



CHINA  
OUTREACH  
MINISTRIES

FALL 2021

# IMPACT

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

## Trusting God, Moving Forward

New School  
Year, Back on  
Campus  
Page 2

Getting the  
Gospel Out  
More and More  
—Reflections from  
a COM Donor  
Page 6

Most Precious  
Gems  
—A Chinese  
Student's Discovery  
Page 8

FALL 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**

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



555 Gettysburg Pike, Suite A-200  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
[com@chinaoutreach.net](mailto:com@chinaoutreach.net)  
717-591-3500  
[www.ChinaOutreach.org](http://www.ChinaOutreach.org)

**Follow us on Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/ChinaOutreach](http://www.facebook.com/ChinaOutreach)

## CONTENTS

- 1 DANIEL SU REFLECTS ON MOVING FORWARD**  
*Trust and Obey amid Uncertainties*
- 2 SNAPSHOTS FROM COM STAFF**  
*Welcome to a New City*  
*Trusting God, Moving Forward on Campus*
- 5 NEW STAFF**
- 6 DONOR TESTIMONY**  
*Getting the Gospel Out More and More*
- 8 CHINESE STUDENT TESTIMONY**  
*Most Precious Gems*
- 10 NATIONAL STAFF CONFERENCE**  
*Deeper Still*
- 12 GIFT BEARERS**
- 13 CULTURE-WISE**  
*Welcoming Chinese Students and Scholars to Our Communities*

*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*



STOCK PHOTO

# Trust and Obey amid Uncertainties

*By Daniel Su, COM President*

**OUR HOPE HAS COME TRUE**, and prayers were answered when the US consulates in China resumed visa services earlier this year for Chinese students and scholars to come to America. Humanly speaking, this seems to be the US government's decision, but behind it all I believe it was God's invisible hand at work. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that these future leaders of China would come to America without his blessings? Here at COM, we are encouraged by such positive developments.

Still, we are facing plenty of uncertainties. *Will COVID cases surge again in the fall and winter? Will the growing tension between the United States and China negatively impact our ministry among the Chinese?* We do not know the answers to such questions, but what we do know is that God continues to bring Chinese students to America now, and he will lead our ministry into the future.

Despite the uncertainties, we are moving forward in faith. We simply want to trust and obey. We trust because we know God alone holds the future; we obey because he has called us to serve, and we want to be faithful.

This fall, from coast to coast, our staff and volunteers are welcoming many Chinese students and scholars and will be building relationships. May I invite you to join us with your prayer and support so that many may know the hope we have in Christ?





## Welcome to a New City

**Chinese students and scholars often move from one location to another in the United States as they progress in their academic pursuits, engage in Optional Practical Training, or establish employment. One benefit of COM is that we have staff across the country and can help our Chinese friends transition to new locations. One staff member shares this recent story.**

The email message read: *We know a young Chinese couple and their son who are moving to Philadelphia in May or June. He is finishing at the university here and has accepted a position in Pennsylvania. Both are believers. Would you please connect us to the COM rep on that campus?*

This request came in late March from friends in the church my family began attending during my late childhood. These friends, along with other members of their church, minister to international students and scholars on several campuses in their metropolitan area.

Immediately, I contacted COM staff member Gregg Smyrl in Philadelphia to

ask which COM staff member would be the appropriate contact for this young family. Within 12 hours, an email reply confirmed that Franny Nong would be the best connection. I shared Franny's contact information with my friends, and—in less than 24 hours from my receiving the request—a connection had begun with Franny in Philly.

An email from my friend the next day confirmed God's provision. Her note read: Thank you for this help. God is ahead of them, preparing the way. This has made my Chinese friend, Li, so happy, and she said she feels connected already. Praise God!

As the family prepared to move to Philadelphia, Franny assisted them



in several ways. Li is especially excited that her young son will have new friends immediately when they arrive in Philadelphia, since Franny has two young sons near his age. In addition, they will be connected with other believers and assisted with needs related to the transition.

Having been helped by COM staff when she was a student, Franny understands well this ministry of welcoming new

students to campus. Other Chinese now receive help from her as they arrive. We are thankful that this story repeats itself on many campuses throughout America each fall as COM staff welcome and assist new Chinese students and scholars, whether they arrive from China or another location in the United States.

— Dorothy Boothe  
Georgia

## Trusting God, Moving Forward on Campus

**After a year and a half of exploring new ways of reaching out to Chinese students and scholars, COM staff are ready to bring back some favorite activities that have been on hold. The spirit of innovation carries on, however, as they continue to try new things, too!**



One of my favorite activities is to have outings with students. I enjoy it because I can get to know more of the students in a very natural way, so that I know how to strengthen our friendship. I plan to do outreach activities on a monthly basis in the fall semester.

— Merlyne Wu  
Pennsylvania

We began contacting newcomers before they arrived in the United States, to offer practical services and to make plans to welcome them upon their arrival. This was also an opportunity to invite them to attend some of our regular online meetings such as English classes and American culture classes before they left home!

— Casey Liu  
Florida

One of THE best connection points for us has been the FOCUS Furnishings Giveaway where incoming students choose items for their apartments or dorms. It's a go again this year! Besides airport pickups, this is where we meet over half of our new friends from China. We also get to reconnect with those whom we perhaps picked up at the airport earlier in the month or at a "Welcome to America" house party.



— **Duane & Jodi Decker**  
*Oregon*

One of our local churches is relocating to a new facility just a few blocks from campus. The building is being renovated to create a large international student ministry center, including meeting space, offices, and a coffee shop for drop-ins. We anticipate synergy as ISMs are working together in a collegial, collaborative spirit. We MOST look forward to restarting in-person Bible study in the fall, hopefully at the new location!

— **Tom Lindstrom**  
*Minnesota*

We are looking forward to once again having welcome dinners for students! Hosted by local churches, these dinners provide food, fun, and fellowship with opportunities to meet and become Friendship and English partners with local American volunteers.

— **Danny & Susan Forte**  
*New York*

We are looking to develop “affinity groups” where we pair an older and younger volunteer to lead a group in a particular interest area such as sports, cooking, art, car mechanics, etc. We hope this will generate closer relationships and lead to biblical conversations and study in a smaller more intimate atmosphere.

— **Brenda Harris**  
*California*

After over a year and a half of not having trips, I hope to be able to offer tours of beautiful western landscapes and state and national parks. We’ve had some wonderful bonding in the past on trips, which often led to doing Bible studies together afterwards, and we’ve seen some Chinese friends put their trust in Christ because of friendships formed in close quarters.

— **Joe Sullivan**  
*California*

The Big Howdy party at UT Arlington welcomes all new international students. Each organization is allowed to set up a table to share their ministry, and I am planning to participate and hand out flyers about our future activities. We are also planning two welcome events on campus and at a home. My home church is encouraging each of our life groups to adopt one or two students to help them during their first few months, and I plan to start contacting churches and individuals for one-on-one conversation partnership for Chinese students.

— *Jessica Ren*  
*Texas*

“Tabling” is when organizations place a table along a sidewalk or on a designated city site to connect with people walking by. I have received a tabling permit from the city, for a location on the UW-Madison grounds, to meet internationals. This will provide an opportunity to welcome and invite them to an event.

— *Kyler Westerfeldt*  
*Wisconsin*

## Pray for Our New Missionaries



### ■ Lee Yadav, California

Following God’s personal call to preach the gospel, Lee Yadav joins COM staff as he is completing an MDiv in Pastoral Ministry at the Talbot School of Theology at Biola University. Originally from northwestern India, Lee earned his undergraduate degree and an MBA from universities in India. He worked in India and in the UAE, and then as CEO of a company in China. While also serving a church in China, he was inspired toward ongoing Chinese ministry as he saw young people coming to Christ.

### ■ 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 staff member’s name, photo, or specific location.







# Getting the Gospel Out More and More

By Tara Miller, *IMPACT* Editor

**GIVING TO GOD'S WORK IS NOT NEW FOR KEN.** The motivation behind his giving, however, has taken a new direction in recent years.

Growing up in a Christian family and following the example of his faithful parents, Ken has been a lifelong tither. For years, though, while he freely set aside “God’s share,” he says he otherwise tended to think about his earnings as *his* money.

As Ken continued to give, however, the Bible’s teachings on stewardship began to take him to a new realization, an understanding he still believes today—*that God owns it all*. “I don’t always treat it that way,” Ken acknowledges, “but I do totally believe that.” He says he no

longer thinks of possessions as God’s portion/my portion, but all as belonging to God.

One way Ken has practiced what he believes is by regular giving through his business, an industrial manufacturer in southwestern New York.

The company’s heritage of giving is one that started more than 50 years ago with Ken’s parents. Ken and his brother, Rod, who both grew up in the business and now operate the company, continue the stewardship commitment today. As the business is profitable, the broth-



ers designate a portion of the profits to missions.

Giving to missions has brought unexpected blessings for Ken. For example, he and his wife, Monika, began supporting a particular missionary their first year of marriage. Now 36 years later, they not only continue their financial partnership with this missionary but have maintained a close friendship Ken describes as an “iron-sharpens-iron” relationship. “It’s motivating and a learning opportunity,” he says, “an opportunity to share your life.”

Ken’s relationship with China Outreach Ministries (COM) is also something that was passed down from his parents. They began giving from their business profits in the 1960s as they got to know leaders in the organization, which at that time was the American branch of Chinese Overseas Christian Mission (COCM/USA).

Today, the company continues the decades-long commitment of giving to COM. Ken is enthusiastic about the work of COM because of the ministry’s focus. “It’s a good way to get the gospel


message into China,” he says.

Looking forward, Ken is excited to be part of a growing organization like COM that is, “getting the gospel out more and more.” He is optimistic about the future, as he sees COM continually expanding to more campuses. “COM has a good plan and good leadership,” he says.

As Ken considers his role in the work of missions, he remembers that God gives each of us a different part to play. While some are called to go to the field through vocational ministry, others are vital in supporting that work through financial partnership. “We each need to do what God has given us to do,” he emphasizes.

As Ken encourages others to give to missions, he says, “God loves a cheerful giver.” He points out that the Bible teaches us simply to give as God enables and to follow his leading.

“It is God who has enabled me to give,” Ken says. “We’re all depending on him, right?” ■



*If God has enabled you to give financially this year, will you consider a gift to China Outreach Ministries? Contributions for designated staff members further the work in a specific location or through a particular ministry focus. Gifts to the COM General Fund facilitate ministry growth through mobilization of new staff and churches, training of new workers, and essential administrative support for COM missionaries across the country.*

A young man and woman are sitting on a blue couch, reading a book together. The woman is wearing a blue and white striped sweater, and the man is wearing a white sweater and glasses. They are both looking at the book with interest. The background shows a window with a view of a city skyline.

# Most Precious Gems

*By Ting, a Chinese student  
recently in America*

**IT HAS BEEN AN AMAZING JOURNEY** getting to know the Lord and continuing to walk with him.

When I first arrived in the United States as an exchange student, I was overwhelmed by the language and cultural differences. I felt like I was a stranger, and I was lonely.

Soon, I got a few opportunities to meet up and talk with some Christians. They always tried to find all kinds of things to help me. Their sincerity, passion, and kindness flowed out of them, and I was deeply moved by it. I felt so comfortable and warm to be with them, as if I was with my family.

Gradually, the weekly gathering times with these Christians became part of

my life. But this was not the reason I eventually became a believer. The journey was actually marked by countless conversations I had with the Lord deep down in my heart. I could feel that I became closer to him, and I could give myself to him.

I have learned that the Lord lives near us, speaking to our hearts so many times. He may call on us, but we do not always hear him. It is as if we are sleeping. We are most likely to be woken up by God when big trials come into our lives, because those are the moments we realize that we are desperately in need of his help.

One example for me was when the pandemic hit us last year. I had to face many challenges in my life. Could I still graduate? Could I still go back to China? Would I be infected with the virus if I flew back? Each one of the questions made me anxious and worried. I lifted up these questions to God daily, listening and waiting for his guidance.

When I first studied the Bible, I always judged whatever was there from my materialistic philosophical viewpoint. I thought that many stories were impossible. This blocked me from believing in the Lord. But slowly, I found that materialism won't solve the problems of our souls, especially in society today. We are all tempted with external, tangible things, and we focus our lives on them, but we rarely think about our own hearts and souls. The Holy Spirit does work in our hearts. It may not be tangible or visible, but can be felt.

Eventually, the questions and doubts I had about the Bible did not stop me from believing in the Lord. Then I was baptized a month before I went back to China. With God's help and blessings, everything went smoothly as I returned home and graduated. The Lord was pro-

tecting me so the worries I had were not turned into reality. Praise Him!

When you calm down and come to the Lord, knowing that you can trust him, I have found that he indeed will help you. He will give you strength and faith. I have found I can feel his guidance, so that I know what decisions to make.

Throughout my journey, I have found out that the questions and confusion you have when you read the Bible won't be barriers for you to believe in him anymore. Once you have a relationship with the Lord and start to study his Word, you will eventually find the answers. The Holy Spirit will gradually fill your heart and will bring a breakthrough to your life.

This is what is required to grow spiritually. The words that come from the Holy Spirit are like the most precious gems—they are never naturally exposed—you will have to discover, examine, feel, and taste them yourself.

I'm grateful for my trip to the USA, that I got to know the Lord and became his child. This is the most fortunate experience I have, and I can gladly boast about it in my life. ■

*Ting and her husband, Chao, both became Christians through their involvement with the COM ministry at their university. Now living in China again, they continue to meet virtually with a COM staff couple for discipleship. Recently Ting has been sharing the gospel with her mother!*

**As you pray,** please remember students and scholars like Ting who have returned to China after becoming believers while in the United States. They will face new distractions, obstacles, and sometimes challenges because of their faith. Please ask for God's work in their lives, that they will:

- Continue steadfastly in their discipleship journey.
- Connect with other Christians for their growth and encouragement.
- Shine the light of Jesus to those around them.





*For the first time in more than two years, COM staff from across the country gathered in-person for our annual conference. There were almost 100 attendees for this highly-anticipated event, held at Caraway Conference Center in the mountains of central North Carolina.*

## **Trusting God, Moving Forward**

***By Vanessa Magnus, Campus Ministry Staff***

The theme of this issue of *IMPACT*, “Trusting God, Moving Forward” attracted my attention right away, especially as it related to our staff conference theme, “Deeper Still to Meet Our Challenges.” Greater challenges in life and ministry call for a deeper relationship with God and greater trust in him.

And indeed our challenges in this season of ministry to Chinese students have been great. Whether it’s limited access to students due to COVID-19, a shift of focus to reach a younger generation with different needs, or communicating the gospel in a way that’s relevant, we are quite aware of the challenges.

*Small group discussions provided time for prayer and sharing applications of conference content.*

Dr. Rob Reimer, one of our conference speakers and author of *Soul Care*, called us to build a deeper relationship with God as he emphasized, “The one irreplaceable need of our life is God’s presence.”



During our time together, we dived into the life of Moses and observed the transformation that happened gradually in his life as he grew to know God more deeply.

When Moses first encountered the God of his fathers at the burning bush, he hid his face. And when God commissioned him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, the question Moses asked—“Who am I?”—revealed that his world was self-centered. God’s answer shifted the attention back to himself, the source of Moses’s adequacy, when he simply stated: “I will be with you.” Answering God’s call wasn’t about Moses’s adequacy but about God’s presence.

Much later in Moses’s story we find him speaking with God face-to-face as one speaks with a friend. Not only that, but with a boldness not found with those who are unfamiliar in relationship, Moses asks God to show him his glory. How does one go from hiding one’s face in shame to the bold request of asking



*Informal time around the outdoor fire pit provided a chance for staff members to engage with one another in a relaxed setting.*

to see God’s glory?

“Walk in the light,” Dr. Reimer said. “And you need friends,” he added.

In the weeks leading up to the conference, we had been praying that we would come away changed—that God would do a deep, abiding work in our hearts that would live on. God is answering this prayer in my own life. ■

## REFLECTIONS FROM STAFF

*“God did speak to me—to be vulnerable, to pursue the presence of Christ, and most importantly, especially concerning things that I may find difficult or uncomfortable, it’s not about me!”*

**—Nick Romanin, Indiana**

*“I have greatly benefited from the reminder to foster deeper intimacy with God. Being encouraged to sow and reap, I will be more Christ-centered when sharing the gospel with the students.”*

**—Merlyne Wu, Pennsylvania**

*“I was encouraged as through other staff I made contact with two students coming to my campus this fall.”*

**—Rich Steiner, Michigan**

*“Staff conference is always my very favorite week each year as I get to spend time with and encourage and be encouraged by my COM family. I was extremely encouraged by meeting all the new (and young) staff the Lord has brought to COM. He must have a wonderful plan!”*

**—Susan Forte, New York**

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**

#### **Frank Armer**

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Randall

#### **Cathy Bidelspach**

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Dutson

#### **H Y Li**

Ms. Elaine Mo

### **Hummer Memorial**

Mr. William Hummer

### **In Memory of**

#### **Emily Chou**

Aihwa Chou

#### **Rev. Claude Joyner**

Mrs. Dolores Joyner

#### **Peiling Liu**

Zi Sardone

#### **Robert Walz**

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Chronister

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Deaver

Rev. & Mrs. Chris Deng

Mrs. Kathleen Tillman

Mrs. Prudence Walz

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

## **Why I Give to COM**



**"The love of God compels me.  
God has blessed us so much, and  
we want to share that blessing."**

**— Recent testimony from a COM Donor**

## **Digital Donations**

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





## Welcoming Chinese Students and Scholars to Our Communities

*Insights from COM campus staff members, JoJo Qiao and Joe Lorencz*

*Very few Chinese students arrived on American campuses during the past school year, but we are now seeing tens of thousands arriving for the fall semester. What do we need to be aware of to welcome them?*

### What's Different Now

**Qiao:** The total number of Chinese students has risen significantly in the last ten years, but the cultural and political barriers seem to be getting greater as well. Chinese students are so close to us when we walk on campus, but meanwhile, they seem to be more distant. We sometimes find it is getting harder to find a topic that will mutually interest both sides. They also tend to hang out with their own groups instead of reaching out to this land of wonders, and this makes it a challenge for us to know them really well personally.

**Lorencz:** The new students this fall will likely be wary of the current environment in the United States, including the high rates of COVID infections here. They may be concerned about the American reception of students from their country since they have heard of anti-Asian discrimination and violent crime against Asians in the United States.

### What We Need to Understand

**Qiao:** Before we see any Chinese student or scholar as a cultural, political, or academic symbol, or even a ministry target—we should see them as people. Though they may not share exactly the

same perspective, we all have common experiences and feelings. We all grieve traumas, get excited about our favorite sports, appreciate romance, and share common sense. You will find they are real, if you try to come closer to them.

### What We Can Do

**Lorencz:** As we welcome Chinese students and scholars, they need to see our loving hearts in action in practical ways. Then we will have the opportunity to get close to them and put them at ease. One way to connect with them is to offer to accompany them to places they would like to see, either locally or distant, but may be reluctant to go themselves or only with other Chinese friends.

**Qiao:** Please ask about their names and how their names are given by their families. Then remember those names. Invite them to your family gatherings. Explain some of the Geico or Liberty Mutual jokes to them, and listen to them explain what “*liu liu liu*” means in Chinese. Remember their birthdays. Take pictures for them and with them. Oh, of course, always give compliments about Chinese food. They will open up to you and smile like never before. ■

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

**PLEASE JOIN US**

# Fall Celebration Events

■ **BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

*Thursday, September 16*

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Martin's Valley Mansion

594 Cranbrook Road, Cockeysville

■ **DUBOIS, PENNSYLVANIA**

*Friday, October 1*

Luncheon at Noon

Luigi's Ristorante

32 N. Brady Street

■ **PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

*Tuesday, October 19*

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Drexelbrook

4700 Drexelbrook Drive, Drexel Hill

*COM celebration events include a delicious meal, special music, and uplifting ministry testimonies. Attendance is complimentary for all registered guests. Invite your friends and make plans to join us!*

*Register at [www.chinaoutreach.org](http://www.chinaoutreach.org).*

