

## Join China Outreach Ministries for a Celebration Get-Together near you!

### DC-Area Celebration

March 11, 2016  
Fairview Park Marriott  
Falls Church, VA

### Baltimore-Area Celebration

March 12, 2016  
Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel  
Towson, MD

### Canton-Area Celebration

March 14, 2016  
Hartville Kitchen  
Hartville, OH

### Erie-Area Celebration

March 15, 2016  
Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel  
Erie, PA

### Harrisburg-Area Celebration

March 17, 2016  
Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel  
Harrisburg, 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.org](mailto:chinaoutreach@aol.org). You can also register on our website at [chinaoutreach.org](http://chinaoutreach.org).

To help our staff continue to share the gospel with Chinese students and scholars, please consider joining our support team with a one-time or a monthly donation. To learn more, visit [chinaoutreach.org/donate](http://chinaoutreach.org/donate).

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# THE PANDA BEARER

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

February 2016

Coming to America | Forever Changed

## Happy 2016!

*His mercies are new every morning  
(Lamentations 3:22-23)*

*A new look at  
an old parable*  
Page 5

*Beginning again  
in a new country*  
Page 9





**From Dale Voelker  
University of Maryland**

In October, I had a Mid-Autumn Festival Concert and party at my house for about 25 Chinese students and scholars. A doctoral student in piano performance gave a recital of songs about the moon and in the middle of the performance gave her testimony. The Chinese audience was enthralled by her playing and by the Lord's work in her life. Pray that the seeds of the gospel will bear fruit in their lives.

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

Our November Friendship Dinner was a Thanksgiving meal. Volunteers brought eight (or was it nine?) turkeys, 18 pies, mashed potatoes, cranberries and more! We had a true feast and the Chinese students had high compliments for the meal! It was a joyful time together. Thank you for praying! Pray that connections made over the holidays will deepen.



**From Nick and Lydia Romanin  
Purdue University**

Thanksgiving has been a wonderful culmination for us in our ministry. Over the last several months, Nick has been doing his Car Care seminars for Chinese students as well as two seeker studies. Lydia has had two Bible studies going as well, along with the class for young parents. For the holiday season, we invited everyone we had on our contact list here at Purdue to enjoy a

Thanksgiving meal with us. On November 15, we had over 20 seekers that joined us at our home for a Thanksgiving celebration. We had a homemade spread courtesy of Lydia, games outside (because the weather was so good) and a presentation on the origins of Thanksgiving and the significance for Christians especially. This included a short presentation of the gospel. May God use the seeds planted to bear abundant fruit!

# THE PANDA BEARER

February 2016

*The Panda Bearer* is published quarterly by China Outreach Ministries.

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*a higher standard  
a higher purpose*

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### Good and Faithful Servant

**WE GRIEVE, BUT NOT WITHOUT HOPE**, the loss of our friend and COM past President, Rev. Earnest Hummer, who went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 15, 2016. Earnie was a man of God, passionate about reaching the lost for Jesus and kind and loving to all. He was a man of prayer, praying for God's will and blessing, provision and grace for so many throughout the years. He was used of God to lead COM into the current ministry of campus outreach to Chinese intellectuals.

He and Ruth, his wife of 65 years, served in the pastoral ministry for 33 years before coming to lead COM, and from



1982 to 2001, he served as the President of COM. They lived many of those years at the COM Fairfax House in Virginia hosting Chinese students and scholars and sharing the love of Jesus with them. Under Earnie's leadership, COM placed its first campus worker at the University of Pittsburgh in 1988.

Today there are ministries to Chinese students and scholars at more than 50 universities. As one COM staff member said, "When Earnie would humbly talk about how the Lord led him to initiate COM's campus ministry, he would often shake his head in amazement that the Lord would use him in such a powerful and significant way."

Earnie has been my friend, pastor and mentor for over 40 years. Early in the morning of December 15, 2015, I stood at the foot of his bed. He had already left us. Jesus had come and taken him to be with Him as He has promised all who are His own. Two thoughts went through my mind. The first was: "Well done, good and faithful servant." He had heard these words from His Master and Savior. The second thought was: "Thanks for believing in me."

Many others have said the same thing in their notes since Earnie's passing: "He believed in me." God used Earnie to lead many into serving Christ as

pastors, missionaries and professionals who live out their faith in their workplace. Earnie was instrumental in seeing funds released for missions, challenging us to take steps of faith in our giving and trusting God to supply. He helped many churches develop missions efforts (e.g., one such church, which has held an annual conference for 25 years, has raised over \$300,000 annually for global missions.)

As I reflected on Earnie's life, I thought of three elements that identified him as a man of God who walked closely with Christ and was used by God to produce eternal fruit.

- 1. He was selfless.** He demonstrated love for others by helping raise support and by being willing to assist in any way he could. Earnie gave his love, his time and his money to help others know Jesus and walk with Him. (Philippians 2:3-5)
- 2. He was a good steward.** He handled finances in a godly way. He gave and gave and gave. He was faithful to his wife and family. He managed his money and the finances of COM wisely. He emphasized saving, planning and preparing for the future so that he could still give freely. He was also determined to take care of his physical body through exercise and healthy eating so that he could serve Jesus longer in this life and impact more for Christ. (Matthew 25:23)
- 3. He was sold out.** At the age of 20, he was challenged by Don McIntosh to give his life to Jesus. He went from a young man raising chickens and peaches in Maryland, to a minister of the gospel impacting the world for Christ. He was called to ministry. He prayed and prayed. God used him - and still is using his life. His life encourages us to follow Christ. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

As President Emeritus, Earnie and Ruth continued to champion the cause, and they continued to support and pray for the ministry. We all miss him. We pray for God's comfort for his dear wife, Ruth. We know that he has heard these words from his Master and Savior: "Well done good and faithful servant! Come and share your Master's happiness." ■

Glen Osborn, COM President



# In my own words

*A one-year-old child brings new perspective to a well-known parable.*

**T**ODAY WE'RE GOING TO LOOK at the story of two lost boys.” I introduce the story of the Prodigal Son to the Chinese scholars, and I see the bleach-blonde head of Amelia, my one-year-old daughter, in the jet-black-haired crowd. She’s got a five-tooth goofy smile for me from the back row, standing balanced on a scholar’s lap. I don’t usually bring her with me, but today was exceptional all around.

After we break into discussion groups, Amelia wiggles on my lap eating tiny bits of birthday cake, a desperate move to delay her meltdown (her first taste of cake, before her first birthday, to my chagrin). She leans over and grabs for more, while over her head, I maintain eye contact to show I’m listening to the scholars.

“I think the [younger] son will not change just because his Father forgave him once. In China we have a story from the period of the three warring kingdoms ... one of the generals offered his rival pardon repeatedly, and it took seven times for him to have a change of heart. People don’t change easily,” says one scholar.

*Artwork by asian Artist Masaichi Wakamoto, 2007*

“If this story were in China, the father would need to show an angry face first. Even though he feels love, he couldn’t show it right away” says another scholar. “But parents always love their children no matter what they do, because they are their child.”

Another scholar says, “In China we have a proverb that even gold cannot change a foolish son’s ways.”

These are new reactions to the story than I’ve heard in previous years. Another man tells a story about a foolish son whose mother knows it will take time in prison for him to actually change.

One of the scholars asks, “Why did Jesus tell this story?” after we talk about that, a scholar who has been deep in thought says, “Is the God of the Bible like the father in the story, forgiving people when they don’t deserve it?” A quieter, older woman in our group nods. I see that Amelia is out of cake.

“That is how I know him to be, yes.”

The scholar who was so suspicious of the younger son changing says, “I don’t think that really works in society. It’s nice but it is not practical. There will be too much injustice if there is so much forgiveness.”

I fumble through saying that God cares about justice, too. I ask them what makes them angry. “My uncle was cheated out of his entire life’s work” says one. “My friend lost all of her savings to a man who tricked her.” Hard, indeed.

We continue talking, and one scholar peppers me with questions about the Bible: “What is the difference between Old and New Testament? Which parts do people like best?” At the end, I give him a copy of *The Jesus Storybook Bible* as a way to get introduced to the overarching story. He is thrilled. Amelia and I stand around with a group of eight scholars by the doorway, saying goodbye. They are all in black jackets, all men, a bit intimidating at first, but they are all smiling at Amelia.

I ask one, “Do you have children?” He has an eight-month-old back home in China, whom he gets to see only on Skype this year, until his family can possibly visit the United States. I ask, “Do you want to hold her?” She gives him a big hug.

“Oh ...” he says, his eyes wrinkling around the edges with happiness and longing. ■

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***“Is the God of the Bible like the father in the story, forgiving people when they don’t deserve it?”***

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# The new band

*When your bandmates go on summer vacation, how do you put on a concert?*

**E**VERY SUMMER, MORE THAN A HUNDRED undergraduate students from China settle in downtown Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to work at Hershey Park — a family theme park that features more than a dozen roller coasters and draws millions of visitors each year. Most of the Chinese students working through the summer do not know anyone in the country. They do not own a car. They do little else except go to work.

“Four years ago, Hershey Chinese Church started to reach out to these students. They invite students to join their summer worship. They provide a home-cooked Chinese lunch. They take students shopping and share the gospel with them.

Last summer, Hershey Chinese Church asked Xin Luan to put on a gospel concert. A large portion of Xin’s ministry to Chinese students and scholars at Penn State University is music. (Xin plays the guitar, bass, drum and keyboard). In 2012, he formed the worship band SEAL by bringing together a group of undergraduate students to give the first gospel concert on the Penn State campus.

Submitted by Xin Luan, Penn State University

With only weeks until the Hershey summer concert, the first challenge was replacing the worship band’s musicians who had left for the summer break. As a result, Xin sought out, encouraged and trained a few beginners to join the band. One week before the summer concert, the newly assembled band started rehearsals.

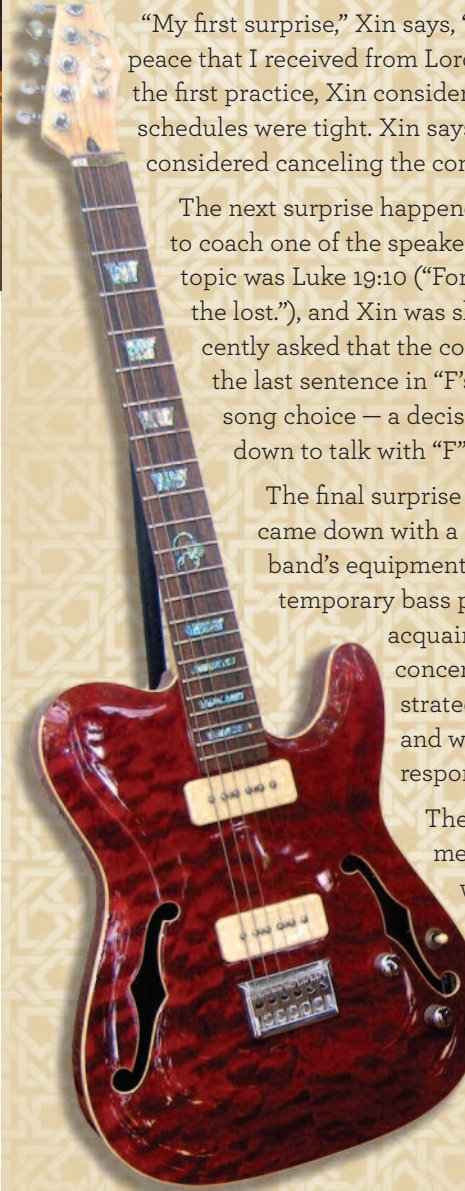
***“One week before the summer concert, the newly assembled band started rehearsals.”***

“My first surprise,” Xin says, “was the peace that I received from Lord.” After seeing little progress following the first practice, Xin considered his options. Time was fleeting and schedules were tight. Xin says, “Without His peace, I would have considered canceling the concert.”

The next surprise happened four days before the concert. Xin planned to coach one of the speakers, “F,” with her testimony. “F” told Xin her topic was Luke 19:10 (“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”), and Xin was shocked because the church pastor had recently asked that the concert follow a Luke 19:10 theme. Moreover, the last sentence in “F’s” testimony matched Xin’s last-minute song choice — a decision he made only 30 minutes before sitting down to talk with “F” about her testimony.

The final surprise arrived the day before the concert. Xin came down with a fever that left him unable to transport the band’s equipment. The solution arrived thanks to the band’s temporary bass player. “Y” was a quiet student and not very acquainted with Xin and the rest of the summer concert band. But Xin found that “Y” demonstrated a knack for setting up the band equipment and was eager to handle all of the concert’s tech responsibilities.

The concert came and went and what Xin remembers most was the audience’s silence when “F” gave her testimony, the power of the Holy Spirit in their midst and the rush of unspeakable joy when the pastor gave the call to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. I was leading. ■



# Sojourners in a New Land

*How Thomas and Casey left their home  
in China to follow Christ*



**S**IX YEARS AGO, Thomas and Casey Kuang left China and arrived in the United States to seek God's truth.

In China, Thomas was a house church pastor, and Casey worked for a non-profit. They were married and soon relocated to the U.S. to study. "We sold our apartment in Beijing to pay the tuition to study theology," Thomas says.

They arrived as sojourners without knowing where their family would stay. "God has always provided through the open arms of Christian brothers and sisters, and Grace Baptist Church in Cedarville, Ohio allowed us to live in their missionary house," Thomas says. With a one-year-old in tow, the missionary house at Cedarville would become their home for the next four years.

Thomas and Casey joined COM in 2013 and started their ministry at Penn State. "We have been blessed with so many supporters who helped us to do ministry at State College. We are so grateful for each of you."

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***"We came to seek  
God's truth."***

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February marks six months since Thomas and Casey started their new ministry in Orlando, Florida. In addition, they are the proud parents of four children — all under the age of nine.

"We never expected to become parents of four lovely children, but God graciously expanded our family. We are so grateful that multiple children have given us a better understanding of humanity and life, and increased our patience and love. Contrasted to most Chinese parents, we are so blessed that we didn't fall under the control of the one-child policy in China. Praise the Lord that the Chinese government has finally begun to loosen the one-child policy to allow all Chinese families to have two children. Even though it is not total freedom, we consider it is a good sign and a blessing to Chinese families and society."

Today, Thomas and Casey provide full-time ministry at the University of Central Florida. The black and gold Knights of UCF enroll the largest population of undergraduate students in the United States (*U.S. News & World Report*, 2015). In addition to a Thursday night Bible study, they also serve with a Friday night English study group for visiting scholars and their families.

"Pray that we continue to be thankful for all of our blessings and don't take them for granted. Pray that God will protect our family and that we can be a blessing and share God's love with many others." ■



# Benefits of Giving Stock

Submitted by Jeff Krimmel, Vice President for Development

**G**IVING APPRECIATED STOCK is a simple way of expanding your support of China Outreach Ministries to reach more Chinese students for Christ. Suppose you decide you would like to make a significant contribution to support the COM Fund or a COM missionary, but you have limited income for doing so.

*Here's an example of how it could work:*

If you bought a stock for \$10,000 (at least one year ago) and gave it to COM when it was worth \$20,000, you would not pay any of the tax on the \$10,000 of appreciation. You would also receive a \$20,000 tax deduction! You save when you give appreciated stock to COM.

We can help you with this transaction anytime. Call Jeff Krimmel at 717-591-3500, or email him at [jkrimmel@chinaoutreach.net](mailto:jkrimmel@chinaoutreach.net). *Thank you!*

## The Hummer Memorial Fund

A memorial fund has been established for future expansion of COM outreach to Chinese students and scholars in the name of Rev. Earnest Hummer. \$10,000 has been initially designated to this fund, and additional amounts are being received. Gifts can be given online, or by check, and designated for the "Hummer Memorial Fund."

### In Memory of

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**Thelma Eby**

Miss Cindy Eby

**Kenneth Fankhauser**

Karla Robson

**Miriam Freeman**

Ms. Connie Slay

**Jane L. Hunter**

Ms. Jill Hunter Clem

**Donald & Evelyn McIntosh**

Mrs. Ruth Ann Moore

Dr. & Mrs. Robert H. Reichard

**Tyler James-Liu Minch and Hai Lan Xu**

Su Minch

### In Honor of

---

**Ms. Anna Cai**

Mrs. Lei Qin

**Mr. Chris Deng**

Yao Du

**Rev. & Mrs. Earnie Hummer**

Mrs. Gary Glasgow

**Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lorencz**

Mrs. Betty Huppert

**Peter Qu**

Xiao L. Zhang

**Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Lydia Romanin**

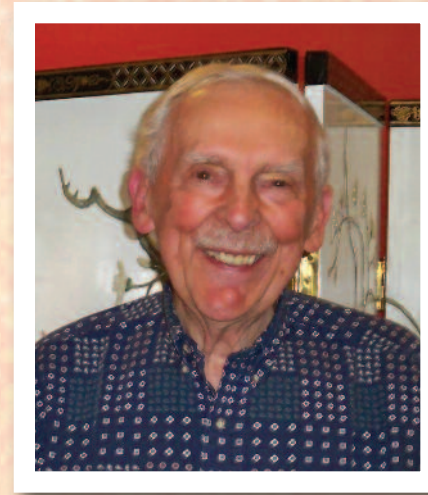
Ms. Mildred Ma

**Juin Christina Tsai**

Ms. Lii B. Tsai

**Sunny Zhang**

Yacong Yuan



## *Remembering Dr. Claude Walston*

Dr. Claude Walston, a dear follower of Jesus and a great friend and servant of COM went home to be with the Lord on November 3, 2015. Dr. Walston served for over 30 years on the COM Board, many of those years as President. He was retired from the University of Maryland where he was the Dean of the College of Information Studies. Dr. Walston was a great encouragement and advocate for outreach to Chinese scholars at the University of Maryland at College Park. He often attended outreach events and shared his testimony. He served as a Board member under all three of COM's Presidents, and helped lead the ministry in sharing the unchanging message of Christ through changing times. He will be deeply missed. Please be in prayer for his dear wife, Betty, and their family members at this time of loss.