

THE PANDA

BEARER

友愛中華

China Outreach

MINISTRIES

February 2015

Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders

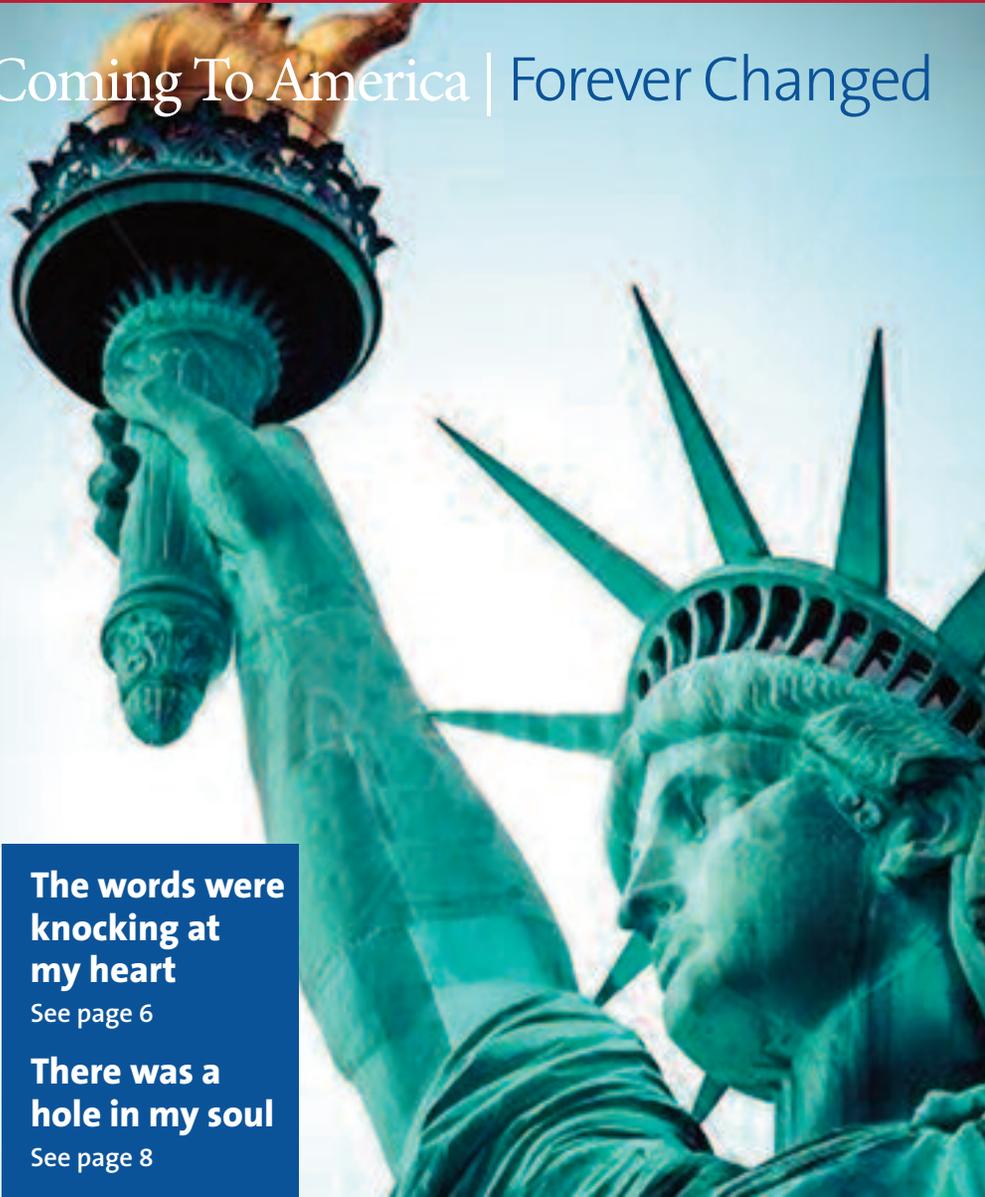
Coming To America | Forever Changed

**The words were
knocking at
my heart**

See page 6

**There was a
hole in my soul**

See page 8





I had the privilege to complete a Doctor in Ministry in Missions from Columbia International University this past year. It has been a multi-year process, and I have been blessed by great support from the COM Board, leaders, and staff – and especially my wife and family. The title of the dissertation is “Factors Encouraging or Impeding the Process of Making Disciples Among Chinese Scholars in the United States.” The COM staff administered surveys, both online and in person, with over 60 Chinese scholars who came to the U.S. without faith in Christ, and have become Christians. They were asked questions regarding what God used in their lives to bring them to faith, what were the obstacles, and how Christian workers were either helped or impeded the process.

The information that came to us from these interviews has been affirming to us. The key element that the scholars stated that God used to bring them to Christ was the loving relationships of Christians who connected with them and helped them in a new land. Seeing something in the lives of these Christians had a drawing effect on them. Here are some quotes from the research:

- A Post Doc researcher said, “...they have something special. I want what they have.” They went on to say, “I want to be like Christians to be able to love others...I want to have the joy that Christians have. I want to continue my faith journey even when I go back to China and help others in China to receive this peace and joy only Jesus can provide.”

- A PhD student said, “I was deeply attracted by the church life and the peace and joy the Christians had. I was also attracted by how they lived in harmony with one another.”

- A scholar commented: “I could tell by the positive attitude toward life (I didn’t know if it was cultural or faith) but the openness and welcoming smiles made me sure some of this was from God as well as cultural.”

- Another said, “I am impressed by the attitude of their everyday life, the attitude when they are confronted with difficulty. Also, they are always willing to help others.”

- One scholar gave a direct reference as to how the testimony of changed lives resulted in her conversion: “Other Christian’s testimony and their new life in Christ encourage me to be a Christian.”

- Another said, “From them I saw the image of Jesus Christ. Without them I could not know God.”

This reminds us of the power of God’s love in and through His people. To love our neighbor as ourselves as an obedient follower of Jesus results in the power of the Spirit of God taking that love and using it to impact the deepest part of a Chinese scholar and draw them to the Source. The point for COM is that we have been doing the right thing and we want to do it more. We are praying for more loving Christians to join the harvesting team to offer this love that passes understanding to the over 300,000 Chinese currently at universities in the United States.

Next edition, I’ll share with you some of the obstacles that our Chinese friends have faced in coming to Christ. Thanks so much for your love for them through this ministry!

Glen Osborn
Glen Osborn
COM President

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Giving Stock... benefits COM and YOU!

Giving appreciated stock is a simple way to support the mission of China Outreach Ministries while taking advantage of tax savings on appreciated property. Suppose you want to make a significant contribution to support your favorite COM missionary or project, but you have limited cash to do so. A tax savings could allow you to give more while at the same making you gift affordable.

If you own stock that has appreciated since you purchased it you could sell it, 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 amount.

For example:

If you bought ABC stock for \$2,500 and then gave it to COM when it was worth \$5,000, you would not have to pay tax on the \$2,500 of appreciation. You increase giving capacity when you give appreciated stock.

If you need help just call Jeff Krimmel at 717-591-3500 or write him at COM, 555 Gettysburg Pike, Suite A-200, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. Or you may email Jeff at jkrimmel@chinaoutreach.net.

From Phoebe Hoyle, George Mason University: I met “L” when I picked her and her son up from the airport upon their arrival from China. On the way back, I started to share my faith with her. She stated that she was a university professor and it was hard for her to believe in God. Within a month of her arrival in the United States, trauma came upon her. As myself and other Christians gathered around her, she accepted Jesus as her Savior. Her life was changed dramatically while she was in the States. She was so eager to learn about God and had a desire to impact others upon returning to China. She has now returned to China and has started a library for children. She is praying to impact the children’s parents through ministering to the children.

From Laien and Shirley Xu, UCLA: “H” attended our fellowship and showed her interest. Often I noticed she had a heavy heart. Sharing with her over coffee one day, she shared the issues she was struggling with in her heart:

“For years I have been thinking how my presence as a Chinese, a daughter, and a woman can do good to my country, my family and my society, but I have been grappling with anger, fear, and frustration. My deep sorrow and empathy to people who are unjustly treated intensify my anger toward those who should be charged; my earnest love for my family doesn’t lessen the fear of losing them; and my ambition of eliminating unfair treatment between men and women comes with frustration at all times. I care so much, but I am also helpless, for I can change nothing. So I left, escaping from my beloved country, family, and even myself.”

I cried and prayed for her. I knew God was working in her heart! Since that afternoon, no matter how tight her class and study schedules, she always takes the time to attend our fellowship. Her life is changed! This summer she asked to be baptized. Later she said:

“After Shirley and I prayed over a year ago, I felt blessed. Truly I am not the only one on this planet that suffers pain, and I am not the only fighter for justice either. I felt helpless because I solely relied on myself. I have been receiving comfort, support and love from an invisible power since the day Shirley prayed for me. I know that power is from God! Now I am ready to live another life and I know I should depend on our heavenly Father, who created the world, hears us and cures all. For Him, I surrendered and got baptized. I was lost and now have been found. The question that haunted me for years didn’t vanish, but I have hope and now know whom I should depend on.” ■

Winter Retreat Outreach

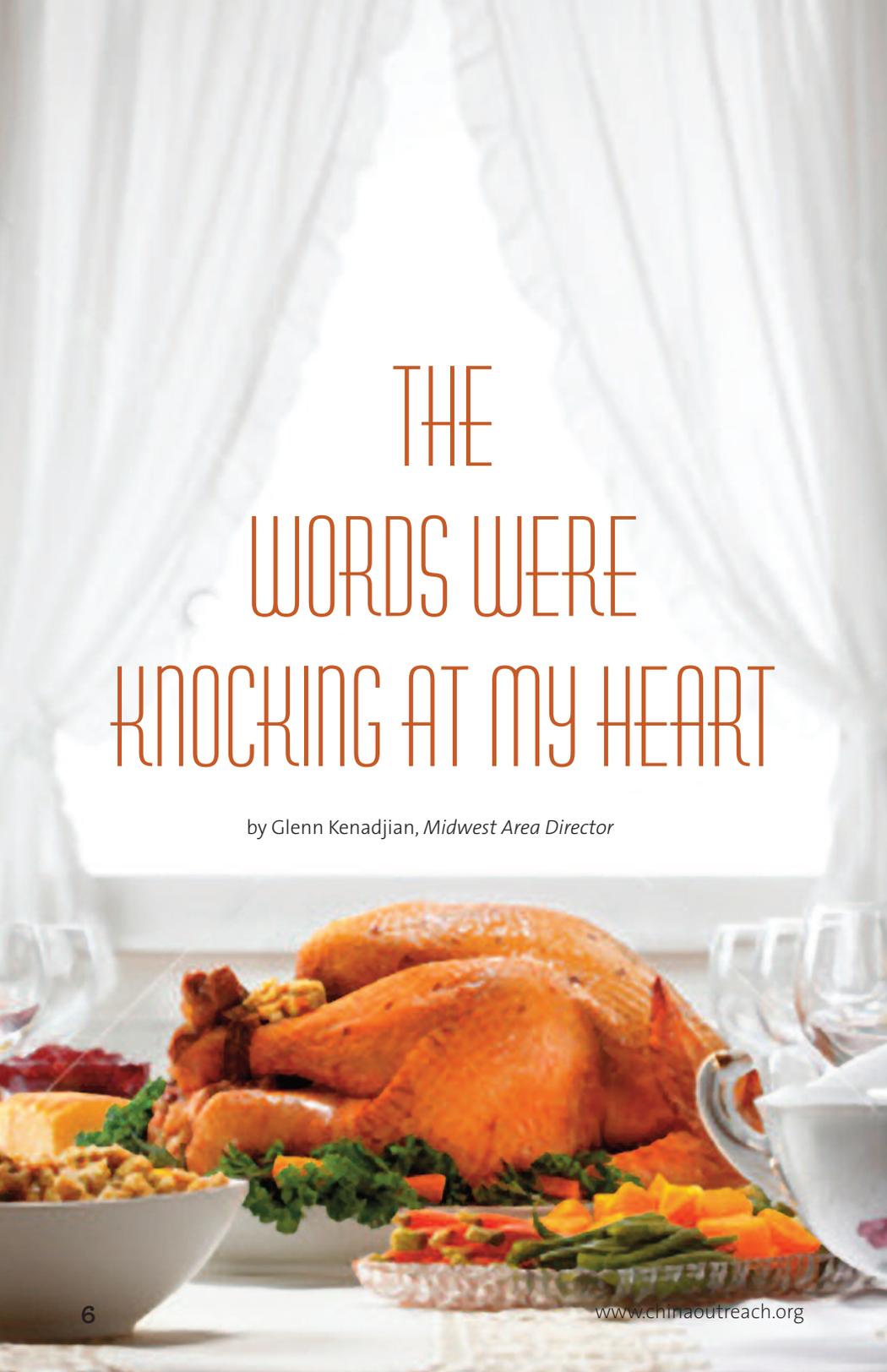
by Tom and Kathy Lindstrom, *University of Minnesota*



Our campus workers use a variety of methods in presenting the truth of the Gospel to the China scholars on their campuses. Our workers at the University of Minnesota just completed their fifth annual winter retreat at Timber Bay Camp near Onamia, MN. You will notice horses in the pictures — these are all rescue horses. These horses have endured abuse and are used to teach the love of God for broken people through horses.

Of the 33 attending, only 3 were Christians at the beginning of the weekend. Daniel Su, Executive Vice President of COM, was our speaker and spoke on “Jesus Christ — The Way, The Truth, The Life.” We had four speaking sessions with small groups afterwards for discussion after his talks. One student made a first-time profession of faith in Christ. Everyone left with a smile and a new appreciation for broomball. We were able to ski on the lake, hike at night with lanterns, told stories and jokes around the fire, and ATE everything put before us. Please continue to pray for the scholars who attended, that the Holy Spirit would continue to work in their hearts as they remember the life-giving words of Jesus. ■





THE WORDS WERE KNOCKING AT MY HEART

by Glenn Kenadjian, *Midwest Area Director*

Here is the testimony of “YC” who came to know Christ through COM’s ministry at the University of Minnesota:

my

journey from a non-believer to a Christian started in 2008. At that time I connected with my host family for the Chinese-American Afternoon event sponsored by COM. The main reason I signed up for this event, besides having a free meal, was because I wanted to experience the Thanksgiving

holiday culture in the U. S.

I learned the history of the Thanksgiving holiday and after the meeting they took me home for a nice dinner. When I went back to my home, I thought, how could these people be so nice to a stranger like me? Their hospitality and love towards me were beyond my comprehension. I thought to myself, if there is a god, I definitely would want this god to be like the one my host family believed in, where they were taught to love and care for each other, regardless of where they came from and how much money they had.

During my second year of graduate study, I encountered a challenge in my life. My advisor left for sabbatical and told me I needed to finish my degree during the year he would be away. Apart from the stress of my research and course work, I was consumed by the thoughts that no one cared about me. I fell into a deep depression, thinking there was no way out for my life.

At my lowest time, I began to attend a COM Bible study. During one of these nights, we talked about the death of Jesus having paid for all our sins so that we can be saved and receive eternal life. I felt the words being spoken were knocking right into my heart. I realized that the death of Jesus, the Son of God, is the ultimate sacrifice for our sins and the ultimate answer to all the questions I had in my heart. We prayed together and when the leaders put their hands on my shoulder, I felt that time almost stopped and I felt no worry or fear at all. In that moment, I felt so happy and proud to have become a Christian and to know that Jesus is my savior.

I feel so grateful for what God has done in my life, saving me from being a person struggling with hopelessness and depression to who I am today; one filled with faith and joy. I want to express my deepest gratitude for the wonderful people that have come into my life, because they have truly taught me the truth about life and led me to peace and joy in God’s loving hand. ■

There was a hole in my soul

by Rich and Joanna Fullner, *University of Washington, Seattle*

“N,” a psychology professor, came to Seattle with his wife and daughter in the spring of 2014. Here is his story:

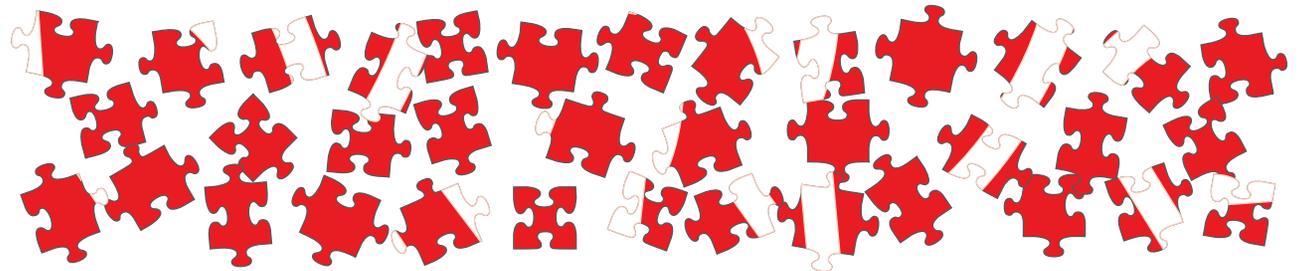
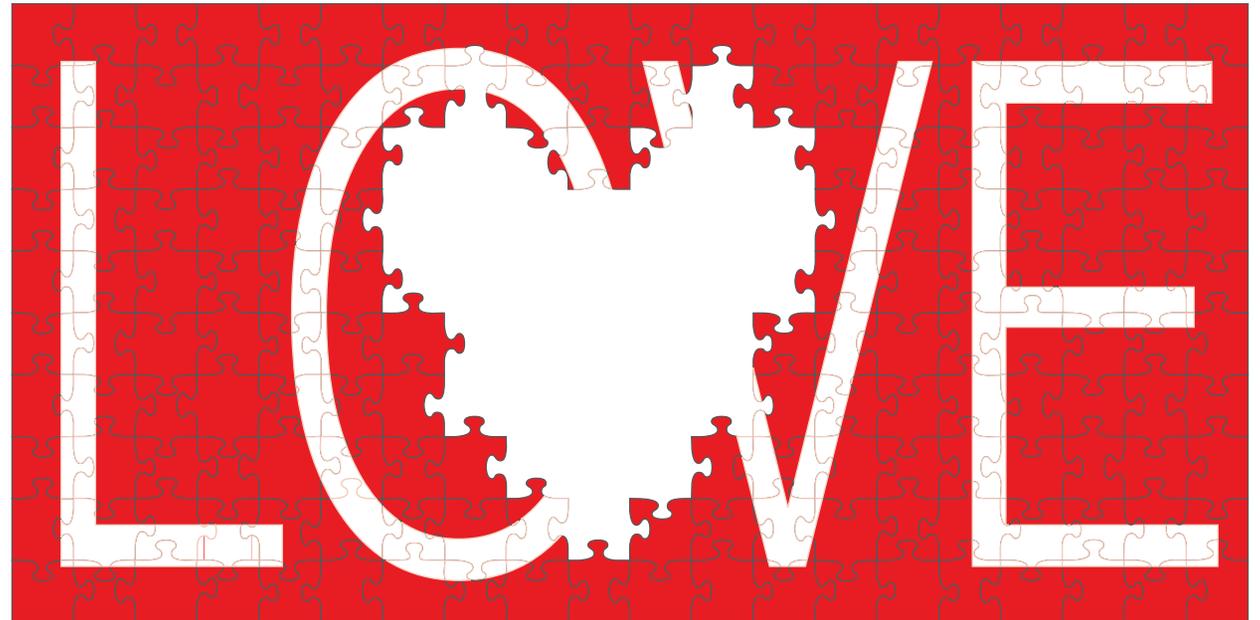
“When I came to America, I wanted to know more about Christianity. In China I studied psychology and practiced writing down things I was grateful for. Although this practice improved my happiness, there was still a hole not filled in my soul or spirit. So this feeling moved me to look for solutions in religion.

My neighbor, also a visiting scholar, invited me to a Chinese church. One of the leaders of that church phoned us to say he and his wife would like to visit us. I felt happy because before then, no one in America said they would like to visit us. Many of the people in the church gave unselfish love and help to the visiting scholars when they arrive in Seattle. We also felt the love and friendly atmosphere when we went to meetings on Sunday morning. The Christians’ smiles and love made me feel warm and form positive attitudes about Christianity.

Then I began to attend Talk Time, a weekly activity Joanne and Rich provide for Chinese scholars. This became a catalyst for my belief in Christ. I long to attend this weekly meeting. The volunteers are so nice and warm. We not only learn to express opinions, but also learn the American culture. Because this activity is organized by Christians, I get the impression of what real Christians should be.

I now realize that God is love. This is the most important and first rule in doing everything. If we continue to believe in God every day and rely on this love, we will love neighbors, family, students, and the jobs we are doing. Everything is secondary, compared with this Love.

My father came to visit for several months and began attending church with us. After he accepted Jesus as Savior, he reads the Bible every day, sings songs, listens to preaching every day. He said he came to the USA with empty hands, but returned with full harvest, because he now knows Jesus.” ■





Why?

by Kirk and Julie Zuercher, *Penn State*

Here is the story of “S” and “G,” a married couple who came to Penn State:

From “S” - Before I came to the US, I worked for a charitable organization in China. I was happy that I had a chance to help others in poverty or difficulty. I thought that was the meaning of my life. I quit my job to come here with my wife, “S.” I planned to learn English and explore different cultures. What I did not expect was being selected by God. It is the most wonderful thing in the world.

From “G” - Last October was difficult for us. I found that I was pregnant. We were so excited about that, because we wanted a baby for a long time. Although I was not feeling very well at that time, I thought that was just a reaction to pregnancy. Surely God would bless us and the baby. When “S” was worried about me, I told him confidently that we were Christians, we had God, and everything would be fine. When we went for the ultrasound test, the doctor told us the baby was pretty normal. She gave us the photo of our baby. When we saw the picture, we were the happiest people in the world. We prayed for the baby every day.

Unfortunately, when we went to take the second test, the doctor told us they couldn't hear the baby's heartbeat. They tested twice and had the same results, telling us it was a miscarriage. But we couldn't believe it. I stayed restless, just crying and thinking why it happened. I asked God why he let this kind of thing happen to me. I questioned why I chose to be a Christian, if my God didn't love me, and didn't protect my baby. At Penn State we knew about six pregnant couples. Most of them were not Christian. All of their babies were very healthy, except mine.

Kirk and Julie and many Christian friends came to see me, telling me that God had his plan for me. Maybe we cannot understand, but we will know it sometime in the future. They kept praying for us. When I look back, I think maybe we were not ready to be parents yet. I don't know exactly what his plan is, but my faith is back and has become stronger than before.”

From Kirk and Julie - Please keep this couple in your prayers, as they are now back in China and getting readjusted to their daily lives there. We are keeping in touch with them on a regular basis. They are looking for a church home and we are attempting to put them in touch with Christians near their home. Pray that God will open the door for them to find good Bible teaching and also that God will bless them with a child, as they really want to start a family. ■

A small beginning within a big plan



About six months ago, I was interviewing Mr. Xin Luan, a candidate who had applied to serve with COM as a missionary. In the process of the interview, it dawned on me that he became a Christian through the campus ministry I started in Ohio almost 15 years ago!

It is amazing as I looked back. When COM sent me to do missions work among the Chinese students at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, I simply stepped out in faith, not knowing what the future held or whom I would cross paths with. What I did know was that the freezing winter there was long and snow was heavy.

After I moved to Ohio, we started small but were encouraged to see God's blessings as our ministry grew. We worked with a Lutheran church by the university campus. They graciously provided their facility for our use. So Chinese students kept coming. We held our weekly Bible study, and we also featured invited speakers for major outreach events.

Not only did the students hear God's love in the Bible study. They also witnessed God's love in action. We helped students with their practical needs. We organized trips out of town. We cooked Chinese food for a fundraising dinner to help a Chinese student who was seriously injured in a car accident and was in financial difficulty. Chinese students were very touched to see many Americans came to the dinner and generously offered their donation. Gradually, Chinese students and their family members were coming to know Christ one by one. And one of them was David Sun, who graduated from a top university in Shanghai.

David was a quiet man. He did not talk a lot, but he seriously wanted to follow Christ and serve the students. When I relocated to the East Coast, David took over the leadership role. God continued to bless the ministry at Bowling Green. As a result, another Chinese student by the name of Xin Luan was among those who came to know the Lord. I later baptized him during a retreat in the mountains in western Pennsylvania. God has recently called him to join COM and serve as a missionary working among the 3,000 Chinese students at Penn State University.

Looking back, I marvel at how my paths crossed with David Sun and later Xin Luan. I am in awe of God's hand at work: how a small beginning of a ministry initiative can be so blessed by God to become a blessing to many. And I am also humbled to see myself playing a small part in God's greater plan as he brings people into His Kingdom. And I know that too can be true for all Christians as each of us seek to be faithful to God with the opportunities and resources he has given us. ■

GIFT BEARERS

Special gifts and contributions to the ministry of COM

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Ms Shelley Thomas

SCCAC & ARK GROUP

Yizhou Fang

DANIEL SU

Mr. Baolong Chai

Mark your
calendar now
to save the date
for our SPRING
CELEBRATION
DINNER event
in your area.

Harrisburg, PA area
Thursday, March 12

Washington, DC area
Friday, March 13

Baltimore, MD area
Friday, March 21

Canton, OH area
Monday, March 23

Erie, PA area
Tuesday, March 24

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