

# THE PANDA

BEARER

友愛中華

China Outreach  
MINISTRIES

November 2014

Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders

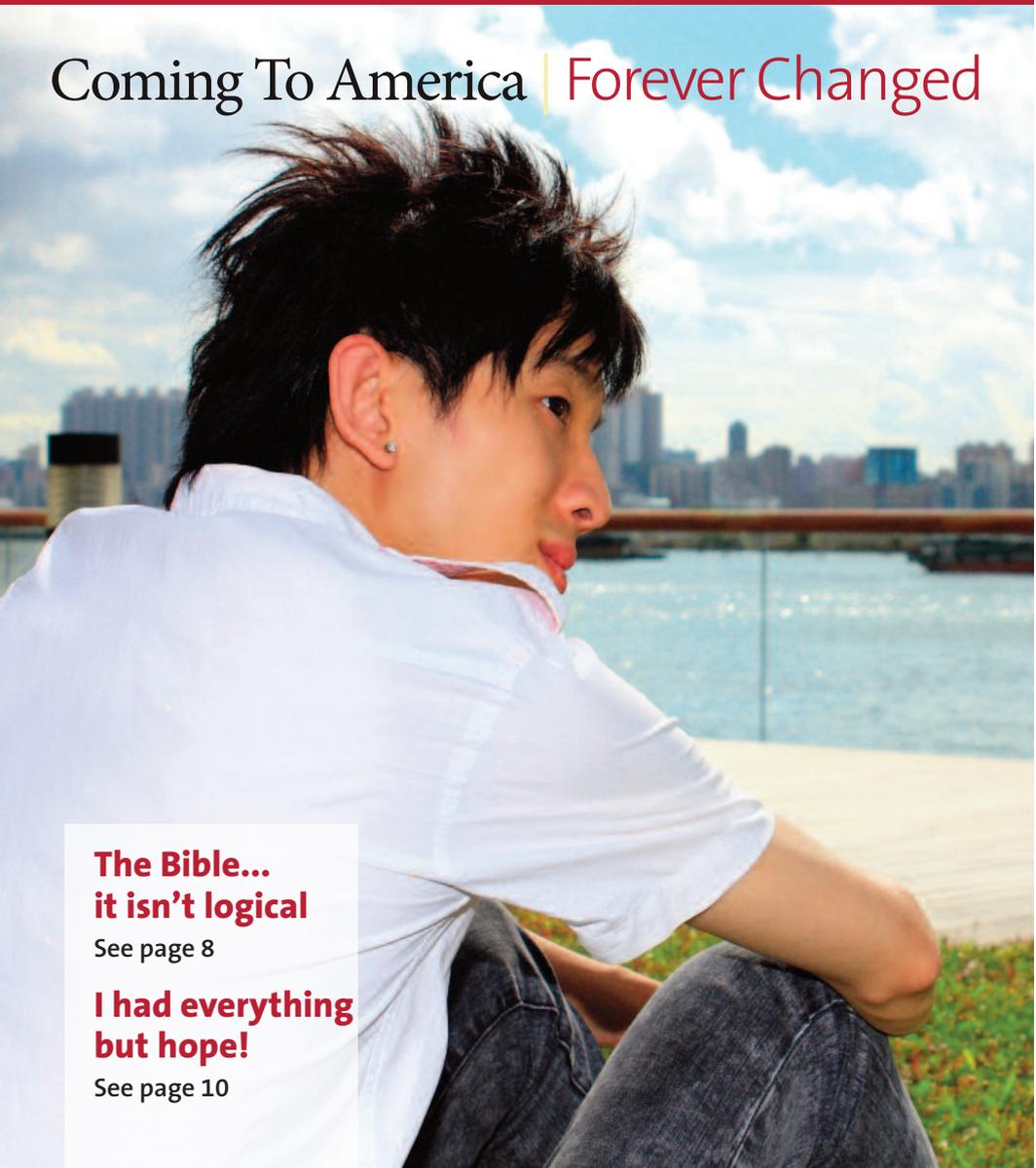
## Coming To America | Forever Changed

**The Bible...  
it isn't logical**

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**I had everything  
but hope!**

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## Thoughts From The President

**I**N the September 18th edition of USA Today, the money section featured an article on “Crazy” Jack Ma and shares of his company “Alibaba” being offered on the New York Stock Exchange. As a result of the IPO, he now is the richest man in China, with a net worth of \$21.9 billion. Jack Ma is a hard working entrepreneur and is described in the article as “Charismatic and energetic.” The closing quote by Ma at the end of the article is quite interesting. Last year in an interview in Hong Kong’s *South China Morning Post*, he said, “One issue facing China is that people’s wallets are bulging, but their heads are empty.” I don’t think this is probably a good translation, but the concept is revealing. Even though people are doing well economically, there is still something missing.

We know what that something is – without a relationship with Jesus Christ, all that we gain is empty. Jesus said it this way: “What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?” Matthew 16:26 We have heard Chinese scholars who have made it to the top of their field of study say, “I still feel like there is something missing.” And we have the good news to share that Jesus has come that we may have life and have it to the full.

Our staff recently helped me with some research and we surveyed over 70 Chinese who have become believers since coming to America. They came to study in this country, but shared that this was God’s vehicle for them to hear the Gospel and believe in Jesus. The top influence in them coming to know Christ was experiencing the life of Jesus through the lives of Christians reaching out to them and loving them. They saw love, joy and peace and desired it in their lives as well. One scholar said this about the influence of Christians in their life: “...they have something special. I want what they have.” They went on to say, “I want to be like Christians to be able to love others...I want to have the joy that Christians have. I want to continue my faith journey even when I go back to China and help others in China to receive this peace and joy only Jesus can provide.”

God is at work bringing true life into the lives of Chinese intellectuals as they come to know the transforming power of Jesus in them. And He is using those who know Him and love Him to make a difference. Thanks for being one of those He uses.



Glen Osborn  
COM President



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November 2014

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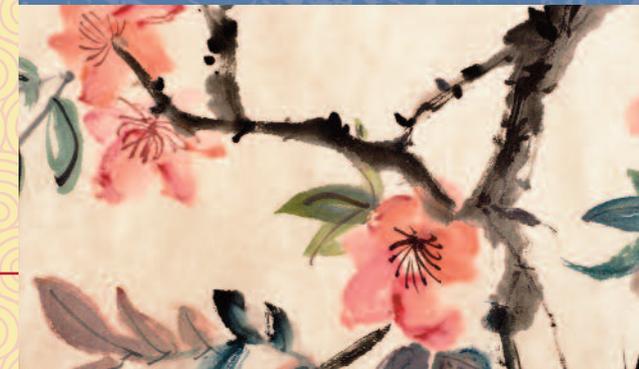
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# Double your giving to COM through a Company Match!

It could be that if you work for a “for profit company”, you may be eligible to have your contributions to China Outreach Ministries matched by your employer. Recently some of our staff have benefited greatly by a supporter’s company doubling the support gift given to COM. That means for example that a support gift of \$100 may be doubled to \$200 simply by completing the proper forms from a donor’s Human Relations (HR) department.

Apparently many companies make a distinction between churches (which they typically do not match) and other non-profit organizations. It’s worth checking out!

If you have questions, please call Jeff Krimmel in the Development office at 717-591-3500 or email him at [jkrimmel@chinaoutreach.net](mailto:jkrimmel@chinaoutreach.net).



## MEET OUR NEW STAFF

### Jing Jing (Rachel) Lin

is a graduate of James Madison University and most recently is working as an Account Executive with World Pay. She has also been a math teacher. She came to the U.S. in her late teens with her parents, who are restaurant owners in Richmond. Her interest in outreach to Chinese students was stirred on a summer mission with CRU in Ocean City, MD. Since then she has been involved in outreach to Chinese students through her church, and in leadership with a weekly fellowship in the Richmond area. In writing about her calling to full-time ministry, she wrote, “I want to do everything to honor and glorify God because He is my personal Savior and I love Him.” Further, she writes that her greatest joy is in sharing the Good News with those who have never heard. She will be serving in the Washington DC area, and will spend the next months in support development and training. ■



### Xin Luan

has been working as a visiting scholar at Penn State. He has a PhD in sensory ecology from Bowling Green University. While at Bowling Green, he attended a Bible study led by David Sun, and through a variety of experiences with Christians and God’s Word, he came to follow Jesus. (David Sun was led to Christ by Daniel Su.) He was in a worship team with Esther Xiao while there. He has been involved in campus evangelism since 2010. He also leads a Christian band and has been gifted by God in music abilities. He has been leading worship at the Chinese church in State College, and is actively involved there. He and his wife Ying Deng have 2 children. She is currently a visiting scholar at Penn State. Xin Luan will now focus on support development and training in ministry. He will be a part of the Penn State team. ■



# “Expect great things from God”

by John and Karen Zondlo, *Colorado State University, Pueblo*

Last April we moved from New Mexico to Colorado to be closer to family. God has blessed the move in so many ways. One of our prayer requests was for discernment in continuing our ministry with students from Mainland China as we had done in Albuquerque. Colorado State University-Pueblo is located here.

By the time we were able to make connections with the International Program office at CSUP, the semester was nearly over and most of the students were leaving to travel or return home for the summer. We were told there were about 20 Chinese students studying here. Not a big group, but a place to start.

We subsequently were able to meet four of those students during the summer. They told us that they heard there would be 10 new students from China coming in the Fall. So we started praying for the fall semester and for opportunities to meet and develop relationships with both current and new students from China.

William Carey (early missionary to India) always said, “Expect great things from God.” In August we were invited to join a special orientation session for the newly arrived students from China.



Imagine our surprise and delight when we walked into the room and were introduced to 25 new Chinese students! About half are here in a special program to complete dual degrees from CSUP and their home university in China. The other half are here for the English Language Institute. So we met them all and the very next night invited them to join us for dinner at a local Chinese restaurant.

Twenty-one of them came! So now we have contact information for each one and are planning future events to get to know them better! ■

## SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR WORKERS

**From Greg Gainer, Iowa State:** After informing my Friday night Bible class that our study was to be canceled that week due to my son’s wedding, one visiting scholar (who is not yet a believer) wrote the following note: “I feel unhappy. I miss one week. I don’t want to miss any week. I think we should add more Bible study. I want to learn more. I want to study Bible every week.”

Another scholar told me over lunch, “I have read the whole Bible through 6 times and I feel like I am only in the 1st grade in knowing God’s Word.”

**From Heidi Ifland, University of Washington, Seattle:** One of the sad things we’re hearing is the terrible rise in the trend of affairs outside of marriage in China. A group of scholars discussed the question of how one could proceed in marriage, living with the constant fear of unfaithfulness, which makes for a life of insecurity for many women. One scholar said she had heard the best way is just to never trust her spouse. One of our older married volunteers offered her wisdom on the topic: “A marriage without any trust is very sad, in my opinion...” She went on to share a little more and the scholars said they would like to talk more about this in the future. What a privilege to have these conversations and to share our hope in Jesus as it applies very practically.

**From Bob Simon, Kent State:** Remember last year, “Y,” the one who took off her Buddhist bracelet, saying it “does not help” her anxiety? She did accept Jesus that day and during the first six months, she came to Bible study off and on. I wondered about her commitment to Christ. However, for the last six months, she has been very faithful and was baptized recently. ■

# Coming To America

# Forever Changed

by Ben and Cathy Bidelspach, *Penn State*

O

ften we are questioned about what happens to the scholars after they accept Christ and return to China. After their public baptism here in America, they have officially declared their allegiance to Christ. Here are two stories of what has happened to scholars after their conversion and baptism and return to China:

Fifteen years ago, we invited “M,” one of our English class students, to our home for a special dinner. We didn’t know it happened to be his birthday too! He attended our Bible study faithfully. One day he told us that he wanted to be a Christian, so that he would have a better life, but he wasn’t interested in eternal life. After we explained it more clearly, he was very happy and later told us that he couldn’t keep this great news to himself, he just had to share it with his family.

In 1999 he returned to China as a professor of Plant Physiology in a city with a strong Muslim influence. For a while, he was afraid to let anyone know that he was a Christian, because he was constantly pressured to follow the communist teaching. To protect his family and his job, he attends a house church.

His parents who live in another city became Christians a few years ago, but his wife hasn’t yet. “M” told us that if she would come to America, he believes that she would also become a Christian. He continues to pray that God will open the hearts of his family and friends.

We know God is helping his faith to grow stronger. Even though he is in a high position as a vice-dean, he told us that in his biology class he tells his students, “I must teach evolution, but I believe in creation.”

“J” and his wife were among others who came to our home to hear more about the Back to Jerusalem movement among the house church in China.



A year or so earlier, he had become a Christian while a PhD student at Penn State. Soon after, his wife “N” came to America to be with him and she became a Christian too. It wasn’t too long before God put it on their hearts to share the gospel back in China.

One day “J” asked me, “Should I go back to China as a full-time missionary or go back and have a job and be a missionary?” We told him to pray and ask God what he wanted him to do—he could serve the Lord either way.

When we visited them in China, “J” took the train to meet us so that he could take us to the countryside to visit his wife and baby daughter. While on the 2-hour from the city to his small village, he shared the gospel with the man sitting next to him, who accepted Jesus as Savior.

“J” introduced us to his grandparents, who live in a simple mud brick home with a dirt floor. Every Sunday morning they open their humble home for worship at 3 a.m. so the farmers can get back into the rice fields by daylight. That morning, people started arriving at 1 a.m. to meet for fellowship and prayer before their two-hour worship.

“J” told us that although his grandparents were Christians, the rest of his family had always been atheists. It wasn’t until he was at Penn State in one of our Bible studies that God opened his heart. He graduated from the top science university in China, but he certainly has the heart of an evangelist. ■

# The Bible... it isn't logical

by Gregg and Nancy Smyrl, *University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia*

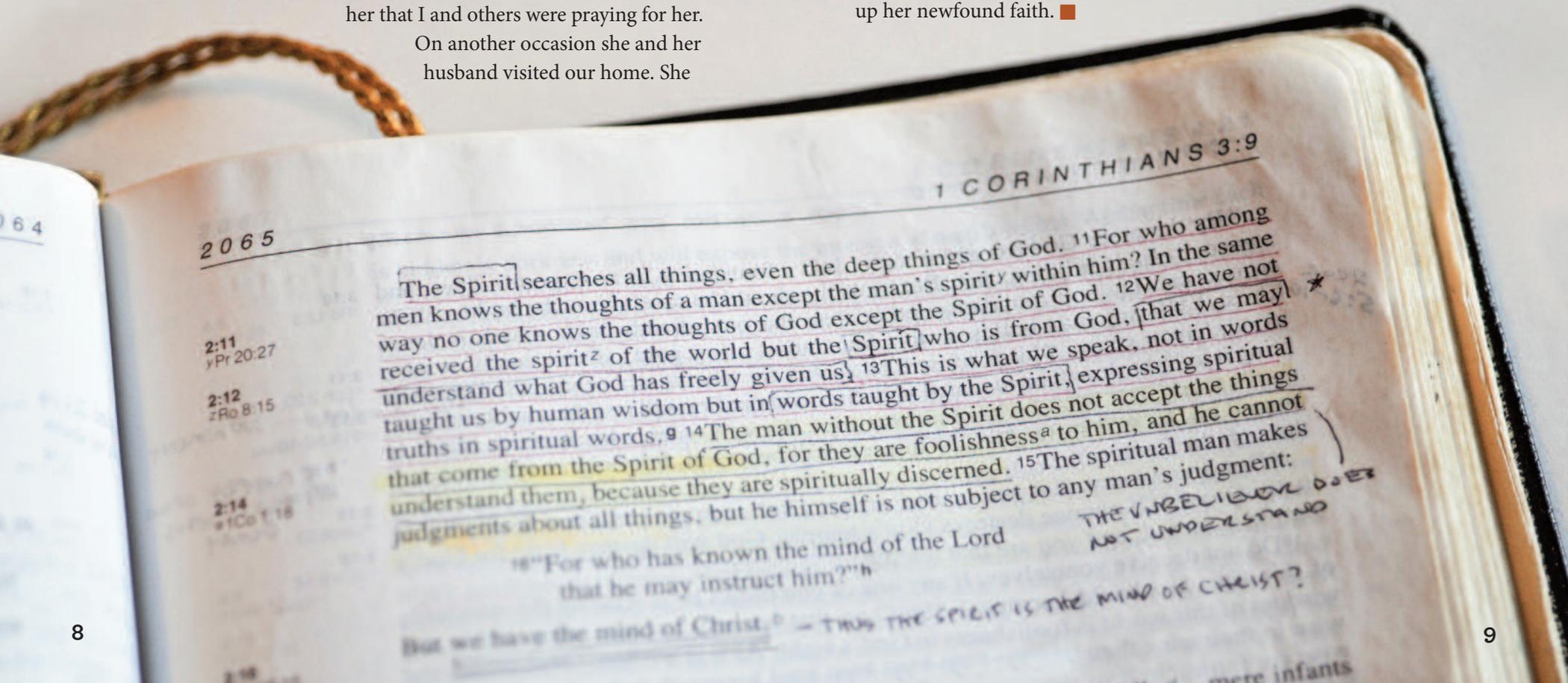
“So, what are your thoughts about the Bible Study tonight?” I asked one of the new China scholar wives. “In my education,” she explained, “I was taught that science and the Bible...it isn't logical. You can't prove it.” A few months later, as we walked down a stairway, we talked about the Gospel, the good news of salvation, and how much God loved her. I told her that I and others were praying for her. On another occasion she and her husband visited our home. She

heard testimonies of other believers. She told me she had been given material to read in Mandarin.

One Sunday afternoon we met together and she announced, “I've made my decision. I don't know everything, but I believe God wants me to step out in faith. He died in my place.” In the months to follow, we looked into God's Word for answers to questions about her new life in Christ:

“How can I know the Bible is true? What does God look like? What if I do something wrong now? How can I tell my mother?” We also discussed how to find a Bible teaching church in China when she returns and the importance of reading the Bible regularly. We prayed for her unsaved husband. She told me how she needed courage to tell her parents when she returned to China.

Shortly after that, the Chinese church announced a baptism service, and her name was on the list! What a joy to see God guiding her! She has recently returned to China. Pray that she finds other believers in her city, and a church fellowship to encourage and build up her newfound faith. ■





# I had everything but hope!

by David and Kelly Dorrough,  
*University of North Carolina, Greensboro*

**O**ne of the students we have come to know and love over the past two years is “G.” Here is his story:

“At the end of two years working for Toyota in China, it seemed I had everything but hope. I was not happy; my life was meaningless. I didn’t know the reason for living...therefore, I began being interested in Christianity and wanted to know more about Who is Jesus, Who is God, Who is Holy Spirit?

Fast-forward to when I arrived here and was helped by my host family, a very faithful Christian couple. They explained Christianity to me, took me to church, and led by their examples. They were peaceful and joyful. I asked them a silly question, “Why?” and they told me because of Jesus. They also told me, “God has a plan for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future, even long before you know Him.”

Then, I looked back on my life. That was obviously God’s plan for me and these were God’s blessings to change my life. I do not deserve anything. It is all about grace. So I wanted to become a Christian and wanted to follow him and serve him.

After I put my faith in Him and gave my life to Christ, compared to my old life’s emptiness, my whole world has been changed and filled. There is always a purpose of my life here on earth, which is to live out the love, joy and peace Christ has given to us in order to function as intended to the glory of God.” ■

# In Memory of Charlie Shearer



**ON** September 19, 2014, Charles (Charlie) Shearer passed into the arms of Jesus. Charlie had been a member of the COM staff since 1992 and a member of the COM Board prior to that. He served in several capacities, the most recent being Director of Church Relations. He had a heart for people and a heart for missions. He initiated the “Piggy Bank Fund” so Bibles would be available to give to the China scholars studying on U.S. campuses. He and his wife Jan have served tirelessly to advance the cause of Christ. He will be missed. Memorials can be made to COM for the Piggy Bank Fund. ■

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*Special gifts and contributions to the ministry of COM*

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to save the date  
for our SPRING  
CELEBRATION  
DINNER event  
in your area.

**Harrisburg, PA area**  
Thursday, March 12

**Washington, DC area**  
Friday, March 13

**Baltimore, MD area**  
Friday, March 23

**Canton, OH area**  
Monday, March 23

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