



CHINA  
OUTREACH  
MINISTRIES

Spring/Summer 2019

# IMPACT

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

## Making Disciples

One Chinese Student's  
Search for Truth

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Transitions in COM  
Development

Pages 8 and 11



# IMPACT

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.



A higher standard  
a higher purpose

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

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### **Please share your stories!**

How has God given you opportunity to be involved in the work of China Outreach Ministries?

Email Editor Tara Miller: [tmiller@chinaoutreach.net](mailto:tmiller@chinaoutreach.net).



# Disciples Are Made

*By Daniel Su, COM President*

**W**HAT DO YOU THINK the Great Commission is all about? Did it ever occur to you that it is not about making new converts, but about making disciples?

Matthew 28:19-20 says:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

When someone repents and turns to God, the Bible says there is rejoicing in heaven. I can imagine that as a baby being born. Of course, we celebrate. Wonderful as that is, it is only a beginning. The baby needs to be fed and to grow. This is the long process of disciple-making where the new believer is to be transformed in their worldviews, values, and lifestyle.

Discipleship is more than reading a book. When Jesus called someone, he called them to follow him and spend time with him; he engaged them in real life situations. COM adopts this incarnational model by sending our missionaries to the campuses where they engage Chinese students and scholars with the love of Christ day-in and day-out. We meet them in their joys as well as in their sorrows. We invite them to our dining tables as well as to our Bible study. We welcome them to America as well as sending them back to China. In the process, a new believer grows to be a mature disciple.

With your prayers and support, you’ve helped us to be agents of God’s blessings. Thank you! ■



# “I wanted to know who this God is.”

## *One Chinese Student's Search for Truth*

**A** YOUNG MAN stepped into the United States with frustration and uncertainty about the future. He'd had no interaction with Americans or American culture until he applied for graduate school. Treated unfairly by one university during the admissions process, he now felt angry toward America. Yet through simple acts of kindness, God began to change his heart. *This is Tim Chen's true story.*

I was born and raised in a traditional Chinese atheistic family. My parents didn't believe in any god, but they admired the civilization and freedom of America. Before I came to America for graduate school, all I knew about the country was from textbooks, movies, and media.

The process of applying for graduate school in the United States was not a pleasant experience for me. One university had offered me admission, but when I declined all other offers and was about to accept theirs, one of the professors rejected my enrollment for no apparent reason. And to make

it worse, that professor was originally from China. God showed his mercy, however, through another university which offered me a second admission after I had declined the first. I didn't appreciate this renewed opportunity, though, because of my frustration.

On the first day I went to campus in America, I was holding a map and walking around. Quite a lot of people came to me and asked: "Do you need help? May I show you somewhere?" I was very surprised. Why did the professor treat me, his own Chinese fellow, unfairly, while the Americans showed their best kindness and hospitality to me, a foreigner?

As I was looking to find the reason for American kindness, I found it in an unlikely place—on the money. You know, it is printed "In God We Trust" on the back of every dollar. I thought this God must be what makes Americans so exceptional. I wanted to know who this God is. So I went to a welcome party held by the Chinese church. I continued to get to know Christians in the Chinese church. China Outreach Ministries welcomed me, too, and I even went to a COM retreat where Daniel Su was speaking.

At a gospel camp, I met the Lord. The speaker talked about scientific facts to show the existence of God, such as the distance between Earth and the sun that is perfect for appropriate tem-



peratures. This made sense to me, and I agreed with him about an intelligent creator. Then he talked about Jesus. He said that for God to accomplish his plan, he sent his only son Jesus to the world and let him die on the cross. He was resurrected from death, so that sinners could be saved. I was hesitant when I heard this message. This didn't fit with my views about life.

But I knew there must be purpose in the world. My thinking by this time was, what if his preaching was true—that the creator of the whole universe, the living God, wants to have a personal relationship with me, a tiny and miserable human being? I really had no reason to deny it. And if I denied it, I was gonna be in big trouble.

So I decided to accept Jesus as my Savior and to follow Him. And that is the best decision I've ever made. He changed my whole life. I used to speak with profanity, but I stopped. I used to think I was always right. I still debate sometimes, but I know that I am not always right—only God is. I am leading a small group in my church. To serve the Lord and people is not easy, and I still have negative emotions sometimes, but there is inner peace because God loves me no matter what. ■

# Making Disciples

■ I saw Chelsea's eyes brighten, and she started to ask questions about the Bible! Perhaps she just heard that we could find all the answers to life's questions in the Bible—such as the purpose for your life and, if there is a God, what He is like. She studied the first lesson and listened attentively. After that, she desired to know more. A few months later, Chelsea accepted Christ. It was joyful to hear her prayer, “Dear Lord, I’ve finally found what I can rely on and surrender myself to you...”

— *Jing Jing Rachel Lin,*

*North Carolina*





■ In recent weeks as he was making preparations to return, Mr. Y took the time to say, “Of all the ways you and others helped us, the most important to me was that you helped me know the Bible better. Before I came to America, I knew very little, but now I know what it means to be a Christian, and I will become one someday.”

— *Duane and Jodi Decker,*

*Portland State University and Oregon Health & Science University*

■ E felt that there was a God, but she did not know who He is. No one in China had preached the gospel to her. So, she worshipped the Buddha. When she arrived here, she heard the true gospel. She began to read the Bible. Later we introduced her to the church. Soon she decided to follow Jesus, and we witnessed her baptism.

— *Jia Zhu,*

*Campus staff member*

■ One of our students recently shared about her experience at our retreat. She said, “Around the middle of the retreat I started to think about how to serve the local church. In these last few months in the US, I want to learn how to lead a Bible study group, how to lead worship, and even learn how to play an instrument. Now I know what my task is; I have a clear goal!”

— *Mary Cassidy,*

*ITT Chicago*



# Forward Thinking, Unchanging Message

*An Interview with Ken Wagoner,  
Vice President of Campus Ministries*

**WITH 30+ YEARS ON STAFF**, Ken Wagoner serves as a campus worker in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on the campuses of Carnegie Mellon, the University of Pittsburgh, and Duquesne University. He is also COM Vice President of Campus Ministries and one of eight area directors.

## ***What has motivated you to persevere in this work over the years?***

My main motivation is the biblical truth that God desires all the nations to know Him, love Him, and serve Him. One of the ways God is accomplishing this mission is through the overwhelming number of international students in the United States, and in particular the largest number being from China. I have seen God work in the lives of the Chinese scholars and students who return to China to influence family, friends, co-workers, and the culture of the country.

## ***How did God lead you to China Outreach Ministries?***

I was the pastor of a church near Johnstown, Pennsylvania, when I met Earnie Hummer, then the president of COM. As we developed a friendship over the following years, I shared with him that my wife and I wanted to always be open to God's leading, and

if he ever heard of a ministry which fit our abilities, gifts, and interests, I would consider it. Two years later the COM Board decided it was time to hire campus workers for campuses where there was a significant Chinese population. It took Earnie a while to convince me, but saying "no" to Earnie was never an easy thing.





***How have Chinese students and scholars changed over the last 30 years?***

Wow! Thirty-one years is a long time. Most of the scholars at that time had grown up during the Cultural Revolution. In 1988, the internet and email were not available to most people, and cell phones were not common. The majority of Chinese students and scholars in the United States today were born after the Tiananmen Square event. They know much more about western culture, their English proficiency is better, and they have more financial resources. They value experiential learning more than their parents. but there is much more competition for their time and attention.

***What are some never-changing commitments of the ministry that you've witnessed?***

People everywhere need to know two things: 1. They are loved. 2. They have value. These two needs are met in the biblical message of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. This mes-

sage is communicated through hospitality, friendship, and Christian love. God continues to use the followers of Jesus in His pursuit to reach others.

***What excites you the most about the future of COM?***

God has brought us some wonderful and gifted individuals who have the abilities, energy, and excitement to meet the changes we see in the current Chinese scholars and students. How our new staff will do their ministry will look much different than what I have done, but the message will be the same.

***What would you love to tell our IMPACT readers?***

Thank You! This ministry could not be done without you. I think of those who have encouraged me these past 30+ years, and I am humbled by their regular and faithful prayers, letters, calls of encouragement, and generous giving. Thank you for standing with COM staff. God is using you for His glory! ■

# Collections for the Kingdom

*Celebrating God's  
Work through  
Jeff Krimmel*



## **These are some of the major blessings COM has celebrated under Jeff's leadership:**

- In 2007, COM raised approximately \$700,000 in a capital campaign for the new leadership center when the headquarters moved from Virginia to Pennsylvania. The center provides offices and meeting space for 10 staff members along with a conference area for staff training and work space for volunteer engagement.
- For COM's 50th anniversary in 2009, the "50 in 50" campaign raised funds to increase on-campus presence to 50 staff in COM's 50th year. The \$500,000 raised funded training, technology, materials, and equipment for the new staff.
- Through the "Planned Giving" program, COM is grateful to God for the generous contributions from key donors in recent years through estate plans and gift annuities. Through this funding, God has provided for COM to subsidize rising health care insurance costs for missionaries on campuses. This funding also helps COM conduct research pertaining to the outreach, along with provision for general operations.

It has been a blessing to get to know Jeff and Terry and see their faithfulness in serving the Lord. I wish God's blessings on them in their new adventure!  
—Mary Ann Christopher

*As Vice President for Development, Jeff Krimmel has served COM for more than 12 years. During this time, God has used Jeff's gifts and faithfulness to bring about tremendous growth in financial resources for ministry. In July of this year, Jeff and his wife, Terry, will embark on a new adventure—moving back to Alaska. Jeff will re-join the mission organization SEND International, serving in a newly created development position. Relocating to Alaska will also mean that he and Terry will live closer to their three sons and their wives and (going on five) grandchildren. As a bonus to COM, Jeff will continue to mentor COM's new Director of Development, Kirk Zuercher.*

## **In the Words of COM Leaders and Supporters**

I thank God for Jeff for his service with COM. I'm going to miss him not only as staff but also as a friend. May God's blessings be with him and Terry as they serve the same God in a different direction.

—Daniel Su, *COM President*

Jeff is a man of integrity. His heart for the Lord and his desire to lead others in following Him has been a key factor in COM's financial health. He is a great friend and colleague. He will be greatly missed at COM, and I know God will use him in his future endeavors.

—Glen Osborn  
*Past COM President*

Jeff is an encourager and a friend. When I see him, he is always smiling and glad to see me. He appreciates my involvement with Chinese students and wants to know how it's going. I will miss him.

—Rich Snow

Jeff is a tremendous encourager and a great example of a man sold out to God on every level. He has been a wonderful friend to us, and we will miss him deeply.

—Robert & Debbie Walz

Jeff is a special person that has served the Lord well in COM. The first thing I notice about Jeff is his smile. It's bright and generous, and he uses it often. I cherish his friendship to me and will miss him and Terry. May God continue to bless and use you both for His Glory!

—Ruth Hummer

Dear Jeff, As you pursue this new chapter in your life, I am reminded of all you accomplished for COM. I personally thank you for your friendship with me and wish you and Terry complete happiness and joy as you join your family in Alaska.

—Ray M. Zook  
*Board Member Emeritus*

# news

## YOU CAN USE

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### China's Future Leaders Are Here

China Outreach Ministries shares the love of Christ with Chinese students and scholars at North American universities.

[Learn More](#)

## Discover More from COM Online

We are pleased to introduce our redesigned website. You'll find a whole new look on the homepage at the same address, [www.chinaoutreach.org](http://www.chinaoutreach.org). And more changes are coming soon!

The updated homepage incorporates current design features and accessible information for a highly engaging user experience. The entire site is also now completely mobile-responsive for the increasing percentage of users who navigate the web on smartphones and tablets.

Explore China Outreach Ministries online and you'll find:

- News and updates
- Map of current campus locations
- Electronic copies of *IMPACT*
- Testimonies from COM staff
- Chinese ministry resources
- A simple electronic giving page
- Instructive videos for planned giving options

*A special thank you  
to Art Lin, our new  
webmaster.*

*Art is the husband of  
Suhua Chen,  
COM internet  
ministry staff.*

## Introducing Kirk Zuercher

### *COM's New Director of Development*

**C**hina Outreach Ministries is pleased to announce that Kirk Zuercher will join the COM leadership staff as Director of Development on July 1. Kirk has served with COM for more than eight years on the campus of Penn State, most recently as team leader. He and his wife, Julie, will move from State College down to Mechanicsburg as he begins his new role.

“God has been preparing me all along the way,” Kirk shares. Prior to joining COM, he worked in the corporate world for 20 years as an accountant and as a business manager/controller, using his college degree in accounting and business administration. With all of his experience in business, the idea of a development position with COM was a natural fit. Soon after Jeff Krimmel’s transition announcement and as Daniel Su approached him about his potential new role, Kirk says, “It became evident to me very quickly that God might be moving this way.”

As Kirk reflects on his journey to this new ministry step, he also recognizes



other key factors. Through all of his life experiences, Kirk says he has come to understand the importance of building relationships—something he enjoys and looks forward to in his new role. His experience with COM has been significant in his preparation, too. “I have seen the ministry firsthand,” he reflects, “and that will help as we continue to tell the story of COM and how God uses this ministry to reach China’s future leaders.”

Looking forward, Kirk sees a tremendous window of opportunity with increasing numbers of Chinese students and scholars in the United States. He would love to see more campus staff join the ministry, and that will require continued development of financial resources. To *IMPACT* readers, Kirk says, “This ministry could not be done without you. We all have a part to play, and God is always faithful!” ■



## TAX CUTS & JOBS ACT

### What You Need to Know

*By Jeff Krimmel, Vice President of Development*

**I**n the fall of 2017 Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This legislation made some significant changes to our tax laws, both for the benefit and sometimes to the detriment of taxpayers. Here are some quick reminders and possible ideas for giving under this new law.

■ IRA Charitable Rollover law remains the same. Taxpayers age 70 ½ or older can still make qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from their IRAs, directly to charities, up to \$100,000 per year. This may be a benefit to taxpayers dealing with the new higher standard deduction. See your financial advisor for more information.

■ Donor-advised funds allow you to make a larger charitable contribution in one year that can be distributed to your charities over several years. This

method may allow you to bunch contributions in any given year, putting your deductions above the new higher standard deduction (\$12,000 per individual or \$24,000 jointly; \$13,300 per individual over 65 or \$26,600 jointly).

■ There are now limits on mortgage interest. State and local taxes are limited to \$10,000. Personal exemptions are eliminated.

■ If you have remembered China Outreach Ministries in your estate plan (your will) and you have fully funded emergency and health care accounts, you may consider making a life income gift. A gift of cash or appreciated property can provide you with income for life and a tax deduction, and you may also avoid capital gains taxes.

*See your financial advisor for more information or call Jeff Krimmel (after July 1, Kirk Zuercher) in the COM Development Office at 717-591-3500. Thank you for remembering COM as you plan to give now and in the future!*

## Gift Bearers *Special gifts and contributions to the ministry of COM*

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#### **Mr. Dennis Anthony**

Mr. & Mrs. John Zondlo

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## Why I Give to COM

*Giving Christ to China's  
future leaders—*

*What a FABULOUS CONCEPT!!  
I simply love the idea and how IT WORKS!*

*— a COM supporter*

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Highlights of the 2019 banquets included powerful Chinese testimonies, uplifting music, fellowship with friends, and even a visit from the COM Panda.

