



CHINA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES

Fall 2019

IMPACT

Together, Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders

We All Have a Part in the COM Story

Where God's
Strong Hand Leads

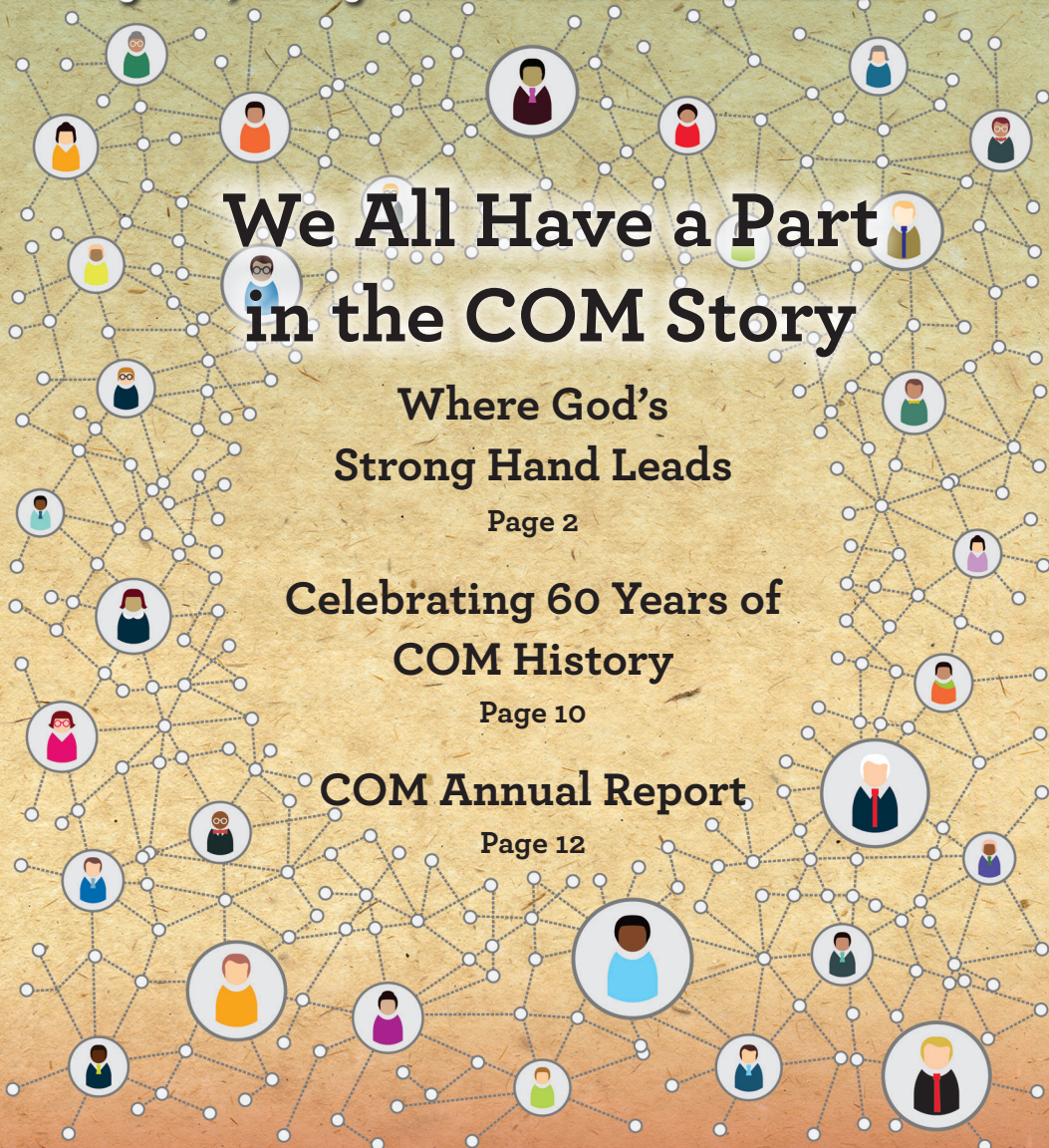
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Please share your stories!

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

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.



**A higher standard
a higher purpose**

COM is a member of the
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How Many Pieces Does It Take to Build a Puzzle?

By Daniel Su, COM President

I'M ALWAYS AMAZED by jigsaw puzzles. Growing up in China, I never saw a puzzle until I came to America. The first time I saw one, I wondered how each of the seemingly disjunct pieces turns out to be indispensable in forming the final picture. I once asked a dumb question: how many pieces does it take to form a puzzle? Well, the answer is: all of them!

It is the same with COM's ministry, which includes many pieces—our staff serving the Chinese on campuses, their supporting family members, volunteers, our board members, leadership and support staff, churches, and individuals that pray and financially support our ministries. All these pieces, when put together by the master's hand, form a picture of the body of Christ working together to give Christ to China's future leaders.

You are indispensable in God's puzzle. Without you, the puzzle would be less than complete. Without you, we would not be able to do what we do. We are grateful for each of you, for your prayer, support, and volunteering.

As we pray and serve together, we begin to see God's puzzle being built right before our eyes, piece by piece. Some Chinese scholars may have just arrived in America and are amazed by the Christian hospitality they have received; other Chinese may have begun to open their hearts to receive Christ; still others may be returning to China ready to share their new faith. And so God continues to add pieces to the bigger puzzle he is building there in China. ■



Where God's Strong Hand Leads

By Xin Luan, COM campus staff, Penn State

“**B**E CAREFUL, Jonah brought a storm when he tried to go away from his calling.” That was the advice of my COM ministry leader, David, as I was graduating with my PhD. I believed in my heart that the Lord was really calling me to serve him in full-time ministry. But I thought I needed a salary to survive, so I accepted a post-doc research job at Penn State. David was right. **There was a storm—a storm in my heart.**

From the first day at Penn State, I struggled about God's calling. My heart was not satisfied. Then I passed through five years of weakness, struggling, and temptation.

My life had changed so much in recent years, and I wanted to help others find this change. I understood the doubts and obstacles for Chinese students and scholars when confronted with Christianity. I had been one of them.

Here is the beginning of my story that had brought me to this point.

Growing up in China, atheism was the default value in our education. Christianity was described as an enemy of science. I did not doubt atheism, and I loved science.

Entering college, I started to feel life's pressure. A solution I could easily figure out was to continue my education. During my master's program, I met Ying, and we got married when we finished our degrees. A better job did not come, so, like many other students from China, my wife and I both came to America to pursue PhDs.

In America, it was the first time we heard about Christianity other than what we had learned from government textbooks. I didn't believe God was real, and I was shaken by the first Christian I met, a PhD student in chemistry. *She told me that her God is real.* This simple statement made me think that there might be something important that I didn't know. If God

God calls some as volunteers, some as financial supporters, and others to full-time work. This is the story of one young man who found true satisfaction only when he followed God's call for his life.

really existed, it was a big deal for my life. I had to find the answer.

Hope began to grow in my heart. I wondered how wonderful life could be if God were real. After several months of spiritual struggle, by his mercy, God revealed himself to me. My world changed. I experienced an excitement that I'd never known in my 28 years of life.

I started to attend the China Outreach Ministries Bible study group at my university. In the following months, I knew God, Jesus, and salvation were all true, but I hesitated to follow. There was a day I realized my so-called freedom could only bring me trouble. Surrendering to the Lord was the only way to change to my life. So I decided to follow Jesus.

David Sun, the COM leader, soon asked Ying and me to help him start another campus group. From then, our lives were changed little by little. We



could not imagine anything else more interesting, more exciting, or more meaningful than such a ministry.

When I was going to graduate, David counseled me, “I saw your passion was not in your research, but in ministry. How about you join COM?” I was not ready to answer this question. In my mind, the only way for me to survive was to have a post-doc position. So, against David's advice, that's when I decided to go to Penn State.

Though the next five years were stormy, God's strong hand led me still. He helped me overcome my fear. He gave me enough faith to follow his call no matter what the cost. I left my career in scientific research for the ministry God had given me. Now, as full-time campus staff with COM, I finally know the joy of living out his call for me. ■

Xin and Ying lead a vibrant ministry at Penn State with an increasing number of students and scholars attending Bible studies, trips, a mom's group, children's programs, camps, and outreach events.





We All Have a Part in the COM Story

■ My earliest memory of my mom's ministry is when she would have Bible studies at our little apartment in China. The students from the university or other places would gather for a few hours on Wednesday mornings. I also of course remember them saying how cute and adorable I was. I am really happy and honored to have grown up in a family that believes in God and helps show the people around us how wonderful he is.



Now a teenager, ministry has been a part of Faith Hoyle's life as long as she can remember.

After we moved to the US, a lot of times on Friday nights I have helped out at the Chinese Bible study that my mom organized at our church. I either take care of the children or join in cleaning up. I have also helped with cooking for the outreach activities, and I've even helped with make-up parties for the ladies. It's truly an honor just getting to help people, which is what I'm passionate about. I can't wait to do even more when I'm older!

— Faith Hoyle,
daughter of COM staff member
Meiyun Hoyle, Washington, DC

God works in many ways, through many different people, showing his love to Chinese students and scholars. He uses prayer warriors, volunteers, donors, staff, churches, and even our children in accomplishing his purposes.

■ How does God use prayer and community to bring people along the journey to Himself? Let's take Wynne as an example. Volunteers Rob and Marcia have invited her to concerts, walks, and to Marcia's home—showing her kindness and sharing the Lord with her. The Chinese church invited her to a retreat. Sara, a Chinese-American volunteer, explained the gospel in her heart language. Susan has taken her to volunteer with inner city youth. Danny has done Bible

studies with her. We have been taking her to church services for weeks and have given her Christian literature and Bibles. Many, and I really do mean many, have prayed for her.

The result of this community of love? We are now rejoicing with the angels of heaven because Wynne believes and has asked Jesus to come into her heart.

— Danny and Susan Forte
COM staff, New York



Danny and Susan Forte and COM volunteers celebrate Wynne's new faith.



Spurring One Another to Love and Good Deeds

Reflections from 2019 COM Staff Conference

TODAY, 80 STAFF MEMBERS serve with COM. Most of these are campus staff on the frontlines with students and scholars. Others are serving those campus staff through administrative and leadership roles.

In April, the COM staff gathered for the annual staff conference, meeting this year at Country Lake Christian Retreat in Indiana. Reverend Dr. Richard Hogue ministered to staff as Bible teacher. Guest presenters gave updates and insights related to ministry among Chinese. COM leadership offered staff training and enrichment on topics ranging from support raising to mobilizing volunteers to evangelism and more.

Some Highlights of the Week

“When Richard Hogue shared about suffering, it was very moving to hear of some of the ways that my co-workers in COM have suffered for the sake of this mission, and for the sake of the gospel. It is hard to understand it, but Jesus not only tells us to expect suffering, but that we are blessed by it, as it puts us in company with Christ.”

—Nick Romanin

Purdue University, Indiana



“Our staff’s abundant love . . . comes from the Lord.”



“Attending staff conference . . . was like being at a family reunion.”

“It was incredibly encouraging to be at our first COM staff conference, and we were blown away by the camaraderie among the staff and how obviously passionate every single person is for the work of COM.”

—Mike and Brianna Reynolds

University of Kentucky

“Attending staff conference this year was like being at a family reunion because we were able to connect with geographically distant brothers and sisters in Christ and also receive wisdom from our fathers in the faith, especially Richard Hogue, whose teaching about the theology of suffering not only changed me but also how I hope to prepare our Chinese brothers and sisters who return home to uncertain circumstances regarding their faith.”

—Dorothy Boothe

University of Georgia

“I was inspired by Richard’s testimony of how his faith has made a difference in his real life situations.”

—Daniel Su

COM President

“One of the most helpful and insightful benefits of the conference has also been enduring—Richard’s very detailed and comprehensive study guide of Romans. It is wonderful!”

—John Zondlo

Colorado State University

“The one thing that always impresses me at the conference is that this is the most loving organization I’ve ever known. We begin early each day with prayer and end each day, long after the last teaching session, with conversation, laughter, and games in informal gatherings around the retreat center. A favorite memory from this year’s conference is playing a Pictionary-like game late into the evening. Our staff’s abundant love evident at the conference is a reflection of their abundant love for Chinese students and scholars, love that comes from the Lord.”

—Myrna Hines

COM Mobilization



Kyler Westerfeldt
Wisconsin

For several years Kyler Westerfeldt has been involved with an InterVarsity campus team reaching international scholars. As a volunteer, he has led Bible studies and organized group events, and now he is learning the Chinese language. A resident of Madison, Kyler is currently raising support toward becoming a full-time staff member working at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He joins COM from a career in insurance, and with a degree in biology, he has also worked in scientific fields. ■



Jim Randall
Alabama

With a background in communications, Jim Randall's career history includes real estate brokerage, home building, commercial leasing, and publishing. Jim and his wife, Karen, have been volunteering with their church's international student ministry in Birmingham, teaching ESL and leading events in partnership with others. He has also served as an officer with various civic organizations. After completing his initial support raising, Jim will be serving at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. ■

As You Pray

God is writing a story in your life. As you pray for something, God is using that prayer in other ways beyond our imaginations—to write his story.

Recently our staff had the opportunity to participate in a webinar with Paul Miller, author of the highly-respected book, *A Praying Life*. We were challenged to think about how God is at work through prayer, writing the COM story as part of his grand narrative for his Kingdom.

When you pray for a COM staff member or for a Chinese student or scholar,

God may do much more than just answer your specific prayer. He is weaving the details surrounding that particular request—transforming lives and circumstances and building his Kingdom.

God also works through prayer to bring us into his story in new ways. Perhaps as you pray for COM ministries, he is also leading you to take a new step in your involvement. As you pray for your Chinese friend, maybe God is also using this relationship in your life in unexpected ways. We rejoice at how he is writing his story in you! ■

Spreading Hope and Happiness

By Jesse Burns, Mobilization/Human Resources

THE GIANT PANDA BEAR holds great significance to the Chinese people and their culture. Considered a symbol of peace, harmony, and friendship, the panda is regarded as a national treasure. Sending a live giant panda (they are all on “loan” from China) is seen as a quite auspicious gift and a great honor. From Bai Yun in San Diego, to Lun Lun in Atlanta and Tian Tian in Washington, DC, these wonderful creations of God link the United States and China, transcending politics and cultural differences.

So, imagine how grateful we were when God blessed COM with our own giant panda! We were delighted to introduce our new mascot at our spring banquets this year. And at our annual staff conference in April, the COM staff voted to name her “Pan Pan,” which means “hope” in Chinese. What a fitting name, as COM is sharing the hope of Christ with Chinese students and scholars!

Next time you see Pan Pan, be sure to stop and give her a big BEAR hug. (And some bamboo is always appreciated, too!) ■

A Day in the Life of Pan Pan





The Story Continues

Celebrating 60 Years of COM Ministry

WHEN JAMES HOWELL PYKE I and his wife, Annabel, set sail from America on a slow boat to China on their wedding day in 1873, could they have possibly imagined the story that God was writing?

The Pykes' legacy continued as their son Fred and his wife, Frances, became missionaries in China. Fred and Frances were followed by their son, James, and his wife, Margaret, making three generations of missions in mainland China. The Pykes were forced to leave China after the Communist takeover, but the vision carried on in their hearts and lives. Their dream was to continue the ministry they had devoted their lives to—reaching the Chinese with the saving gospel of Christ.

1959 In 1959, Fred and Frances Pyke and their son, James, founded the American branch of the Chinese Overseas Christian Mission (COCM). This new story that began 60 years ago continues today through China Outreach Ministries.

1969 Under the leadership of Rev. Donald McIntosh in 1969, COCM/USA began raising funds to facilitate Christian radio broadcasts into China through the programming of Far East Broadcasting Company and later through Trans World Radio. Chinese missionaries were supported and sent out to their own people in countries outside of China.

1982 With President Earnest Hummer taking the helm in 1982, a new direction soon began to take shape. With the influx of thousands of mainland Chinese graduate students and scholars to US and Canadian campuses in the 1980s, COCM recognized an unprecedented opportunity.

1988 In 1988, the organization began placing staff at major university campuses with large numbers of Chinese students and research scholars.

1993 The organization then was renamed China Outreach Ministries (COM) in 1993.

2001 When Glen Osborn became the third President in 2001, COM had 32 staff on 20 campuses. Under his leadership over the next 15 years, those numbers grew to 75 staff on 52 campuses. COM dedicated a new headquarters office in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, in 2008, and the leadership and support staff expanded to include a Director of Development, Campus Ministry Director, Mobilization Directors, Certified Public Accountant, and additional administrative office personnel. By God's grace, the financial strength of the organization also increased through key capital campaigns and significant special gifts.

2017 In 2017, COM installed Daniel Su, the first President of ethnic Chinese background. In the past two years since his installment, COM has further built up its leadership personnel and organiza-

tional capacity, and the ministry continues to grow.

2019 God continues to bless COM's ministry. Currently, we are setting a priority on training to enhance our ministry. We have developed multi-faceted ministries including friendship evangelism, hospitality, Bible studies, ESL classes, discipleship training, translating and publishing resource materials, and holding retreats and conferences. Though there have been tremendous changes in culture, technology, and globalization over the last 60 years, **COM remains steadfastly committed to the core of the original ministry — sharing God's love with the Chinese. We believe God has a wonderful plan for the Chinese people. The best is still yet to come!**

"My great-grandfather James Howell Pyke began a legacy of mission work among the Chinese in 1873. Now, 146 years later, COM is carrying on that legacy with its thoughtful and loving ministry to Chinese students and scholars in the United States. Having served on the board of COM for many years, I have seen the impressive changes and strategic initiatives that COM has fostered in this great challenge of helping to reach 1.4 billion Chinese with the good news and hope of Jesus Christ.

Now under the capable leadership of Daniel Su, we continue to pray for COM as it moves forward in meeting its great challenge."

—Bob Pyke, son of James & Margaret Pyke

God at Work through Your Gifts

63,228

Chinese scholars and students on campuses where COM staff are located

7,214

Chinese exposed
to the gospel

123

New Chinese Christians
returning to China

304

Chinese students received
intentional discipleship

77

Chinese Christians returning to
China committed to making an
impact for Christ

824

Volunteers

220

Professions of faith

100

Baptisms

2018 Sources of Support

Individuals	2,030,731
Directors	65,380
Staff	139,457
Churches	765,999
Foundations	127,450
Businesses	51,643
Organizations	34,477
Other	19,029
Total	3,234,166

Distribution of Funds

Campus	2,662,253
Returnees	28,586
Development	249,476
Administration	529,276
Total	3,469,591

The official registration and financial information of China Outreach Ministries, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999, or by visiting dos.pa.gov/charities. Registration does not imply endorsement. Contributions are tax-deductible for federal tax purposes.

Please join us in praying for the continuation of work in 2019, especially as our staff and volunteers welcome new students and scholars to campus this fall.

Gift Bearers *Special gifts and contributions to the ministry of COM*

In Memory of

Mr. Dennis Anthony

Dr. & Mrs. Glendon Osborn

Suzanne Cassidy

Dr. & Mrs. Glendon Osborn
Daniel Su & Suatping Khoo

Mrs. Mildred Feters

Dr. & Mrs. Glendon Osborn

Mr. Marvin Hendrix

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Whisler

Earnie Hummer

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sullivan

Mrs. Mary James

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Cilderman

Dushu Wu

Jingzhi Huang & Lily Feng

In Honor of

Mr. & Mrs. Earnie Hummer

Dr. & Mrs. William Oberman

Dale Voelker

Yacong Yuan

Zhu

Mr. Simon Zhu

Hummer Memorial

Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ison

Donating Appreciated Stocks Can Be Better Than Cash

In light of the stock market so far this year, we wanted to let you know of one way you can give that can be a blessing both to you and to COM. If you own long-term stocks (longer than one year) that have appreciated since you purchased them, in most cases you'd likely save taxes by donating the stocks directly to COM instead of selling the stocks, paying the taxes, and sending the remainder to COM as a cash donation. This is also good Christian stewardship. An additional benefit is that you will receive a tax-deductible receipt for the full value of your donated amount (value on the day you transferred the stocks).

Please consult your tax advisor for a professional opinion. If you have any questions about how to give appreciated property like stocks or other property, please call Kirk Zuercher, Director of Development, at 717-591-3500 or email kzuercher@chinaoutreach.net. **Thank you!** ■

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