

Annual Report 2019

Continuing a Good Work

Connecting the Church in China
and the Global Church



華源協作
CHINASOURCE

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Letter from the President



The year 2019 has continued to be an intensifying season of shaking, and even disorientation, for many whose calling has been to serve the church of Jesus Christ in mainland China.

In fact, throughout the globe, Christ's followers are constantly being reminded of the truth in Hebrews 12:26b-29, that we are part of the kingdom of God, which is advancing and cannot be shaken, even while the kingdom that can be shaken is in perilous condition. In the midst of so many challenges we are called to be faithful and trust our Most High God for his guidance, wisdom, and loving power to serve.

Since beginning official service with ChinaSource this past March, I have had the honor of hearing from many who expressed their gratitude for ChinaSource in the midst of very intense, even desperate, situations. Several friends expressed their feelings, in light of China's changing ministry terrain, that "ChinaSource may be needed now more than ever."

It is definitely our heart to engage with, and serve the body of Christ in China. On our best days ChinaSource plays a trusted role in helping, encouraging, informing, and enabling the church in China and the global church to work together, lifting up the name of Jesus and advancing his glory.

In July we welcomed Jonathan Kuert aboard as our Donor Relations Manager. Jon is a major difference-maker on our team and we are very thankful for him.

In September, we welcomed back Dr. Brent Fulton as our Founder/Catalyst. After a ten-month sabbatical, which was renewing and invigorating for both Brent and his wife Jasmine, the Lord led Brent back to us so that we can collaborate and work together strategically in our strengths. We believe the Lord is building his team for this challenging, yet exciting time.

It is sometimes easy to get caught up in the hardship and discouragement of mounting crises. So, we would be very grateful if you would pray the words of Nehemiah for the ChinaSource team in the year ahead: "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength," Nehemiah 8:10.

On several occasions this year, the Lord has brought various team members back to Psalm 46:10,11. So, would you also please pray this passage for us?

*He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

We know we are on good ground if we keep his vision and promise before us.

Thanks so much for your prayers and partnership!

Warmly in Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry Schottelkorb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kerry Schottelkorb

The Church in China Today

Over the past thirty years, as the Chinese government had adopted a relatively tolerant attitude towards religious life, the church in China experienced tremendous growth and maturity. In recent years, however, there has been a significant decline in tolerance towards religious life and practice that is not state-sanctioned, leading to an increase in harassment and persecution. Numerous large, unregistered churches have been shut down. Many smaller ones have proactively split into small groups and are once again meeting in homes. Registered churches are not immune from this pressure as they experience stricter enforcement of regulations such as Sunday School bans and pressure to “Sinicize.” All of this is taking place within the broader move by the party-state to reassert its control over all aspects of life in China.

The government has also lowered its tolerance of the presence of foreign Christian workers in the country. Many workers from several large organizations have had their visas revoked and have been forced to leave. Many other workers have opted to leave voluntarily, either out of a desire to avoid expulsion or because new restrictions make it impossible to do the work they feel called to do.

With the tightening political environment and increasing reports of persecution of Christians in China, it is common for Christians outside of China to have a one-dimensional view of the Chinese church, seeing it primarily as a needy and persecuted church requiring assistance from the global church. Yet many global Christians remain unaware of the complexities of the Chinese church and the diversity of challenges faced by Chinese Christians. There is also a lack of awareness of how Chinese Christians are responding to these new challenges, and of how God is still at work, despite the tightening environment.

This one-dimensional thinking, along with a politically restrictive environment, and a predominantly one-way flow of information, knowledge, and insight (West to China) has made it difficult for the Chinese church to engage with and be a part of the global church.

Despite the limitations, there is a desire on the part of Chinese Christians to tell stories of what God is doing and to offer insights that the global church needs to hear.



ChinaSource: For such a time as this

ChinaSource exists to educate and inform the global church on critical issues facing the church and ministries in China, enabling collaboration between Christians inside and outside of China.

Over the past twenty-two years, ChinaSource has become a trusted platform and bridge for Christian communities inside China and around the world, offering insight and analysis to the church outside of China to deepen their understanding of the complexities and multi-dimensional nature of the church, by way of our publications, partnerships, training and consulting services.

However, over time we have come to see the state of play has been only one way: Global Church to China. For far too long there has not only been an information deficit, but an analysis one as well. Information must flow both ways, with analysis to follow.

As a result, ChinaSource has become one of the only avenues by which the world can hear from mainland Chinese Christians about their unique situation and challenges, making it possible for the global church to learn from, and collaborate with their Chinese brothers and sisters.

All of this is done in the hope of seeing the church in China and the global church work together to advance God's kingdom in the world.

In the past year we have focused on building out the capabilities and capacity needed to fully realize ChinaSource's calling well into the future.

It is good we have done so, as in the midst of our organizational transformation, China has been rapidly changing. Ministries inside and outside of China are increasingly looking to ChinaSource for the information, analysis, and networking capacity they need to both process and address their own situations, with an eye toward partnering with others.

ChinaSource helps to connect and empower many churches and organizations in a large ecosystem of diverse China ministries. In doing so, the Lord has impressed upon us that our core values are to be:

Engage • Collaborate • Serve

In light of the turbulent, changing season in China, we believe the Lord has uniquely prepared and placed ChinaSource in a vital, strategic position "for such a time as this."

Ministry Impact



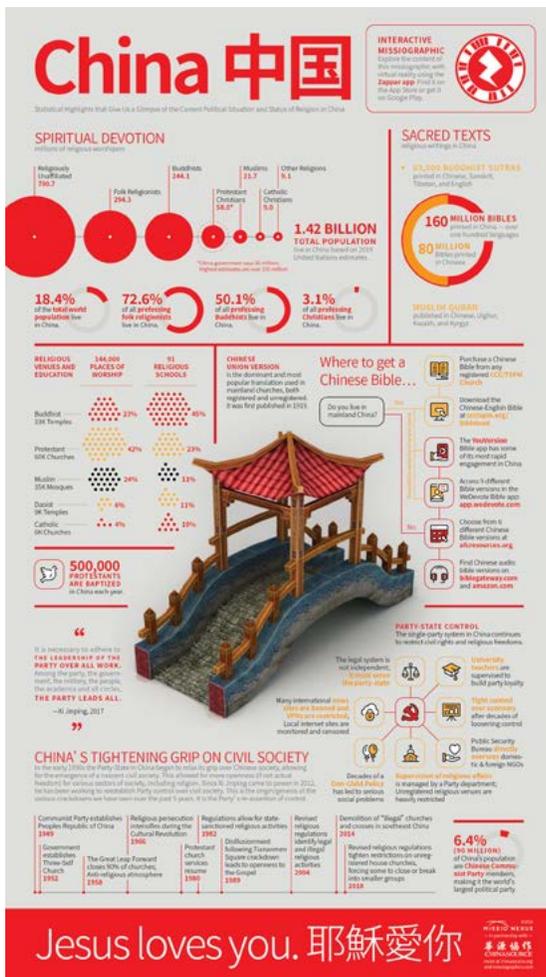
At ChinaSource we strive to present the multi-dimensional nature of Christianity in China, and to provide in-depth and cogent analysis of why things are happening. While not ignoring the increasing political repression being experienced by believers in China, our writing focuses on helping our readers understand why it is happening and how Chinese Christians themselves are responding to it. In a Christian media environment that often

highlights and amplifies *only* the negative without providing context, the articles that we produce go beyond the sensationalized headlines. For those in the global church who wish to serve the church in China, this approach provides them with valuable information that helps them be more effective in their work.

We also write about the issues that Christians are dealing with that are more “normal,” such as family, education, theological training, and engaging with society. These, along with stories and analyses of the challenges, serve to provide a picture of the multi-dimensional nature of the church.

In this past year our published stories have touched on topics of music in the church, international student ministry, pastors’ salaries, how Christians respond to and reach out during traditional holidays, the “Sinicization of religion,” how local believers are reaching out to ethnic minorities, snapshots of Three-Self churches, consumerism, and the problem of cults.

We also had the opportunity to tell these stories to a larger audience through invitations to write for *Christianity Today* and the *Lausanne Global Analysis* and to speak at the annual Missio Nexus conference. We also partnered with Missio Nexus to produce an infographic on the religious environment in



China. Titled “[China: Statistical Highlights](https://bit.ly/CSAR19-infographic),” (link: bit.ly/CSAR19-infographic) the infographic provides a compelling visual representation of the complexity of the situation in China.

But ChinaSource is more than the content we produce on the website. We are also engaged in activities that are not online, such as speaking at conferences, churches, convening forums with ministry leaders, engaging in research, providing online webinars, and partnering with other organizations on various initiatives that serve the church in China. These activities and events have given us a chance to meet with friends and co-laborers, as well as with new, interested friends who are considering partnering with us to answer God’s calling for ChinaSource.

Along the way, whether at events sponsored by ChinaSource or by other organizations, we have had the honor and privilege of hearing from many who have expressed their gratitude for what we are doing in the midst of challenging and uncertain times and circumstances.

In the coming year, we will continue to monitor and analyze the ever-changing situation in China, and how it impacts local believers and foreign workers. In addition, we have plans for *ChinaSource Quarterly* issues on the indigenous missions movement from China and women in ministry in China.

We also plan to host more webinars on topics that will educate and equip those serving or seeking to serve in China.



Publications

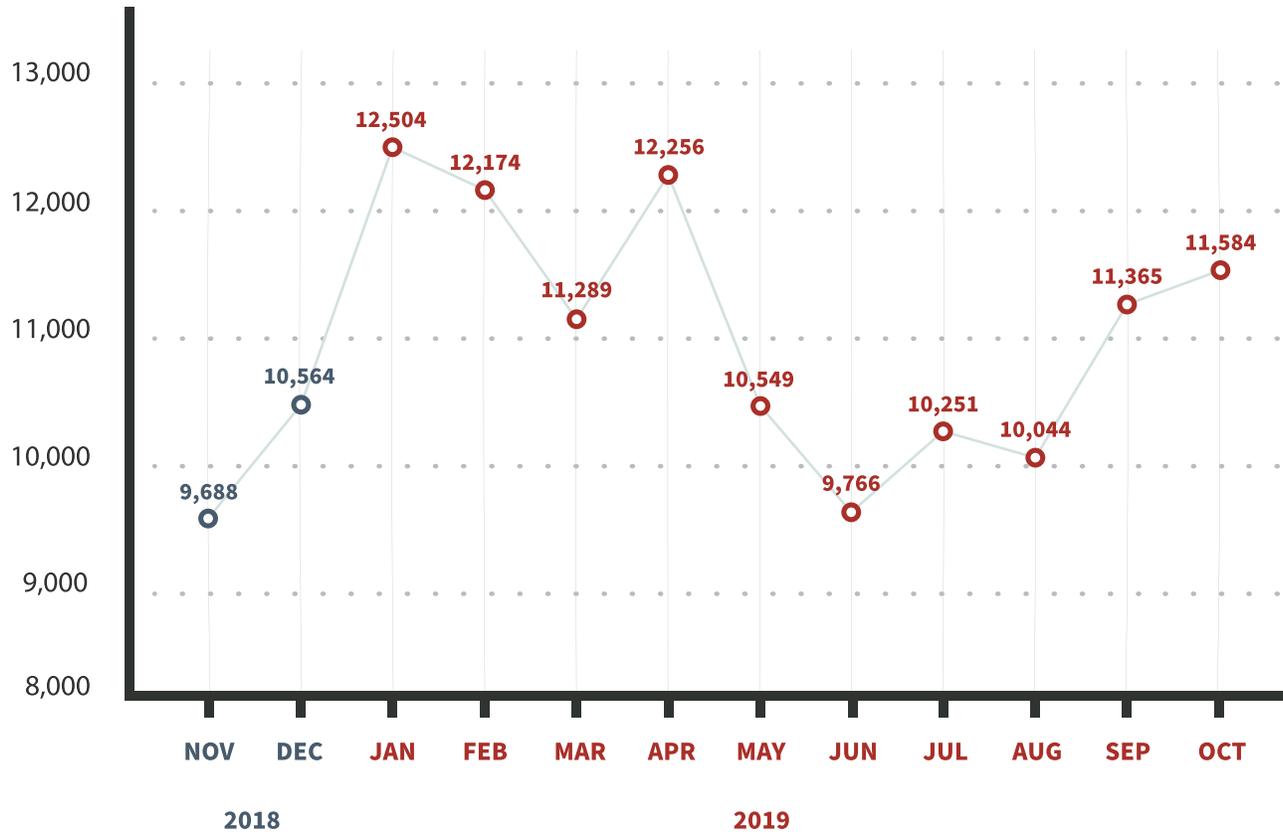
In 2019, having just completed twenty years of publication of the *ChinaSource Quarterly*, we took a look back at significant articles of enduring value that have been part of our publication history, and then continued tackling topics related to the church in China in its current situation. Fourteen writers have contributed to *ChinaSource Quarterly* so far this year, seven are first-time contributors, and one of those is our first African writer.

With the continuing tightening situation in China, we started the year with a blog series dedicated to caring for [those who have left China unexpectedly](https://bit.ly/CSAR19-Pub1) (link: bit.ly/CSAR19-Pub1). In connection with our desire to facilitate collaboration between the church in China and the global church, a frequent guest blogger wrote on being a [Western Christian in the global church](https://bit.ly/CSAR19-Pub2) (link: bit.ly/CSAR19-Pub2).

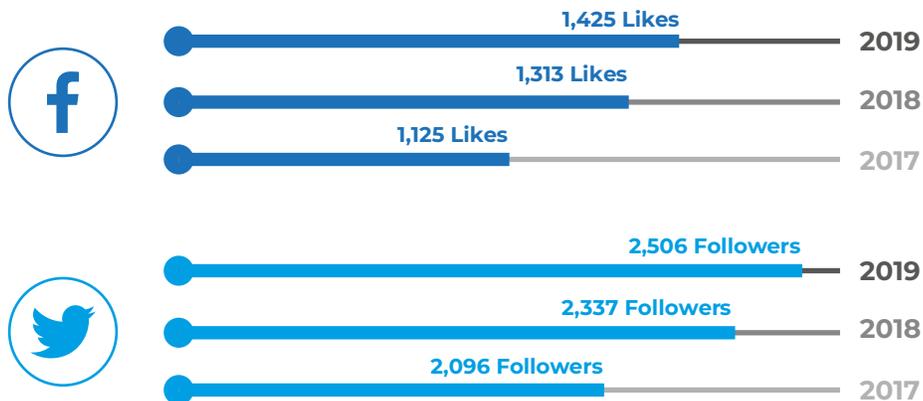
Publications	Monthly Readers (2019 average as of October)
ZGBriefs	4,736
ChinaSource Quarterly	1,774
ChinaSource Blog (including Chinese Church Voices)	1,168
The Lantern	6,801
Twitter	2,442
Facebook	1,387

Readership

Over the past year, ChinaSource has seen a monthly average of over 11,000 web visitors to www.chinasource.org. ChinaSource readers also find our content through email and various social media channels.



Knowing that our content is relevant to a variety of audiences, we leverage the power of social media to help amplify our content to those who may not receive our content otherwise.



Great changes are taking place both within the mainland church and the global one. The Lord is requiring that his church, traditional missions, and ministry forms be adapted, modified, renewed, and even recreated by his grace and truth. Historically predictable communication lines are closing down. Ministry dynamics in China and throughout the world are dramatically changing.

The Chinese church is seeking to follow the Holy Spirit as he guides and informs his “called out ones” in pouring “new wine into new wineskins,” while simultaneously doing the same for the western church.

ChinaSource has been placed by our Heavenly Father in a timely position to help connect and unify the two, so that Christ’s Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) will be fulfilled and his prayer that we will be one as the Triune God is one will actually, actively happen (John 17:20-23).

Thank You and Requests

Thank you for your sacrificial and prayerful support in the past! Looking forward, we would be grateful if you would prayerfully consider partnering with us in the following three ways:

- Provide a sacrificial financial gift to ChinaSource. Your regular gifts will help insure the calling God has given us will continue to grow.
- Introduce your family members, friends, and church to the ministry of ChinaSource.
- Pray for ChinaSource and introduce us to other intercessors keen to wait on the Lord for his guidance, wisdom, and favor. We will be glad to provide prayer updates.

Your gifts, introductions, and prayers will help us:

- Continue providing the objective information and analysis necessary to understand and navigate the ever-changing environment in China and the world.
- Build, equip, and empower the ChinaSource team to respond to God’s calling and walk through the new China engagement doors he is opening to us.
- Enhance ChinaSource publications with an emphasis on hearing and learning from our brothers and sisters in the Chinese church.
- Enlarge the partnering networks we have with the ChinaSource Associates and volunteers who serve with us. We intend to both encourage collaboration as well as be ready to enter into new strategic partnerships, whenever and however the Lord leads.

- Further develop and cultivate partnerships and networking opportunities with Christian media and publications, both in China and North America.
- Serve and connect with the Chinese diaspora: Estimates are that 50 million people comprise the Chinese diaspora world-wide. We are working to inform the global church about them, building unity and teamwork to advance the kingdom of God.
- Inform and encourage local churches in the west to develop a prayerful, strategic, kingdom-ministry plan to engage, collaborate with, and serve the global Chinese church; with a vision for mainland China, but starting in our own backyard.

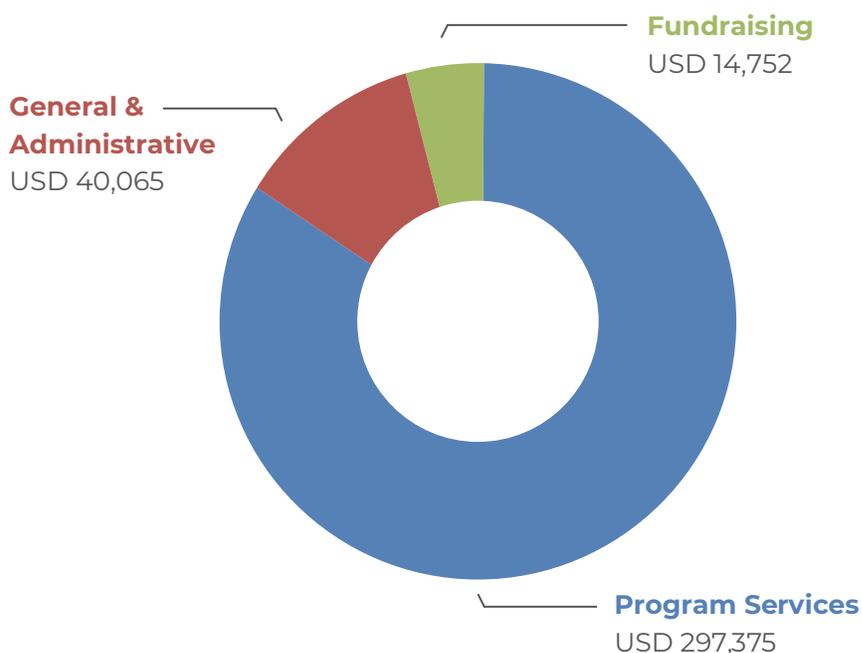
Many of our long-term readers, supportive and collaborative partners have told us that ChinaSource may be needed now more than ever before. We believe that is true and, if so, we pray you will invest in the kingdom calling God has given ChinaSource now, more than ever.

Thank you for your friendship and generosity—we are most grateful!

Finances 2018

Support and Revenue	USD
General Support contributions	208,723
Personnel Support contributions	98,694
Project income	4,376
Other income	7,079
Total	318,872

Expenses	USD
Salaries	175,875
Professional fees	77,609
Telecommunications/ Website	22,815
Travel and hospitality	39,153
Project expenses	14,262
Other expenses	22,473
Total	352,187



Enhancing Trust

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

Donations

Donations can be made online at our website:

www.chinasource.org/get-involved/donate

For donations in the US, please make checks payable to **ChinaSource**, and mail to:

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Orange, CA 92859
USA

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