

China Pastors' Conference 2018



December, 2018
China Book Project
We Need Your Help!

Dear Family and Friends,

Yes, the end of the year comes with many appeals for giving. And yes, we have one more for you that we trust might capture your imagination as it has ours.

This year in ministry has opened a door to the world's largest population that has left us a bit breathless. We have been to China twice this year (July and November). It has been a year to test whether the leaders of the Chinese church would embrace making and multiplying disciples through *micro groups* (3s and 4s).

Here is the backstory:

In July Greg's publisher in Hong Kong invited us to spend 10 days in one of the provinces in China that has a strong Christian presence. The purpose was to train 56 key lay leaders from 43 districts and meet the key players in the religious structure. This included local government officials as well as leaders of the government approved churches, known as the Three Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) churches. Apparently, we passed inspection, because we received an invitation to go back, and Greg was one of the main speakers at the province's annual pastor's conference for 150 participants held in November.

Greg's topic at the Pastors' Conference was Christian discipleship. (What else would he teach on!) Four books from his "Essential" series were translated into classical Chinese many years ago, but recently they were put into the *simplified Chinese format* that is the primary script in mainland China today. These books are now being printed in China (yes, you read that right), which makes them affordable and easier to distribute.

The feedback from the conference was very positive, and we have been asked to return *multiple times* in the next few years to conduct more extensive training. One reason for the enthusiasm is the potential of further crackdowns on Christianity. Greg's method of using *micro groups* for discipleship will facilitate practice and growth in the faith in a way that will allow Christians to stay under the radar of the religious minders.

To seed this effort for future training, Greg's Hong Kong publisher would like to gift each of the 2019 graduates from the seminaries and Bible schools across China with a set of the four books. (See attached graphic.) They have asked Greg's non-profit (GDI) to assume the cost of the books. The books are not expensive, \$14.00 for the entire set of four. [As a point of comparison, *Discipleship Essentials* alone retails at \$20 in the US.] However, everything in China involves big numbers. There will be 5000 graduates, so that comes to \$70,000. That's a daunting number for a fledgling non-profit, but we are trusting that the Lord will provide the resources.

The primary tools to foster this experience that now being printed in China are *Discipleship Essentials* (Greg Ogden), *The Essential Commandment* (Greg Ogden), *Leadership Essentials* (Dan Meyer/Greg Ogden) and *Witness Essentials* (Dan Meyer).

We feel privileged to participate in helping Chinese Christians at this particular juncture of their history. The Holy Spirit is at work there, and we want to align ourselves to the good work that the Spirit of Jesus is already doing. You have been wonderful supporters of our ministry in the past, and we want to invite you to be part of this “kairos” opportunity.

Please join us and pray for the pastors and leaders there and consider supporting our efforts.

Blessings in this season of our Lord’s birth,

Greg and Lily Ogden for Global Discipleship Initiative globaldi.org

P.S. Here’s how you can make you contribution:

Make a check to: Global Discipleship Initiative
Note on memo line: China Book Project 2019
Send to:

Global Discipleship Initiative
1322 Las Posas Road
Camarillo, CA 93010

or go to: globaldi.org, find the Donate button in top right and follow the steps.

All contributions are tax-deductible.

The Essentials Set in Simplified Chinese
Goal: 5000 Sets Cost: \$14/Set Total: \$70,000

The image displays four book covers for the 'Essentials Set' in Simplified Chinese. The top row shows the titles: '合神心意的门徒' (Discipleship Essentials), '合神心意的生命' (The Essential Commandment), '合神心意的领袖' (Leadership Essentials), and '合神心意的见证' (Witness Essentials). The bottom row shows corresponding images: a pair of sandals, a pile of colorful stones, a man washing another's feet, and a forest of tall trees.