



CHINA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES

Fall 2020

IMPACT

Together, Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders

Faithfulness in Season and Out

Former Student Ministers in China

Page 2

From the Field: God at Work Even in Unfavorable Times

Pages 4 and 8

IMPACT

We encourage you to keep this issue of IMPACT in your favorite prayer place that the content may guide you to pray steadfastly for our work together in giving Christ to China's future leaders.

Together, Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders

CONTENTS

- 1** COM LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS
What Season Are We In?
- 2** CHINESE STUDENT TESTIMONY
To See God's Hand Moving
- 4** SNAPSHOTS FROM COM STAFF 1
Creative Outreach for a New Season
- 6** DONOR TESTIMONY
Gift and Giving
- 8** SNAPSHOTS FROM COM STAFF 2
Spiritual Fruit in Season and Out
- 10** NEW STAFF
- 12** GIFT BEARERS
- 13** PLANNED GIVING
Charitable Gift Annuities



**A higher standard
a higher purpose**

COM is a member of the
Evangelical Council for
Financial Accountability.



**CHINA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

555 Gettysburg Pike, Suite A-200
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
com@chinaoutreach.net
717-591-3500
www.ChinaOutreach.org

Follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ChinaOutreach

IMPACT is published three times a year by China Outreach Ministries. Chinese names featured in *IMPACT* may not be real names. Some photos used in *IMPACT* are stock photos for illustrative purposes only, posed by models, not actual COM participants, for security and privacy reasons.

Daniel Su, *President*
Tara Miller, *Editor*
Geoffrey Isley, *Designer*

Please share your stories!

How has God given you opportunity to be involved in the work of China Outreach Ministries?
Email Editor Tara Miller: tmiller@chinaoutreach.net.



What Season Are We In?

By Daniel Su, COM President

We know there are four seasons in a year. We sow in spring and harvest in fall. It would not work if we were to do it the other way around. But 2 Timothy 4:2 says, “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season.” The Apostle Paul seems to be saying that, unlike natural sowing and harvesting, which must regard the seasons, the sowing of the gospel should continue in any season. This is contrary to our human tendency to preach the word only when the season is favorable and convenient.

So, are we “in season” or “out of season” for COM’s ministry to the Chinese?

When I read reports of Chinese students and scholars who continue to hunger for spiritual truths, I believe we are *in season*. A staff member in Florida reports that one Chinese scholar who was planning to join the online Bible study was warned three minutes before that she should not attend, or she would be reported to her supervisor in China! Despite the threat, she took the risk and still participated in the group.

On the other hand, it is *out of season* when I consider the impact of COVID-19 and the rising geopolitical tensions between US and Chinese governments. In-person meetings may not be as safe, and at the same time, Chinese students and scholars may not feel as welcome here in America. Not as many new Chinese students are planning to come to our universities for the fall semester. We are wrestling with these real challenges in our ministry.

So, this is how I personally interpret Paul’s teaching in 2 Timothy 4:2—I really don’t need to care if it is “in season” or “out of season.” The more important question to ask is: *Are we preaching the Word?* I’m happy to say: *Yes, we are!*

I am grateful for your faithful prayer and support throughout the years. We continue to need your partnership, especially in challenging times like these. Thank you for being such a blessing to our ministry. May God bless you! ■



To See God's Hand Moving

Former Student Now Ministers with Returnees in China

When Joshua arrived as a student in the United States, he didn't know Jesus. He had no idea yet of the story that God was writing in his life. Today, Joshua is back in China as a leader in returnee ministry, passionate for God's kingdom.

God's Calling in Joshua's Life

As a young Chinese college student in America, Joshua was touched by the loving outreach of Christians around him. He eventually came to Christ himself, was baptized, and began a journey of discipleship. Soon, Joshua met a campus staff member with China Outreach Ministries who became his mentor and trusted friend.

For two years, Joshua continued to grow stronger in his faith with a heart for serving among Chinese students.

As a volunteer with COM, he connected with other staff members and began to explore the possibility of serving on staff himself. But God had other plans.

As Joshua explained to his father in China that he was considering staying in America, his father was deeply grieved by the idea of the long distance. This caused Joshua to realize a profound spiritual truth—if an earthly father feels this much pain in separation from his child, how great the pain of separation between our heavenly father and those who might have known him!

Joshua says this realization was “a strong calling” from the Lord. He was led to return to China, so that he could be part of helping more people come to Jesus.

Returnee Ministry in China

With a flexible professional job in China, Joshua has freedom in his schedule to serve in volunteer ministry with students and scholars who return from studying abroad. This is a critical time for such work, with large numbers of returnees.

When students and scholars return to China, there are many challenges. They face a highly competitive job market, extended commutes on public transportation, and exceptionally long work hours.

For those who return as new believers or seekers, the challenges are even more complex. It is often difficult to find a church, as many “family” churches are not open to the public. These small groups also have limited resources for discipleship and sometimes few peer relationships for young professionals. Returnees often face a “spiritual homesickness” compared to their church experience in America. In a rapidly changing, materialistic culture, it is easy for them to drift away.

Serving in returnee ministry, Joshua is part of providing:

- Training to churches and ministries in and out of China
- City groups to offer regular fellowship for returnees
- Follow-up with those who are drifting in their faith

God’s Hand at Work through the Global Pandemic

When COVID-19 emerged, Christians in China were quick to respond. Working in cooperation with the government and other organizations, churches took initiative to send masks and food supplies to Wuhan. This practical help, Joshua says, showed love through their actions.

Then something else pivotal happened—church leaders started a “prayer altar.” These daily online meetings soon drew about 500 people, praying not just for China, but for countries around the world. “This opened up my vision,” Joshua says, “to see God’s hand moving.”

There is a big need in China, Joshua shares, for mature Chinese Christians to minister to others in the church. “Those who have knowledge—with humility—can be a huge blessing,” he says. Joshua is also enthusiastic about

believers from China going to unreached nations with the gospel. Whether they go out or stay in China, he challenges fellow believers to think about what God will do through them.

(Continued on page 11)

Tips for Preparing Returnees

Joshua has developed these principles for equipping students and scholars to go BACK to China.

- BUILD** Build a real relationship with the Lord.
- ADVANCE** Be aware of the challenges in advance.
- CONNECT** Connect the returnees with resources.
- KINGDOM** Have the kingdom vision.



Creative Outreach for a New Season

In the age of “social distancing,” COM staff teams and volunteers have discovered innovative approaches to ministry.

■ For many people born after the 1990s, the main way they receive information is video-based multimedia, such as YouTube and TikTok. This is also how a new generation of unbelieving young people can connect with the Christian community. During the past few months, I have helped many of my students create a variety of videos, including testimonies, Bible studies, hiking tours, and daily routines. This is a new opportunity to share God’s good news or show seekers our hopeful lifestyle. Even though we cannot meet with them in person at this point, video spreads faster

and can be powerful.

— **Yongming Tian**
New Mexico

■ For outreach, we had two webinars on Saturday mornings with a Chinese church pastor who is also a licensed counselor and coach. He spoke in Chinese on, “What Can We Do When Life Goes Crazy?” and “Handling Depressed Feelings.” About 20 attended each, including some returnees back in China. We have been spreading the recordings around too.

— **Glenn Kenadjian**
Florida

■ A Chinese student was stranded here when the pandemic spread. Then, her passport expired, and she was required to travel to another city to renew it. We contacted our colleagues there, Peter Qu and Mary Cassidy. They picked her up at midnight from the airport, arranged a place for her to stay, and got her to the consulate and back to the airport. She was so grateful, as were her parents back in China!

— **John & Karen Zondlo**
Colorado

■ The volunteers of Talk Time are retired American seniors. They have overcome their fear of new technologies to learn how to use online tools to continue to teach visiting scholars English. Grad student co-workers have been so creative to start various online activities such as cooking competitions, Little Angel Caring, Life Radio, and Zumba fitness. This has kept the students connected and willing to join our Bible study.

— **Danny Geng**
Washington

■ Though students might be reluctant to go out, they are SUPER grateful for the kindness expressed in inviting them. We have taken small groups biking along the river. Another group of roommates enthusiastically agreed to go canoeing. Walks on trails in a recreation area have been welcome, too. One day we just met in a parking lot with ice cream sandwiches, practicing social distancing, of course!

— **Tom Lindstrom**
Minnesota

■ We've been able to reach out to our Chinese children with the Kid's Club we've started online. Because the visiting scholars have been on "lockdown," their children are desperate to see each other and be entertained. Zoom offers the perfect space to let them see each other, talk with me and other volunteers, and read virtual stories or watch videos. Bible stories are an important part of that!

— **Carla Sanders**
Maryland

■ COVID-19 has pushed all gospel workers to actively do ministry online. Now, we have Daily Bible Messages through four WeChat groups, one Bible study through QQ Voice, and two visual Bible studies on Zoom every week. By sharing the screen and whiteboard, Zoom has been a powerful tool that makes the gospel presentation so effective and striking. Since everyone has to stay home, meeting people on Zoom has become a new way of being social!

— **Yaofang Sunny Zhang**
Pennsylvania





Gift and Giving

By Tai-li Kwan

“On fire for Christ” would be the words I’d use to describe Tai-Li and her husband, James. I’ve known them for years, and I’ve stayed in their home and seen with my own eyes how they serve the Chinese students and scholars around them. Their home has become a home away from home for many. I’m grateful for board members and partners like Tai-Li who have been such a blessing to our ministry. Together we are a team for Christ!

— Daniel Su, COM President

I was a good churchgoer for many years. But in 2001, as I experienced God’s faithfulness and provision, I decided to give my life to Christ and to serve him. I became a Christ follower.

At an international missions conference in 2004 at Christian Fellowship Church, I met Glen Osborn and learned about China Outreach Ministries (COM). I was impressed by the ministries sponsored by the church, including COM.

Two years later, with my husband James, I took my first mission trip to a village in Central America. It was an eye-opening and life-changing experience. It was the first time I wit-

nessed how missionaries built villages and schools and shared the gospel with people in the villages who lived in underprivileged conditions.

Upon our return, I received a clear calling to serve the Lord, even though I didn’t know the direction and the specifics about my calling.

We joined mission trips to Burkina Faso, Haiti, and China while I also took tests to identify my spiritual gift, if any. There was no indication that missions was my gift. I knew all along, James has the gift of serving and identifying needs. I was the one seeking.

“I am able to serve His Kingdom through giving. What a joy!”

One afternoon, I chatted with Pastor Phil Holliday, and we prayed about my calling and desire. He pointed out that my gift is giving because he saw how willingly I gave, and with God’s provision, I was able to give. I started to support missionaries around the world. I began giving to COM and became a table host for the annual banquets.

God blessed my business, providing steady government contracts in the aviation industry. I continued giving, and his provision never stopped.

In 2007, I noticed hundreds of Chinese graduate students coming to universities in the greater Washington, DC, area. James and I made friends and shared the gospel with them using plain Chinese. Cherrydale Baptist Church in Arlington, Virginia, offered classrooms for our Bible studies. We grew to five groups in the first year. I think it was our charisma and particularly James’ good cooking that brought them!

God had given us a large home which we shared with the students for temporary housing and weekend gatherings. They called us “uncle” and “auntie,” and we built trust and respect easily. They were comfortable sharing with us in ways they might not be with their peers.

The next year we led nearly 20 students to Christ even though we were not trained evangelists. The Holy Spirit was at work! And the number multiplied fast in the following years. Many parents of these students also accepted

Christ. Being a businesswoman, I had never pictured myself bringing people to Christ. What a blessing!

During this time, God also continued to teach me about giving. There was a book high on my bookshelf about biblical finances that I had never read. When a friend needed help with finances, I pulled the book down for her. The pages opened to the middle, where my finger pointed to a subtitle, “God Gives, God Takes Away.” This was an awesome moment for me. I realized that we are stewards of all God has given us. “I” am not doing the giving. I am the instrument the Lord uses to give.

I began to give away 40% of my income—the first 10% to the church and the other 30% to missions. Over time, my COM support has broadened. Other than COM, I also currently support more than 20 missions organizations.

In 2007, Glen Osborn invited me to join the COM Board of Directors. I learned and served for 12 years with great pleasure. The idea of “giving Christ to China’s future leaders” is exciting to me because these students in the US can go back to China as effective leaders with big impact.

I know it is my calling: to give—not just financially, also spiritually by facilitating Bible study groups. I give God all the glory that I am able to serve His Kingdom through giving. What a joy! ■



Spiritual Fruit in Season and Out

In the midst of this season of global crisis, God has been working in new ways in the lives of Chinese students and scholars. Here are just a few of their stories.

■ We met a student at the beginning of the pandemic who lost a dear relative and was unable to travel for the funeral. We reached out to her with Christ's love and the comfort of the Psalms. When she finally got a plane to travel, she called from the quarantine hotel the first day. She said she saw a difference in how Christians treated her as a Chinese person even while others were afraid or blaming, and she made a decision to become a Christ follower herself. She is growing now and meeting with us weekly.

— **Carl and Carla Sanders**
Maryland

■ A visiting scholar we met last fall started to come to Bible Study in February right before the lockdown. She has attended almost all of our Zoom Bible studies since then. In May, over Zoom, she made a decision to follow Jesus. It turns out she was married to a Christian in China and was even baptized but felt forced and didn't understand what was happening. Here she has learned that Christianity is a relationship and a decision that she wanted to make. She was recently baptized here, by her own choice, in a local lake with two other new believers!

— **Susan and Danny Forte**
New York

■ There are unprecedented and unexpected opportunities now to share hope in a personal, living God who is still in control. We continue to have ministry opportunities with the international students who are stranded here, and I recently invited them to an informal online study on “Christianity Explained.” They at least are curious, as they have never really understood what Christians believe. Our faith provides an opportunity to share eternal perspective that is not dependent on what is currently happening in the world.

— **John & Karen Zondlo**
Colorado

■ During the lockdown, Cindy joined our Zoom Bible study, and she was eager to learn. Since then, we have continued to study, and her hunger has never stopped. In June, she received Jesus! She is open to sharing life and struggles, and I’ve found this a natural way to disciple her. She has expressed gratitude and love towards God, concern for others, and regret over sin. She has experienced peace, improved her relationship with family, and more.

— **JingJing Lin**
North Carolina

■ After being alone and isolated due to COVID-19, Henry contacted me. He is living in another country where he teaches at a university. He and I began studying the Bible again like we had several years earlier—only this time, it was via the internet. In May, Henry prayed a prayer of repentance and became a Christian, in part due to the fears brought about by the virus!

We have also been studying the Bible with Fred since January, but his ques-

tions about Christianity intensified in April. Fred recently made a decision to follow Christ, along with his wife, Lisa. Both were baptized in June!

— **Duane and Jodi Decker**
Oregon

■ “I have been praying for that.” These were the excited words I heard on a Zoom session with a Chinese returnee who had been a visiting scholar here last year. I had been following up to connect her with local believers in her hometown in China, and finally the connection was made. In addition to that good news, I have been able to have weekly Bible studies with her and watch her grow in her walk with Jesus.

— **Dorothy Boothe**
Georgia

■ From the first online Bible study in the COVID-19 epidemic, a new friend, Peng, joined. He continued to come to all of our meetings and asked sincere questions. He also mentioned that his wife, Jia, had a Buddhist background. We believed that it was time to challenge Peng to accept Jesus as his Savior. When Xin and a brother made an appointment with Peng, Jia came, too. No surprise, there were many challenging questions. But what surprised us is that for most of the questions, before we had an answer, they answered their questions themselves. Finally, after two hours, both decided to accept Jesus. We later learned that before COVID-19, Jehovah’s Witness people had started to bother them. We appreciated that the crisis stopped the false teachers.

— **Xin Luan & Ying Deng**
Pennsylvania

(Continued on page 11)

Pray for Our New Missionaries

■ Anna Seeger, Campus Staff, Washington

Anna recently graduated from the University of Washington-Bothell with a BA in business administration. She has served on global encounter teams, including ESL activities in Asia, and she has also volunteered as a group leader for middle school and young adults at her church. God has led Anna to serve with internationals in the Seattle area where there are significant numbers of Chinese students and scholars.

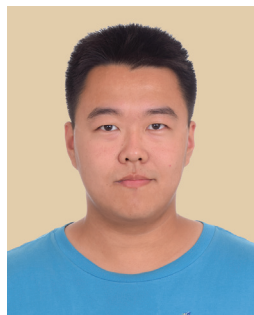


■ Matt Snead, Campus Staff, North Carolina

Matt, his wife, Michelle, and their five school-age children have recently returned to the United States after 16 years working in China. He is a graduate of Bryan College, where he completed a BA in history. In China, Matt and Michelle worked with local Chinese Christians in special needs orphan care ministry. Matt is now following God's call to full-time international student ministry with Chinese students and scholars at Wake Forest University.

■ Xuanhe Wang, Pennsylvania

Having served as a COM volunteer since 2018, Xuanhe will minister in the Swarthmore area. Xuanhe came to faith in Christ as an exchange student in Missouri. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Liaoning Normal University in Dalian and recently completed a master of divinity degree from Westminster Theological Seminary. He also serves as a deacon in his church and as a theology teacher training Chinese pastors. Xuanhe and his wife Bin Zhou, are parents of a two-year old daughter.



STAFF OPENING

**Please join COM staff and leadership
in praying for many more workers in the harvest,
as Jesus commanded us to do. (Luke 10:2)**

To mobilize more workers for the field, **COM is seeking a Mobilization Coordinator to join our Human Resources team.** The Mobilization Coordinator will recruit and coach workers to reach out to Chinese students and scholars at US universities. Please contact Don or Myrna Hines, or Jesse Burns, at serve@chinaoutreach.net.

RETURNEE MINISTRY TESTIMONY *(continued from page 3)*

To Christians ministering with Chinese students and scholars in America, Joshua urges, “Keep up the good work!” As a student who experienced the love of passionate brothers and sisters in the

church himself, he knows firsthand how God is using this ministry. “Think about what you’re doing,” he exhorts, “how it might change the course of faith in China and the world.” ■

Praying for the Church in China

Joshua asks that we join him in prayer for:

- The rise of more young believers to reach out to returnees
- Wisdom and discernment in ministry
- Christians with skills and knowledge to be a blessing to returnees

SNAPSHOTS *(continued from page 9)*

■ When I was teaching in China several years ago, I became friends with a young student named Wes. Since I’ve returned to the US, we have stayed in touch, and he has continued to read the Bible and other materials I had given him. When we chatted by video recently, he shared with me about pressures in his life. We had trouble communicating in English, so I invited a Chinese friend who is also a COM volunteer to meet with us to translate. In our second meeting, as my friend explained the gospel in Chinese, Wes trusted his life to Christ. Even in the midst of pandemic, God is leading people into his marvelous light!

— Dale

COM volunteer, Maryland

■ Outwardly Dawn looked fine, but inwardly there was so much turmoil. After spending concentrated time with

Christians in the US, she was drawn to Jesus through Bible study. She placed her faith in him shortly before returning to China. Then when COVID hit and we went online for our Bible study, we thought “HEY! We can ask Dawn and others to join us!” She has been coming regularly and has been such a blessing. Her testimony of HOPE . . . is so powerful. She used to wake in the mornings with all the shame and baggage of her past, but now she rises and looks only to Jesus.

— Tom Lindstrom

Minnesota

■ When we relocated to Tennessee, I assumed that my friend in Kentucky and I would not be continuing our Bible study together. Once everything became digital, we decided to keep meeting through video chats. We ended up meeting more this way than we had in person. He was a serious seeker before, but during our online Bible studies he decided to follow Jesus. We recently made a day trip to Kentucky for his baptism!

— Mike and Brianna Reynolds

Tennessee



GIFT BEARERS

Gift Bearers contributions are special donations to the ministry of COM in memory or honor of a person, or in honor of a group or organization specified by the donor.

In Memory of

Zhang Guoxing

Hua Xie

Chung Teik KHOO

Rev. and Mrs. Chris Deng

Rev. Lionel Sayers

Mrs. Earnest W. Hummer

Moying She

Lei Xu

Ms. Ruth Sundquist

Mr. Mike Downey

John Weed

Mrs. Earnest W. Hummer

In Honor of

Don and Myrna Hines 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. David Wells

Mr. and Mrs. Earnie Hummer

Mr. and Mrs. David Gray

Dale Voelker

Mrs. Margaret S. Cairns

Debbie and Robert Walz

Ms LaVada Terrell

Mrs. Leroy Tillman

To make a Gift Bearers donation specified in memory or honor, please call 717-591-3500.

Why I Give to COM:

***“We all have
our part to play.”***

—testimony from a COM donor

Digital Donations

Give online by scanning the China Outreach
Ministries QR code. 



Charitable Gift Annuities

A Very Popular Tool for Donors

*By Kirk Zuercher,
Director of Development*



A charitable gift annuity

(CGA) is a great way to give to the outreach of COM, while at the same time creating a fixed income stream for life. If you are 65 years of age or older, you simply make a gift of \$10,000 or more in cash or securities in exchange for a non-revocable CGA agreement. Some of the many benefits include:

- Payments to you for your life and the life of your loved one (either monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually)
- Great rates based on your age at the time your CGA is funded
- Immediate (partial) tax deduction and tax-free income (possibly) for years
- Deferred and possible avoided capital gains tax for gifts of appreciated assets

For annuity gifts to COM, at the time you pass on to heaven, the amount remaining in your CGA will then be given to COM. The contribution will be used by COM to continue its mission and to help ensure its ongoing support of missionaries.

Here are example rates:

Single-Life		Two-Life	
Age	Rate	Younger Age/Older Age	Rate
65	4.7	65 / 65-66	4.2
70	5.1	70 / 70-71	4.6
75	5.8	75 / 75-76	5.0
85	8.0	85 / 85-86	6.9
90	9.0	90 / 90-91	8.6

For more information and a no-obligation example of your own unique plan, call Kirk Zuercher in the COM Development Office at 717-591-3500, or email him at kzuercher@chinaoutreach.net.

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MECHANICSBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 227

CHINA OUTREACH MINISTRIES



555 Gettysburg Pike Suite A-200
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



CHINA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

With in-person gatherings not possible, we held our first online staff conference in April. Highlights included presentations on Going Deep with the Lord, Returnee Ministry, and Facing a Task Unfinished.