

The Reformation Translation Fellowship NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016



They Lied to The People of China

For years the people in China had been lied to. Up to 1949 Christian biblical missionaries labored in China. But there were also liberal “missionaries.” For example, Pearl S. Buck was a self-acknowledged theological liberal. After 1949 Christian missionaries were summarily expelled. Beginning in May 1966 and under the leadership of Mao Zedong, China endured its Cultural Revolution. Among its disastrous effects was the forbidding of religion, all religion except for Chairman Mao who was raised to a god-like position. “Devotional” material came from the Chairman’s *Little Red Book*. China had been lied to.

The end of the Cultural Revolution came with the death of Chairman Mao in 1976. With the end people realized that they had been lied to. China existed in a spiritual vacuum of both thought and experience.

We Have Truth for the Church in China

The faithful Christian remnants worshipped in secret “underground” houses. Church leaders depended on what they had learned from the now exiled missionaries. Towards the end of the 20th century, Christianity began experiencing dramatic growth. The underground church flourished. It became the vibrant House Church. Many new congregations are being formed weekly. Small house churches are growing into larger assemblies. Church buildings are under construction. People are being drawn to salvation by Grace through the expository preaching of the WORD and the teaching of the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27) We can be thankful for faithful missionaries who in years past taught the Reformed doctrines of grace. They left a garden in which the seeds of the Gospel, in time, would flourish. (I Corinthians 3:6-8)

Today the church operates under certain political restrictions. Underlying this situation remains the fact that many new congregations are led by inadequately prepared pastors and elders. With the dramatic growth, biblically uneducated clergy becomes a very real problem. Pastors are attracted to numerical growth rather than spiritual development. Individuals are open to false teaching.

We cannot do everything. We can’t change the restrictions but we can do something. You, through RTF, can provide tools to educate thousands of pastors.

While new congregations are being formed, experienced, educated and trained leadership is severely lacking. We witness a serious deficiency of expository Bible preaching. Many well-intended but theologically untrained church leaders attempt to teach in house church assemblies. The Church needs teaching texts and tools. It needs quality Reformed literature and teaching.

Beginning in 1949 a small band of Reformed men began publishing quality Reformed literature in China. The Lord has provided well trained translators/theologians. RTF labors diligently with publishers, translators, editors and printers. For sixty-seven years Reformation Translation Fellowship has provided historic Reformed texts to House Church leaders. This is no small challenge. Translated books don’t just “appear.” Because of you and fellow co-laborers quality Reformed titles are being published. It is being done faithfully. RTF is a proven effective mission.

You know from your own study that well written Reformed literature is received with joy. We in the West can select from many titles on any subject. House Church pastors and congregations do not have that opportunity. They have a very limited source of Reformed titles. Therefore they greatly appreciate quality reformed teaching texts. To a degree that we find unimaginable, a Reformed text to a House Church pastor is truly received with joy. China can have the Truth. Titles recently transited by RTF are available for free on the RTF website: <http://rtf-usa.com/books/> We make our materials available as broadly as possible without asking for payment. (Isaiah 55:1) You and other RTF supporters make this to be possible.

Because of your interest and your support, RTF is able to minister to thousands of House Church leaders. Through these Reformed titles you accomplish true Kingdom ministry to the larger Church in China. Your prayer and financial support in 2016 will make important Reformed books available to many House Churches. Partner with us in this exciting, effective Reformed ministry reaching multiple thousand House Church leaders and families in 2016. It is extremely satisfying to know that your contribution today provides quality Reformed books that will be studied by Chinese pastors and church leaders one, two and even ten years into the future.

BOOKS SPREAD GOD'S TRUTH IN THE EARTH

"The Lord gave the word; great was the company of those that published it." Psalm 68:11

- A book can preach when the author may not.
- In days past, men were locked up and were not allowed to preach, so many wrote.
- A book can preach when the author cannot, when he is physically unable or geographic distance prohibits it.
- A book can preach when the author is not. Many authors, though dead, still speak today.
- A book never flinches from the truth.
- A book is never tempted to compromise.
- A book never gets tired or disheartened.
- A book never loses its temper in an argument.
- A book gets inside the home and stays there.
- A book always catches a man in the right mood, or he would not pick it up.
- A book always sticks to what it has to say. That is, it cannot lead into side issues or irrelevant conversation.

From *Thoughts on The Regulative Principle in a Reforming Situation* by Ernest C. Reisinger, theologian, author and Christian apologist.

Testimonies from RTF book recipients in China: Last year RTF reprinted *The Church* by Edmund Clowney. Because of your support, we were able to distribute multiple thousand copies to House Church pastor / teachers. This important teaching text is available free of charge at our RTF website: <http://rtf-usa.com/media/main/book/add/The%20Church.pdf>

As this Newsletter was being drafted we received the following encouraging note from an eminent Chinese leader:

What a wonderful New Year gift to everyone. This book is a must-read for every pastor and church leader. I am very thankful for your work making this available to Chinese church leaders at this crucial time of church growth! My deep appreciation, brother!

Here is an excerpt from a pastor in Wang Qing County, Ji lin Province in the Yuanbian Autonomous Prefecture. This area is familiar to many because US churches have sent professors and instructors to work with a regional university.

We thank you and all the brothers and sisters who has been giving gracious help to Chinese churches. You have provided great opportunities with training so that we could grow in knowledge and the true. This has been a great blessing in our ministries. We thank God for his providence, via your love our churches are blessed. May God bless your labor and we will surely put you and your ministry in our prayers.

These are just samples of the work you are doing through RTF to assist the Church in China.

Remember Reformation Translation Fellowship in Your Estate Plan

Recently RTF received a very generous bequest from the estate of Dr. William Young. We thank the Lord for this gift. Dr. Young was a prominent church leader and a published Reformed theologian. These funds will be used exclusively for publishing additional titles and important teaching tools. These tools will greatly benefit the Church Militant in China. The RTF Board will use these funds for the highest and best pastoral and family teaching. The bequest is a lasting Reformed resource for the Chinese speaking Church in the years to come.

We are thankful for remembering the importance of Reformed literature missions to China. These gifts will produce valuable books that will be studied for years to come by pastors, students and families in China. To include a bequest to RTF in your estate, note that our legal name is Reformation Translation Fellowship, Inc. and our tax ID number is 25-1449699.

RTF Board to Meet

The Board of Reformation Translation Fellowship will meet in March to plan the next twelve months of publishing projects. Your prayer on our behalf is vital. Pray for wisdom as projects are presented, approved and assigned. In that way the RTF Board can better plan for the Reformed theological literature titles that will be published in 2016. We thank you. Many thousands of House Church pastors and families will thank you.

Memorial Gifts to RTF

In Memory of and recognition of the ministry of Rev & Mrs. Peter DeJong from Mr. & Mrs. Wendland Beezhold and Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Vanputten

We thank those who remember the Lord's faithful workers through gifts to RTF. These gifts produce books that will be read and studied by Chinese pastor-teachers for years to come.

Contributions and bequests should be sent to:

MR. DAVID CARR, TREASURER
REFORMATION TRANSLATION FELLOWSHIP
PO BOX 3825
WEST LAFAYETTE, IN 47996-3825