



CHINA  
OUTREACH  
MINISTRIES

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

# IMPACT

*Together, Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders*



## Full Assurance of Hope

Seeing Jesus for the  
First Time

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SPRING/SUMMER 2021

# IMPACT

*Together, Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders*

*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.*

**What would you like to see more often in IMPACT?**

**Send us your ideas!**

**Email Tara Miller:**

**[tmiller@chinaoutreach.net](mailto:tmiller@chinaoutreach.net)**



**A higher standard  
a higher purpose**

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



*“You can cut all the flowers,  
but you cannot keep  
spring from coming”*

— Pablo Neruda, the Chilean recipient  
of the Nobel Prize in Literature

# We Live in Hope

*By Daniel Su, COM President*

**SPRING IS HERE**, and hope is in the air! Birds are chirping and daffodils are dancing in the warm breeze. Effective vaccines are making it safer for us to meet and gather with our loved ones and friends.

Looking back, we had a challenging year in 2020 when our in-person ministry activities were canceled. But we soon adapted to new realities, trying new things and increasing our online activities. We have kept our hope alive through the pandemic.

Ministry events were changed, but our hope in Christ was not. Travel was halted, but our caring for each other was not. God has continued to give hope to many Chinese students around us. They have continued to embrace the hope found in Christ, and some have even been baptized in the midst of the pandemic.

Here at COM, we are most hopeful for 2021. We are hoping more students from China will come to America; we are hoping that more and more Bible study can be done in person with Chinese students; and we are hoping we will be able to meet in person for our annual staff conference.

Of all our hopes, the greatest is our hope in Christ, “the hope of glory”—the hope this world cannot offer. COVID-19 has shown how vulnerable we are as human beings. Life and death is becoming a more relevant topic among Chinese students. What a great time it is to share with them the greatest hope we have in Christ!

Do you cherish our hope in Christ? If yes, let’s share it! ■



STOCK PHOTO

# Seeing Jesus for the First Time

*Shared by an anonymous staff member*

**LONG BEFORE** Jessica knew Jesus, his grace was at work in her life. After a long and difficult journey, God opened her eyes to the truth about herself and his offer of salvation.

## The Prelude

Growing up in China, all Jessica knew of Christianity was the Bible’s creation story—and this didn’t fit her evolutionary worldview. She thought people who believed the Bible must not be knowledgeable, and she developed a negative impression of Christians.

Jessica’s perceptions of Christianity were rattled, however, when her aunt and uncle—brilliant university scholars—began to follow Jesus. Like Jessica, they had recently moved to the United States for academic pursuits, and Jessica was surprised by their interest in Christianity. She wondered, *Why would smart people like you believe in God?*

## Jessica’s Search for Answers

Jessica had many intellectual questions for her aunt and uncle. They tried to answer her questions, took her to church, and shared Bible teaching videos. She began to develop an understanding of Christianity, but the foundation was shallow.

As Jessica was searching for knowledge, she was also caught in a deep emotional struggle. She was angry with her parents, lonely, and distrustful of authority.

Through a local Christian fellowship, Jessica met a leader who was truly knowledgeable about God. She began to inundate him with questions as if it were an atheist-Christian debate. He realized she needed help at a deeper lev-

el and introduced her to a female friend, “San,” a staff member of China Outreach Ministries.

San was patient and non-judgmental. She didn’t give quick answers as others had. San became a trusted friend, and Jessica began to share honestly with her about her inner struggles.

## **An Emotional Crisis**

Deep loneliness had begun to overtake Jessica, and nothing could satisfy her. She had grown up to be spoiled and self-centered, and resentment toward her parents welled up. They had divorced when she was only two, and now she blamed them for her problems.

Jessica began dating a young man in the fellowship group. She found, though, that she couldn’t control her anger and she didn’t really know how to love. In desperation, she broke up with the boyfriend and found herself mad at God.

Plagued with doubts about herself, Jessica’s self-image was shattered. She didn’t know who she was.

## **A Turning Point**

After completing her undergraduate degree, Jessica went back to China for a while. She distanced herself from her father and lived with her mom until she returned to the United States for graduate school. Surprisingly, her mom began praying for her. Though Jessica didn’t realize it at the time, this was an important part of what would happen next.

San was also praying, and she gave Jessica a book, *Love Walked Among Us*. Jessica devoured the content of the book and began to try to practice the principles. She began taking responsibility for

her mistakes. Still, her heart was not yet changed.

Jessica went back to the Bible study group, and she read the Bible. She started presenting her hard questions to God. For three months, every day she would take a walk and pour out her complaints to him. She found a promise in the Bible, that God would delight in a broken spirit and contrite heart.

Then, the amazing turn happened—surrender. Jessica simply believed God. She had never felt so loved, and her heart was drawn to him. Jessica realized her sin and her need for a savior. She trusted Jesus to rescue her.

She remembers, “I saw Jesus for the first time.”

## **Jessica’s New Life**

After accepting Jesus, Jessica’s relationships with her parents began to change, and she led her mom to Christ. Jessica realized that her dad, a successful businessman, loved his daughter very much, yet didn’t know how to love in Jesus’ way.

Last fall, for the first time ever, Jessica celebrated her birthday with both parents. Due to the pandemic, San and the COM group planned an online party for her, and she invited her family in China. During the party, Jessica repented and apologized to her dad for shifting blame on him. With tears in her eyes, she thanked him for loving her.

Both families cried with joy. Jessica’s dad, an atheist, kept praising: “I saw the power of your God who can change people. Thank you so much, God!” At the end, he blessed Jessica to live out her life according to her own wishes. What kind of life does Jessica wish to live? Of course, a life of daily dying and rising with Jesus! ■



Banner is translated “Please Come Back”

## Rejoicing in Hope

*Whatever the circumstances of recent months, COM staff have learned to “rejoice in hope” (Romans 12:12). Here are a few hope-filled glimpses from campus ministry.*

■ The Lord has saved Dr. Evan, and he is blessing others with agape flowing out of his new heart. I recently received this message from Dr. Evan after he returned to China: “I now find I am more gentle and helpful to my patients and my medical students because of the kindness and love you taught me that I’ve got from God.” Please pray for Dr. Evan, as his family doesn’t understand the God he found here.

— **Joe Sullivan**  
*California*

■ We have been encouraged by our national field director, Glenn Kenadjian, to try new ways of connecting with Chinese students for spiritual conversations during this difficult online era.

I tried his suggestion of arranging personal interviews with students via Zoom to discuss their attitudes toward life and faith.

When I interviewed one student I have known for several months, he was very open and honest. He has experienced a lot of hardships and has deeply seen the dark side of human nature. When I asked about his view of Christianity, he said he felt God’s hands in his life. I felt his heart was ready, so I decided to share the basic core truth with him. He fully agreed with what I said, and he wanted to receive Jesus Christ as his Savior and the Lord of his life. Wow, what a joyful surprise!

— **Merlyne Wu**  
*Pennsylvania*

■ Yari is a new Chinese friend who lost her mother last year and has been sad and lonely. I found out that she would like to play tennis, so I invited her to play, and I ended up “coaching” her. After a few times, she started to trust me, and I invited her for an afternoon tea to tell her of Jesus’ salvation. She was more than ready to accept the Lord as her personal Savior, and she burst into tears of relief upon praying.

— **Meiyun Hoyle**  
*Virginia*



■ Our ESL group left to go back to China. We waved goodbye, held up banners, and cried a few tears. I thought maybe that would be the last I would hear from most of them. But our core group continued to meet with us virtually from week to week, even when it wasn’t required by their teacher. In fact, we had more students than usual! While many of us are suffering from Zoom fatigue, Zoom is still the best hope we have of continuing our relationships with students who go back to China. These students are very attached to my volunteers and me, and I hope that we can still shine a light in their lives.

— **Brenda Harris**  
*California*

■ Three sisters will be baptized at our Chinese church this spring: a visiting scholar, a PhD student, and a student’s mother. We pray that God will continue to strengthen them!

— **Danny Geng**  
*Washington*

■ Our YouTube ministry, Young Generation for Jesus (YG4J), is growing! Through the videos we create, we share testimonies, daily life, worship, and faith dialogues between peers. We now have a multifaceted team with



undergraduates, graduates, and young professionals, including participants from other campuses in the US. Since last summer, we have created 36 videos with nearly 10,000 views and 180 followers. Through this ministry, we share the good news and show the world, as Christians, how we are positively living during the pandemic with great hope.

— **Yongming Tian**  
*New Mexico*



# The Church on Mission

*By Tara Miller, Editor*

**WITHIN THE CONGREGATION** of Evangelical Chinese Church of Seattle, many of the members have a distinctive, life-transforming experience in common—they met Jesus as college students in America. This background has forged a unity and passion in the church, and they are eager to reach out to the next generation of Chinese students.

Pastor Alex Cui describes the church's student ministry as part of a missional movement to bless the nations. As the population of Chinese students in the area has noticeably increased in recent years, he says, "The Lord opened our eyes to see the mission field coming to our home."

Today ECC is engaged in multi-faceted campus outreach and discipleship, and the church actively partners with Danny Geng, a staff member of China Outreach Ministries. Several members of the church, including Danny, serve together as the leadership team. Ministry includes an undergraduate fellowship, a graduate student ministry, and an out-

reach to visiting scholars.

Church members are counselors for the young students, and through regular Bible study, they nurture the students in God's Word. Outreach events, such as a Chinese New Year celebration, provide opportunities for volunteers to connect with new students.

Danny values his partnership with ECC, as they provide resources for expanding his work. In his first year with the church, he presented the ministry to more than 20 small groups, and many members wanted to be part. When he organizes big events, for example, volunteers cook the food, provide trans-



*“The Lord opened our eyes to see the mission field coming to our home.”*

— Pastor Alex Cui, Evangelical Chinese Church of Seattle

portation, decorate, greet, and serve.

Another hallmark of ECC’s ministry is a partnership with local English-language churches and missions organizations. Together, the partners host discipleship retreats and other events for students.

Pastor Cui describes the relationship with the English-language churches as “precious.” He says that “cooperation has great advantages” as they mutually benefit one another. The Chinese churches have a natural bridge to the Chinese students with an understanding of the worldview and culture. The English-language churches bring passionate people who expand the opportunities for outreach. The ministry is stronger as the churches complement one another.

As the needs of students and scholars have changed over the years, so have ECC’s ministry models. Pastor Cui describes two particular pivotal movements during the last several years.

First, in 2015, the church purchased a house on the campus of the University of Washington to serve as a “station” for ministry. **Because it was increasingly difficult to get the students to come to church, ECC decided to go to them.** Pastor Cui says this was a means for more active engagement in student life—a “bridge” to the Chinese students on campus.

Next, the church had to respond to the unexpected changes brought about by the pandemic in 2020. With the forced physical separation, ECC turned to virtual communication. This brought a new development of reconnecting with returnees in China. Through Zoom meetings, church leaders and volunteers began to regularly meet with new believers for intentional discipleship.

A key element of ECC’s thriving college ministry is the devotion of the church’s leaders. “All the leadership have a heart for this,” Pastor Cui explains. COM’s Danny Geng agrees, “the mindset of the church leaders is so important.”

Another vital element, Pastor Cui says, is the heart commitment of the volunteers who are involved. **“It doesn’t work to assign people to ministries,” he explains. “They must have passion.”**

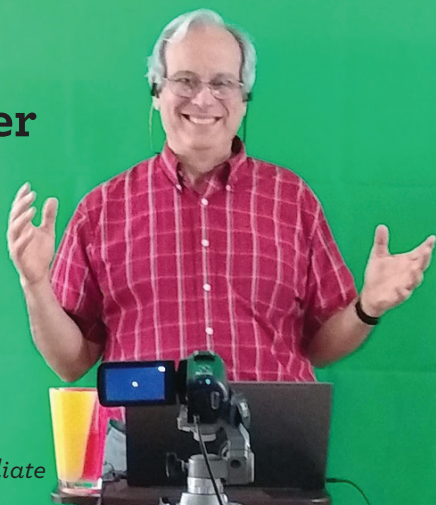
To churches just getting started in international student ministry, Pastor Cui offers wise advice. “Get to know some individual students,” he encourages. “Make a friend.” **He emphasizes that it’s not about how many students are involved, but about the quality of the relationships.**

In beginning or expanding a new ministry, Pastor Cui and Danny Geng suggest that leaders bring together a small group of passionate people to serve. Pastor Cui summarizes, “Wherever the Lord leads is your mission ground.” ■

*To explore how your church can get started or expand your current ministry to Chinese students and scholars, contact your local COM campus staff member or Beau Miller, COM Director of Church Partnerships, [bmiller@chinaoutreach.net](mailto:bmiller@chinaoutreach.net).*

# A Different Kind of Campus Minister

*An Interview with  
Glenn Kenadjian,  
Director of Campus  
Ministries*



*Interview By Bill Horlacher, COM Affiliate*

**IN HIS 27 YEARS** of service with COM, Glenn Kenadjian has served in multiple roles. First, he launched the COM ministry at the University of Minnesota in 1994, and then in 1999 he added the positions of Midwest Area Director and Director of Training.

After the death of his first wife, Bridget, in 2011, Glenn took a 2014 sabbatical in Florida. There he met Teresa Ng, and they were married in 2015. In 2019, he became COM's Director of Campus Ministries, providing leadership and guidance for COM's overall campus ministry. He also serves as one of the

leadership team members on the national level.

**Not long ago, you told me that you're not a typical international student minister. Could you elaborate on that?**

Most people in international student ministry are very relational. That wasn't me. Although I'm okay in working with people, I'm not particularly gifted in this area. But I realized that some relationally gifted people aren't so organized. And I thought, *well, maybe I can be involved in organizing more*

*relationally strong people in ministry and in developing COM's structure.*

**Do you have the spiritual gift of administration?**

Yes, I'd say I have the gifts of administration and teaching.

**What would COM be like if all the workers were "typical" international student ministers?**

I think you'd have a lot of people doing a great job in personal ministry, but it might not be multiplied. It might not be as broad as it would be by mobilizing and training others. Honestly, because the ministry is so labor intensive, I think fewer Chinese would be reached.

On the other hand, for example, when I worked with COM at the University of Minnesota, I contacted local churches to recruit volunteers to host a Chinese student for a day. This led over the years to hundreds of volunteers involved in various ways.



*(Photo left) When COM staff could not meet in person for the annual staff conference in 2020, Kenadjian stepped up as organizer and moderator of the first-ever virtual conference.*

### **What do you especially love about COM?**

I feel like we're a healthy organization. There's a deep commitment to the Lord. And I think our values are reflected throughout the organization—pursuing Christlikeness and a spirit of cooperation within the broader body of Christ. God has blessed us with a great variety of staff, and I love that we're a combination of Chinese and Americans working together. Roughly 30% of our staff are Chinese.

### **What has been the most exciting outcome of your ministry with COM?**

The most exciting outcome is when Chinese come to faith and become leaders for the Lord—especially when they make a difference for Christ back in China.

### **Do you have a favorite story to tell?**

Yes, there was once a new PhD student from China who I picked up at the airport. I was going to take her to campus, but first she called her professor. After

she made that call, she had a shocked look on her face and said, “My professor told me not to come. He gave my position to someone else.”

So we got a lot of people praying for her, and one of our volunteers found a Christian college that was willing to take her tuition-free. There she became a Christian, and all kinds of incredible things happened. She led a number of other people to Christ.

### **How would you like people to pray for you?**

Pray that I keep my number one priority to seek the Lord, to experience him and listen to him. Pray for my energy and health. And pray for the growth and depth of the overall ministry.

This is a challenging time with so many obstacles, especially due to COVID-19 and pressure some students and scholars have to not get involved in Christian activities. Our staff have been creative in adjusting to these challenges, and we look forward to what God will do! ■

*In his role, Kenadjian orients new campus ministry staff from across the country.*





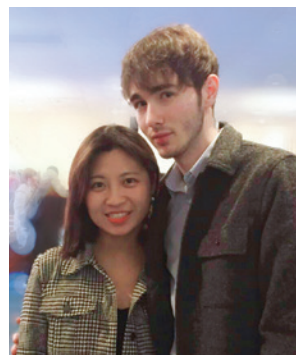
## ■ Mountain West Area

COM is delighted to welcome two new Chinese staff members who will be working at universities in the southwestern United States. Due to security concerns, we are not able to publish their names, photos, or specific locations.

## ■ Alden and Olivia Ulman, Mid-Atlantic Area

As newlyweds, Alden and Olivia Ulman have joined COM

to follow God's call to serve Chinese students. Both Alden and Olivia recently completed degrees in Biblical Studies and TESOL. Since his graduation, Alden has worked as an online teacher for a Chinese school. As Alden and Olivia begin partnership development and staff training, they will prayerfully seek discernment on the location where they will serve.



## Culture|wise

### Did You Know . . .

#### ✓ **Hugging is not a culture norm for Chinese.**

My own marriage and family are an example. Stephen is Caucasian, and I am Chinese. It's very normal and natural for me to hug Stephen's relatives, but not the extended family members on my side of the family.

#### ✓ **Giving compliments is not as expected in Chinese culture.**

Americans tend to give compliments freely while Chinese are not as expressive in giving compliments and may be a bit uncomfortable when receiving compliments. It is also a cultural expectation that we do not show off our own kin. Chinese culture does not emphasize individualism, but values each person as part of a family or group.

## Bridging Cross-Cultural Differences with Chinese Friends

*By Meiyun Hoyle, Campus Staff, Virginia*

#### ✓ **Chinese appreciate practical gifts.**

Another common difference is that Chinese tend to be very practical. For example, rather than sending a birthday card, for about the same cost I could send a notebook or a simple book. Chinese friends are more likely to appreciate a gift to be used or kept.

#### ✓ **People in China are more likely than Americans to "drop in" without an invitation or notification.**

Chinese are often more flexible about visiting with friends, and a host will typically invite the guest to stay for dinner by just adding a pair of chopsticks. In ministry, I welcome anyone who wants to come at the last minute, and he or she may even end up sleeping on the floor in our home that night! ■



# Revisiting IRA Rollovers

*By Kirk Zuercher, Director of Development*

**WITH THE PASSING** of the Secure Act in December of 2019, a person can now wait until age 72 to start taking the required minimum distributions (RMD) from an IRA. Qualified charitable distributions (QCD) are still allowed starting at age 70.5. IRA owners can annually direct up to \$100,000 of IRA dollars to be paid directly to 501(c)3 organizations, such as China Outreach Ministries.

## How This Might Look

Tom and Sue, both in their 70s, have donated to China Outreach Ministries (COM) for years. With the new tax laws, they no longer itemize their deductions but take the standard deduction instead. Now that they are over 72, they are required by law to take an RMD from their individual IRA. This money is not needed right now, so they have decided to start charitable gifting from the IRA.

To improve their tax situation, Tom and Sue have learned that they can give up to \$100,000 per year from the RMD that will not be counted as taxable income. They do not get a charitable deduction for these gifts, but it does keep them from having to pay more taxes due to a higher tax bracket and could help keep their social security payments from being taxed as well.

## Bottom Line

Cash donations are not the only way a person can donate to China Outreach Ministries. Other types of gifts can be leveraged differently. Sometimes, saving additional taxes on a gift allows donors to do more with their donations, both now and in the future. The example above is meant for illustration only and is not considered tax, legal, or financial advice. Always consult a financial professional for specifics on your personal situation.

We know there are many options out there, and we're here to help. For more information, please contact Kirk Zuercher by email [kzuercher@chinaoutreach.net](mailto:kzuercher@chinaoutreach.net) or at 717-591-3500. ■

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 Honor of**

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### **Ruth Hummer**

Ms. Vera Glasgow

## **Hummer Memorial**

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Mr. & Mrs. Mel Blowers

Ms. Vera Glasgow

## **In Memory of**

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### **Rebecca Chan Chung, WWII Flying Tigers**

Dr. Deborah Chung

### **Earnest Hummer**

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## **Why I Give to COM**

*It is our great privilege to play a role in God's Kingdom by supporting those who are on the front lines. May God bless and multiply!*

— a COM Donor

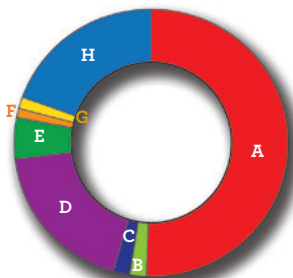
## **Digital Donations**

Give online by scanning the China Outreach Ministries **new** QR code. 📱



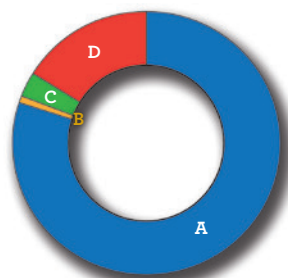
# Steadfast Hope in Uncertain Times

**THE YEAR 2020** was a time like none other in the history of China Outreach Ministries. A global pandemic, however, could not stop God's transforming work in the lives of Chinese students and scholars. As our staff and volunteers adapted ministry models for the new context, we continued steadfastly in hope, *Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders*.



**Sources of Support**

- A) Individuals ...\$2,435,556
- B) Directors ..... \$86,235
- C) Staff ..... \$99,051
- D) Churches ..... \$884,728
- E) Foundations ... \$240,523
- F) Businesses .....\$65,557
- G) Organizations .. \$58,502
- H) Other ..... \$928,037
- Total** ..... **\$4,798,189**



**Distribution of Funds**

- A) Campus ..... \$3,063,881
- B) Returnees ..... \$24,547
- C) Development .. \$118,442
- D) Administration \$611,240
- Total** ..... **\$3,818,110**



**91,368**

Chinese scholars and students on campuses where COM staff are located

**5,597**

Chinese exposed to the gospel

**129**

Professions of faith

**56**

Baptisms

**86**

Staff Members

**630**

Volunteers



**677**

Chinese scholars and students who received intentional discipleship



**123**

New Chinese Christians returning to China



**72**

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

The information above is unaudited. To obtain a copy of the audited version when available, please contact COM headquarters at 717-591-3500 or com@chinaoutreach.net.


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**In April,** it was a joy to host our first two in-person *celebration dinners* in almost two years. We had a strong turnout in both locations—Canton, Ohio, and Erie, Pennsylvania—as we celebrated what God is doing in the lives of Chinese students and scholars. We know that God continues to change lives even in these uncertain times. To those who joined us, thank you. It was great to see you all. We hope to see many more of you at future celebrations!