

Annual Report 2017

華源協作
CHINASOURCE

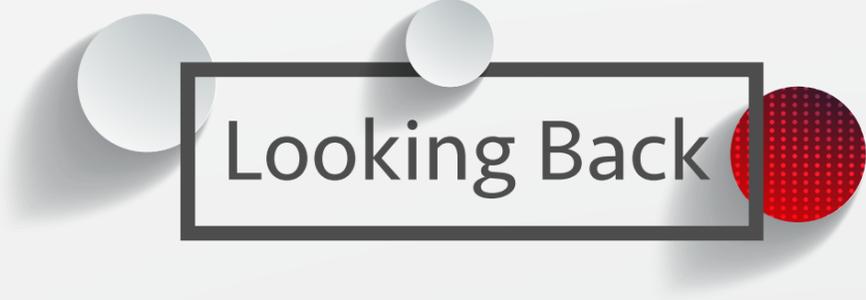
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ChinaSource has become the “go to” source of accurate information, balanced advice, and excellent contacts for all those interested in serving the Chinese people. The leaders and staff have gained both depth and currency as they have kept up with a fast-changing China since their inception twenty years ago.

*Dr. Carol Hamrin
Senior Associate, China Global Center*

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Looking Back

Celebrating 20 years

Born out of a vision to see God's people working together effectively in China, at a time when China was accelerating its integration with the global community, ChinaSource has had the privilege of serving hundreds of churches and organizations, and thousands of individuals, since its founding two decades ago.

Over these years the God "who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" has done something in China that is beyond human explanation. For those serving in China, the story of these two decades has not been about the accomplishments of any one organization or person, but rather the challenge of simply keeping up with what God has been doing in the Middle Kingdom.

20 years of change in China

The relentless forces of urbanization and sustained economic growth have altered the geographic and political landscape more than at any other time in China's long history. From a predominately rural, agrarian society, China rocketed into first place on the world economic scene as it moved from being the world's factory floor to becoming a major global investor. Its entry into the World Trade Organization in 2000 hastened China's emergence from self-imposed isolation to international prominence. Today we recognize that what happens in China no longer stays in China. Its policies have political, economic, and even social implications that reverberate across nations.

20 years of change in the church in China

The church's journey during the past two decades parallels that of China itself. With urbanization has come a shift in China's spiritual center of gravity as a generation of rural believers makes its way to the city, and as newly formed congregations emerge in urban centers across China. Reform and Opening have paved the way for unprecedented linkages with the church outside China, whether through a generation of foreign Christians who moved to China in the 80s and 90s, through tens of thousands of Chinese who studied abroad and returned home as believers, or through advances in technology that have given birth to vibrant online communities. As China has become more outward focused, so the church's posture has changed from social isolation to engagement, both with Chinese society and with nations beyond China's borders to which the Chinese church now seeks to bring the gospel.



Awesome spirit—cooperation, consideration for one another, heart for God and China.

The emphasis on keeping our relationship with God central meant so much to me. It's so easy to lose our focus.

The China Consultation really did for [our ministry] what we had hoped and prayed. So many options/directions to focus but the clarity with which this [partnership project] came was quite supernatural.

20 years of change in the China-ministry world

The role of the foreign worker and foreign Christian organizations has changed dramatically as well. No longer the trailblazing pioneers seeking to establish new beachheads in a land with hardly a trace of Christian influence or to train shepherds for a church bereft of leadership, today's foreign workers are more likely to serve as encouragers, mentors, or behind-the-scenes servants to those God has raised up to lead his church in China. While specialized training is still needed in areas of ministry where Chinese believers are breaking new ground, China's church has entered a period of interdependence with the global Body of Christ, which today has much to learn from the experience of believers in China. Opportunities to work together in advancing God's kingdom in China and beyond are unprecedented.

The role of ChinaSource

In a funding proposal written in 2001, we anticipated the role that ChinaSource would be called to play in the future. Over the years we have been blessed to be able to pursue this vision of working together for the flourishing of China's church.

Pressed for resources, many organizations and churches involved in China are understandably limited in their ability to assess the "big picture." Driven by the urgency of the task, many don't take time to learn the lessons of past and present missions efforts that are

relevant to their own work. Conditioned by western individualism, few seek out collaborative relationships with ministry partners that would multiply the effectiveness of their efforts.

Yet this coming together of understanding and relationships will ultimately make the difference between disconnected, incomplete, and inappropriate China ministry, and long-term, synergistic ministry that will truly strengthen the Chinese church and advance the kingdom of God in China. The cost of failing to intentionally inform and equip the Body of Christ during this kairos moment in Chinese history will be lost opportunity—a cost that may never be recouped if China continues its rapid development as a major world power apart from the influence of the gospel.

ChinaSource's Response

Developments in information technology have made it easier than ever for ministry leaders to access knowledge and to collaborate with one another in real time, no matter where they are in the world. By harnessing this technology, we can inform leaders in China ministry and assist them to work together in new ways.

Specifically, effective use of new technologies allows us to create a "big picture" perspective of China by harnessing the collective insights of ministry thinkers and strategists, each of

whom may be focused on a different aspect of China or ministry to China. By tracking the various kinds of work being done, and by connecting those doing the work with one another, we can assist ministry leaders to forge mutually beneficial relationships in their area of specialty.

Accessible information on available ministry resources enables the effective use of these resources across the China ministry community and reduces duplication of effort. In addition, creating secure communication links will facilitate dialogue among ministry leaders who might not otherwise have the opportunity to interact.

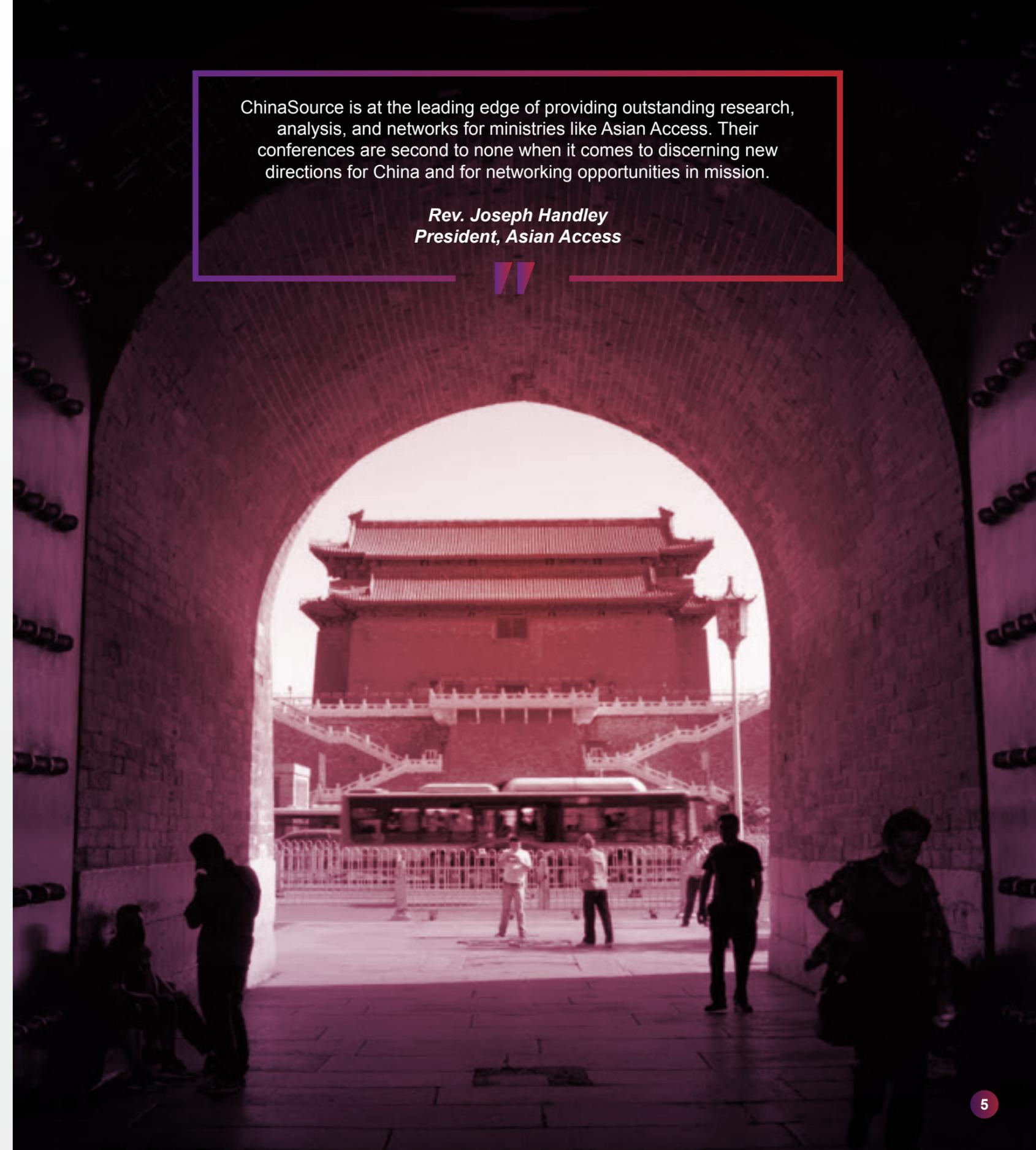
ChinaSource remains committed to serving the global church as it engages effectively with China and with the Chinese church. Effective Christian engagement with China is only possible when undergirded with the perspective and wisdom that comes from a deep understanding of China's overall climate and present issues. To help the China-ministry community leverage expertise and serve effectively, we serve as a catalyst, bringing together the right people, asking the right questions, and influencing Christian thinking about China.

Over the years ChinaSource has been blessed with the perspective that comes from experience, understanding that what we see happening in China today does not occur in isolation, but is inextricably linked to China's history and culture. ChinaSource makes sense of China from a Christian perspective. As we inform and engage the people and organizations impacting China, our perspective enables ChinaSource to serve as an often unseen partner, providing the internal "operating system" for Christians who are advancing God's kingdom purposes in China. We have also been blessed over time with a rich network of relationships that spans the globe and covers a wide spectrum of China involvement. It is only within this network that ChinaSource's catalytic role is fulfilled, enabling those who serve to accomplish more together than they could by themselves.

Much has been learned and gleaned from the past 20 years of service. As relentless change has reshaped China, so the relentless move of God's Spirit has redrawn China's spiritual landscape, bringing unprecedented growth in an era of profound spiritual hunger. For those who have come to China to serve, finding their role in the midst of this divine transformation has often meant putting aside preconceived notions about what is needed in order to grasp unforeseen opportunities. For China's church, the remarkable faith, adaptability, and creativity of believers have enabled them to find a way forward in the face of many obstacles.

ChinaSource is at the leading edge of providing outstanding research, analysis, and networks for ministries like Asian Access. Their conferences are second to none when it comes to discerning new directions for China and for networking opportunities in mission.

Rev. Joseph Handley
President, Asian Access





Looking Forward



ChinaSource is a timely, insightful channel to learn about the key issues and challenges of Christianity in China from an informed, thoughtful perspective. I highly recommend it for grasping the very many dimensions of a central development in world Christianity: the rapid growth and diversity of the Chinese church.

Dr. Carsten Vala
Associate Professor of Political Science
Loyola University

It is these same traits that will enable Chinese Christians to face uncertain days ahead. In the run-up to the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, government leaders are leaving nothing to chance as they extend Party control into every corner of Chinese life, including religion. Coupled with growing anti-Western sentiment, this control imperative has serious implications for Chinese Christians and those who serve with them. The Overseas NGO Law that took effect last January and new religion regulations passed in August will likely make it more difficult for Chinese believers to work together with the global church. These measures also seek to throttle the efforts of Chinese Christians to extend their witness in areas such as education, publishing, and the internet.

In response ChinaSource is reaffirming its commitment to serve as a trusted resource providing objective, accurate, and balanced information that will enable wise decision making in these uncertain times. At the same time, we recognize that our role is changing. The church in China is at a very different place than where it was two decades ago when ChinaSource was birthed. We expect its role as an active participant in the global church to broaden and deepen in years to come. As it does, ChinaSource sees an opportunity to encourage this process by cultivating more voices from within China and facilitating their global interaction.

As China goes global, Christians everywhere find themselves ministering with, and to, people from China. For the international Christian community, understanding China's role in the world has never been as important as it is now.

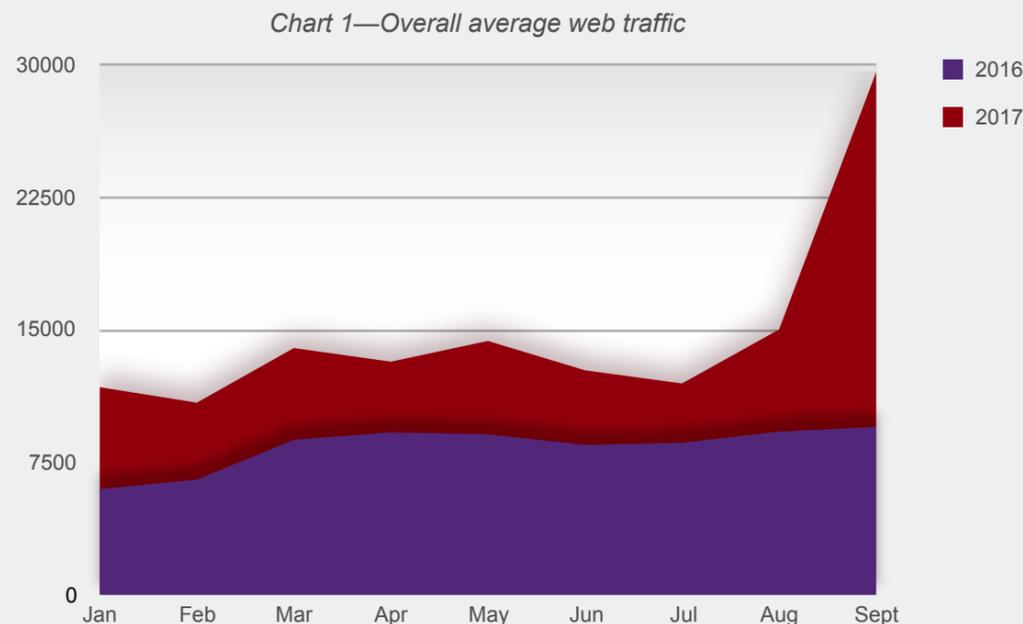
Our Work

Content

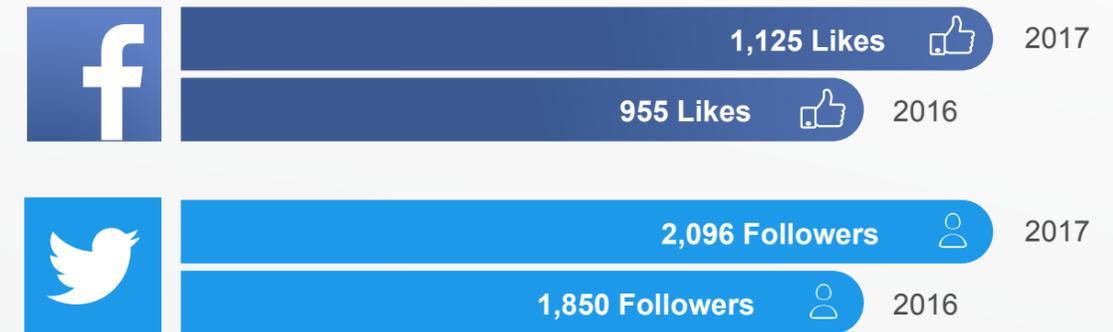
This year, ChinaSource has updated its website with a new look. As the main space for our content, we wanted to enhance our readership experience and ensure that the same high quality content that we continue to produce will be easy to access and enjoyable to navigate.

Some other exciting content-related results to share from this year:

- Overall readership to date (as of September 30, 2017) is 136% higher than it was this time last year (September 30, 2016).
- Overall average web traffic per month in 2017 has grown 77% compared to the same period in 2016 (January - September). (Chart 1—Overall average web traffic)



- Our social media following has increased 15% (Facebook and Twitter) compared to the same time in 2016 (September 30).



- Our exposure in both secular and Christian media has increased 10-fold.



Partnerships

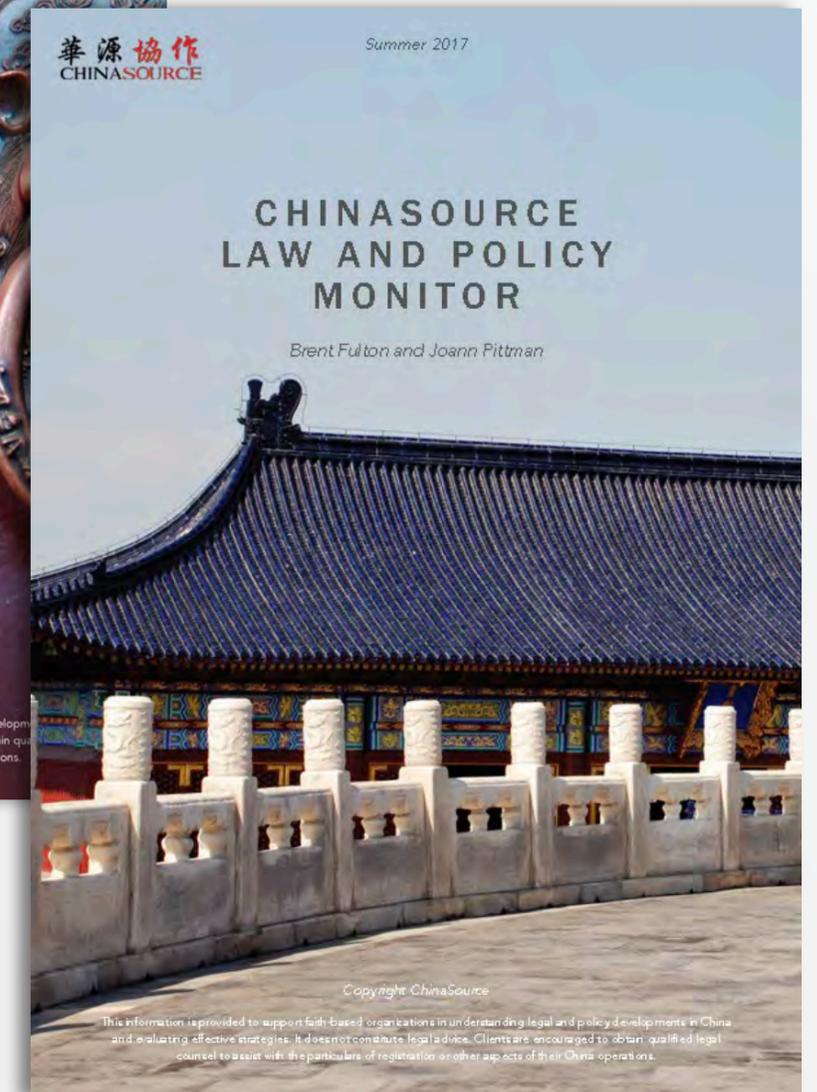
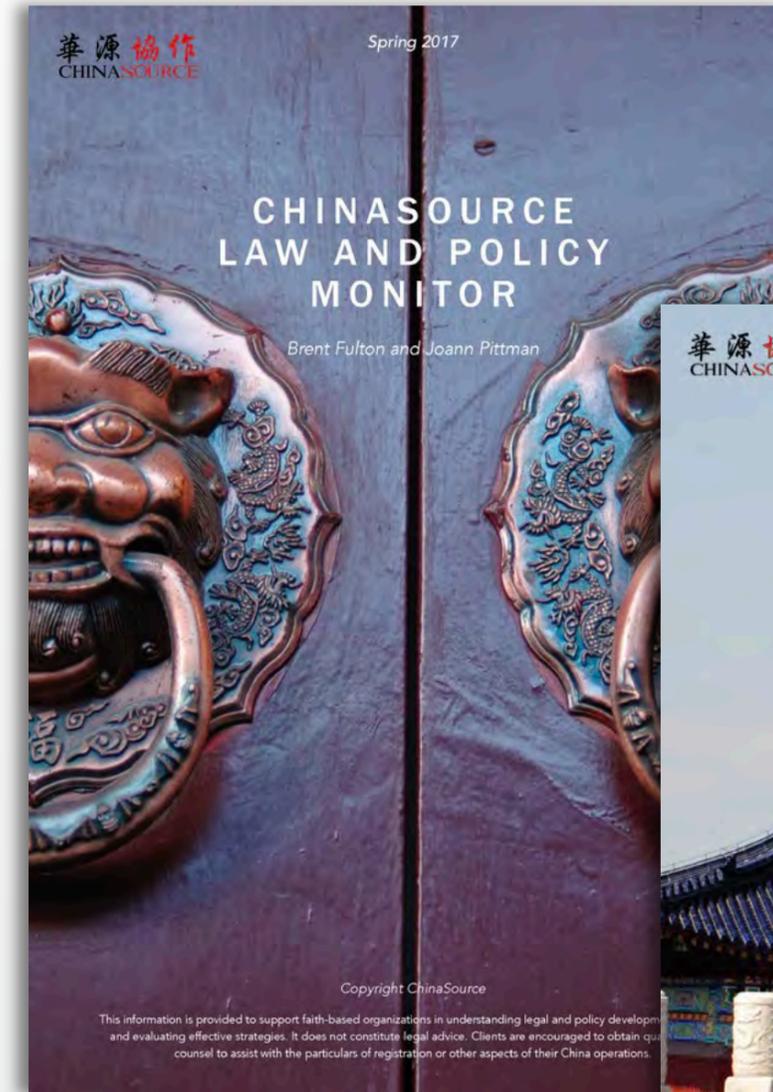
ChinaSource's best work is often done through others with whom we have the privilege of collaborating in specific areas. A key partnership over the past three years has been the Faith and Generosity in China Initiative (FGICI). This year the FGICI reached an important milestone as we turned the leadership of the Initiative over to The Steward's Journey. This longtime partner organization has been instrumental in making available print and media, resources in China, providing practical instruction for tens of thousands of believers on what it means to live as a godly steward in all areas of life. With ongoing input from ChinaSource, The Steward's Journey will now continue the work of mentoring Christian leaders in China's legal, business, media, and NGO sectors so they can equip others to be faithful stewards.

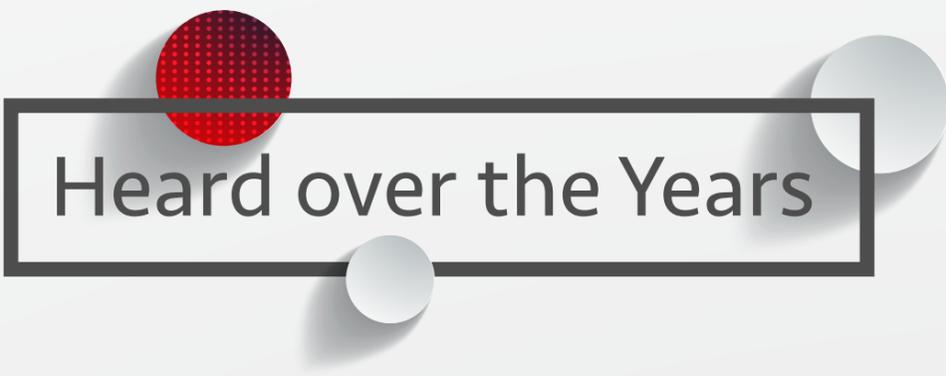
Training and Consulting

In February we launched our second online course, "The Church in China Today" on Udemy. (<https://www.udemy.com/the-church-in-china-today/>) Taught by Brent Fulton, this course offers a comprehensive overview of the church in China, ranging from a historical understanding of how far the church has come, to the struggles it endures in present day, to common misconceptions about the state of the church. To date, 686 students have enrolled.

Our first online course, "Serving Well in China," which we launched in 2016 continues to do well. To date, a total of 1710 students have enrolled.

In order to help individuals and organizations navigate the uncertainties brought about by the new Overseas NGO Law, which went into effect on January 1, 2017, we provided consulting services to organizations. As part of the consulting package, we produced an accompanying publication called "ChinaSource Law and Policy Monitor."





Heard over the Years

ChinaSource is a great help to our ministry as we seek accurate and timely information about the growth of the church in China. Our team turns to it often. We thank God for our partnership with them.

Bill Walsh
Director, International Outreach
The Gospel Coalition

ChinaSource has for many years contributed to the discussion of what it means to do ministry in China and in what areas people should be equipped to do this ministry. They are avid readers and provide rich content for any person seeking to do ministry in China and with Chinese people. I personally follow them on social media as well as regularly read their weekly emails.

Jeff Kyle
US Manager, China Partnership

ChinaSource has always been the primary source of information on China that I use. It is always up-to-date but, more importantly, it is the most reliable source of news and views on China that one will find.

Marvin Newell
Senior Vice-President, Missio Nexus

ChinaSource has become an indispensable stop for me on my daily rounds of reading about China. It is the single best source of information on the church, on religious policy in general, and the spiritual yearning of the Chinese people. China is in the midst of a great religious revival and ChinaSource is right on top of it.

Ian Johnson
Journalist, The New Yorker and author of The Souls of China: The Revival of Religion after Mao

Since its inception, ChinaSource has shown what excellent Christian journalism can be like, and has set the pace—and the standard—for all Christian writing about China and the gospel.

Dr. G. Wright Doyle
Director, The China Institute

I consider ChinaSource to be the premier source for research and information on China from a Christian perspective. ChinaSource provides an accurate and balanced view of China that is hard to find elsewhere.

Tom McCallie
Executive Director, The Maclellan Foundation

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the recent consultation. Thanks to you and your excellent staff, for bringing it all together and for facilitating an inspiring, informative, and challenging experience. I did want you to know that we feel we will be in China someday, and that we want to go about it the right way, learning as we go.

We have such limited access to information inside China. We really value the opportunity the consultation provides to hear what's happening all over China.

The best part was the meals – not the food, but the opportunity for networking [ChinaSource] provided. The relationships formed are invaluable.

This is the kind of meeting that most of the participants have been longing for because everyone of us is using Mandarin; to communicate and share with no language barriers what we have been doing, together with the success and drawbacks, difficulties to be faced with, the need for more trustful dialogue opportunities in the future among Christian organizations and churches on leadership training.



The Financials

		2016	2017 (Budget)
Income	General, Staff Support, and Released Project Funds	\$360,401	\$365,146
	Sales and Events	\$58,250	\$20,891
	Project Funds for Future Years (Restricted)	(\$42,805)	(\$30,913)
Total Support and Revenue		\$375,846	\$355,124
Expenses		\$453,041	\$438,436
Change in Net Assets		(\$77,195)	
Total Net Assets		\$206,255	

**All figures in US\$*



Find out all the ways you can get involved with what ChinaSource is doing by visiting our website at www.chinasource.org/about/get-involved.

Donations

Donations can be made online at our website:
<http://www.chinasource.org/about/get-involved/donate>.

For donations in the US, please make checks payable to ChinaSource.

For donations in Hong Kong, please make checks payable to ChinaSource Partners Ltd.

For donations via bank transfer, please note the following details:

Bank: Hang Seng Bank Limited

Bank Code: 024

Bank Address: 83 Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong

Swift Code: HASEHKHH

Account No.: 283-536761-883



華源協作 CHINASOURCE

For more information go to:

- 🌐 ChinaSource.org
- ✉ info@chinasource.org
- f [CHINASOURCE.ORG](https://www.facebook.com/CHINASOURCE.ORG)
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USA

- ☎ +1 951 968 0913
- ✉ ChinaSource
PO Box 2160
Orange, CA 92859
USA

Hong Kong

- ☎ +852 3791 2116
- ✉ ChinaSource Partners Ltd.
17/F, Unit B, Wing Cheung Industrial Building
58-70 Kwai Cheong Road
Kwai Chung, NT
Hong Kong SAR
PR of China