

Annual Report 2020

A Unified Church in a Divided World

Connecting the Church in China
and the Global Church



華源協作
CHINASOURCE

CONTENTS

- 1 Letter from the President**
- 2 Barriers to Greater Unity**
- 3 ChinaSource: Positioned to Encourage Unity**
- 4 Ministry Impact**
- 5 Publications**
- 6 Readership**
- 6 Looking Ahead**
- 8 Finances 2019**
- 9 Support**

Letter from the President



This year people across the world have been soberly reminded of how fragile, broken, and needy we are. While the world is desperate for leaders with wisdom, discernment, and courage, the Lord has quickened his sovereign claim to redeem and transform lives, and advance his kingdom, no matter how bleak things are or how hopeless they appear.

A divided world needs to see a unified church. Jesus said the most compelling evidence that Christianity is true is the love we have for each other (John 13:35).

Although we find ourselves in a COVID-19 environment, and in the midst of the most turbulent challenges to gospel advance in China since the early 1980s, Christ's calling for ChinaSource is as timely and relevant as ever. It is vital for the church in China and the global church to better understand one another, serve and partner together. The Lord has graciously included ChinaSource in this process.

For over twenty years, ChinaSource has sought to be a relational bridge between Christians in China and the worldwide church, providing vital information and analysis, while helping to facilitate collaboration and ministry partnerships.

ChinaSource is graced with a team comprised of board, staff members, and volunteers, who have a passionate commitment to Jesus and to seeing his glory proclaimed through his church in China and across the world. I am privileged to serve with them and with you, our partners in him.

As the world faced the outbreak of COVID-19 last spring, the first of four ChinaSource statements included these words:

As COVID-19 spreads globally, we find ourselves in challenging times. While the louder global narrative is one of hopelessness, the more powerful storyline is that God is unifying his church for what we believe will be a great awakening in the midst of peril. . . . ChinaSource's commitment to its mission is not contingent on circumstances. Crisis or not, by his grace, we are here to engage, collaborate, and serve—for such a time as this.

We are grateful that our Lord has equipped and prepared us for this moment and are honored to walk this kingdom path with you.

Warmly in Him,

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

Kerry Schottelkorb



Barriers to Greater Unity

As we approach the end of the second decade of the twenty-first century, there are a number of barriers to greater unity between the Chinese church and the global church.

The first is that certain narratives about the Chinese church remain dominant in the global church. It is easy to perceive the church in China as being *primarily* needy and persecuted, and therefore in need of something that we have to offer, be it advocacy, training, or financial support. This can prevent us from seeing the multi-dimensional nature of the church and understanding that the issues and challenges of the church are not necessarily rooted in its difficult relationship to the state. Rather, they are rooted in complex political and social environments. From these unique environments spring unique theological issues as well. But rather than cowering in the face of these complexities, Chinese believers are creative and adaptive, and are thinking seriously about these issues. At times, it seems, our view of Chinese believers as being primarily victims prevents us from listening to and learning from them. This is unfortunate, since we have much to learn.

A second barrier to unity is a lack of connectedness. For a variety of reasons, there are few opportunities for Chinese and global churches to engage in meaningful dialogue and partnership. Information and support tend to flow in one direction: global to Chinese. We talk; they listen. We train; they learn. We give; they receive. While information, training, and support for churches in China are good things, things are out of balance. There needs to be much more listening and learning on our part.

Building and maintaining unity in the face of these twin barriers is a challenge.

ChinaSource: Positioned to Encourage Unity

In this generation we have seldom witnessed as great a need for unity in the body of Christ as there is now. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 3:26, 28:

So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. . . . There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

In a world which is characterized and torn by division, God is calling us to much more.

This is the time for the church in China and the global church to be practiced listeners, humble learners, and servants of the other; respecting, honoring, and encouraging one another. ChinaSource has a track record of trustworthy service to the church in China, seeking to be a platform from which the world can learn from Christ's followers in the mainland and vice versa.

Since division is the pattern of this world, all too often the church is shredded by disunity. ChinaSource began and continues as a vehicle by which the church, in China and worldwide, is unified, equipped, and empowered. It is our privilege to witness the power and impact of unity in the church through Jesus, as a result. ChinaSource is fueled by the belief that we best express the nature and mission of God when serving together.

Partnering is one of the key ways Jesus brings unity to his church. Precisely because of greater restrictions and pressures on Christians in China, along with the intensity of the COVID-19 crisis, we are encountering more opportunities to help facilitate partnerships.

A truly global challenge such as the coronavirus transcends borders and nationalities. Similar challenges in the future will likewise summon China's church and the global church to work together in ways that transcend their own identities, agendas, and biases.

— Dr. Brent Fulton

In September, the ChinaSource board of directors and staff met virtually to prayerfully confirm new vision and mission statements along with strategic themes for 2020-2023. At a time when almost every situation is referred to as “the new normal,” we sought to follow our Lord into his new day for ChinaSource. Our board chairman, Dr. Scott Rodin, led this unifying and renewing process.

Our Vision

The church in China and the global church are learning and growing together, engaging in ministry that powerfully advances the kingdom of God.

Our Mission

ChinaSource is a trusted partner and platform for educating the global church on critical issues facing the church and ministries in China and for connecting Christians inside and outside China to advance the kingdom of God globally.

By God's grace, regardless of the storms, ChinaSource will continue to be a welcoming place for humble learning, respectful dialogue, networking, collaboration, and partnering.

Ministry Impact

Our mission is to facilitate collaboration, unity, and partnerships between the global and Chinese church, especially by giving voice to the church in China and being a bridge of learning and serving together.

The leaders of organizations and churches with whom we interact lead ministries that have significant kingdom reach, both inside mainland China and among Chinese communities globally. ChinaSource partners with many of these organizations to plan public events, organizational training, and consulting. Our experience and network of experts allow us to provide vital information and analysis for organizations as they seek to make important decisions.

Both inside and outside China, our networking capacity is strong and ChinaSource continues to be a trusted, welcoming place that provides needed context and understanding in this rapidly changing environment. Present day China engagement pressures and obstacles are moving ministries toward each other, resulting in more collaboration and teamwork. Historically, this has been and continues to be one of ChinaSource's strengths.

From the beginning, our founder, Dr. Brent Fulton, insisted that ChinaSource be a platform for hearing from the Chinese church in all its diversity. We seek to serve the global body of Christ by representing the multi-faceted nature and character of the Chinese church.

In a Christian media environment that often highlights and amplifies only the negative without providing context, the articles produced by ChinaSource 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 enables them to be more effective in their work. We are grateful to be of service to over 36,000 ChinaSource web visitors each month and to over 7,600 email subscribers.

The global pandemic has presented numerous challenges to Chinese believers as well as foreigners serving alongside them. China was first to succumb to the virus and led the world in implementing societal lockdown measures that upended life for hundreds of millions worldwide. Churches in China were first to take their services and ministries online, making it possible for the world to hear how they were adapting and what lessons they were learning.

In the past year, ChinaSource has devoted more time and attention to developing and maintaining a robust network of partners to help accomplish our mission to produce gospel fruit in Christ's name. Through a group of associates and content advisors representing a variety of perspectives, experiences, and expertise, we address the internal and external challenges that Chinese churches face, helping those seeking avenues of service to respond accordingly.



ChinaSource Connect - A Virtual Event

ChinaSource partnerships involve both one-to-one consulting and prayer with ministry leaders, as well as speaking at conferences and churches, and convening forums with ministry leaders. Due to COVID-19 many of these activities were not possible this year, so we took them online. This allowed us to expand our constituency and continue to serve the China ministry community in a time of great uncertainty.

I want to say how much I appreciate China Source and how much I have loved the access to webinars during this season of COVID. We got stuck away from our home in China and being able to continue learning and preparing for our ministry in China while away has been life-giving to me.

— A China Worker

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 expressed their gratitude for what ChinaSource is doing in the midst of such a difficult season.

Publications

Publications	Monthly Readers (2020 average as of October)
ZGBriefs	4,696
ChinaSource Quarterly	1,979
ChinaSource Blog (including Chinese Church Voices)	1,324
The Lantern	6,329
Twitter	2,622
Facebook	1,558

In 2020, as the world reeled from COVID-19 and other disruptions, our publications also felt the impact. The spring issue of the *ChinaSource Quarterly* was delayed to 2021 as writers were unable to complete their articles, but the rest of the year’s issues are coming out on time, addressing the topics of indigenous missions from China, China’s registered church, and the Chinese diaspora in North America. We anticipate a total of 20 contributors to the *Quarterly* this year; nine are first-time contributors, eleven are Chinese, several from mainland China.

Early in the year we had numerous blogs on the impact of COVID-19 on China and the church. Several

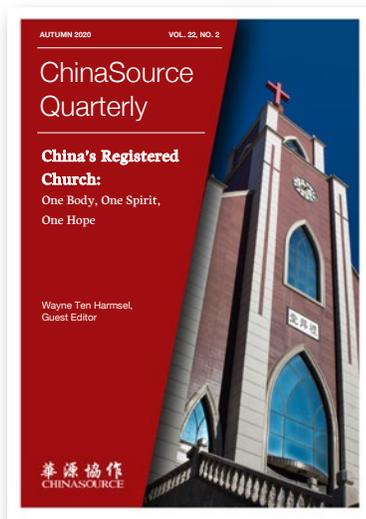
notable series included: a look at those who have gone on to new ministries after having to leave China, one on Chinese church growth, another on Western narratives about China, and an opportunity to hear from those “in exile” due to the year’s extraordinary circumstances. Book and film reviews, testimonies, translations from the Chinese internet, and a variety of other content filled out the year.

Looking ahead, we have plans for *ChinaSource Quarterly* issues on women in ministry in China, another look at a region with a significant Chinese diaspora, and other topics in process, as well as to continue bringing translated content from our brothers and sisters in China.

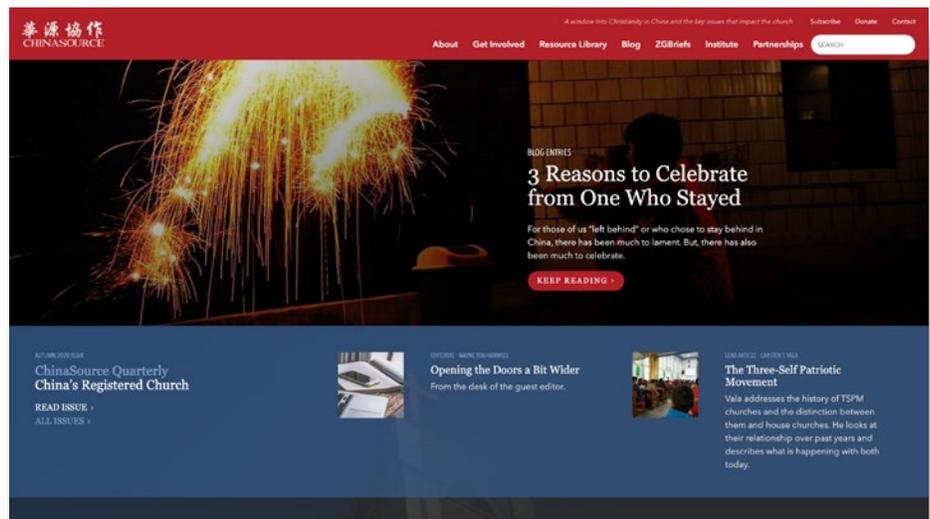
Readership

Over the past year, ChinaSource has seen a monthly average of over 36,000 web visitors to www.chinasource.org, an increase of 235% from 2019. 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 amplify our content to those who may not receive it otherwise. This has been especially true this year with content that came from China during the onset of COVID-19, including an article (<http://bitly.ws/au3N>) by a pastor in Wuhan, China that was picked up by major news sources.



*ChinaSource Quarterly
Autumn 2020 Edition*



ChinaSource Website

Looking Ahead

God is not surprised by the events of 2020. He has been to the future and is welcoming us to join him in the now as he rescues, redeems, reconciles, restores, and unifies through Immanuel.

The hope of China and the world is Jesus Christ and the advance of his kingdom through his bride. A unified church, with every member loving and serving one another, as his image bearers and ambassadors for his redemptive purposes, stands as a powerful testimony to the world of what is possible through the transformative hope our Master offers.

At ChinaSource, we are passionate about seeing God's people work together to fulfill the Great Commission. Working in collaborative partnerships allows us to live out the unity that is God's will for us—a unity that transcends national, cultural, and denominational barriers, and one that can only be found in Christ.



Thank You and Requests

Thank you for helping ChinaSource be a conveyor, convener, and facilitator of vital kingdom information between East and West, analysis, collaboration, and partnering. Going forward, we would be grateful for your continued kingdom investment in the following ways:

- Provide regular financial support for the fulfillment of our vision and mission.
- Introduce your family members, friends, and church to the ministry of ChinaSource. Consider hosting a virtual meeting with the ChinaSource team to share with your community.
- Pray for ChinaSource and connect us with other intercessors who would like to pray for ChinaSource. Prayer updates can be regularly found in *The Lantern*, our monthly ministry newsletter.

Your gifts, introductions, and prayers will help:

- Build a strong ChinaSource team, called and equipped to implement the fresh strategic plan, vision, and mission the Lord has revealed to us.
- Raise up a network of volunteers, associates, and strategic partners who will further enhance our commitment to engage, collaborate with, and serve the Chinese church.
- Enhance ChinaSource publications with an emphasis on hearing and learning from our brothers and sisters in the Chinese church.
- Make the best use of multimedia and social media channels to enhance our ability to reach and be a blessing to a wider audience.
- Serve and connect with the Chinese diaspora, helping to build unity and teamwork with the global church to advance Christ's kingdom.
- Inform and encourage local churches in the West to develop a prayerful, strategic, kingdom-focused ministry plan to learn from, and work with, the Chinese church in the mainland and around the world.
- Further develop and cultivate partnerships and networking opportunities with Christian media publications, both in China and North America.

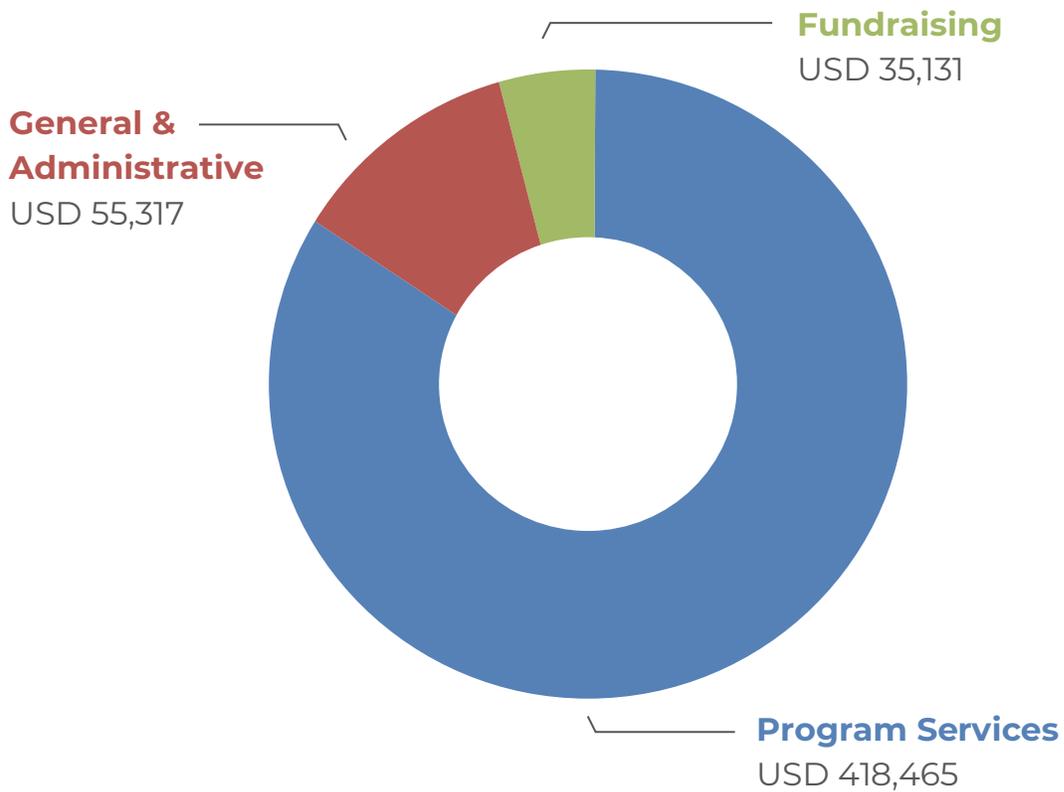
As governments clash and nationalism, racial prejudice, and xenophobia are empowered by entities far greater than flesh and blood, Jesus calls his church to much more—to come together and truly be “all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). It is our joy and honor to answer his call in partnership with you!

Finances 2019

Support and Revenue	USD
General support contributions	399,158
Grant income*	105,000
Project income	-
Other income	-
Total	504,158

Expenses	USD
Salaries	283,757
Professional fees	78,185
Telecommunications/Website	48,845
Travel and hospitality	55,881
Project expenses	15,031
Other expenses	27,214
Total	508,913

* Excludes \$105,000 of grant income committed in 2019 but received in 2020.



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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USA

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ZGBriefs

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the issues that impact its church

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