



Lynn and Mary Degener

lynnandmarydeg@gmail.com

Lynn: 734-834-0922

Mary: 734-904-9088



“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”
John 12:46

Dear AACRC Missions Team,

We have the awesome privilege of exposing some of China's elite scholars and their families to the Gospel and the Christian life.

Producing Fruit: We received this message recently from one of our team members regarding a former visiting scholar. *“I thought you'd like to read this email from C. It's in response to an e-meditation on the parable of the 4 soils. By the way, God has answered prayers and her husband is now going to church with her!!”*

She said - - *“Hi N,*

Thanks for the eMeditation! I like this allegory. I can understand it much better now. It's a big lucky and happiness to be good ground for the seed of GOD. The new life grows from the seeds is more joyful and fruitful. I get much wisdom from God's words--the Holy Bible. Under more pressure of life and job, the relationship with God is more important. We can become more stronger and wise with God's words and support and can battle the pressure better. God bless you”

Some Doors Close:

The political environment in China is changing and doors that were previously open are being closed. This makes our ministry even more critical. We have a need for more staff because there are still many right here on our campus that remain unreached. Below is a recent example of doors being closed.

“For years, a couple on COM Staff have been teaching English in China most summers, the last 10 years with an independent group of China-loving friends, led by experienced cross-cultural workers. For 16 years this group has been providing conversational English classes for students and professors at a university in a major city. There the team has been warmly welcomed and given remarkable freedom in what they teach and how they relate to students. However, late this spring, in the changing political environment of China, the university abruptly canceled the program.”

God blesses us with new opportunities here:

At our Christmas Dinner we invited members from a Chinese church to attend and about 40 people came. One of the English Bible study leaders at the church became very interested in our China Friends ministry. Her husband did some investigating and told her *“COM is a very good organization. You should get to know them better”*. As a result, this spring Mary was invited to co-teach an English Bible study to a group of Chinese scholars at the Chinese church. We were surprised at the number of people attending this mid-morning Bible study on a week day. This has led us into a developing relationship with the Chinese church. In addition to Thursday we also meet together every Friday evening and co-lead the English Bible study.





We also have a consistent group that meets every week in our home. We have dinner together and then Bible study. One person said one time “it’s like family”. Now Mary meets with one of the scholars that comes on a weekly basis. She wants to know more about the Bible. She says that she is 80% at believing. Lynn has kept up with some of those that have gone back to China. Please pray for X and Li.

Discipling a new Chinese believer from our weekly Bible Study.

Mary wants to share with you what one of our new believers shared with me the other day. She is growing so fast in her faith and is helping others to understand how different her life is now. She has become my Chinese assistant in a Friday night Bible Study. She said, “Mary, you don’t know what results you have when you teach us about the Bible.” We had taught a difficult passage about loving your enemies. One of the young women there was having a particular hard time with this passage because of a scam played on her husband and ended up costing them a lot of money. J was able to come along side of her and help her. She is also now counseling other women on how to handle difficult situations. These two have made this a very special time for me. It’s what we always wanted.

COM Staff Conference 2018, Quarryville, PA.

This year our annual Staff Conference was held at Black Rock Christian Retreat Center. It had special meaning because this is the same place where Mary and I attended our very first Staff Conference 13 years ago. Also it was special because our daily devotional and spiritual development leader was Brent Hoover. This had special meaning because Brent is the person we first worked with at the University of Michigan when we joined China Outreach Ministries as volunteers. In our daily devotion time Brent focused on three main aspects of being better ministry leaders on our campuses. First, focus on Jesus; knowing his ways, how he lived, how he spoke to the people, how he handled situations in the Gospels. Spend time getting close to Him by modeling Him. Then we will be revealing to them the Heavenly Father. Next was the aspect that to be more effective as “cross culture ministers” we need to study and understand Chinese culture more. When we have this information the lines of communication about Spiritual matters (the Gospel) will become more meaningful and acceptable.

When we think of what J said about not knowing the results of what we do is how we feel when we think of you, our partners in this ministry. We all may never know the results of what we have done. We thank God for all the opportunities we get because you are right there with us with your prayers and support.

We thank you so much for partnering with us and sharing this life changing ministry with us. Your investment in China Outreach Ministries is impacting lives that will change a nation.

Lynn and Mary

COM Team Leaders

Ways to financially support our ministry: On line at www.chinaoutreach.org scroll down and select Lynn and Mary Degener or Checks sent to COM @ China Outreach Ministries 555 Gettysburg Pike, Suite A-200 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 Designate *Degener ministry*