspiration. We got to know one another, exchanged experiences, and, more importantly, hoped to establish a platform for sharing resources.



The gathering in June brought together dedicated parties (including organizations, churches, and individuals) who are committed to serving the Mandarin-speaking community in Hong Kong.

In addition, ministry is relationship-oriented and emphasizes trust. Whether we are traveling to China or hosting Chinese pastors visiting Hong Kong, it provides an opportunity to nurture relationship, thus building up the partnership upon the foundation laid by many predecessors over the years.

The manna that the Lord wants CCL to wait upon is not only tangible money, but also intangible relationships and networking.

## Gathering manna: Timely Book Gifting

When the manna comes, gather it promptly, act immediately, and don't miss the opportunity!

A training center in the Northwestern region sent a message informing us that their students would graduate at the end of July, and they hoped CCL could provide literature resources for the graduating students. Since the pandemic began, the responsible co-worker has maintained contact with this school. Due to its location in an extremely sensitive area, the school has been unable to resume classes for a long time due to various factors, but the co-worker knew they were extremely in need of literature resources. Therefore, once the co-worker was notified that books could be sent, we immediately arranged for all the books in the warehouse to be delivered there. Why? The answer is simple, because no one knew when the next opportunity to send books to this school might arise. This might be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to serve them, and our co-worker did not want to miss it. This is just one of many instances of gathering manna.



Graduates from the training center in the Northwestern region were grateful for being able to receive the literature resources!

## Testifying for manna: Local mission education

After the Book Gifting initiative, our team has made regular visits to the area to meet with pastors there, including those who received books, those who were currently receiving living subsidies, and those who participated in Bible teaching and leadership training. Furthermore, our team shared the experience with others, not for reporting purpose or showing accountability, but to bear witness to the spiritual growth of these pastors and their faithful, fearless service, all of which compels us to give glory to the awesome and wonderful Lord! When the team testifies the experience to others, it may trigger the opening up of an entry point of waiting for manna in the next cycle.



Each ministry sharing and prayer meeting serves as a chance for the team to testify and re-enter the cycle of waiting for manna.

## Manna in tough times

The writer re-read the Book of Exodus and noticed that the giving of manna originated from the Israelites' complaints in the wilderness. Yet the faithful Lord still bestowed His grace in the midst of human grudging, weakness, and confusion.

This year, our team experienced moments of weakness, confusion, and even grudging ness, much like the Israelites in ancient times, as we lost an irreplaceable teammate, Teacher Ke Li. His sudden death brought indescribable pain to the team. While lingering in this dark valley, the Lord provided the team with a special “manna”. His healing and comfort came just in time. His tender love embraced the team, enabling each member to gradually recover according to their individual circumstances.



In our “Great Work in Minorities” program, Teacher Ke Li’s artwork serves as a vital medium, enabling Hong Kong Christians to understand the ministry of evangelists in China.

This special “manna” reminds the team that the Lord values “life”. The focus of leadership development in China is not on “ministry”, but on “life”. As the team walks alongside pastors in China, the Lord walks alongside the team.

**The faithful Lord is the ultimate and best Life Coach for us and our pastors in China!**



# 2026 Mandarin-Speaking Community Ministry

## Key Project and Budget

### 1. Walk alongside novice pastors [USD 192,310]

|                     |                                                                                                              |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Target</b>       | 3,000 seminary graduates in China                                                                            |
| <b>Support</b>      | Each graduate will receive a book set with approximately 12 items on shepherding (printed texts and e-books) |
| <b>Project Name</b> | <i>Literature Ministry (Specify: Bookgifting)</i>                                                            |

### 2. Walk alongside pastors [USD 380,770]

|                     |                                                                                                          |                                                         |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Target</b>       | 1,500 pastors in remote areas                                                                            | 50 pastors                                              |
| <b>Support</b>      | Each pastor will receive a copy of “The Bible-CGST Study Edition” (Revised Edition in Simplified Script) | Provide monthly living subsidies and pay regular visits |
| <b>Project Name</b> | <i>Literature Ministry (Specify: Bible)</i>                                                              | <i>Support for Evangelists</i>                          |

### 3. Walk alongside experienced pastors [USD 151,290]

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Target</b>                 | 100 experienced pastors and lay Christian leaders                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
| <b>Support (partial list)</b> | ~Publish 1 set of 1,500 copies of <i>Living Word Bible Teaching Series: Ezekiel</i><br>~Produce 12 tutorial videos (Traditional/Simplified Chinese) | ~Conduct 35 monthly Bible teaching group studies<br>~15 on-site follow-up visits within the year |
| <b>Project Name</b>           | <i>Living Word Bible Teaching Series</i>                                                                                                            | <i>Leadership Development Ministry (Specify: Bible Teaching)</i>                                 |

*Every opportunity to serve is important.  
Please take action to support the ministry's needs. Thank you!*

~ The above is part of the content of PFC issue394, if you would like to read the full newsletter, please contact us at pfc@ccl.org.hk, thank you! ~

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