

The Words Left Unsaid Behind the Postcard

Together We Sail



The artist's story ...

Ke Li is the artist who created this gouache painting.

Ke Li is an evangelist in China. He is very committed to serving the ethnic minorities and teaching the Bible. He studied art before he responded to his calling, and thereafter he travelled extensively in China, using photography to document local customs and colours. Now he uses painting as a means to partner with CCL, allowing the life and ministry of field evangelists to be seen, and to promote missionary education, so that Hong Kong Christians can know more about God's work in China.

This painting of Jesus calming the storm is inspired by the biblical story recorded in the Gospels. This is a special gift from Ke Li, an evangelist in China, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of CCL’s Mandarin-speaking Community Ministry.¹

Through the painting, Ke Li would like to share with us, *“Jesus calmed the storm, the disciples were astonished and had since then followed the Lord wholeheartedly. May CCL’s coworkers and pastors in China be encouraged that even though the environment is turbulent, never forget that the Lord, who calms the storms, is with us all the time. As long as we focus on serving the Lord according to His will, we are in the same boat with the Lord, He will lead us along the way.”*

While having our mighty Lord on board is certainly of utmost importance, travelling companions are crucial too. Each individual has different gifts, personalities, and life experience. How can we be of one mind and steer towards the same direction amid the raging waves? Believers need to learn and practise “fellowship” which is both the wisdom and art of getting along and working together with one another.

When followers of Jesus work together and row the same boat, this is not only “collaboration” but also “fellowship”.

“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”
(Ecclesiastes 4:12, NIV)

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<sup>1</sup> For half a century, from 1973 to 2023, CCL has been involved in serving the leaders and churches in China. Although CCL is a small organization, God enables CCL to participate in His holy work. In December 2023, CCL held a thanksgiving ceremony entitled “Together We Sail #Life Meets Here” to count the blessings of the Lord with a group of fellow supporters, we prayed together for churches in China.

## From Knowing Oneself to Building a Team

Teams are made up of different people, often times people are the cause of various problems.

Enhancing self-awareness not only enables us to look at ourselves with new perspectives, but also helps us resolve interpersonal conflicts and positively impacts team building.

Our team of professional instructors noticed that leadership development is crude among China pastors. We conducted a 10-hour leadership training course on “Know Yourself - Resolve Conflicts” from May to June. During the course, the instructors helped participants understand that their behaviors, thinking and emotions are influenced and shaped by various factors, facilitated them to self-examine, examine their teams and their churches more thoroughly and from different angles.

There were 27 participants in this program, with an average age of about 35, mainly from Eastern and Northern China. They work in different industries and serve in different positions in the churches. Based on what they shared, there might be as many as 12,000 people whom they could possibly exert varying degrees of influence.

Christian leaders in China are guided to begin with self-examination and then learn to build up their teams. What do participants think they have gained from the training?

### Empathy Towards Teammates

- Many factors can alter one's emotions or thinking. After realizing this, I am much more patient when interacting with my teammates.
- I become much more capable of putting myself in others' shoes to understand why they do or say something, and I am more effective in helping them see their genuine needs or underlying problems.
- I am listening more, having less prejudice and speaking more considerately.
- I have much more forbearance towards others and accept the occurrence of all possibilities.

## Team Growth

- I become a more devoted team player through effective communication and collaboration with other teammates rather than through coercing them.
- Each member of the team has his or her unique contribution, effective cooperation will help the team attain optimal results.
- Learn to ask the right question at the right time, strive to say things that can build up others.
- I aspire to be a better leader by paying attention to the different personality traits and temperament of my teammates, conducting more thorough analysis of different management styles, and improving team cohesion.

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## Team Building Activities



The ministry discussions among Christian leaders in China have always been conducted in the form of meetings. In this particular arrangement, the instructor invites the team to participate innovatively while he shares his work through an activity.



Teammates want to enhance mutual appreciation and encouragement among themselves, they are learning to express more open admiration for themselves and one another.



The instructor also uses games to make the message of “one heart, one mind” hit home within the team.

# Prayers: Shepherd Leaders' Team Building

## 1. Learning about team building

Churches in China lack the concept of team building. Not good at collaborating, many pastors and lay leaders are prone to miscommunication, which is further complicated when they each have their own views on church management.

Pray for humble hearts to respect each other's positions and to work together to find solutions. Pray for mentors to lead pastors and believer leaders in team building and collaboration.

## 2. Getting along with different generations in ministry work

There are both older and younger leaders on the church team. The former uses the teachings of their predecessors to run the church, but the latter is concerned that the church is not adapting to changes.

Pray that older leaders would be willing to listen to the voices of younger leaders and lead the church forward in keeping with the times and that younger leaders would learn to appreciate the faithfulness and commitment of older leaders.

## 3. Forming teams for ministries

Preachers of churches in remote areas have a heavy and lonely ministry, with one person responsible for several congregations, and often long to build up their teams. Yet, many believers are too young in Biblical knowledge to share the pastoral work.

Pray that believers in grassroots churches would be willing to get equipped with basic Biblical training, and form teams to serve alongside preachers in evangelism, caring, and logistics support.

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Comprehensive Training for Christian Leaders in China

We sincerely invite your support

Comprehensive Training

Target: 100 senior pastors / shepherd leaders

Training: Conduct nearly 300 training sessions on using the “Living Word” bible teaching materials; conduct nearly 150 training sessions on marketplace, family and church leadership

Fund required: USD 205,130 for one year [USD 2,051 per participant per year]

Outstanding: USD 183,333

<Project name: Leadership Development Ministry>

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~The above is part of the content of PFC issue377, if you would like to read the full newsletter, please contact us at [pfc@ccl.org.hk](mailto:pfc@ccl.org.hk), thank you!~

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