



China Service Ventures 中美服务促进会 NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

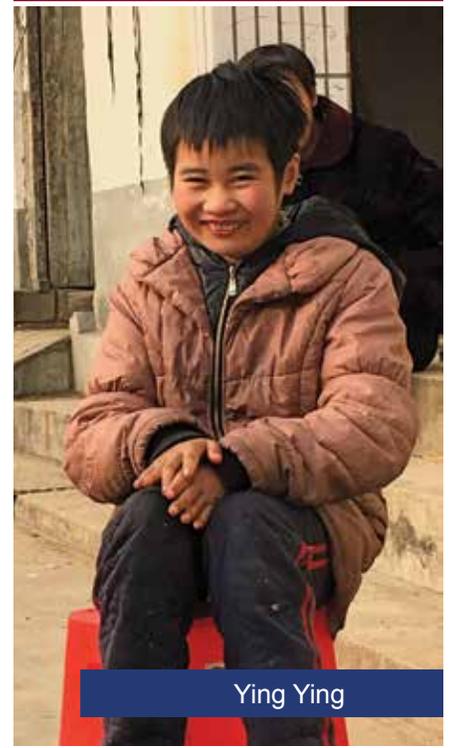
Not to be served, but to serve

Those we serve Ying Ying

(Henan — January 2017). It is cold, a three-layer winter clothing day. Today we visit Ying Ying, one of our Bo Ai students, who lives with her younger brother, Ahn Shan. Ying Ying is a 10-year old autistic girl who is no longer permitted to attend school. The rural school board has no resources for special needs children. She was in first grade for four years, mainstreamed for as long as possible. Now, she stays at home. Amin and I will walk kilometers of country paths just to bring warm clothing and food and some much needed encouragement.

In our backpacks, we carry hats, gloves, scarves, and wool socks donated by Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, MN. We also carry tangerines and apples and nuts and some simple games, like "Fastrak" and "Tiddly Winks," along with supplies to make animal balloons. They are treasures for a family so poor.

Ching, a former Bo Ai student and now 3rd-year university student studying business law, is with us. He is on school break for Chinese New Year, but wants to help encourage other Bo Ai students.



Our one-hour bus ride ends at a small rural town. We have a long walk ahead. We are able to find a private driver, who drives us to our general destination near some remote tea fields. From there we walk through rice patties and terraced tea fields, hunting for the family. They will be hard to find. We ask several neighbors if they know of the family's whereabouts. No one knows for sure, they have moved many times. We pass by piles of refuse, the ducks, chickens, and dogs rummaging through the garbage. Plastic bottles litter the bushes. Finally, we find one person who knows. The family lives further up over and around the hill next to tea fields.

I am thrilled to be able to see Ying Ying again. Last year, her little brother broke his arm. They splinted it with newspaper and string. I want to ask her father's permission to tutor her using horses. I train horses at a horse ranch in Xinyang in exchange for the opportunity to teach autistic children how to ride.

The family greets us warmly and puts out small stools for us to sit upon. Ying ying is so excited! She jumps up and down, smiling, and twirls around in a small dance. Her brother is shy. He stays near the house. Neither of them are wearing hats or gloves in the cold. Their clothes, hands, and faces look dirty, but they look beautiful to us.

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“It feels like we are eating with Jesus at the table in the home of this family, one that He dearly loves.”

MimNellermoe, CSV Education Consultant for Mei Wen

www.ChinaServiceVentures.org

OUR MISSION

CSV is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes within the framework of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Within the framework and limitations of the foregoing, CSV is organized and shall be operate to:

Provide readiness to act upon service opportunities relating to China and to do this through groups and individuals dedicated to this goal and committed to:

Personal enrichment through study on China; Exchange of resources and personnel which further this goal; and, Work for the welfare of the Chinese people, including those in our midst.

— Articles of Incorporation of China Service Ventures, Article V

When did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you a drink? —

Matt 24-39

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Ying Ying (continued from page 1)



Play and fun is so essential to building trust and friendship with children.

The children are still, enjoying the moment. We give our special gifts of warm clothing and food to each of them.

The father insists that we stay for dinner. In Chinese culture, an invitation to eat a meal with a family in their home is a high honor. It is his way of expressing his gratitude toward us. We dare not decline, though we realize that he will offer us his best. We may be eating his reserves for Chinese New Year's celebration. If he serves us meat, the meal will be an extravagance, for sure. To decline his invitation would be to spurn his generosity. What can we do but humbly accept?

He prepares seven dishes. He serves several chicken and pork dishes. It is a "Babette's Feast," a lavish display of gratitude. We eat knowing that he has given generously from his family's meager resources. The food is delicious. He prepared it with extra love and skill from a generous heart.

My heart is filled with joy. It feels like we are eating with Jesus at the table in the home of this family, one that he dearly loves. Ying Ying is beaming with happiness. In this moment we are a family bound together by love.

— Mim Nellermoe - 马喜乐 Ma Xi Le
CSV Education Consultant for Mei Wen

We break out the games and balloons and start playing. Soon all of us are laughing and running around, chasing each other and having mock sword fights. Play and fun is so essential to building trust and friendship with children.

Afterwards, Amin boils some water. Then, Amin and Ching gently wash the children's faces, hands and feet and trim their nails. They are gentle and loving with the children, speaking tenderly to them as would a loving, older brother or sister in dignified and encouraging ways.



They are gentle and loving with the children, speaking tenderly to them





YANG Guang

CSV Programs ——— Bo Ai

Bo Ai students suffer harsh physical and emotional realities. In the rural areas, many are extremely poor. Several are left-behind children living with relatives while their parent(s) search for work. Some come from single-parent homes or live in blended families. A few are truly orphaned and live on their own or with friends. The emotional burden these students carry is heavy and many struggle to see hope for their future.

Our team, Mei Wen, partners with China Service Ventures, to provide encouragement and financial support to help these students stay in school. Education is still the best pathway out of poverty. It is not easy and requires perseverance, determination, constant encouragement, and undying hope.

A few of our Bo Ai students struggle with motivation to stay in school. They see their peers dropping out, finding jobs, and making money. (Only 39 percent of Left-Behind Children finish High School.) Their academic performance is not good. They study but with few positive results. The dream of qualifying to enroll in a college seems like a distant fantasy. Even so, the tuition and living costs of college are too high and burdensome for the family. And, at the end, no job is guaranteed. So, why bother with school? Some do not. They drop out, find menial jobs, and move away to escape their home life. A few discovered that their situation did not improve. They want to come back and finish school. Education is the best pathway toward future success.

When our Bo Ai students email me about their struggles, I encourage them to stay the course and renew their efforts. Perseverance and effort will produce hopeful results in time, both in their situation and in themselves. I cannot tell them what to do, but only help them think through their options and the consequences of their choices. Sometimes, all they need is a little encouragement and emotional support. The things they do not have at home.

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.”

Proverbs 13:12

It saddens me when students do give up their studies, but I understand. They do not see hope. They are willing to work hard, but it is difficult to persevere without hope. My hope is in Jesus Christ. He will care for me and lead me (Psalm 23). I am honored to work with CSV in your behalf to bring hope to these children in Henan. Thank you.

— YANG Guang 沱原
President, Xinyang Mei Wen

Bó'ài ———
ABUNDANT LOVE

博爱
10 YEARS

\$500 per year = 1 student

NATIONAL STATISTICS

61 million
Left-behind Children
(20% of all children)

3 million
live totally on their own
(5% of left-behind children)

37 million
Left-behind Children
(61%) never finish high school

CSV IMPACT (2007–PRESENT)

328 total
Bo Ai sponsored students

212 GRADUATED
from high school

71 in high SCHOOL

6 in middle SCHOOL

39 dropped out of HIGH SCHOOL

85% success rate of graduation!

Trip Spotlight

NALC Delegation

During October 15 - 25, 2016, China Service Ventures (CSV) and Mei Wen (CSV partner organization) hosted North American Lutheran Church (NALC) Bishop John Bradosky and Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba in China as part of a delegation to meet with China Christian Council (CCC) leadership at the national, regional, and local levels in Shanghai, Wuhan, Xinyang, and Beijing. The purposes of the trip were to explore possibilities of cooperation with the China Church for future shared ministry and to see, first-hand, the work of CSV in China.

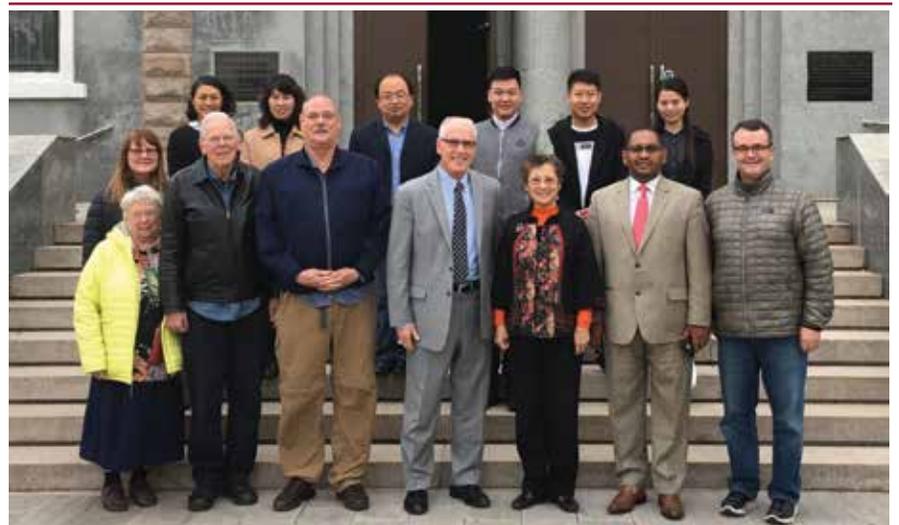
Over the years, CSV has developed relationships with several key leaders in the China Christian Council at the highest level. The Rev. Dr. GAO Feng, President of National CCC (Shanghai) and President of Nanjing Seminary (China's National Seminary) was once a graduate student at Luther Seminary under the guidance of CSV Founder, the Rev. Dr. Paul Martinson. Dr. Gao is close friends with several of CSV's directors and staff.

Rev. Dr. WANG Zhenren is the President of Zhongnan Seminary (Wuhan) and Vice President of Hubei's Provincial CCC. In the past, Dr. Jim Nestingen taught at Zhongnan Seminary through a guest faculty exchange program. The Rev. Dr. GAO Ying, the President of Yanjing Seminary (Beijing) and Vice President of National CCC is also a long-time friend of CSV. All the above mentioned Chinese leaders once studied theology in the United States.



While in Xinyang, Henan, the group met with Mei Wen staff (CSV's partner organization) and were debriefed on CSV's collaborative work with left-behind children and university volunteers in Henan province. The group also met with Elder DAI Qin, the leader of Nanguan Church, a worshipping congregation tracing its legacy to the work of Lutheran Missionary Daniel Nelson, and other local church leaders and members of the local Xinyang CCC.

The group enjoyed one day on Jighonshan (Rooster) Mountain and visited historic mission sites (missionary homes, the Stone Chapel, the American School of Kikungshan, and the missionary cemetery). At the base of the mountain, the group met with LIU Xia, lay leader of Xindian Chapel, a worshipping congregation tracing its legacy to Anna Martinson (grandmother of CSV Founders Paul Martinson and Charlotte Gronseth). No China trip is complete without a visit to the Great Wall and Forbidden City in Beijing. CSV was represented by Dr. Tom & Carolyn Stertz and Rev. Dr. Paul & Dr. Ida Martinson. Jeff & Mim Nellermoe and Nancy Huang served as trip hosts.



China TRENDS

New NGO Law

China's new law governing the management of overseas nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) became effective Jan. 1, 2017. This law affects some 7000 plus foreign NGO's (many of whom are Christian) operating in China — including China Service Ventures (CSV).

Implications for CSV



As of Jan. 1, 2017, China Service Ventures (CSV) must apply for approval to register a representative office (RO) with the State Ministry of Security and Provincial Security Bureau if it is to operate in China. CSV will apply under Henan's Department of Education, who will monitor and supervise our RO's activities. To assist us in this process, we have secured the services of Kunlun Law Firm, Beijing. We hope to receive a decision on our application by May 2017.

Failure to comply with the law could result in the shut-down and seizure of all assets and possible criminal prosecution and detention/incarceration of our China partner organization, Mei Wen. Once registered, CSV will be able to conduct its activities within the government approved scope of activities and must submit year-end financial and activity reports. The government may elect to assign additional supervisory units to monitor CSV. Application for approval to register does not necessarily guarantee registration. If rejected, CSV will need to wait five years before it can reapply.

Under Henan's Department of Education, CSV should be able to serve the rural poor student and continue its Bo Ai scholarship, Stay Behind After School, Volunteer Training, and Summer Camp programs. CSV also hopes to continue its ESL teacher placements and faculty/student exchange and cultural tours.

Implications for Mei Wen



Our partner organization, Mei Wen, is registered as a for-profit, wholly owned Chinese enterprise. In the past, this was the only viable option for small, grass-roots nonprofit organizations in China. Mei Wen is a social organization, but is not directly affected by this law. Mei Wen functions as a subcontractor or grant award recipient to administer CSV's programs, but also as a partner in our vision to serve the rural poor.

You can be assured that monies given to CSV for an expressed purpose in China are faithfully administered through the services of Mei Wen.

Miriam "Mim" Nellerhoe is contracted by Mei Wen as a "foreign expert" to help serve the rural poor.

— Jeff Nellerhoe 马安泰 - Mǎ Āntǎi
CSV Executive Director

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Prayer Intercessors NEEDED

"No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience. Whenever I prayed earnestly, I have been heard and have obtained more than I prayed for. God sometimes delays, but He always comes." — Martin Luther

Partner with us to pray daily for China! Weekly prayer requests are sent out from our team in China! Receive them by email and get involved as a Prayer Intercessor.

Contact the CSV office for details:
phone: 651-659-1396
email: office@chinaserviceventures.org.



Not to be served,
but to serve

Please consider making a donation to help make it possible for us to continue to serve.



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Make a Difference!
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Thank you!

Mission

PARTNERSHIP

As I travel across the U.S. and Canada, I find that Lutheran congregations are seeking to connect with global missions in relational ways. They want a relationship with the people they send and support to serve in their behalf. Some want to know relationally the ones who are being served. These congregations support CSV missionaries for six primary reasons:



Bill Moberly

- 1. Vision** — CSV's vision to serve the rural poor, in areas of China where Lutheran missionaries served before, is compelling. People want to get involved in their mission legacy and make further impact.
- 2. Relationship** — Our Chinese co-workers (Mei Wen) and deployed CSV Staff (Jeff & Mim Neller-moe) are called and gifted. Their stories inspire people to serve. Jeff and Mim left virtually everything behind to go serve in China. People see that God still calls and uses people to serve in ways that he did in the past.
- 3. The Need** — China's population constitutes 20 percent of the world's population. As such, it is one of the largest mission fields in the world. CSV is one of the few Lutheran mission agencies solely focused on China.
- 4. The Spirit is Moving** — The indigenous Chinese Church is mobilizing its believers to take the Gospel to the 466 unreached people groups in their own country. God is powerfully at work, and people do not want to miss this opportunity to partner in the work of the kingdom. They want to get involved through people and a ministry they know and trust, like CSV.
- 5. Service** — CSV serves the poor in both WORD and DEED through practical and effective ways like teaching, befriending, mentoring, clothing, and financially supporting left-behind children in rural areas. In partnership with the local churches and fellowship groups, CSV bears witness to the gospel through humble service and love.
- 6. Partnership** — Partnership is more than giving money. Partnership involves sharing a common vision and passion for reaching and serving the lost. CSV offers partners the opportunity to pray, correspond, give financial support, and serve the Chinese people.

As CSV's Director of Development and Outreach, I am committed to mobilizing a Lutheran network across North America for global missions. From my perspective, CSV has a bright future ahead as a tool in God's hand.

— Bill Moberly

CSV Director of Development and Outreach

Executive Director

OPEN LETTER

Dear Friends and Partners,

Last summer, our Mei Wen partners received notice from Xinyang's Security Bureau (i.e., the Police) that our Mei Wen/CSV summer camps were ordered closed by Henan's Department of Education, citing failure to obtain proper licensure and permits. After a little investigation, we discovered the real source behind the directive was the Provincial Religious Affairs Bureau.

This action really shocked us, but it served to alert us to some major development and revisions in China's laws concerning overseas NGO's and religious activities. China's political climate is rapidly changing. (You can read in detail about the implications of these laws in my article "China Trends: New NGO Law.")

The religious activities law stipulates that only China-government certified religious leaders may conduct religious activities at China-government registered religious sites. Under no circumstances will religious activities be allowed on public premises, most notably educational campuses. I wonder if this was the reason our camps were closed.

Currently, CSV must register a representative office in China under the new NGO law to fund or continue our work in its present form, e.g., Bo Ai, Stay Behind, Volunteer Training, and Summer Camps. Fortunately, our Chinese partner, Mei Wen, and our programs were already funded through June 2017, prior to the law's effective date, Jan. 1st.

CSV registration will allow us to serve with government sanction, secure work visas, transfer funds from the U.S. to China, and to stay in country for longer periods of time. Registration will also permit us to enroll in a local university's "Chinese as Second Language" courses; build long-term relationships with students, faculty, and officials; disciple and train our Mei Wen team more thoroughly; and, partner more effectively with local churches. We have much to gain from registration.

I remain hopeful and confident that God will provide the means and ways for us to serve in China. We should know more by May whether CSV is approved. We will keep you informed.

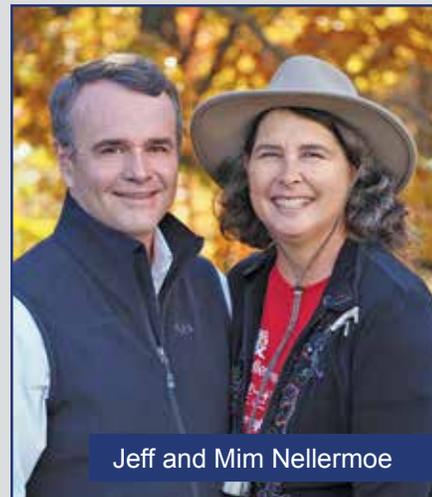
When Jesus spoke to our hearts, "Come follow me," I was surprised that the road to China has proved so long and difficult, full of surprising twists and turns. Yet, we are still walking the road, learning to trust our Guide in the midst of political ambiguity and uncertainty.

Thank you for walking with us and enabling CSV and us to serve God's other precious sheep in China.

— Jeff Nellerhoe 马安泰 - Mǎ Āntài
CSV Executive Director

Executive Director

Rev. Dr. Jeff Nellerhoe



Jeff Nellerhoe is a rostered pastor in the LCMC and NALC. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Utah in the field of Integrated Marketing Communication.

Mim Nellerhoe has a Master's of Education from Augustana College. She is certified to teach K - College.

Together they live and serve in Xinyang (Henan), China, mentoring Mei Wen staff and serving Henan's rural poor.

jeff@chinaserviceventures.org

SAVE THE DATES

Oct. 13-23, 2017

October 2017 marks the 10th Year Anniversary of our Bo Ai Program. We plan to organize a delegation for the special event. You will see the work in Xinyang, Henan, and visit the historic missionary sites of Rooster Mountain (Jighonshan) and legacy churches.

Itinerary and cost information to follow. Interested? Contact our office:
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OF ROOSTER



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