

20th General Meeting, April 16

The Guest Speaker Rev. Chan Kim-Kwong 陳劍光牧師 was briefly introduced by our Second V.P. Elizabeth Cheng. He emigrated to Quebec, Canada as a child and received his PhD from the University of Ottawa. He has visited every province and region in China.

[Download here for a summary of the talk]

Rev. Chan used to work as a psychotherapist in hospital emergency department. He realized that it was more important saving the souls than saving the lives of his patients. In the 1970's, he learned Chinese afresh and visited China. From this experience, he decided to return to Hong Kong and studies theology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

During his travels and work in China, he realized that spreading the Gospels needs experience in life. He visited the Christians living in China and found that Christianity was alive in China. In order to help the starving people in China, he studied agriculture and animal husbandry so that he could put this knowledge to use in China.

Between 1980's – 2000, the number of Catholics increased from 3 million to 12 million and the number of Protestants increased from 3 million to 30 million. Today, there are about 60 to 70 million Protestants in China.

He wrote many books on China and was consulted by different Chinese government officials. He wrote about the actual conditions in the villages. One such publication was translated into English, and this was translated back into Chinese and was then distributed to various government departments to study and classified as “confidential documents”.

In summary, China is developing in a phenomenal manner and this can be divided into 10-year cycles. The euphemism used in greeting friends in China can be divided as below:-

- (i) in the 1980's (where hunger is still prevalent) - 吃得上, i.e. any food to eat.
- (ii) in the 1990's (everyone has a full stomach) - 吃得飽
- (iii) in the 2000's (choice of good food) - 吃得好

(iv) in the 2010's (spreading influence to outside China) - 吃得開

There are now and around 2,000 Christian missionaries from China working overseas.

The status of a Christian Church in China is now a “government sanctioned voluntary organization”.

This interesting talk was followed by sharing by Serrans Richard Tan, Laurence Ho and Michael Lau.