



CHINA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

IMPACT

Together, Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders

Our Sure and Steadfast Anchor

Small Gesture,
Big Impact

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Reaching Gen Z
through Video

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Becoming a
Better

Teammate

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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



**A higher standard
a higher purpose**

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555 Gettysburg Pike, Suite A-200
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
com@chinaoutreach.net
717-591-3500

www.ChinaOutreach.org

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



How Do You Navigate?

By Daniel Su, COM President

THERE ARE PERILS AT SEA. I learned that as a child growing up in China's coastal city of Xiamen.

My dad worked as an engineer on a ship sailing along the coast, and I heard stories from him of shipwrecks and people drowning. Those were the days without GPS or the technologies we now take for granted; to sail was to take on unknown risks. And, because of that, I was named Baida at birth, which in Chinese means 100 percent safe arrival. So behind my name was my mom's prayer that my dad would always return home safely from his voyages.

I was always fascinated by navigation; I remember asking my dad about sailing at sea. I wanted to know how a ship could somehow orient itself even in the vast ocean and find its way. My dad told me, "The captain can always count on a compass to find its way home."

"But how?" I was curious.

"The compass always points to the north," he taught me. That was amazing to me, so I remember my first lesson on the principle of finding certainties in a sea of uncertainties.

Today, again we find ourselves living in a world of uncertainties—from growing US-China tensions to a brutal war raging in Ukraine. Facing a sea of perils, we need to find certainty to guide us forward. I find such certainty in God's promise: "... In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Indeed, God is still our compass as we navigate through this life. We can count on his faithfulness and steadfast love. And for that reason, we can move forward in faith and in confidence. ■



Finding the True Anchor

As our campus staff members build relationships with Chinese students and scholars, there are often opportunities to speak into the challenges and deep questions of their lives. Sharing the truth of the gospel from God's Word, these workers are pointing their Chinese friends to the one secure anchor.

■ A volunteer couple has invited four Chinese students to their home regularly to play games and be introduced to Jesus of the Bible. We have had four lessons so far, and they have been very engaged and asking lots of questions. None of the students had ever read from the Bible (or even held one!), or actually known Christian people. However, one student claimed he knew all about the Old Testament because, he said, "I watched the movie *Noah!*" Since American TV and movies are often the only window into American culture these students see, it is so important to develop relationships with them so they

can get to know REAL Americans, and Christians especially.

—**John & Karen Zondlo**
COLORADO

■ Our Chinese New Year party drew more than double the number of people who have been attending our events since the pandemic started. Many of the Chinese students who came were new to us. Along with a nice meal and games, we had Matthew Yi, a local volunteer, share in Chinese about "Blessings in the New Year." He shared his testimony and talked about what true blessings are.

One new Chinese student at this party, Jing, has since joined our online Tuesday night Bible study. My co-worker Casey met with her recently and shared the gospel. Jing has had a rough life, and she is not ready to trust in Christ yet—but she is quite open.

—**Glenn Kenadjian**
FLORIDA

■ Amia was so impressed by God’s mighty power and faithfulness that she accepted God as her heavenly Father and Jesus as her personal Savior after studying the Bible with us for one year. As Amia opened her heart to God, he poured loving affirmations into her heart through his Word and the sisters around her!

Recently, God brought to Amia a caring boyfriend. The two are determined to pursue a God-glorifying and gospel-centered relationship. My husband and I meet with them regularly and discuss various topics on marriage from a biblical viewpoint. We are often amazed by God’s love through their sharing. Yes, just as the Bible says, God has determined to be Amia’s faithful Father forever in Christ!

—**Sunny Zhang**
PENNSYLVANIA



■ It’s good to see what some returnees are doing back in China. I recently received a photo from Ella, who accepted the Lord and was baptized in our church when she was a student here. She now teaches the Bible to elementary school age students in her Chinese city!

—**Phoebe Hoyle**
VIRGINIA

■ “I want to follow Jesus with my whole life,” is how Jocelyn ended our meeting. She had been spiritually curious since joining a Bible study when she moved here. Once back in her home country, she showed a desire to continue studying the Bible, so we have been meeting weekly online.

A few weeks before stating she wanted to follow Jesus, Jocelyn had started saying “God wants us to honor him and listen to his Word.” We talked about what it means to join God’s family and that we are saved by grace. When she reached her turning point in faith, she decided that she was willing to follow at any cost. “Please help,” she prayed to the Lord, “and please increase my faith.”

—**Kyler Westerfeldt**
WISCONSIN





Small Gesture, Big Impact

A little kindness helps bring big change in a Chinese student's life.

Shared by an anonymous staff member

IT WAS JUST A SMALL GESTURE OF KINDNESS. At least that's how it seemed to the COM staff member, Paul, who offered that gesture. But it made all the difference in the world—and the world to come—for one student from China.

“Tian” had come from Beijing to a mid-Atlantic university to pursue a master's degree. He sporadically attended functions that were sponsored by the local COM ministry, yet he skipped the ones that included spiritual content.

“I thought the Bible might be very hard to understand.”

But then Christmas Eve of 2020 arrived, and Tian felt especially sad. With the campus deserted and his friends traveling in warmer places, Tian had nothing to do and no one to do it with.

A Timely Gift

“I was very lonely that day,” says Tian. “I didn’t have any friends or any activities. And then Paul came to my home to give me a Christmas gift. He said he didn’t want anybody to feel lonely at Christmas. That was very important to me at that time.”

Tian immediately decided to attend Paul’s gatherings more frequently. At first, he was thinking only of social opportunities such as sledding, but later he joined a Bible study that was offered over Zoom.

“I thought the Bible might be very hard to understand,” says Tian. “But after that first time, my impression totally changed. This was a good way for me to make new friends and learn something.”

Investigating the Gospel

And there was a lot for Tian to learn. He frankly admits he did not even believe in the existence of God when he arrived in America. And if he had believed in a god, he would have followed a Buddhist approach to that deity. “My grandmother is very deep in Buddhism,” he says, “and my dad always agreed with what my grandmother said.”

But after experiencing Christian kindness through Paul and ministry volunteers, Tian decided to learn more about the teachings of Jesus. Not only did he continue in the Bible study, but he began to meet Paul for weekly lunchtime discussions.

The two looked at the basic concepts of Christian faith, examined evidence for Jesus’ resurrection and did an ongoing study of the Gospel of John. And they often invited a Chinese believer, a man who met Jesus at a COM retreat years ago, to join their discussions.

Finally, Tian embraced the truth of Jesus’ sacrificial death. “Jesus was put on the cross to pay for all our sins,” says Tian, “so we don’t need to carry those things throughout our lives.”

Future Plans

Tian had planned to return to China immediately after receiving his master’s in engineering. But by the time his graduation arrived last May, his mind had changed. “I needed to stay here,” he says, “to gain more knowledge of Jesus and be where my friends can pray for me.”

As a result, Tian sought and found an internship with an agency of local government. Having completed that, he is now looking for a one or two-year job to broaden his professional knowledge before returning to China. He credits this change in plans to his relationship with God. ■

Reaching Gen Z through Video-Making



By Yongming Tian, COM staff member, New Mexico

HOW YG4J BEGAN

Several years ago, I was struggling with how to effectively minister to younger Chinese students. At the time, this was different from the ministry of many COM staff members because they focused primarily on graduate students and scholars. How could I have known then how God was preparing me for what was to come . . .

During the spring of 2020, COVID-19 invaded the world and reshaped our campus ministries. While the number of scholars and graduate students from China began to decline precipitously, the number of undergraduate Chinese students has continued to grow.

In the summer of 2020, my pastor and I had a reunion Zoom meeting with students we had served. We all shared how God had been leading us—especially through the uncertainties of the pandemic. Their stories were powerful and

deeply touched us.

Then the eureka moment hit! My wife Shanya said, “What about creating a YouTube channel to share stories?” We realized this could reach many people experiencing the loneliness of the widespread lockdowns.

Even though hundreds of video sermons in Mandarin are available online, we could not find a collection of first-person testimonies of the real-life challenges young Chinese Christians face. And peer influence is one of the most effective ways to reach this generation.

We chose the name Young Generation for Jesus—YG4J for short. “Peer talk with a gospel root” is the simple rule of all our content.

STUDENT-LED PROGRESS

When we began the channel, I saw God’s provision in many ways, includ-

<Through the growing YG4J production team, Yongming says he has witnessed young coworkers being trained both spiritually and technically.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

— Isaiah 55:9

Search YG4J on YouTube to find our videos.

ing the opportunity to serve with student coworkers. This has been a practical discipleship training process.

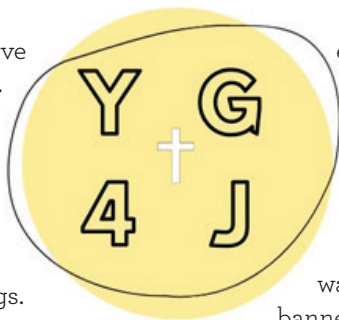
Some of the students wanted to create music videos for their original songs. This was beyond my expertise because I cannot do rap, and I’m definitely not a big fan. But I soon realized this is yet another way Gen Z likes to express their faith.

Later, I helped several passionate students develop a new program, “Let’s Talk Faith,” to address topics such as body image, materialism, feminism, and family of origin issues.

With enthusiastic support from my home church and the Chinese Pastors’ Fellowship, in the past year a group of students has created a series called *God’s Big Story*, a narrated overview of God’s salvation plan throughout the Bible. The series is now available with English subtitles.

THE IMPACT OF YG4J

In less than two years, we have 370+ subscribers and over 20,000 views from multiple countries. Topics on dating, marriage, and peer pressure have been viewed more than a thousand times



each. I have received countless responses and notes of encouragement. Brothers and sisters in China have requested that we share the testimonies in other ways, since YouTube is banned there.

I can clearly see the students’ commitment, such as hundreds of hours of Bible study, consultations with pastors and scholars, then filming and editing. This has included several non-believers who were so attracted by what we were doing and eager to commit to our group that they eventually came to faith and were baptized. Praise God!

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

As Isaiah 55:9 says, God is always doing new things. I have some new ideas for YG4J to possibly reach a broader audience, but I need to make sure these are not my thoughts, but his thoughts. Please pray with me that I will have a clear idea of how God wants to lead YG4J, and that he will continue to provide resources and connections. May his name be glorified. ■



Becoming a Better Teammate

By Stan A. Pawlowski, Campus Staff, Virginia

I AM THANKFUL for how COM leadership invests in the people and ministry that we are all a part of. Our family recently had the privilege of joining COM teammates in Georgia for our regional retreat, which included training in the Grip-Birkman spiritual gifts and behavioral assessment. This resource guides us to a greater level of understanding ourselves so we can become better teammates and leaders.

The beautiful and relaxing setting for our retreat was designed in such a way that we could easily have daily interaction and fellowship with one another. Our family enjoyed the opportunity to spend quality time with other COM campus staff members in our region,

and the peaceful environment lent itself well to team training. Our facilitator, Terry Snyder, was engaging and encouraging during the lessons and always eager to answer any questions. It was clear that he believed in and valued what he was sharing. That in itself offered a sense of affirmation to those who might be skeptical or do not value these types of assessments as much as others do.

The Grip-Birkman assessment is a helpful tool in identifying our strengths, our weaknesses, and what we need from other team members.

In particular, the Birkman Map guides us in discerning our behavioral response

in both calm and stressful situations. I also appreciate how the training challenges us to look at our weaknesses, which can often be a blind spot we tend to neglect in light of our strengths. This knowledge can be crucial in avoiding conflict among team members, which often derails effective gospel-centered ministry.

Another aspect of the training deals with discerning our personal gifts and the gifts of others. One of the important benefits is the ability to maximize these gifts so that we are not leading others to take on things they do not feel qualified in or passionate about.

The two components of the assessment, when considered together, help paint a general picture of who we are individually and who we are as a team.

The Grip-Birkman assessment is not an exhaustive tool for understanding who we are and why we respond the way we do, and it does not define us. Yet it is a valuable assistant in the process of seeking to discover how God has created us to serve. When we take what we learn from the assessment in a team context and then also apply this as we



spend time with close friends, family, ministry partners, and spiritual mentors, we understand more fully who we are in Christ.

I hope that my fellow workers and our faithful supporters are encouraged by COM's wholehearted commitment to prepare and sustain staff so we can flourish in our ministries and grow in our personal walk with Christ. My prayer is that God will respond by transforming lives and growing the church, and that the Lord would be glorified among the Chinese people and all other tribes, tongues, and nations. ■



Welcome New Staff



■ Southwest Area

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

Together with you, we are giving Christ to China's future leaders.
Here are even more ways you can be a part.



- **Volunteer.** Befriend a Chinese student, help with meals or transportation for special events, assist with English, or host newly arriving students. Ask a local staff member about opportunities in your area, or contact us at COM@chinaoutreach.org.



- **Engage Your Church.** Host Bible studies and other gatherings at your church location, organize volunteers for ministry, and welcome students into your church community. Ask a local staff member about opportunities for your church, or contact Beau Miller, Director of Church Partnerships: bmiller@chinaoutreach.net.



- **Join Our Staff.** There are ministry needs around the country with full or part-time positions available. For more information, visit our website: www.chinaoutreach.org/serve.html.

- **Pray for Expansion.** We have identified top-priority universities around the country with large numbers of Chinese students and scholars. Please join us in praying for workers to launch ministries in these campus communities.

Gift-Giving in Chinese Friendships

MOST OF US WITH CHINESE FRIENDS have been blessed by Chinese traditions of gift-giving. As we enjoy time with our friends, we often see their thoughtfulness in gifts like trinkets or decorative items from their homeland. On other occasions, they arrive bearing flowers, green tea, or chocolates. As one of our staff members, Casey Liu, has said, “Many Chinese have the gift of giving gifts.”

The Nature of Gift-Giving in Chinese Culture

Chinese students are often inclined to “return” a favor or kindness with a gift. This is rooted in a cultural tradition of reciprocation. In an article published by The Gospel Coalition, “Why Grace Is Hard for Me as an Asian American,” Pastor Jeremy Yong sums up the idea this way: “A gift given means a gift must be repaid. That’s what my Chinese culture taught me.”

Simple gifts from our Chinese friends are gestures of friendship—a signal that they value the connection with us. As with gift-giving in any relationship, however, we want to be prepared with appropriate responses. Even more, this cultural tradition gives us an open door for deeper conversations.

How Do We Respond?

With our Chinese friends, we can usually give and receive small gifts with warm appreciation. We can even find creative ways to demonstrate reciprocity ourselves. Large gifts, however, take “pay back” too far, and we need to kindly decline such offers and refrain from offering them ourselves.

Here are some practical principles from Casey:

- In response to a gift, I will often invite a student or scholar to my home to cook or do something nice together. This has been a great way to build relationships.
- My general guideline is only to accept gifts valued at about \$20 or less. If someone really wants to show appreciation with more, I have told them they could donate to my church.
- If someone offers an expensive gift, I will decline the gift and use the opportunity to explain. I will say, “I help people because God loved me first. If you really want to give thanks, you can give thanks to God! Everything I have done is because of HIM!”

Gifts and the Gospel

Understanding the nature of gift-giving in Chinese culture gives us a tremendous opportunity to present the gospel. The idea that salvation is a free gift is a truth that defies cultural presuppositions. It becomes free to us only because Christ has paid for it by sacrificing himself. As Pastor Yong concludes in his article, with God’s grace in Christ, we can “put reciprocation to rest.”

As we grow in our relationships with Chinese friends, we point them to the greatest gift ever—a gift that can never be repaid. ■

Making the Most of Your Giving

By Kirk Zuercher, Director of Development

DID YOU KNOW that there are many ways you can financially support COM while also caring for your own needs and those of your loved ones? These are just a few of the planned giving options that extend your opportunities to partner with us:

■ **Giving appreciated property, including stocks**—Have you owned stock for over a year that has appreciated in value? Transferring that stock directly from your brokerage account to COM’s account may allow you to give the full market value without paying a capital gains tax.

■ **Giving through an IRA rollover**—Are you over 70½ with a traditional IRA? You may be eligible to allocate your minimum required distribution to COM tax-free while you receive the full charitable deduction. This can be a great way to save on your taxes at the same time.

■ **Giving through a gift annuity**—Do you still need to maintain income from your assets? You could potentially receive a tax deduction upfront, pay-

ments that are partially tax-free, and income for the duration of one or two lives while still giving. That is the benefit of giving cash or appreciated property, like stock, to COM in return for an annuity for one or two lives. When an annuitant passes on to glory, COM receives the amount that remains.

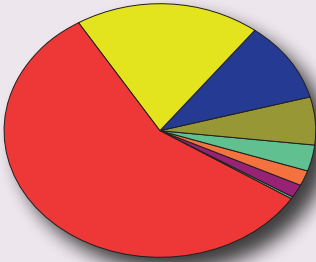
■ **Making a legacy gift through your will**—Have you made plans for your estate? You can prepare a will online for free through our website. Remembering COM in your will continues your legacy of giving.

If you would like to discuss any of these options, please call Kirk Zuercher, COM Director of Development, at 717-591-3500.



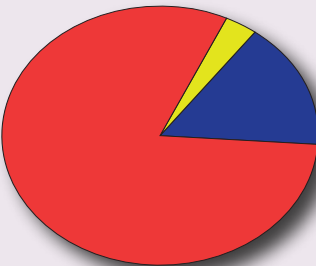
ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Thank you for your partnership with China Outreach Ministries.



2021 Sources of Support

■ Individuals	2,509,688
■ Churches	836,676
■ Other	448,800
■ Foundations	267,653
■ Businesses	144,516
■ Staff	92,160
■ Directors	66,894
■ Organizations	10,857
Total	4,377,244



Distribution of Funds

■ Campus & Returnees.	3,385,799
■ Development	131,695
■ Administration	658,452
Total	4,175,946

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.

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.

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SAVE THE DATE

for 2022 Fall Celebration Events

- **DuBois, Pennsylvania**
DINNER
September 29
- **Baltimore, Maryland**
DINNER
October 6
- **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**
DINNER
October 20

