

# Join us at a COM Celebration Get-Together

## ■ Bradford, PA area

Friday, September 11, 12:00 noon  
Evans Memorial U.M. Church  
Lewis Run, PA

## ■ Jefferson County, PA area

Saturday, September 12, 9:30 a.m.  
Clarion Inn  
DuBois, PA

## ■ Philadelphia, PA area

Thursday, October 1, 6:30 p.m.  
Drexelbrook  
Drexel Hill, PA

*For more details or to make a reservation, please call  
the COM office at 1-800-269-7815 or email us at  
[chinaoutreach@aol.com](mailto:chinaoutreach@aol.com). You can also register on our  
website at [www.chinaoutreach.org](http://www.chinaoutreach.org).*

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Mechanicsburg, PA  
PERMIT NO. 227

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

# THE PANDA BEARER

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

July 2015

Coming to America | Forever Changed

## Sunlight & Rain

*God brings new life  
to two total strangers*

PAGE 5





### Overcoming Obstacles to Faith

**I**n our last edition, I shared with you the results of our research regarding what factors encouraged Chinese students and scholars who have come to America to become disciples of Jesus Christ. The top answer was the loving relationships of Christians who connected with them and helped them in a new land. They mentioned, over and over again, the impact of seeing something in the lives of Christians who reached out to help them.

What obstacles made it difficult for these students to become disciples of Jesus? I promised that I would share with you in this edition the responses we received. The top two answers were:

- **Christians behaving badly** - bad attitudes and bad behavior
- **Too much pressure** to make a faith commitment

One comment made was, "Some Christians don't behave well outside the church." Another person simply observed that they were "not loving each other." One felt pressured and said in regards to Christians, "They were over-zealous and even appeared to be interfering with my private life." And another commented, "Some Christians were too eager to evangelize, and, in the process, give people too much pressure."

There were also personal obstacles shared that the students faced in coming to follow Jesus. These were:

- The desire to **remain faithful** to their own culture and background
- Concerns of how returning to China as a Christian could impact their lives
- What **family members will think** and how will they respond

One student said, "I was raised as an atheist with the typical communist education. I never believed there was a God." And another stated, "My education since childhood formed my mentality of self-reliance and self-strength. I firmly believed that our future is in our own hands by working hard, getting a good education and good jobs."

It is a challenge for us fallen human beings to meet the deep spiritual needs of those who have been taught that there is no God. It is not only difficult; it is impossible without the working of the Holy Spirit. We need to continue to pray for each other - that God will help us show His light, not leading others away from Him but to Him. Remember, even those who gave these answers eventually became Christians - so God did get through to them in spite of the obstacles. But neither should we excuse ourselves; we are called to be "Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:20). We need to prayerfully surrender to Him and be faithful to share the Gospel in season and out of season. It is God who works in us to do His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

Glen Osborn, COM President

## Gift Bearers

### Special gifts and contributions to the ministry of COM

#### In Memory of

**Ruth Hess**

Mrs. Lee Harris

**Herbert Lippy**

Mrs. Herb Lippy

**Hongyan Pei**

Mr. Liwen Chen

**Mr. Charlie Shearer**

Mr. & Mrs. Lal Shroy

Mr. & Mrs. Delmar Benner

Mr. & Mrs. Brooke Morrison

Mr. Ray Zook

#### In Honor of

**Ms. Anna Cai**

Ms. Rong Zheng

Hui Li

**Eric & Weiting**

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Schumacher

**Greg Gainer**

Zaigao Tan

**Richard Hogue**

Ms. Penny Locklair

**Rev. & Mrs. Earnie Hummer**

Mrs. Gary Glasgow

**Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lorencz**

Mrs. Betty Huppert

**Mrs. Margaret Lovejoy**

Mr. Tom Fissel

**Saint Clare and Francis**

Ms. Sunny Ko

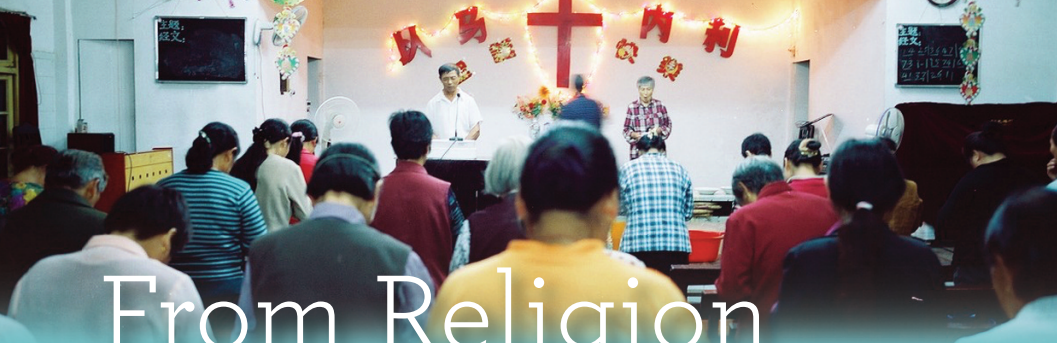
**Debbie Walz**

Mr. and Mrs. Troy Baer

**Dr. Hank Wang**

Mr. Gene Neff





# From Religion to *Relationship*

*How would you respond if your career depended on denying your faith?*

Submitted by Penn State University Staff

*“They both have good jobs in a university and are doing well, but not everything is as ideal as it may seem.”*

**T**hank you for your prayers for our recent ministry trip to China. We traveled to nine cities and were able to visit at least 40 of our former students, their families and colleagues. We want to share one of many stories with you.

“N” and “W” and their family live in a beautiful city. They both have good jobs in a university and are doing well, but not everything is as ideal as it may seem. They became followers of Jesus Christ while at Penn State as visiting scholars and returned to China as new Christians. They want to teach their children to follow Jesus, too. The problem is that they feel that they must be very secretive about it. “N” must sign a paper each year stating that he has not joined a religion in order to keep his job. Not being open and honest about his faith bothers him very much.

We were able to share that true Christianity is not really a *religion*, but a *relationship*. Religion is a method of trying to be good enough to earn your way to heaven. By God’s amazing grace, we are, and will always be, children of our Heavenly Father who loves us much more than we can ever imagine.

We believe that God brought all of our international friends like “N” and “W” to Penn State and opened their hearts. May He continue the good work He began and bring forth good fruit. ■

## THE PANDA BEARER

July 2015

The Panda Bearer is published quarterly by China Outreach Ministries.

President:  
Glen Osborn

Editor:  
Seth Thomas

Design:  
Geoffrey Isley

## CONTENTS

- 1 THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT  
*Glen Osborn shares about the obstacles facing students today.*
- 3 DEVELOPMENT NEWS  
*Is a gift annuity right for you? Jeff Krimmel, V.P. for Development, invites your financial partnership.*
- 4 SNAPSHOTS  
*Updates from our workers in the field.*
- 5 Sunlight and Rain  
*JingJing Rachel Lin writes about how God brought new life to two total strangers.*
- 7 Knowing God  
*Danny and Susan Forte tell how we all can play a part introducing others to God.*
- 9 Scholars and Students  
*John and Karen Zondlo discover that China’s growing economy is creating generational differences between students and scholars.*
- 11 It Is Really Good News  
*Gregg and Nancy Smyrl relate how an interest in culture led to a conversation about the Gospel.*
- 13 From Religion to Relationship  
*Keeping the faith, even when that puts your career at stake.*
- 14 GIFT BEARERS  
*We list for you this quarter’s honor roll of donors.*



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

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



a higher standard  
a higher purpose



[www.facebook.com/ChinaOutreach](http://www.facebook.com/ChinaOutreach)





# lly Good News

Submitted by Gregg and Nancy Smyrl, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

## A Gift that Gives to YOU and COM ... is a Gift Annuity right for you?

**A**re you looking for a guaranteed fixed income for you and/or your spouse, combined with a way to support China Outreach Ministries? A charitable gift annuity may be the answer to achieving both of these goals. When you fund a gift annuity with cash or appreciated property (such as stock) with COM and the Orchard Foundation, you will be guaranteed income for either one person or two at a rate comparable to, or exceeding, what you may receive from many other kinds of investments (such as certificates of deposit). You will also receive a tax deduction for a portion of the gift you make and some of the income you receive will be tax-free! Below are some sample interest rates and corresponding ages:

ONE PERSON		TWO PEOPLE	
AGE	RATE	AGE	RATE
70	5.1%	70/71	4.6%
75	5.8	75/77	5.1
80	6.8	80/81	5.8
85	7.8	85/86	6.9
90	9.0	90/91	8.4

For precise rates based on any age, please contact Jeff Krimmel, V.P. of Development, at 717-591-3500 or [jkrimmel@chinaoutreach.org](mailto:jkrimmel@chinaoutreach.org). You can also consult your tax advisor. Gift annuities are a simple way to invest in China Outreach Ministries while, at the same time, receiving income for you and/or a spouse. **Thank YOU!**

Our hope, of course, is that they will go beyond an interest in the culture and develop an understanding of the Gospel.

The scholars also meet at other times for field trips. On one such field trip this past April, we went to Hilltown Baptist Church in rural Pennsylvania. The church has a rich history going back to 1735, and several families still own or work on farms. Pastor Josh Vander Stel and his church youth group were great hosts.

First, we went to a farm where you could pick all of the fruit you wanted. From there, we went to a horse farm and watched the thoroughbreds race one another. Our last stop was a farm where the sheep had just been shorn. We each got to take a little bit of wool home with us.

After visiting the farms, we had a picnic lunch, played a game of whiffle ball and took a tour of the church. At this time, many in the youth group got to tell the Chinese scholars how important it was for them to know the Lord. The scholars had many questions that Pastor Josh and the youth were glad to answer.

Thank you again for your part in the ministry to visiting Chinese scholars and students in the Philadelphia area. Your prayers and support are vital for our ministry. ■





families to be prosperous and happy. We develop relationships through tutoring with these students, but they are often less willing to discuss topics that they might consider controversial – topics like religion and family.

We ask for your continued prayers as we share the joy and hope that faith in Jesus brings and attempt to develop deeper relationships with students and scholars.

One final story to share: Last month, we traveled to Austin to celebrate one of our former students earning her doctoral degree. “WF” came to UNM to work on her master’s degree. Initially, she was disinterested in any discussions about faith and religion. But through relationships with many Christians and witnessing their consistent example of service and joy, she gradually opened up and eventually made a decision to follow Jesus as well as to lead her mother to Christ! Please pray with us that she will be able to continue to grow in her faith, and that she can be brave and bold in sharing her new hope with family, friends and colleagues. ■

# It Is Real

*How an interest in the culture can lead to a conversation about the Gospel.*

**A**scholar who spoke at our Baltimore banquet back in March sent us a note before returning to China. He was writing of my Chinese co-worker and our Bible study group. He said: “You have let me have a chance to know God. It is really good news, which has changed my life. I hope that more visiting scholars will listen to this Gospel.”

Our Bible study for visiting Chinese scholars takes place Friday nights. The study offers a chance for our friends to improve their English and to build their understanding of American culture.



## Snapshots from our workers



**From Tom and Kathy Lindstrom, University of Minnesota**

Pray for “TF” who returned to China last fall. He is married and has a child who is raised by grandparents in another city. “TF” was in a Bible study and also attended a church on campus with a COM volunteer. He was so radiant and social. Toward the end of his time here, he was approached about placing his faith in Christ. He said that he was ready and made a profession of faith. Now that he has returned to China, we have corresponded some. Please pray with us that “TF” continues to find fellowship.

**From one of our workers, University of Maryland**

One of our scholars asked for an extension on her project and recently got her final approval. That is the good news. The bad news is that she only has four and a half months left, and she says that she has a lot of work to do from China. Sadly, she has not agreed to come back to our follow-up Bible studies. Please pray that she will change her mind. In addition, there are two other new believers who should be in follow-up studies, but they say that they are also too busy. Please pray against the enemy’s attack of heavy workloads on our students and scholars that keep them from spending time in Bible study.

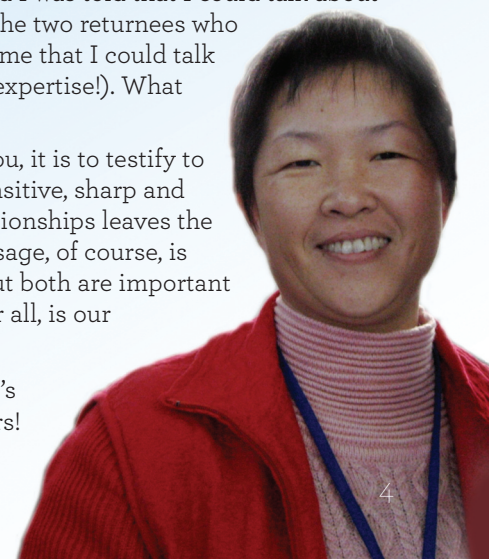


**From Chi Kao, University of California, Berkeley**

I have come back safe and sound from my three-week China trip. Surprisingly, I got to teach two classes – one to about one hundred undergraduate students for over ninety minutes and the other to about twenty graduate students for three hours. Yes, three hours! And I was told that I could talk about anything. Since I did not prepare for this, the two returnees who had invited me assured me and reassured me that I could talk about my faith (which is perceived as my expertise!). What an honor and what an opportunity!

If there is a key message to share with you, it is to testify to God’s love in our daily lives with these sensitive, sharp and vulnerable friends. Building personal relationships leaves the most sustaining impact. Another key message, of course, is prayer. I realize that neither idea is new, but both are important reminders to myself. Our key partner, after all, is our Heavenly Father and Almighty God.

Oh, by the way, I also experienced China’s biggest sandstorm in the last thirteen years! Isn’t that cool? ■





# Sunlight & Rain

*How God brought new life  
to two total strangers.*

*“One day, she confessed  
that she could never do  
enough for what Buddhism  
teaches. She wanted to  
know what was  
important and true.”*

Submitted by JingJing Rachel Lin, Penn State University

Submitted by John and Karen Zondlo, Colorado State University-Pueblo

**W**e continue to have an active ministry to Chinese students and scholars at Colorado State University-Pueblo. We have learned that tutoring provides the best opportunity for a deeper relationship as well as the best opportunity to share the Gospel with students and scholars – not only by what we say, but also in how we live our lives.

There are a small number of scholars at CSU-Pueblo who typically show the most interest in learning about the God we serve. Scholars are usually visiting faculty – professors who already have Ph.D.'s, or other advanced degrees, and are here to work collaboratively with host faculty members. They are often older. They have gained some significant “real work” experience, but they have also experienced more of life's joys and frustrations. Having achieved their academic goals, they frequently wonder why they are not “happy.” The Christians that the scholars meet when they arrive here, and the gracious help and genuine friendship they experience, impact them. Both Karen and I tutor scholars, and we are very encouraged by their curiosity and openness to the Gospel.

Students, on the other hand, are younger and typically have not been out of school when they arrive. Since it is rare for students in China to have part-time jobs (they study such a great amount of time), their primary life experience is school. They believe the future is at their fingertips if they continue to study hard and get good grades.

At the University of New Mexico, most of the students we worked with were graduate students. Here, most of the students are undergraduate students in degree-seeking programs. While less than a decade separates them, the differences are almost generational. China's fast growing economy, and subsequent growth in its middle class, is very evident in the younger students we now see. As a result, they are sometimes not as interested in talking about faith. They believe they know the main reason for America's success – money, and they want to make a lot of it! They carry a lot of pressure from their







## Scholars and Students

*How China's growing economy is creating generational differences between students and scholars.*

**M**inistry is like a rainbow. It is mixed with sunlight and rain, and, at the end, it is beautiful. First let me share about the rain, and then, you will see the sunlight.

“F” and “P” were once so curious about God, and we had great conversations. However, they stopped returning to our Bible study. Eventually, they went back to China without God. Likewise, “H” showed interest in God’s Word and started attending Bible study at the beginning of the semester. However, she stopped coming to Bible study, and instead only attended our English class. She explained that she “was” already a Christian, but we were not sure. Recently, she told someone that she is a Buddhist. While my heart was discouraged, praise God that at least some seeds were planted in their lives. Pray that God will continue to sow.

Now let me share about the sunlight. One lady, “LP,” expressed that she would like to accept God! I was so happy for her, and I decided to find a time to go over the Gospel with her.

In a different Bible study one afternoon, I got to know another lady, “XL.” She had studied Buddhism for the past year, and now she was studying Christianity. She still emphasized “doing good,” but I explained to her that, while religion is all about “do, do, do,” Christianity is “done.” After several Bible study sessions, she understood that it is by grace we have been saved, through faith and not from ourselves; it is a gift of God and not by works.

One day, she confessed that she could never do enough for what Buddhism teaches. She wanted to know what was important and true. “XL” said that she saw peace in Christians’ lives – especially missionaries who had given up their jobs to serve God. She said, “God wants us to enjoy life, right now, and not worry about tomorrow. That is what I want.” Before she realized the peace and joy found in God, “XL” told me, “I wasn’t even excited when I got married and had a child.”

On the day that “XL” and I met to discuss her questions about faith, God brought “LP” to join us. “XL” and “LP” did not know each other previously, and I was a little concerned. However, it worked out very well. Many times, “XL” helped to answer questions about faith from “LP,” and “LP” helped me answer some questions from “XL.” At the end, “LP” prayed to receive Christ. Praise Him!

Since then, I have been discipling “LP” and “XL.” Praise God that they want to continue to grow in their faith. I am joyful to hear that “XL” already has the desire to share the Gospel with others and is seeking wisdom in how to reach her students and family.

We have gone through the rain, and now, exposed in God’s light, we can see the beautiful rainbow. ■





# Knowing God

*How we all can play a part  
introducing others to God.*

**T**he Bible says in Hebrews 11:6, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

Believing God exists and believing He is good are two foundational beliefs that Susan and I try to share with our Chinese friends. In addition, we also share about an open heart and a desire to know the truth. As John 14:6 says, "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

As this semester ends, we wonder about our students, especially those who are returning to China permanently. Do they know the Lord? Will they draw close to Him? Will the seeds that were planted in those who are not saved grow up into eternal life?

Submitted by Danny and Susan Forte, SUNY, Albany

In regards to "L," who gave her heart to the Lord at our last UAlbany Bible Study of the semester, and for "B," who also gave his heart to Jesus, we are confident that their repentance, faith and hope are firmly planted in Jesus' death and love. In regards to others, we know that seeds have been planted; we pray for our Father to protect the seeds and to cause them to grow.

How do we help others get to know God? Talk about Him naturally with your family and friends, your co-workers and neighbors. Share your belief in God when appropriate; talk about His goodness when the opportunity presents itself. Pray for them. Do not ask for a response; just share what you believe. Before long, especially when they see the love, joy and hope that is within you, they will start to ask you questions.

***"Do not ask for a response; just share what you believe."***

That leads me to this year's Niagara Falls trip. Eighteen internationals accompanied us out to Buffalo during Memorial Day weekend. The bus ride went well. The weather was great. The host families were filled with God's love and joy, and the conference was filled with worship. The spiritual conversations throughout brought both glory to God and the internationals closer to Jesus. Returning from the trip, we received the following email from one of the attendees:

***"I am very grateful for everything you've done for us. Both the trip and the conference were wonderful and well organized. Many thanks for all your efforts, patience, kindness and valuable time. It will always be kept in my memory. We had a great time at the Falls. It was awesome. And we have learned a lot about the Bible and Christianity."***

May God bless all of our efforts as we share with others this new life that He has given us. ■

