

Join us at a COM Spring 2017 Banquet

Challenging testimonies,
beautiful music, great food and
wonderful fellowship! To make
your reservation for one of the
following events, contact Kim in
the COM office at 717-591-3500.

■ **Harrisburg, PA area**
March 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Sheraton Hotel, Swatara
Exit I-283, Harrisburg, PA

■ **Washington, D.C. area**
March 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview
Park Drive, Falls Church, VA

■ **Baltimore, MD area**
March 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel,
903 Dulaney Valley Road, Towson, MD

■ **Canton, OH area**
March 27, 2017 at 6:10 p.m.
Hartville Kitchen, 1015 Edison St. NW,
Hartville, OH

■ **Erie, PA area**
March 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel,
55 W. Bay Drive, Erie, PA

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China Outreach
MINISTRIES
Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders
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THE PANDA BEARER

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China Outreach
MINISTRIES
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Fall 2016

Coming to America | Forever Changed

The Thanksgiving Issue

Answers to "The
Tough Questions"

PAGE 3

A New Song

PAGE 7



Thoughts from the President



Eternity in Their Hearts

THE WRITER OF ECCLESIASTES says that God has “set eternity in the human heart” (Ecc. 3:11). This word of truth is so encouraging to us at China Outreach Ministries because throughout the United States our staff are reaching out to Chinese students and scholars. Many are atheists, having been taught that there is no God and only to believe in themselves. They have never seen a Bible or heard of Jesus. So what does one say? Is there any chance of them believing in Jesus?

The answer is profoundly “yes” because God has already put eternity in the hearts of these students. We pray, “God lead us to those with whom You want us to share our lives and love for Jesus.” He is at work in lives. Many times we never know, but He gives us glimpses of this truth.

These testimonies by Chinese graduate students in the U.S. demonstrate this truth:

Since childhood, I knew there must be a supernatural God. Therefore, I believed I ought to do good deeds. Unfortunately, I did not know who he was.

I always believed the existence of God, even when I was in China, and I've formed a habit of praying to this God since I was little. That's why when my roommate told me about Jesus and God, I didn't struggle much to believe it. It felt good to finally get to know this God to whom I've been praying.

Since childhood, I had believed there was a God, and I had always seriously wanted to find him. I had encountered different religions and had some church life in China. However, true change occurred after coming to America. I did a lot of reading of materials, which was not available to me in China, and, as a result, I came to know Jesus as the savior we need to trust in.

There is a desire in all of humanity that is not met with the temporary things of this life. It is an eternal desire. One of our new COM staff said that when she was in China, “I had been a seeker for truth since I was very young. Secular psychology had disappointed me so much by telling me that there was not absolute truth.” Then she came to study in America and someone shared the Gospel with her. She said, “When the Bible told me that Jesus is the way, the life and the truth, my heart started its journey to follow Him.” She came to know the One who loved her and gave His life for her and today she serves Him with COM. She says, “I often sense that Chinese are orphans who do not know their Father, and it is the most joyful thing for me to point them the way back home and lead them into the loving arms of our Heavenly Father!”

We all desire something more than we can find in this world. We have the answer in Jesus. We are sharing Him with the Chinese He is bringing to the United States. Thank you for your prayers and partnership.

Glen Osborn, COM President

THE PANDA BEARER

Fall 2016

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President:

Glen Osborn

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Seth Thomas

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Geoffrey Isley

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Italicized names have been changed to protect students and scholars.

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



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Give thanks in all things

Snapshots from our workers

From Chi Kao, University of California, Berkeley

Do you remember the story of *Frank* and his wife (“The Tough Questions,” pages 5-6) from the Summer 2016 issue of *The Panda Bearer*? In that article, we said that *Frank* had started to express interest in joining the Sunday night Bible study group, but he told us that many questions arose from his personal readings. In an update to that story, *Frank* and his wife each accepted Christ! At the Labor Day Fall Camp, they asked the same question privately and separately: “How can I build a closer and deeper relationship with God?” The couple has also started to attend a Chinese church for Sunday worship as well as Friday fellowship. God has brought this couple to a different horizon!



From Gregg & Nancy Smyrl, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Why do we work with China Outreach Ministries? A few days ago, we received an email from *Zoe*, a Chinese scholar who came to faith in Jesus Christ during her stay in Philadelphia.

Hi, Nancy and Gregg, glad to hear from you. How are you these days? Things are going well for me. Thank God, I have found a wonderful church near my home. I go to church with my daughter every Sunday. I am more and more sure that God created humans because of love. It is a new life presented by Jesus Christ, life is no longer void or a chasing

after wind, life is now full of joy and peace. As a doctor, though still busy as before, I find my rest in Jesus Christ, and I am sure that God uses me to pass on his blessings to my patients for He always answers my prayers for patients. My family members understand my decision, though they think Christianity is just one of those religions such as Buddhism and Taoism. Sometimes it is really frustrating to talk about the Gospel with them. Anyway, it is God’s work to change human hearts. What I can do is keep telling them the love of God, love them and pray for them. Please pray for my family — that they will eventually see God’s love and accept Jesus as their savior. The Friday night Bible study is really a blessing to visiting scholars and Chinese students. Amazingly we got to know God and become brothers and sisters in Christ. That is how our Father works.



It was a privilege to see *Zoe* change. When we first met, she did not want eternal life because that meant to her endless repetitions of suffering through reincarnation. Now she is looking forward to the crown of righteousness which the Lord will award to her. Please continue to pray for *Zoe* and other scholars who have returned to China and want to live for the Lord.

From Glenn and Erin Niedergall, North Carolina State University

Erin and I met *Jamie* (a visiting scholar) at a Fourth of July picnic gathering. We exchanged WeChat IDs. Five days later on July 9, our team at North Carolina State held a picnic for about 20 students and scholars at a local lake. During a conversation about church, *Jamie* asked Erin if she could go to church with us. We said of course. She went to church with us again the following week. Erin was sensing the Holy Spirit and asked *Jamie* if anyone had ever explained Christianity to her. She said “no.”

We asked her if she would like to do a study with us that would explain Christianity, and she was eager to begin. We did a six-week Bible study. During that time, she went swimming with *JingJing* on several occasions. And recently, she spent several hours with her riding to Virginia. God was using our new team at North Carolina State to sow seeds into this visiting scholar’s life. On the final day of our Bible study, we asked *Jamie* if there was anything preventing her from becoming a Christian. Immediately, she responded “no.” She came prepared to receive salvation. She prayed and she received new life! Praise God for those who dig the soil, for those who water, for those who sow and for those who harvest.



From Daniel Su, COM Vice President

A visiting scholar said to me recently:

I’ve been here in America for several months. I notice there’s quite a bit of China bashing going on in this election season. Politicians blame China for everything! As a Chinese, I feel Americans don’t like me, and I feel lonely here in America ...

Obviously, his perception is not accurate, and I did my best to balance his viewpoint. Still, his feelings are real. Pray that Christians — Chinese and American — will reach out and touch lonely souls like him with Christ’s love. And that is what we

do as COM missionaries. Thank you for your partnership! ■



Surrounded by His Power

*Danny and Susan share Niagara Falls
with Chinese students and scholars.*



Submitted by Danny and Susan Forte, RPI and SUNY at Albany

DURING THE FINAL WEEKEND IN MAY, Danny and Susan traveled to Buffalo for the annual Niagara Falls international student conference and sightseeing event hosted by International Students, Inc. Along with 11 students and scholars, as well as a six-year-old child, Danny and Susan led the caravan in a rented van. The conference title this year was "Life's Ultimate Destiny."

The students and scholars got to hear about God at the weekend conference and at church on Sunday morning. The travelers stay with different Christian host families from various churches in the area. For many, staying with Christian families is the highlight of the trip; they experience the love of God through these host families – as Danny adds, smiling, “and hopefully through us, too.” The trip concludes with the grandeur of God's creation on a Saturday afternoon and evening visit to Niagara Falls.

*“There were many
smiles during the
nearly five-hour
drive across the
state of New York.”*

Looking back on the trip, Danny and Susan are very grateful for your prayers and the Lord's blessings.

In addition to perfect traveling weather, the 12-passenger van was safe and easy to drive. They also had the opportunity during the ride for many spiritual conversations. Danny says that everyone had a joyful time. There were many smiles during the nearly five-hour drive across the state of New York.

The host families were wonderful. They all attend the same church, Ridgewood Bible Church in Lockport, which had a welcome breakfast on Sunday morning and presented the Gospel using Niagara Falls as a demonstration of both the power of God and His desire to be personal with His people.

The worship and speaker presentations at the conference were also very uplifting; the students and scholars loved the day. Thanks to your prayers, they were able to talk about many of the presentations and answer questions concerning them.

While no one accepted the Lord during the trip, eight scholars expressed an interest to learn more about the Bible and Jesus and many seeds were planted in their hearts. Please pray for those seeds to take root and that those interested in learning more would respond to invitations to Danny and Susan's Bible studies and activities. Please pray that these students and scholars would be drawn closer to Jesus and that many would be born again into the family of God. ■



Gifted Musicians

Sunny collaborates with a Seattle-based musician to create new worship.

Moses LUGEMYE is a very gifted Christian musician. Sunny met him this past year at the annual China Outreach Ministries staff conference when Moses served as the worship leader. Moses is called to write and lead Chinese worship songs, and Sunny wrote him lyrics based on Colossians 1. Their first song is now on YouTube. (Guitar chords and lyrics for both Chinese and English singers are also available.)

To watch Moses perform the song, visit [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and enter “Colossians 1 Song.” You can also read Sunny’s lyrics in full on the following page. ■

The Song of Colossians (Col. 1:15-20)

Music: Moses Lugemye

Lyrics: Yaofang (Sunny) Zhang

In Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible
All were created through Him
Authorities, rulers, dominions and thrones
All were set up through Him and for Him
Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father
You are the true image of the invisible Father
Jesus, beloved son of the Father
You are the firstborn of all creation
Immortal and resurrected from the dead
To be the pre-eminent in everything
On the cross, the precious blood did flow
All were able to be reconciled to the Father
Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father
You stood before all things as the Ancient Rock
Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father
You led the church as the beginning and head
Once we were alienated from the Father
Today we were reconciled through the cross of Jesus
So that we might be holy,
Help us to continue in faith,
So that I won't lose this hope of the Gospel
Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father
You are the true image of the invisible Father
Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father
You are the firstborn of all creation
Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father
You stood before all things as the Ancient Rock
Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father
You led the church as the beginning and head
You are the firstborn of all creation

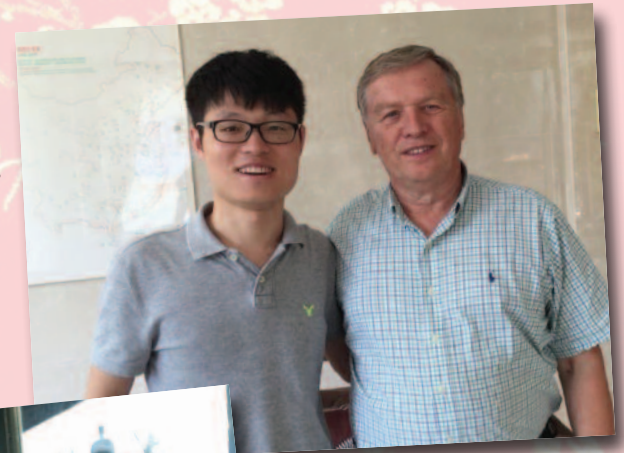
The Gift of Old Friends

Dale Voelker shares photos from a long-awaited visit to China to see past students.

BEFORE HE JOINED China Outreach Ministries last year, Dale Voelker taught music at multiple universities across the United States. Four years ago, he took a position in China as a director of choral music. He left China two years later, grieved by health problems from air pollution. But this past July, Dale got the chance to return to China for three weeks in order to reconnect with former students and old friends. ■

Submitted by Dale Voelker, University of Maryland

Jake came in from another city, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He and Mary are planning on starting an orphanage.



On the last day, Dale met Sam for lunch. Dale tried to encourage him, but Sam is under a lot of stress. His job requires him to work 60-70 hours each week.



Left: Dale with Henry, a former student.

Right: A happy reunion and an inductive Bible study on Paul's letter to the Philippians.





New Workers in the Harvest

Jesse Burns introduces five new COM staff members and their families.

THE LORD HAS BLESSED China Outreach Ministries with several new staff members since the beginning of January. We are pleased to say that God's blessings are abundant, as He has also brought us several potential new candidates for ministry work, whom we are now praying with and guiding through the process of applying for potential staff roles on campuses across the country.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers, as we seek those who are called to build His work here at COM. There are so many to reach, and the needs are urgent. As ministry partners, you are also a part of our mobilization team. Please keep your minds and hearts open for those He may lead to His service here at COM. You may be His chosen instrument to bring knowledge of His work here at COM to those who would be called to be new workers in His fields!

Jesse Burns joined COM in the spring, following a 25-year career in retail management. He is serving in our leadership center in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania assisting in our mobilization efforts and human resources. Please pray for him as he partners with our mobilization leaders, Don and Myrna Hines, to identify new servants for His fields, and also as he works to serve our staff in his role as human resources facilitator.



Mike Fetters volunteered with our Kent State University team in Ohio prior to joining the COM staff. He and his wife Terri, along with their children, have been a host family for international students for over ten years. He has also traveled extensively around the world on mission trips to share Christ with other cultures. Please pray for Mike as he takes on this new role, and as he assumes new responsibilities among the staff at Kent State.

Danny Geng is serving in the Pacific Northwest. He and his wife Judy Zhang have one son who just graduated from college and is working in San Francisco. Danny is in the process of establishing his campus ministry, including the recruitment of co-workers and coordinating cooperative partnerships with local churches. Please pray for him during these critical days.



David Tian is a former research scientist at Sandia National Lab and has his Ph.D. from New Mexico Tech. He has served as a volunteer with COM in Albuquerque, assisting Jim and Priscilla Duncan in the ministry to scholars at the University of New Mexico and has been led to join the ministry as a staff member. Please pray for David and his wife and daughter, as this new role brings change to their lives, and as David seeks to strengthen his burden and boldness for preaching the Gospel to the scholars in Albuquerque.



Peter Zhou just recently received his Master of Divinity from Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He is currently establishing his ministry in Pittsburgh, where he will be serving on the campuses at Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh. Please pray for him and his family as they work to find ministry partners, and as he seeks the hearts of Chinese scholars on these campuses. ■



Giving Tuesday is November 29, 2016

*How you can partner with COM this
holiday season.*

THANKSGIVING DAY is just around the corner, followed closely by Black Friday and Cyber Monday. And now we have Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. In five years, Giving Tuesday has become a world-wide phenomenon – a day when we set aside our list of “wants” and consider the “needs” around us.

More than 320,000 Chinese scholars and students are studying in the U.S. for graduate and undergraduate degrees. In many cases, they are having their first opportunity to explore the Bible and to hear, firsthand, what Jesus has done for them. When our Chinese students hear that their lives can have purpose and that Jesus loves them, they experience a joy and fulfillment that they have never known before. Their testimonies are simply amazing as they describe the radical difference that knowing Christ has made in their lives and the lives of their families and friends. These stories motivate our staff to want to reach even more Chinese with the Gospel!

Right now, China Outreach Ministries has an opportunity to increase our number of staff via a grant we received to assist campuses in the Pacific Northwest. The grant totals \$205,000 and is designated to help new COM staff raise their support needs over a three-year period by subsidizing their support. This takes a huge amount of pressure off our new staff as they search for partners who will help provide their long-term salary and benefits and gives them the courage to leave well-paying jobs to join COM.

By the end of February 2017, COM must match a final \$65,000 in order to receive the full grant. Matching dollars will also be used to support staff in the Northwest. Currently, COM has matched over \$25,000, leaving a remaining portion of \$40,000 to be matched to complete the grant contingency. **Would you consider helping us meet the match?** Your gift will help open the door to three new COM staff who will reach out to even more Chinese students in 2017 and beyond.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, thank you for considering this strategic opportunity to give new life! ■

Gift Bearers

Special gifts and contributions to the ministry of COM

In Memory of

Kristin Blaich

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Mary Ellen Ireland

Jim Ireland

Mary James

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Cilderman

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Mr. Ray Zook

LifeGuide Financial Advisors

on behalf of Mrs. Ruth Hummer

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hamrin

Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ison

Meet the Match

Today, there are more than 320,000 Chinese students and scholars in America. COM staff are on more than 50 campuses across America, reaching out to approximately 10% of these Chinese students. There are still tens of thousands of Chinese coming to America, studying and returning home without hearing the good news of Jesus Christ. Recently, COM received a generous and strategic grant to help financially support three new staff on campuses in the Pacific Northwest. This grant provides a generous financial benefit to our staff, but there is one contingency yet to be met. We still need to raise \$40,000 in additional funds in order to complete the requirements of the grant. Would you consider a generous gift to complete this match? To make a gift, please check “Meet the Match” on the enclosed donation envelope or visit chinaoutreach.org/support and select “Meet the Match.”