

Spring 2017 Banquets

Join us for challenging testimonies, beautiful music, great food and wonderful fellowship!

Harrisburg-Area Celebration

March 16, 2017
Sheraton Hotel, Swatara
Harrisburg, PA

Canton-Area Celebration

March 27, 2017
Hartsville

DC-Area Celebration

March 24, 2017
Fairview Park
Falls Church, VA

Erie-Area Celebration

March 28, 2017
Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel
Erie, PA

Baltimore-Area Celebration

March 24, 2017
Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel
Towson, MD

Thank you! We had **589** people in attendance and **\$113,495.89** raised in gifts and pledges as this year's spring banquets!

To make your reservation for one of the following events, contact Kim in the COM office at 717-591-3500.

THE PANDA BEARER

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

May 2017

Coming to America | Forever Changed

Serving Together



Surprising
Shepherd
Page 9

In Her Own
Words
Page 11

Turn to page 7 for
the 2016 Annual
Report.

China Outreach
MINISTRIES
友愛中華

Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders
555 Gettysburg Pike
Suite A-200
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Oneness at Work

I STARTED WRITING THIS MESSAGE during Easter weekend when I recalled how our Lord prayed for His disciples to be one, just as He and God the Father were one. Obviously, our Lord's desire was to see unity and oneness in all believers. This oneness includes one God, one Lord, one Spirit, one faith, one baptism, one body and one hope. And it takes the whole body of Christ to effectively proclaim this one-gospel message of hope.

In our ministry of sharing God's love with China's future leaders studying on U.S. campuses, we see this beautiful oneness at work. We see COM missionaries of various ethnic backgrounds working together. We see American and Chinese churches and individuals praying for us and supporting us. And we see our COM missionaries engaging local volunteers to reach out to Chinese students and scholars.

When people ask me what COM is all about, I think of our supporters like you. I think of our many supporting churches, our missionaries and our local volunteers. I think of our board of directors, and I think of our COM leadership and support staff. It takes more than a village — it takes all of us to share the love of Christ with Chinese students. In this sense, we are COM.

In this issue of The Panda Bearer, we report encouraging statistics as



fruits of our ministry (Annual Report, page 7). I want to thank God for your part in this strategic outreach. And ultimately, God's hand is behind our faithful efforts. As the Apostle Paul says, "I planted the seed, Apollos wa-

tered it, but God has been making it grow." (1 Cor. 3:6 NIV) What a beautiful picture that illustrates how we serve as one body! If I could contextualize Paul's passage to our ministry to the Chinese, the passage would say: COM shares the gospel, you pray and give, but God has been making it fruitful.

As the new president of COM, I want to thank you for your ministry with us. Together, we become God's blessings to the Chinese in America who are far away from home. My prayer is that they will find a new home in the body of Christ. ■

— Daniel Su, COM President

THE PANDA BEARER

May 2017

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President: Daniel Su

Editor: Seth Thomas

Design: Geoffrey Isley

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



a higher standard
a higher purpose



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Italicized names have been changed to protect students and scholars.

COM Continues to Grow!

From Jesse Burns, COM HQ

We have added four new staff and affiliates in the last few months! Please join us in welcoming and praying for these new staff members.

Brenda Harris joined COM as a new staff member in October. Brenda is currently a teacher in Southern California and plans to begin serving on a campus in the Eastern Los Angeles area in the summer of 2017. Brenda has considerable experience working with foreign students in the U.S. She and her husband, Ralph, have hosted a Chinese student in their home, and Brenda has been teaching students of many ethnicities for over 22 years. They have been married 29 years and have two grown children. Brenda is currently studying Mandarin Chinese with a goal towards fluency. Please pray for Brenda as she prepares to relocate to begin her ministry and as she builds her support network.



Brenda Harris



Beiqian (Michael) Xu

Beiqian (Michael) Xu joined COM in December as an affiliate and is currently applying for full-time staff status. Michael was introduced to COM while studying at Purdue. Currently completing a post-graduate internship in hotel management in Nashville, he is also working with Chinese students and scholars at Vanderbilt University. Please pray for Michael as he seeks to discern how God might use him in Kingdom-building through his current internship and future career and ministry.



Lu (Rena) Jiang

Lu (Rena) Jiang had been serving as a volunteer with our team at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul prior to joining COM as a tentmaker in December. Rena is active in personal ministry, leading gospel-centered study groups, blogs and chat groups that focus on marriage and family for the wives of visiting scholars. Rena recently earned a

Certificate in Theology Studies from Bethlehem College and Seminary. As the wife of Jie, a visiting scholar, and the mother of three young children, Rena is well equipped to serve on the University of Minnesota team. Please pray for Rena as she shares Christ with scholars' families and seeks God's wisdom in balancing family life and ministry.

Yali Yang was accepted in January as a fulltime staff member raising support. For the past two years, Yali has served as a volunteer with the team at Portland State University in Oregon. She has extensive experience serving scholars and has worked in the university's International Affairs Office. In March, Yali completed a Master's Degree in Post-Secondary Adult and Continuing Education. During her time at Portland State, Yali has been involved heavily in campus outreach activities, including leading worship, translation assistance and participating in a WeChat care group. Please pray for Yali as she develops her ministry skills, works with local mentors and develops her ministry.



Yali Yang

From Dr. Yaofang Sunny Zhang, St. Joseph's University

A graduate school student, Jill, will go back to China in May to teach English. She attended our Bible Study for several months. One volunteer asked her whether she believed in Jesus while driving her back to school. She said yes! Please pray for her growing faith and that she eventually will proclaim her faith in public through baptism. Also, here is a photo of the mini-library



at my new home for distributing Bibles and Christian books to seekers and new believers. Both pieces of furniture and most of books are gifts from various people. Thank you, dear donors! ■

Bridging the Cultural and Linguistic Divide

How Chinese and American missionaries can build each other up in ministry

MASTER STUDENTS, and Ph.D. students in China are accustomed to dealing with pressure. They feel emotional stress and pressure from their parents if they don't have a girlfriend or boyfriend. (Did you know there are companies in China that will rent a boyfriend or girlfriend to them over the Chinese New Year to avoid the pressure from their parents?)

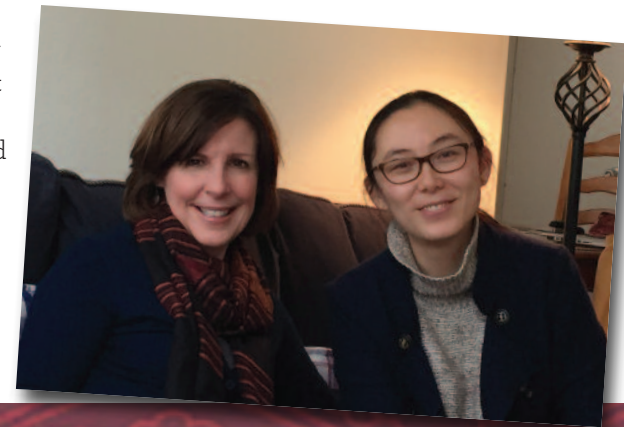
They feel pressure if they don't have a job. They feel pressure if they don't have a good job, or if they don't have the right job. They feel pressure from not being published yet, or for not being published in the right journals, or for not being the first author when they are published. However, nothing can prepare them for the unexpected emotions of loneliness, homesickness and culture shock that await them upon their arrival in America.

They arrive here with great hopes and expectations. They utilize Chinese social media apps such as WeChat and QQ. They surround themselves with Chinese "friends" once they arrive at their U.S. university. They go shopping together, they go traveling together and they live in community together. Then the unthinkable happens: They begin to feel the gripping effects of cross-cultural loneliness. And unless you've experienced it for yourself, you have no idea how debilitating it can be.

As a result, many Chinese students and scholars that Glenn and Erin meet admit how acclimating to the U.S. has changed them. They have had to become braver and more courageous; it's unavoidable living in a very different country. As Glenn and Erin share the things that helped them living in China, including how they depended upon God, often these conversations have turned to Christianity.

This scenario took place in January when their good Chinese friend, Wen, and Erin began a six-week study with two female visiting scholars. These two scholars had shared that they wanted to know more about God. They each responded that they could commit to six weeks and the group began "Return to Harmony," a curriculum in both English and Chinese. Erin shares, "It was so good to have my good friend and Chinese 'sister' share in facilitating; she bridged the language gap. At the last lesson (which lasted about three hours), one of the visiting scholars asked, 'How can I become a Christian?' Wen explained to her and she confirmed she believed! What a thrill welcoming her into God's family after she prayed to receive Jesus as her savior!"

Please pray that this young woman would grow in her faith. Also, pray that more Chinese men and women would be equipped to minister to visiting students and scholars. ■



Erin and Wen take time for a photo.

BY THE NUMBERS

58,144

Chinese scholars and students on campuses where our staff are located (of the nearly 350,000 in America).

288

Professions of faith

156

New Chinese Christians returning to China

8,019

Chinese were exposed to the gospel

143

Baptisms

81

Chinese Christians returning to China committed to make an impact for Christ.

932

Volunteers

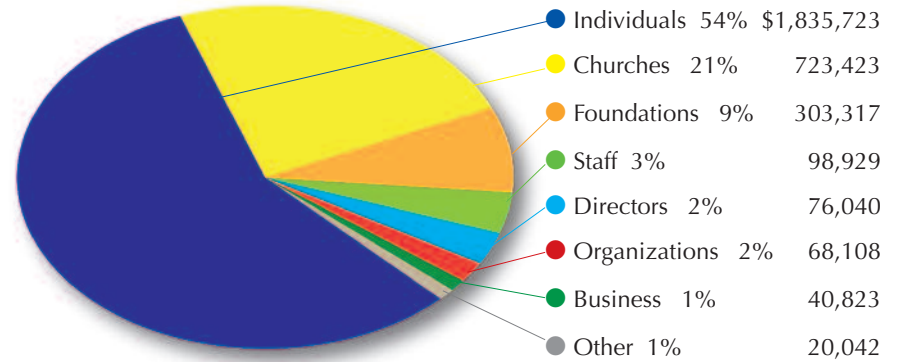
309

Chinese students received intentional discipleship

China Outreach Ministries Annual Report for 2016

We at China Outreach Ministries are grateful for another year of God's blessings and provision. Thanks to the generous support of our friends and ministry partners, we are seeing the good news of Jesus reach more Chinese academics on more American universities. Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts to the ministry. To God be all the glory as we look forward to another year of serving together in the harvest.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT, 2016



Total Revenue: \$3,389,720*

Gift Bearers

Special gifts and contributions to the ministry of COM

In Memory of

Rev. Earnest Hummer
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Sullivan

Tyler James-Liu Minch & Hai Lan Xu
Su Minch

In Honor of

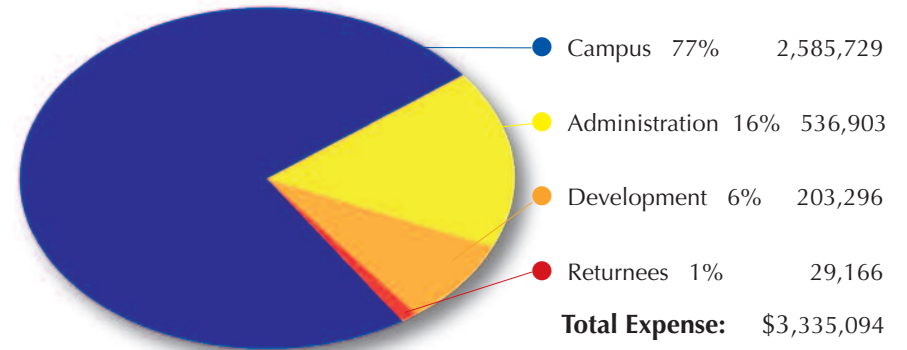
Rev. Daniel Su
Dr. Dale Voelker

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lorencz
Mrs. Betty Huppert

Han-Min Liu & Yun-Ting Keng
Ms. Ju Hsiu Jian

Marvin & Phyllis Hendrix
Ms. Celeste Gailey

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS, 2016



Total Expense: \$3,335,094

Audited Report. The official registration and financial information of China Outreach Ministries, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Contributions are tax-deductible for federal tax purposes.

Surprising Shepherds



An unexpected twist on a Christmas tradition

OF THE 120 PEOPLE who attended last year's Christmas party, Thomas and Casey say that no one suspected the surprise: The annual Christmas play would be cast with actors randomly picked from the audience.

Thomas and Casey explain, "When the guests checked in at the front door, each adult got a number. Before the meal, we drew 14 numbers and took those 14 people to a room to put on the costumes and rehearse." Of course to help these surprised shepherds, the actors' lines and Scripture verses were projected on the big screen during the show.

"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field ... and they were filled with great fear."

— Luke 2:8-9 ESV

During the party, Andy Huffman (from Bridges International) led the Christmas carols in his pitch-perfect Chinese. The Christmas story was also read in Chinese.

Casey recalls the party atmosphere. "I just saw the love of Christ poured on us across nations and languages at that moment, I know that was God showing me the glimpse of heaven when we together worshiped our heavenly Father on that day."

Casey also appreciates the volunteers that made the event possible. "We really want give a huge thanks to all of our volunteers who had done an amazing job on setting up, helping in the kitchen, decorating the place, cleaning up and donating Christmas cookies."

The following week, Thomas and Casey spent much of their time going through the comment cards. While doing so, they prayed that God would continuously bless and reveal Himself to those 80 party guests still in search of a savior. Please pray that these guests would receive the invitation that the Christmas season offers to all.would be filled with the fullness of God. ■



*“Just so, I tell you,
there is joy before
the angels of God
over one sinner
who repents.”*

— Luke 15:10 ESV

In Her Own Words

The following is the testimony from a new believer, Cara, from an interview with Pastor Heilman of Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa. Cara professed faith in Christ a few days before she returned to China. She wanted to share her story before she left.

Submitted by Greg Gainer, Iowa State University

MY HUSBAND CAME to Ames, Iowa about 16 months ago to do research in magnetism at Ames Lab. A few months later, my four-year-old daughter and I joined him. My daughter went to preschool, but I had a hard time adjusting to life in a foreign country. My husband found out about the English classes at Memorial Church. I wanted to learn English, and then I also became interested in learning about the Bible. My husband was also interested in Christianity. I began to attend Bible studies led by my English teacher, Greg Gainer.

In the spring, I joined the walking club with some international women, and I also enjoyed the trip to Pella, Iowa to see the Tulip Festival in late April.

This past summer, I attended the vacation Bible school classes for internationals while my daughter attended VBS at Memorial Church. The week of daily Bible studies were very helpful to me and the other women in the class. So a few of the other women and I asked Greg if he could continue teaching the Bible to us during the summer months.

We continued to meet to study the Bible during the fall semester, and I finally understood what it means to follow Jesus. Now I am hoping to meet with other Christians in China.

Please pray for Cara as she returns to China. Pray that she will make strong Christian friends, grow in faith and faithfully witness to others in her apartment building. ■

Greg recently received an email from Cara. From China, she writes:

Hello, Greg. Thank you. You lead me to meet Jesus. I joined a mother group. Every Thursday we meet together and study the Bible. (After class, I should do homework, haha.) God is almighty. He helps me to find the way to solve problems in my life. Although I don't communicate with you, you are my best teacher and friend at heart.

Cara and her daughter at the Tulip Festival in Pella, Iowa.



An IRA Rollover is now an ongoing option

If you are 70½ years of age or older, you are likely aware of the Internal

Revenue Service's required minimum distribution (RMD). If you have a traditional IRA, the IRS

requires you to withdraw a calculated amount annually from your IRA — regardless of whether you want to take a withdrawal or not. At the time of the withdrawal, you pay income tax on the amount you are required to take, plus any additional amounts you may decide to take. For many, the taxes can be significant and a heavy tax burden each year.

Some people are realizing they can make a wonderful difference in helping to advance China Outreach Ministries and its mission to reach more Chinese with the gospel by making an IRA rollover gift. The IRA charitable rollover gives a generous benefit to the donor. If you are 70½ or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from an IRA directly to a qualified charity without including the distribution as taxable income. Giving to COM in this way can lower your adjusted gross income and taxes while, at the same time, providing a life-changing financial gift to the outreach of COM.

Check with your financial advisor to be sure this way of giving is right for you. If you have questions, please email Jeff Krimmel, V.P. for Development, at jkrimmel@chinaoutreach.net or call 717-591-3500. Thank you! ■

