

The Story of a Servant – The Ministry of a Workplace Instructor in Guangxi

© Compiled by: Yin Qing

Overseas Missionary and Workplace Instructor

About 20 years ago, an overseas missionary served individuals with disabilities in Guangxi by giving them medical assistance. Later on, he also wanted to reach out to other local people, so he opened a pizza shop and used it to build connections within the community. The issues involved in ministry and in running a business are entirely different. Since 2011, a workplace instructor has been giving him professional support. At that time, the instructor accepted an invitation from a group related to “Business as Mission” to conduct a business course in Guangxi. The curriculum covered foundational biblical teachings, business management theories, and sharing of experience from real-life operations.



A workplace instructor conducted a business course in Guangxi in 2011.

Later on, due to safety concerns, the missionary could not serve there for long. The training of local workers has become very important as a result, so this workplace instructor conducts training of local leaders among small groups of Christian brothers involved in business/workplace ministries.

Men's Group and The Mentor

Continuous Nurturing: Churches in China are not used to nurturing male Christians; meanwhile, this workplace instructor is a core member of cross-denominational brotherly ministry organizations in Hong Kong. Thus, over a decade ago, with an observed male-to-female ratio in churches in Guangxi of about 1:9 (the imbalance is more severe than that in overseas churches), the instructor already advocated forming small groups for male Christians. He traveled to Guangxi every month to guide their study of the Book of James and related discussions. After the instructor joined an organization (CCL), workplace ministry in Guangxi was initiated. This mentor was well-trusted by group members; not only

do they share issues related to their faith and work life, they also consult the instructor on challenges encountered in family, such as marriage, child-rearing, or financial management.

Continuous Companionship: Brother Zhang is a member of the men's group. His wife participated in a business training course led by the instructor in 2011. After they got married, they embarked on a “business journey”. They started running after-school childcare services to serve urban students and parents, and this turned out to be the groundwork for subsequent educational initiatives in ethnic minority regions. Guangxi is a province with a large ethnic minority population; approximately one-third of the urban residents are Zhuang people. There is a tremendous need to share the gospel with these unreached groups. However, if the gospel message is to be effectively spread in the local area, "Business as Mission" is a suitable method of service.



The daycare program started by brother Zhang has not only served students and parents who came for the day but also paved the way for future educational initiatives in the ethnic minority regions.

From basic business training to the “Business Leadership Certificate Course”, participants are given training on strategic thinking, creativity, and communication. Through the online “Leadership Study Clubs/Charging Stations” and with the instructor paying local visits to coach participants, continuous companionship is offered to participants over the years. Several years ago, regulatory reforms targeting the tutoring industry (equivalent to Hong Kong's private after-school care services) nearly forced the daycare center to close. Yet brother Zhang and his wife got inspiration from the training and from the instructor, they learned to adapt and overcome obstacles. When they were unable to offer homework assistance, they focused on providing meals and accommodation for the children. When inflation drove up food costs, brother Zhang’s wife worked as online group purchase helper, and brother Zhang partnered with others to offer rock climbing classes to supplement their income.

Words from the Instructor

More than a decade has passed, the workplace instructor said, *"When I looked back, I saw God leading me to serve this community. The song 'Because of You, I Persevere' expresses what is in my heart, and also what I want to say to encourage fellow workers."* Here's the lyrics,

*"...All for You, I break through my limits, let go of my timidity.
Willingly, I lay down my thoughts and aims, unafraid of hardship and pain.
On cold nights, You carried me through, my heart is covered by a strong roof.
You remind me of Your redemption, let me give more without hesitation..."*

The Amazing Connection – Third-generation leader and Fourth-generation Christian couple

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General Secretary

The stories shared by the author here are about the growth and development of two fourth-generation leaders. The parents' wishes for their children's spiritual development as well as their theological training, courtship and marriage can be seen during the process. What is even more amazing is that a third-generation leader walked alongside the young couple at different stages of their journey and provided them with guidance and nurturing.

How the Couple Grew Up and Met Each Other

This young couple is in their thirties. They are both second-generation Christians. Pastor Liu, the husband, has a kind and earnest demeanor. His mother, a church leader in the Eastern region of China, deliberately chose his name to express her wish for “the gospel to spread across the seven continents and five oceans”. His wife, Pastor Ye, often has a sweet smile on her face. Her Christian parents love the Lord and were willing to dedicate their only daughter to serving the Lord in their early years.

Pastor Liu and Pastor Ye entered the seminary in the Eastern region during the pandemic to receive theology training. They became acquainted and fell in love while studying there. They were married last October. Pastor Ye moved to her husband's province, and they began their married life and full-time ministry together.

So much for their growth, now let's see how a third-generation leader brought spiritual blessings to this young couple.

How the third-generation leader guides and empowers the couple

Recharting the life course: When Pastor Liu was in his 4th year of university, he felt uncertain about his post-graduation plans. Pastor Liu's mother knew Pastor Feng (the third-generation leader) well because they had pioneered together in youth ministry many years ago when they were both young. She shared her son's situation with him. After acquiring some basic understanding, Pastor Feng took the initiative to visit Liu on campus. Pastor

Feng had watched Liu grow up, so Liu felt comfortable opening up to him regarding his confusion. Pastor Feng then guided him step by step to identify his life goal and direction. After careful consideration, Liu decided to respond to the call and enrolled in a one-year Bible training course in 2019. Despite the pandemic in 2020, he entered a theological seminary in the Eastern region. After graduation, he returned to his home church to serve and shepherd the elderly believers. Pastor Feng was the senior pastor of this church. He provided Liu with timely advice and guidance for continuous improvement.

Encouragement, empowerment, and companionship: Pastor Ye enrolled in the sacred music program of the theological seminary in the Eastern region in 2019. Since 2023, she has assumed responsibility for the sacred music training at a training center in the Eastern region. Pastor Feng (the third-generation leader) was the director of this center. He noticed Pastor Ye's faithful service and recognized her capabilities and potential. He encouraged her to take on greater responsibilities. Consequently, starting this September, the training center appointed Pastor Ye as the class master so that she can nurture more comprehensive growth of the students. Pastor Ye also teaches sacred music courses and serves as choir director to equip students with professional music knowledge. Furthermore, Pastor Feng empowered Pastor Ye to represent the training center in liaising with CCL on matters related to Book Gifting to strengthen her communication with outside parties and overall management skills.

The two fourth-generation leaders grew up in different provinces but met at the same institution and became husband and wife. Though they serve full-time in the church and in the training center, respectively, they receive guidance and empowerment from the same pastor (the third-generation leader). The provision of our Heavenly Father is truly amazing!

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**Postscript:** Pastor Feng is a third-generation leader; he has known CCL for many years. He visited Hong Kong in 2016 and 2023 respectively to study and share with the ministry team. In July this year, Pastor Feng brought several fourth-generation church leaders to Hong Kong to broaden their scope. Among them were Pastor Liu and Pastor Ye. The author thus had the opportunity to hear the story of how this young Christian couple is serving as leaders in their different ministries.

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

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

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# We sincerely invite you

To support...

***Come and support  
the service needs in Guangxi!***



## **Back-end support**

Project: Literature Ministry (Resources Giveaway)

**Target group: 100 pastors in Guangxi**

Provision: each will receive a copy of "The Bible-CGST Study Edition" (Revised Edition in Simplified Script)

**Funding: USD 1,600 (USD 16 per copy, including the delivery cost)**

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Supporting workers

Pastor Lin and his family are waiting for a monthly subsidy to support their service as a "pioneer"

Project: Support for Evangelists

Target group: 4 workers in Guangxi

Provision: One-year living subsidy

Funding: USD 29,520 (around USD 615 per person per month)

Thank you!

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~ The above is part of the content of PFC issue390, if you would like to read the full newsletter, please contact us at [pfc@ccl.org.hk](mailto:pfc@ccl.org.hk), thank you! ~

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