

NOW AVAILABLE from Dr. Glen Osborn and Rev. Daniel Su!

China in our Midst:

Reaching Chinese International Students in America

“During much of the twentieth century, to consider having conversations about Christian faith with Chinese students and professionals was unheard of, but today there are virtually unlimited opportunities for Christians in America to share Christ with Chinese students and scholars. This book gives insight and guidance from research and experience to encourage engagement in this God-given opportunity to “Give Christ to China’s Future Leaders.” — *Amazon.com*

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“A ‘must read’ for anyone who interacts with students or scholars from China.”



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THE PANDA BEARER

友愛中華
China Outreach
MINISTRIES
Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders

Fall 2017

Coming to America | Forever Changed

Built Upon the Rock: Reflections from the 2017 COM Staff Conference

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Graduate Student*
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The Importance of Partnership

The kidnapping of Ying-Ying Zhang, age 26, sent a chill through Chinese student communities here in America. Zhang was new to America as a visiting scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign. Before her disappearance, she was looking for a ride to take her to sign a rental lease when the suspect's car approached her. Zhang came to the university for a one-year research appointment in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science. She is presumed dead and the FBI has a suspect in custody.

Her tragic story helps underscore the importance of the work of our COM missionaries; from meeting students as soon as they arrive in the United States to helping them find a good Christian community. Thousands of new students and scholars arrived in the U.S. this summer. Please pray for our COM missionaries as they help them with practical needs, encourage them to build ongoing relationships and invite them to Christian activities.

I can still recall that hot summer day when I drove to the Philadelphia airport to pick up arriving students. I called Beth to prepare more food for dinner in order to feed a family of four. After dinner, I took them to temporary housing. The next day, I found myself helping them register at school, open a checking account at a bank, buy a bike at Kmart and get to the local Chinese grocery store. From my firsthand experience, I know our COM missionaries find themselves on the giving end most of the time. Your prayers and support can make a world of difference in the lives of our COM missionaries. Thanks to your partnership and the Lord's provision, we are continuing to give Christ to China's future leaders.

As the fall comes, I bet you'll soon see the sign "Fall Is for Planting." However, I beg to differ. Summer is for sowing – spiritually speaking for our ministry among the Chinese. Throughout the summer, we sowed the seed of the gospel and the seed of friendship and goodwill as we welcomed new students and scholars from China. Let's pray that in God's good timing the seeds sown in summer will bear fruit in the months to come.

Thank you for your partnership in our ministry. You have blessed us as we seek to be a blessing to the Chinese around us. May God bless you!

Daniel Su, COM President



THE PANDA BEARER

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a higher standard
a higher purpose

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Italicized names have been changed to protect students and scholars.

Cover photo courtesy of Glenn Kenadjian

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From Ben and Cathy Bidelspach, Penn State University

THE WORD “RELATIONSHIP” kept popping up each day with deeper meaning throughout our annual COM Staff Conference this past April in Cannon Beach, Oregon. We witnessed the power of relationship in action that first day when we greeted one another with hugs and caught up in the Portland airport, on the two-hour bus ride to Cannon Beach Conference Center, during our first delicious dinner together and as we gathered that evening for worship followed by a heartfelt greeting from Glen Osborn as he was preparing to turn the responsibility of COM’s presidency over to Daniel Su. God spoke into our hearts through Moses Lugemye who led worship and Mark Hedinger and Enoch Wan our guest Bible teachers. God impressed on

our hearts that meaningful relationship is truly the heart of Christianity and the key to fulfilling the Great Commission. We are called to be “one” working together for His kingdom!



New staff, left to right:

Mike Feters, Kent State University, Kent, OH; Yongming Tian, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM; JoJo Qiao, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX; Yali Yang, Portland State/Oregon Health & Science, Portland, OR; Brenda Harris, UC Riverside/University of Redlands, Redlands, CA.



Turn to page 5 to learn more about Yali Yang’s ministry.

From Jesse Burns, COM Leadership Center, Mechanicsburg, PA

IN ADDITION TO staff members joining us at the COM Staff Conference, God has blessed us with two new staff members!

Jean Chaffee joined COM as a tentmaker on May 17 and will be working with students and scholars at Green River College in Auburn, WA as well as working with Rich Fullner’s team at the University of Washington in Seattle. Jean comes from a family with deep missionary roots, her brother having established Evergreen Family Friendship Service (also known as Shanxi Evergreen Service in China). Today, she continues this tradition of service as she regularly hosts Bible studies in her home for foreign students and serves in various other service capacities, including serving as a volunteer chaplain in a local women’s prison. Jean is married to John, a physician, and they have four grown children. Many of you had the opportunity to meet Jean at our Staff Conference in Cannon Beach, Oregon this past April. I am sure you will agree, we have been blessed to have Jean partner with COM to reach Chinese students and scholars in the Pacific Northwest.



Ying Deng joined COM as a tentmaker on June 22 and will be joining the Penn State University team, led by Kirk Zuercher. Ying is an accomplished biochemist in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at PSU. She is the wife of Xin Luan, who currently serves as campus staff in Penn State and they are blessed with two beautiful young daughters. Ying has participated in a support role for her husband’s ministry, and we are very excited to have her join the COM family as a staff member. We look forward to her contribution to the work at Penn State! ■

Turn to page 7 to learn more about the Staff Conference from Brenda Harris.

Hallelujah!

*Yali Yang shares an
Easter story of new life
for a Chinese graduate student.*

*“I felt so frustrated
that our friendship
could only remain at
a shallow level.”*

JEAN WAS A graduate student at Portland State University when I first met her at the International Students Orientation where I worked as her mentor two years ago. She was a joyful and sincere young lady who is always open to explore new adventures. We spent lots of time together sharing our experiences of studying overseas, the culture shock studying in America, romantic relationships, etc. We really had fun leisurely discussing these topics, but she did not seem receptive to any topic related to the gospel. I felt so frustrated that our friendship could only remain at a shallow level. Each time I felt frustrated, I prayed to God and the Holy Spirit clearly told me, “Just love her as much as I love you.”

When *Jean* graduated from Portland State University last summer, she was offered to work as a Chinese teacher at a local Chinese academy which is far away from the Portland State University campus, but close to my home church. Surrounded in an unfamiliar environment, *Jean* started to feel deep loneliness and hopelessness. At least a few nights, she called and cried out to me. I prayed with her over the phone and invited her to my home church, which she used to be reluctant to attend. The Holy Spirit worked in her heart and softened her heart to be open to the gospel. *Jean* has been actively participating in our worship team since then.

Last Thanksgiving night, we were invited over to a sister’s house. While we were just sharing about what we were grateful for, *Jean* replied with tears in her eyes that she was grateful for the welcoming acceptance and love she received from people around her. That night, she decided to give her heart to Jesus and invited him to be her savior. At that moment, I could not help but burst into tears and shout, “Hallelujah!” *Jean* was baptized on Easter Sunday this year. ■



Built Upon the Rock

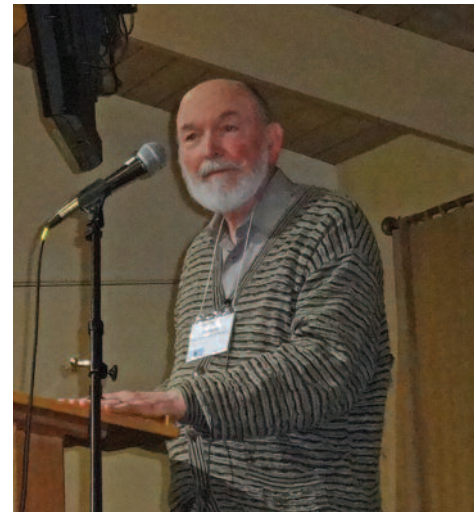
Reflections from my first COM Staff Conference

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL every year, China Outreach Ministry staff gather together to refresh, reboot and rejoice. This year it was held on the west coast in Oregon at Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center.

Many embraced each other with deep familiarity and more than a few people told me they look forward to the conference every year. I felt like a stranger at first as I met smiling faces, and many people called me out by name even though they had never seen me before—only via staff emails.

***“I felt like I was
home again.”***

— Brenda Harris



“God placed in the presidency of COM a man of exceptional talent, complete dedication and unflagging energy who coordinated, built up and led forward the mission that God has given to us.”

***— Rev. Dr. Richard Hogue,
Board Chair (2014-2016), at the
conclusion of the presidency of
Dr. Glen Osborn***

The COM staffers knew I was a newbie and made every effort to make me feel welcome. The warmth was palpable. Though there are many people at my current school that are beautiful Christians, it is a secular school and simply cannot compare to the brotherhood felt in a completely Christian environment. I've missed it. I felt like I was home again.

Our speakers were Mark Hedinger and Enoch Wan. I enjoyed their inspiration and instruction. They talked about the Twelve Signal Systems: The Language of Cultures. It was fascinating learning about the different ways cultures communicate. We all communicate through spoken language and





Rev. Daniel Su was officially inducted as the new president of COM at this retreat.

body language, and I think many of us are aware of the power of the pictorial. But there were systems that I was not aware of, but once they were discussed, they made complete sense. I think we just take them for granted as part of our culture. Artifacts was one system that fascinated me and included 3D objects, clothing, jewelry and furniture — even the way we arrange furniture is a way of communicating! I was intrigued. Olfactory also made sense because certain smells remind me of warmth and love, such as the smell of tri-tip over an open flame bringing back memories of camping with my husband and my kids.

New staff were brought to the front of our meeting area to be confirmed in the presence of God and all of the COM staff. We stated in chorus our commitment to serve the Chinese here in America for God's glory. Sobs shook

“God has uniquely gifted you and equipped you to take on the role of COM president. He has brought you to the presidency for such a time as this.”

— Linda Sellevaag, Board Chair, at the induction of Rev. Daniel Su



Glen Osborn and Linda Sellevaag pause for a photo at the 2017 COM Staff Conference

my chest as I realized that after three long years, this is truly where God wanted me. I have been following His light all this time, waiting, making trips to China, exploring different career paths and searching for how I could serve the Chinese somehow and this is where He had led me. Until that moment, it did not feel real. Until that moment, I felt like it was all a dream. This year, teaching has been taking nearly all my time. But at that moment, I was at peace and knew my place. I felt the energy of all the things I will be able to do for the people I will meet. I cannot wait to get started! ■



Staff gather for worship and fellowship at the 2017 COM Staff Conference

Back to School

COM Staff across the country have been welcoming and connecting with Chinese students and scholars during the busy August and September months. Below, Gregg and Nancy Smyrl share news from this year's Welcome Picnic for Drexel University and Penn State students.

ON AUGUST 26, the University City Chinese Christian Church (UC Church) hosted the annual Welcome Picnic for incoming students and scholars. Most came from the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University with other schools represented as well.

About 500 people attended. This was a good opportunity for students and scholars to learn about the UC Church and the ministries that it offers. There were several co-workers from Grace Chapel to tell about the English classes and Bible studies that we offer. This year, we were impressed with the number of people who expressed thoughtful interest in our program.

We had beautiful weather for the picnic. There were group activities organized that helped people to get to know each other.

Towards the end of the day there was a talk given by one of the elders of the church. The gospel was presented at this time as well as an invitation to come to the Sunday worship service and join other church activities. Please pray that God will work so that many will come and hear the gospel through the ministries at the UC Church. ■

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.”

— Matthew 18:5 (ESV)

Giving Stock

Good for You and COM!

GIVING APPRECIATED STOCK is a simple way of expanding your support of China Outreach Ministries and be a good steward of the property God has given you. Suppose you want to make a gift to support your favorite COM missionary or the COM Fund, but you have limited cash to do so. A tax savings could allow you to give more while at the same time making your gift affordable.

If you own individual stock that has appreciated since you purchased it, you could sell it and pay capital gains on the appreciated portion and then give the remainder to COM. Or you could have the stock transferred from your brokerage account to COM directly and receive a tax deduction for the full value (on the day you transferred it) and not owe any tax on the appreciated portion.

Here's an example:

If you bought XYZ stock for \$5,000 and then gave it to COM when it was worth \$10,000, you would not have to pay tax on the \$5,000 of appreciation. You increase your giving capacity when you give appreciated stock.



If you have questions about how to give appreciated property like stock or any other appreciated property, please call Jeff Krimmel, V.P. for Development, at 717-591-3500 or email him at jkrimmel@chinaoutreach.net.

Thank you!

Gift Bearers

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