

FALL

2022

iMPACT

Together, Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders

When Light Breaks Through

He Heard My Cry

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**Gospel Light for
the Nations**

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CHINA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES



PRESIDENT'S Perspective



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The Light That Drives Away Darkness By Daniel Su

Have you ever noticed that a prominent theme running through the whole Bible has to do with light?

In Genesis, of all his creation, the first thing God created was light—even before the sun, the moon, and the stars were created. When Jesus came to our fallen world, he declared himself as the light of the world. And in Revelation, the Bible specifically points out that New Jerusalem does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for God himself is the light.

Scientists tell us this about the nature of darkness: Darkness is not made of anything tangible or intangible; it is dark simply due to the absence of light. We walk in darkness if there's no light, which is scientifically and spiritually true.

Sharing the light of the gospel with Chinese students and scholars is at the heart of COM's ministry. That's why we place our missionaries on key university campuses.

What a joy it is when the light breaks through, when the light drives away darkness, and when our Chinese friends receive the light and learn to share the light!

I've seen people graduate from college and become more educated or sophisticated, but I've never seen anyone's life so fundamentally transformed as when they receive the gospel light and learn to walk in the light. The gospel gives meaning and purpose to their lives as nothing else would. That's the power of the gospel at work!

As Christians and children of the light, we are privileged to share the light. Wouldn't our world be a better place if more people would share the light and walk in the light? Thank you for partnering with us in sharing the light!

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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.

SHINING THE LIGHT ON CAMPUS

Through words and actions, COM staff members across the country are shining the light of Jesus in the lives of Chinese students and scholars.

Joe Sullivan, California

When they finished Luke 7, Laura asked Joy if she would like to try praying. Joy wondered what prayer was, and Laura said it's talking to God about what's on your heart. Joy agreed to try. Then she asked God to help her love Jesus as much as Mary did when she wiped his feet with her tears and hair. And Joy doesn't even identify as a Christian—yet.

Rose Chiu, Massachusetts

The Lord has allowed me to taste the fruit of the past two years as I have learned of the baptism of three new believers from our ministry who are now in China, New York, and Taiwan. Praise the Lord—He is our shining morning star!



Ying Deng and Xin Luan, Pennsylvania

Our Memorial Day Retreat was hosted by COM and the local Chinese Church, and we invited a former COM campus staff member, Brent Hoover, to speak. More than 100 people attended, and three non-believers accepted Jesus!

Brenda Harris, California

In our outreach among Chinese women, our “link” groups meet regularly for art projects. Recently, we painted with watercolors. On each art piece, we left white space to write a Bible verse, and I provided verses to copy in both Chinese and English. Jane selected Daniel 12:3, “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.” In the background, she traced a big star where the verse would go. We have been trying to share Christ with Jane for quite a while, and I pray the words of this verse will encourage her to see the light.



Meiyun

Because of Covid testing requirements, Zhong's return to China was delayed. It was the Lord's provision for him to stay for an extended time. So many believers have shown him love in various ways. Now we rejoice as he has accepted the Lord as his Savior!

Mike Reynolds, Tennessee

Ming loves coffee. So, I took him on a trip to visit our brother-in-law's coffee shop and roastery for a behind-the-scenes tour. It was clearly one of the most memorable experiences Ming has had since coming to the United States. At lunch we had a conversation about how Jesus changes everything, and that got me thinking about the roasting of coffee beans—which transforms them to something new—as a metaphor for new life in Christ. Ming agreed, and I remembered his recent words: “If I ever become a Christian,” he said, “I wouldn't be surprised.”



He Heard My Cry

By Tara Miller, IMPACT Editor

If Kai hadn't come to the United States as a visiting scholar, he says it would have been impossible for him to hear the gospel. As a university professor in good standing with the Chinese government, external pressure limited his knowledge of spiritual truth. All of this changed dramatically, however, when he met Christians in America.

Hearing the Gospel for the First Time

When Kai arrived in the United States, his personal life was troubled. Though successful in his career as a highly educated teacher, his home was full of quarrels. His wife and daughter were also unhappy.

Though he knew nothing about Christianity, Kai was curious enough to attend church right away. The family then joined in many activities, such as cooking and studying the Bible. "Many brothers and sisters loved us," he said, "but I did not understand why."

In one particular church service, Kai was moved to tears by the words of a song. Though he did not fully understand, his heart was touched by the idea that God had already heard his cry.

Within the first month of being part of the church, Kai and his wife accepted Jesus and were baptized a few months later. "I wanted to recover the original glory of how God created me," he said.

A Changed Life

As Kai learned to follow Jesus, the most important life changes, he said, were on



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the inside. His priorities began to change. He wanted to care for the people he loved, rather than focus so much on his professional performance and achievement.

Communication in the family improved, and arguments were reduced. Kai's wife experienced more joy. His daughter also decided to follow Jesus. His family life continued to grow "warmer and warmer."

Kai's family developed relationships in the church, including friendships with COM staff and volunteers. They participated in a Chinese Bible study and attended a three-day COM retreat which he still fondly remembers.

When Kai and his family returned to China, they continued their friendship with a COM staff couple. Through Zoom, they are still able to see each other regularly, and Kai helps with the ministry virtually. Because Christian ministry is so difficult inside China, he emphasizes the importance of ministries in other countries like the United States reaching Chinese visitors.

For more than four years, Kai has hosted a regular Bible study and fellowship in his home in China.

Kai's New Calling

As Kai's faith has continued to grow, so has his commitment to reaching others in his home country with the gospel.

In China, Kai explained, "It is not easy to say in public, 'I am a Christian.'" If you are working for the government or a university, he continued, "Once people know you are a Christian, you have to quit leadership positions, and you lose opportunities."

Kai, however, is willing to risk his professional position—and even his life—for the sake of the gospel.

Openly sharing his faith, Kai resigned from his leadership position at the university. He has been blessed to be allowed to continue teaching, but he is continually warned not to talk about being a Christian. Still, he continues to speak, telling every student that he is a Christian and that he is willing to share with them what he believes.

Outside of the university, Kai has also taken opportunities to share the gospel. The first time he spoke at an evangelistic meeting, seven people made professions of faith. The next

year, he was invited to speak at an event with 500 people, and 30 became Christians. Once he visited a house church with 100 people where another 30 accepted Jesus.

In his own extended family, Kai's father, mother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, and other relatives have also become Christians.

The Source of Kai's Strength

When Kai shares his faith publicly, he remembers, "The Lord is with me"—even if things are taken away from him. A couple of years ago, he reached a point where he accepted, "If I die, I die." But so far he can say, "I have not died!"

As a ministry leader, Kai meets regularly with 20 to 30 people who have returned to China from their overseas studies, helping them grow in their faith. "The Christian returnees," he said, "are under pressure and need help and prayer."

Kai wants to strengthen other Christians to acknowledge their faith openly as he has, without being afraid. "As God gives me strength," he said, "I tell them what we believe is greater than anything in the world."

“If I die,
I die.”

Gospel Light for the Nations

ONE CHURCH'S STORY OF GIVING

By Tara Miller, IMPACT Editor

Pastor David Milligan believes that what the pastor teaches from the pulpit affects the direction the church moves. "My hope and prayer," he says, "is that we are missions-minded, to bring gospel light to people."



Whether to faraway countries or next-door communities, **Loch Raven Presbyterian Church** in Maryland is eager to take the gospel to people who need to hear it. The impulse runs through the life of the church in numerous ways—from local outreach to international mission trips and from financial support to missionary care.

Recently, I had the blessing of sitting down with the Missions Committee and senior pastor at LRPC to hear more about their passions, vision, and approach to global missions.

The people of China hold a special place in the heart of the Loch Raven congregation, and for many years, the church's missions budget has supported a number of China Outreach Ministries (COM) missionaries. When I asked why they value international student ministry so highly, they enthusiastically described their time-tested perspective—that *reaching the world that comes to us just makes sense.*

International student ministry in the United States, the committee explained, is relatively simple to navigate. Hospitality and kindness are welcomed by students who are glad to learn about the culture and make new friends. Strangers giving with no strings attached "makes a huge impact."

"This gives us an opportunity," Pastor Milligan said, "not just to share with them a different culture, but to share Christ openly."

To explore how your church can grow your impact in supporting international student ministry, see page 13.



Missions leaders at LRPC also understand the importance of current global dynamics in missions strategy.

People "need the gospel," the committee stressed. The church recognizes challenges in diplomatic relations with China and sees the reality that many doors have been closed to foreign missionaries. At such a time as this, the church sees US-based international outreach as one of the best ways to reach the country's future leaders.

International student ministry, LRPC concludes, "is more important than ever."

The Church on Mission

These are just a few of the ways Loch Raven Presbyterian Church partners with missionaries.

- A significant portion of the church's budget supports missionaries.
- Regular communication fosters true partnership and prayer.
- An annual conference gives members an opportunity to connect personally with missionaries.
- During the summer, the "Gathering" brings the church together weekly for fellowship and a missions speaker.
- Once a month, worship service attendees receive copies of newsletters from church-supported missionaries.
- VBS each year includes a missions emphasis.
- Commissioned members take missions trips to participate with missionaries on the field.

Annual Staff Conference Highlights



Fear Not

By John Zondlo, Mountain West Area Director

"It's like a large family reunion—that you really look forward to attending." That's how I described the annual COM Staff Conference to a prospective staff member.

I knew this year's conference would be extra special the moment I stepped off the bus at Mount Hermon, standing beside the towering redwoods surrounded by dogwoods and other flowering trees in the midst of peak springtime beauty and splendor. Even the air was magical.

The best moments of the conference started even before we arrived at the conference center, as we gathered in the airport from around the country greeting colleagues we hadn't seen for a year. This has been a difficult two years of ministry, as nothing was routine, and many relationships shifted quickly to almost exclusively virtual. Being in person with our COM "family" was healing for the soul.

This year's conference theme was "Fear Not." Especially appreciated by all was the careful balance between practical teaching, peer discussion of best practices, and personal time to catch up with friends.

The teaching ranged from innovative scriptural insights, like Jon Hori's presentation on the "J-Curve," to timely and practical perspectives shared by our own staff, such as JoJo Qiao's workshop on counseling Chinese students and scholars. New to this year's conference—and widely appreciated—were breakout sessions to bring staff from different campuses together to discuss and apply the lessons from the teaching sessions.

And like a glimpse into the heavenly realm, the praise and worship times each day were glorious. Led by our own COM staff members Kirk and Julie Zuercher and Xin Luan, we worshiped in both English and Mandarin in unity and with hearts grateful for God's provision.

A huge thank you to the COM Board and Leadership Team for providing the opportunity and planning an experience that will be cherished.



WHAT DID OUR STAFF SAY ABOUT THE CONFERENCE'S IMPACT?

I was reminded of the power of the resurrection of Christ time and time again. Jesus sees us, and he is with us. In addition, the fellowship with COM family is truly a foretaste of heaven!

— Merlyne Wu, Pennsylvania

Whenever staff get together, I get inspired by the breadth of ministry. Here I was particularly inspired by the testimonies of our ethnic Chinese staff who elicit student participation in creative ways.

—Joe Lorencz, California

God is not absent during our difficulties, but he is ever-present. At the bottom of the J-Curve, Jesus' resurrection power and presence are with us in our struggles.

—Pauline Lim, New York

COM staff from across the country gathered in April at Mount Hermon Conference Center in the Santa Cruz Mountains of California.

I was moved to tears while listening to Jon Hori's sharing. Sometimes when we feel we've been maligned, passed over, or discounted, Jesus is holding us closer than ever. Amen.

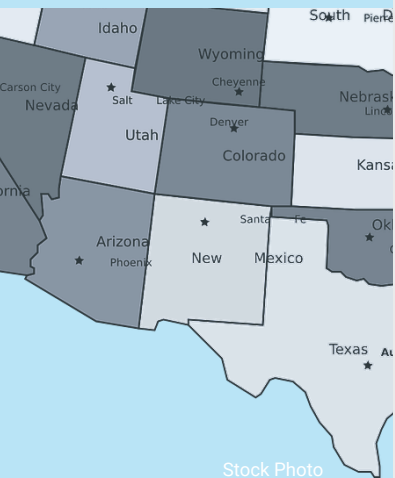
—Joe Sullivan, California

I was particularly moved by time spent in confession with one another and healing prayer. I have been moved to pray more for God's healing and for miracles.

—Nick Romanin, Indiana

Mountain West Area

COM is delighted to welcome a new Chinese staff member who will be working at a university in the southwestern United States. Due to security concerns, we are not able to publish the individual's name, photo, or specific location. Please include this new worker in your prayers.



Humility Under Heaven's Will

By Daniel Su, COM President



谋事在人，成事在天。

“The planning lies with man, but the successful outcome lies with heaven.”

In our modern culture, we tend to overemphasize the value of human planning. We assume if we plan and execute well, we'll surely succeed.

In contrast, the ancient Chinese tended to put human efforts under the overarching will of “heaven.” For the ancients, as well for modern Chinese to a certain degree, heaven resembles a personal god whose will supersedes human plans. This humble posture is reflected in the well-known Chinese saying: 谋事在人，成事在天。 (móu shì zài rén, chéng shì zài tiān), which means “the planning lies with man, but the successful outcome lies with heaven.”

This sounds familiar, doesn't it? As we build bridges to Chinese friends, we have the opportunity to use this Chinese maxim and then introduce them to truths such as Proverbs 16:9: “The heart of man plans his way, but the

Lord establishes his steps.”

In our ministry with Chinese students and scholars, it is appropriate that we point out such wisdom in their own culture and tradition, as the Bible affirms God's general revelation in all cultures: “For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made” (Romans 1:20).

Properly communicated with cultural sensitivity, our Christian faith perspectives need not appear entirely foreign to the Chinese worldview.

As fallen human beings, we all need to humble ourselves to receive God's special grace in Jesus Christ. “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6).

True faith in Christ elicits a healthy dose of humility, doesn't it?



“

Why I Give:

“For the opportunity to present the gospel to future leaders and influencers in China.”

— from a recent COM donor

Memorial Gifts

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PLANNED GIVING

IMPACT // FALL 2022

Church Giving, the Great Commission, and Reaching Chinese Students

By Kirk Zuercher, Director of Development

Did you know that there are almost 600 churches who provide financial support for China Outreach Ministries? Almost one-fourth of the support that COM receives in a typical year comes from churches. It is such a joy to see the family of God coming together to partner in the work of giving Christ to China's future leaders.

Partnering financially with COM is a significant way for local churches to respond to the Great Commission. COM staff and volunteers use creative outreach to develop relationships, share God's Word, and make disciples among Chinese students and scholars.

You might be asking, “How can my church support the work of COM?”

That is a great question, and there are many ways that a church can get involved, such as prayer, volunteering, and giving. These are ways your church can contribute financially:

- Provide facilities, food, or supplies for an outreach event planned by a COM missionary near you
- Partner with a COM missionary by giving on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis
- Support the work of all our missionaries by giving to the COM Fund

- Sponsor a table at one of our celebration dinners by hosting and inviting church members to attend these special events

As the church goes to the nations, those nations may be closer than you think. The nations are here, now—in our communities and at our doorsteps. Together, we can take the gospel of Jesus Christ to China and beyond.

To learn more about supporting the work of COM financially, contact Kirk Zuercher, Director of Development, at 717-591-3500 or kzuercher@chinaoutreach.net. To explore other possibilities for your church to engage in outreach among Chinese students, contact Beau Miller, Director of Church Partnerships, at bmiller@chinaoutreach.net.



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FALL ON CAMPUS



As our staff and volunteers across the country connect with new and returning students and scholars, please join us in prayer.

We give thanks for the opportunity to return to many in-person events and upcoming holiday celebrations, and we ask for God's blessings in our work.