

The Unsaid Words Behind the Postcard

Courier of the Gospel



The artist's story

The painting on the postcard is drawn by "Mantou".

"Mantou" is a Hong Kong Christian who has the desire to use his gifts to promote missionary education, hoping that more believers will know what God is doing in churches in China. He was inspired to create this painting after having read a sharing of an evangelist in China.

A single mother returned to her hometown together with her children ...
Most individuals who attend church in her hometown are old people, donations are scanty,
and there is no trained minister serving the congregation.

This lady heard the gospel in church and devoted herself to following God, she embarked on the path of full-time ministry ...

From Zero in Society to Hero in Spirit

She ...

- became the first evangelist in the county who has received theology training at a Bible school;
- sold her assets to buy a motorcycle so that she could use it to travel to three gathering points each week to preach;
- organized the first county-wide Christian rally evoking spiritual revival among believers;
- recommended Christian leaders in the county to attend a six-month short-term training class conducted by the Bible School;
- led her congregation to start donating to the Bible School to support the nurturing and training of Christian workers;
- brings together over a dozen co-workers from different churches in the vicinity to pray regularly for the gospel needs of the county.

We are truly amazed by how God is using this lady to bring about changes in the county!

God is also demonstrating His faithfulness and love through the work of many novice evangelists serving in different provinces, cities, counties, and villages in China; God has done this in the past, and He will do the same today and in the future!

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?

And how can they believe in the one whom they have not heard?

And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?

As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

(Romans 10:14-15 NIV)

~~~~~

## Can you Feel the Hardship of Novice Evangelist?

### Scenario 1: Struggling to make ends meet while serving

The goal of theological education in China is to serve the Church by equipping individuals devoted to becoming ministers. Therefore, students who want to receive theology training in the seminary must be recommended by the local subsidiary of the CCC&TSPM or by the local church, and in principle, they are expected to return to their local churches upon graduation.

Graduates recommended by churches in remote or rural areas to study theology will encounter a dilemma when they graduate.

Churches in remote or rural areas are financially less sound, they also may not have the concept of supporting their ministers' living needs, so graduates have to serve as volunteers. Apart from this, the number of believers in the area is also relatively large. For example, in rural areas, when one person is converted, the whole village can become converted, and the burden of pastoral care is very heavy. Therefore, in real life, after considering the salary and responsibility factors, many graduates resort to serving in urban churches. Churches in remote or rural areas are most in need of ministers, yet they are unable to retain them. This becomes a vicious cycle in their pursuit of shepherds, and as a result, believers in these areas are weak in biblical knowledge, they are susceptible to heretical influences, crippling the wellbeing of the Body of Christ.

**\* In view of this, we provide a monthly living subsidy to those evangelists who are committed to serving in remote areas. Although it is only a small subsidy, we hope that it will serve as an encouragement and support for them to focus on their ministry.**

## Scenario 2: Extreme exhaustion drains passion

Serving in an urban church is not easy for a novice evangelist either!

A novice evangelist once shared that he needs to prepare 30 sermons a month, including church Sunday services, sermons at several other gathering points, wedding and funeral services, pastoral care for choir members, and various small group Bible studies (in some churches in China, Bible study is just another name for preaching), etc. This is an incredibly heavy workload!

In addition to preaching, the evangelist has many other duties such as visitation and caring, showing hospitality to visitors, relief and missionary effort, business trips, and in some cases cleaning, repairing, and fixing leakages, etc. When novice evangelists are assigned to handle inappropriate duties, they dare not refuse but endure the assignments in silence, and in the end, they become physically and mentally exhausted, and their initial zeal for ministry also evaporates.

- \* **As companions, we are concerned with the well-being of novice evangelists and gently remind them of the risk of exhaustion, we also provide support to fuel their passion and avoid burnout. On the other hand, we also equip senior church pastors with leadership skills, such as team building, identifying the gifts of other members in their service team and teaming up with them, efficient church administration, etc. The senior pastors need to make good use of the gifts of novice evangelists and nurture them to become capable and passionate coworkers.**

## The Daily Life of “Novice Evangelists”



In addition to preaching, evangelists visit believers at their homes and teach them the Bible, they are like "gospel couriers" as illustrated symbolically on the postcard!



The evangelist brings along other believers during home visits, they are concerned about the wellbeing of their sheep as well as providing them with needed supplies.

---

# Prayers: The needs of novice preachers

## 1. The pastoral ministry of novice preachers

Many novice preachers serving in churches in the cities often encounter difficulties pastoring believers in different situations due to their inexperience and lack of pastoral guidance. For example, they struggle with how to pastor old, middle-aged, and young believers, and at the same time, how to bring appropriate teaching and care to the workplace, newlyweds, parents, and retired believers.

Pray that novice pastors would be sensitive enough to understand the unique situations of believers and to give appropriate spiritual teaching. Pray for mentors and resources to help them recognize the pastoral needs of believers in different situations.

## 2. The financial difficulties of novice preachers

For novice preachers serving in remote areas, since most congregations are elderly, there are limited donations and many churches are unable to offer full-time positions, and the preachers can only serve half-time or as volunteers. They need to farm and work part-time to earn a living.

Pray for the Lord's mercy on the novice preachers who are struggling with limited pay and having just entered frontline ministry. They are worried about the support for their parents, wives, and children. May the Lord strengthen their hearts to serve; and pray that believers who are working outside will be moved to be willing to provide for the financial needs of their home churches.

## 3. Listening and support for novice preachers

Novice preachers face the pressure of adapting to the church's way of doing things, as well as the expectations of believers, relationships with fellow workers, and busy and exhausting schedules, which are not easy to share in the church. Over time, they can only bury many of their struggles and feelings in their own hearts.

Pray for life mentors and peers for novice preachers, who will listen to them and give them encouragement and advice when needed, as well as refer them to appropriate resources for support.

## Leadership Development in China

*May our Heavenly Father demonstrate His faithfulness and love to people through His servants in different provinces, cities, counties, villages, etc. May our Heavenly Father move you to join us in nurturing leaders in China and be their solid backstage supporters!*

**Your donation support is sincerely requested**

| <b>Project</b>                                                                                                             | <b>China Seminary Graduates Book Gifting Project</b>       | <b>Support for Evangelists</b> | <b>Comprehensive Leadership Development</b>                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Targets                                                                                                                    | 3,000 novice pastors graduated from 50 seminaries in China | 40 field pastors               | 100 experienced pastors or shepherd leaders                                                                                                                                                          |
| Resources provided                                                                                                         | A pastoral package consisting of about 15 items            | Monthly living subsidy         | Conduct 300 training sessions on bible teaching using the “Living Word” as a curriculum guide; conduct 150 training sessions related to marketplace ministry, family ministry, and church leadership |
| Annual Cost (USD)                                                                                                          | 462,000                                                    | 276,960                        | 205,130                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Outstanding (USD)                                                                                                          | 333,340                                                    | 153,848                        | 183,335                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <i>If you are moved, you may support us individually or mobilize a church or fellowship group to support us as a unit!</i> |                                                            |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Unit cost (USD)                                                                                                            | \$154 per set                                              | \$6,924 per year               | \$2,052 per year                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Donation Item                                                                                                              | Literature Ministry (Resources Giveaway)                   | Support for Evangelists        | Leadership Development Ministry                                                                                                                                                                      |

~The above is part of the content of PFC issue375, if you would like to read the full newsletter, please contact us at [pfc@ccl.org.hk](mailto:pfc@ccl.org.hk), thank you!~

All rights reserved. Neither this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, without the prior permission of Christian Communications Limited. Publication is published every month by Christian Communications Limited.