

Ministry Excerpt for the First Half of 2024

The Ministry is “Back to Normal”?!

© Otto Lui
Associate General Secretary (Ministry)

In the past two years, “back to normal” has been a frequently used description. What exactly is “back to normal”? Is it the expectation that the economic and social situation resumes to that before the pandemic? Can the church be “back to normal”?

The overall economy is currently not doing too well. Young pastors in China have mentioned that apart from unemployment problems, emigration also has an impact on church growth. Over ten million people have emigrated to other countries within a year, many of them belong to the more affluent middle class with family heads in their midlife. Churches are not spared from the outflux.

In a situation like this, it is not hard to imagine the tough issues the church encounters. Church attendance in the urban areas has declined and so has the offering received. Rural churches are in an even more dire situation. Many church shepherds have to work without pay even including those who have received theology training. They need to work part-time or do farming on the one hand and nurture the believers on the other. With maintaining social stability being of utmost priority in the country, the church has very limited room for expansion. Our co-workers said that even just maintaining the status quo is already very tough.

Nevertheless, God is still making significant use of our ministry. In the first half of 2024, apart from the coverage of our local partners, just our Hong Kong co-workers have already traveled to 11 provinces, cities, and autonomous regions, reaching a total of nearly 15,750 kilometers!

Forty-eight seminaries, Bible schools, and training centres have received a total of 2,269 valuable reference texts from us for their graduates to take home. Thirty church evangelists are receiving living subsidies from us so that they need not work part-time while pastoring the church. Partnering with our co-workers in China, we have been serving 4,864 church

leaders in the past six months, having conducted programs on Bible teaching, church management and leadership, and marketplace evangelism.

“...Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential...” (1 Cor. 1:26) God, however, chooses and uses us to make a small but significant contribution to the Kingdom of God.

Such achievement is the result of God's grace and the trust of church leaders in China. Our genuine thanks to God!

Partners in Action

What Does “Partnership” Mean?

Partnership with Novice Pastors - Support and Provision

Literature resources are an important support for novice evangelists who choose to serve at their home churches. The seminaries' recognition of the value of such resources is key to the sustainability of the Book Gifting ministry, and this ministry clearly demonstrates our commitment to the partnership.



The first batch of 2024 graduates attend their sending ceremony. May God bless them as they enter the ministry field.

The following are the remarks of a seminary teacher in Eastern China about the Book Gifting ministry:

“I encourage every student to read the books provided by CCL, especially ‘The Call to Joy and Pain’ by Pastor Ajith Fernando, because the author admonishes future pastors how ‘sweet’ and ‘bitter’ the path ahead of them will be, the difficulties they will face, and what rewards they will receive. This book helps young pastors avoid the minefields and pitfalls along the way so as to help them move on with confidence and hope.

I am so thankful for another book ‘Jesus Driven Ministry’ that we received! It is also written by Pastor Ajith Ferrando based on the Gospel of Mark. Not only are we as pastors encouraged to follow Jesus as the perfect example in ministry, but also we learn a great deal from the author's profound exegetical skills as well as his unique perspective and inspiration. As a seminary teacher, I recommend it to all my students every year.”

Partnership with In-service Pastors - Sharing and Praying

Frontline co-workers visit in-service pastors to learn more about their active ministries.

A pastor who graduated from a top theology school has been serving in a provincial capital city in the Northwest for twenty years. He is the senior pastor of two churches, and in addition to shepherding the believers, he is also involved in teaching at a training centre and overseeing the reconstruction projects of the churches (both churches are located in famous scenic areas). With deep feeling, he said, *“In my whole life, I strive to care little about wealth and fame. I have never imagined that I would now become a pastor whose attention is preoccupied with money so much so that food becomes tasteless, and sleep becomes restless. Oh church, my dear church!”* Why does the pastor worry so much about building churches, even to the point of exhaustion?

Firmly, he said, *“How can we build up a good church? A good church should meet the needs of this era, this society, and visitors from all over the world. It should ignite and influence the faith of people from all walks of life as well as brothers and sisters from other churches.”* Instantly, I realized that the pastor's ministry is not confined within the physical church building, but that he has a much broader service vision, and I admired him for his dedication.



A church is not only a building but also a place for people from all walks of life and for brothers and sisters to experience faith together.

Partnership with Senior Pastors - Training and Networking

Most of the pastors in China came to know CCL through our literature resources, and others through living subsidies. After partnering with them for many years, they gradually become senior pastors in their respective churches, and we have the opportunity to partner with not only individual pastors but also their respective church teams. Below is an example:

A few years ago, a CCL co-worker was invited to conduct lectures at a training centre in Southern China on leadership. Since then, we have started providing Book Gifting packages to the centre's graduates every year. During the pandemic, senior pastors invited us to have monthly online sharing sessions with their marketplace believers' group, facilitating them to discuss interactively in the group and apply biblical truth to respond to various workplace and family situations.



One of the pastors in the photo is in the hospital but continues to participate in the online training. She treasures the training opportunity and does not want to miss a single lesson.

In late February 2024, this team came to Hong Kong for a three-day Leadership Forum, the pastors were inspired and gained new insights. In May, we were again invited to conduct team-building training with them.
Ongoing partnership multiplies outcomes!

We sincerely invite your support

Please take a moment to think about our ministry, every one of these opportunities to serve does not come easily, your support is precious

Ministry	China Seminary Graduates Book Gifting Project	Support for Evangelists	Comprehensive Leadership Development
Target	3,000 graduates from 50 seminaries in China	40 in-service evangelists	100 senior pastors/shepherd leaders
Resources required	Each graduate receives a package consisting of about 15 pastoral references, and the production and publishing of 2 reference books in simplified Chinese (3000 copies of each book will be printed)	Monthly living subsidies	Conduct 300 training sessions based on the "Living Word" curriculum; conduct 150 training sessions related to the workplace, family, church leadership
Annual Budget (USD)	525,642	276,960	205,130
Outstanding (USD)	260,256	61,538	170,512
If you are moved, you can offer your support individually or mobilize a church group/fellowship to support us together!			
Donation (USD)	\$154 per set	\$6,924 per year	\$2,052 per year
Item to mark for donation	Literature Ministry (Resources Giveaway)	Support for Evangelists	Leadership Development Ministry

~The above is part of the content of PFC issue378, if you would like to read the full newsletter,
please contact us at 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.