

Annual Report 2021

Advancing Together in Challenging Times

Connecting the Church in China
and the Global Church



華源協作
CHINASOURCE

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Letter from the President

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” — Lam. 3:22-23



Amid much global chaos and discord, 2021 has been a breakthrough year for ChinaSource as we have been the recipients of God’s loving guidance, provision, and mercy on a daily basis. COVID-19 and increasing government regulations combined to restrict Christian activity in China, yet the Lord continued to open timely ministry doors to ChinaSource.

I am personally grateful and privileged to serve with a ChinaSource team of board, staff members, and volunteers, who have a passionate love for and commitment to Jesus and to seeing his glory proclaimed through his church in China and among all nations.

Through an increasing number of fruitful partnerships and our ongoing work of creating and exchanging relevant content and analysis, the Lord has enabled ChinaSource to help the church in China and the global church learn from one another, resulting in growth and service together.

However, we don’t stop there. The ChinaSource ministry extends to partnering with the Chinese church as well as international ministries serving in China to help them grow, bear fruit, and multiply. We do this in an advisory or consulting capacity, as well as through facilitating new partnerships, undertaking research projects, hosting joint events, and catalyzing ministry initiatives.

Our team is fueled by the belief that we best express the nature and mission of God when serving together in unity. ChinaSource began and continues as a vehicle through which the church, in China and worldwide, is unified, equipped, and empowered. We have been blessed this past year to witness how ChinaSource engages God’s people in ways that powerfully advance God’s kingdom, which is our ultimate goal.

ChinaSource was founded 25 years ago by Dr. Brent Fulton, along with many evangelical friends and visionaries, based on the conviction and commitment to Christ’s call “to make disciples of all the nations” (Mt. 28:19-20).

The Lord has honored that vision and commitment and he is leading us still, despite radical changes and challenges within China’s ministry terrain. In alignment with the Lausanne Covenant, we continue to serve and pray to see the heart of the gospel and God’s love for the lost shine through.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you will be encouraged that God is moving mightily throughout the Chinese church, both in the mainland and the Chinese diaspora, and he is lovingly and patiently including ChinaSource in the process. Thank you for your friendship and partnership with us!

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” — Lam. 3:24

Warmly in Him,

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

Kerry Schottelkorb

Together Through the Storm

by Brent Fulton

Persistent travel restrictions and continued social tightening throughout China have thoroughly impacted China ministry, making 2021 one of the most difficult years in recent history and signals that perhaps more difficult years are to come.

In the wake of last year's global COVID-19 outbreak, many churches, both official and unregistered, are still not meeting publicly. With no tourist visas and only a very limited number of employment and student visas available, most foreign Christian workers in China have been permanently removed. The Chinese government's increasingly difficult relationship with Western countries (particularly the United States) fuels distrust of Christians, who are seen as following a "foreign" religion that historically has been used to oppress China and the Chinese. With this heightened anti-foreign sentiment, contacts between Christians inside and outside China that had previously been considered normal are now seen as suspect.

Following a trend of national security-related legislation across all sectors, this year has seen new regulations on religious activities, including specifically those involving foreigners, along with stepped-up atheistic education in schools and a crackdown on private education, restrictions on online religious content, and enforcement of prohibitions on religious activities for minors. In Hong Kong, meanwhile, aggressive implementation of last year's National Security Law has spelled the end to the city's role as a platform for ministry into China and as a neutral connecting point for Chinese Christians and their counterparts from abroad.

The CCP's ongoing obsession with ideological correctness is resulting in stepped-up efforts to eliminate the public display of religious symbols, including repurposing some officially sanctioned church buildings for political activities. The Party's move toward a hardline stance on religion is seen in the "Sinicization" campaign, which aims at eradicating foreign influence within the church and reframing Christian teaching to align with socialist doctrine.

This rapidly changing environment intensifies the need for a deeper understanding of China and its church. Particularly in an era of mounting tensions in Asia and growing anti-Asian sentiment in the West, it is imperative that Christians cut through the divisive rhetoric and seek a more nuanced approach to the world's rising superpower. A healthy reality check on Western Christian expectations of China and its church can foster meaningful and effective approaches to ministry.

For those who have been serving in China, it is a time for considered reflection, for celebrating what has been accomplished and lamenting what has been lost. As experienced ministry organizations retool for a new and very different era of China involvement, it is time for leaders to come together, identify emerging opportunities, and formulate effective responses. Believers in China, who continue to thrive despite growing opposition, have much to teach the global church in this process. We need one another if we are to effectively live out Christ's purposes for his church in today's world.

In this era of a rising China, the role of the Chinese diaspora is more important than ever. While the pandemic has hampered relational ministry among international students from China, creating a welcoming atmosphere of Christian friendship remains a vital part of advancing the gospel among them. Chinese Christians who have

grown up as part of the global diaspora need ways to connect back to believers in China. As a new wave of missionaries from China goes out to the nations, member care resources are needed to ensure the sustainability of this movement.

The uncertainty of today's challenging ministry context calls for deeper faith and greater faithfulness in prayer, believing that, even in these unanticipated circumstances, God is working in and through China to advance his kingdom.

Establishing Effective Partnerships

by Joann Pittman

ChinaSource has a commitment to ministry collaboration. This is rooted in our belief that unity in the ministry community comes through recognizing the unique roles, gifts, and resources that each individual and organization plays in advancing the kingdom of God. This is especially important in China where wisdom is needed in working together for the strategic deployment of resources. This is crucial, not only in multiplying effectiveness, but in realizing even limited success.

The work we do at ChinaSource is done in collaborative partnerships, both formal and informal, with like-minded organizations and individuals. We work together to accomplish a mutually beneficial vision and pre-determined objectives as we uniquely serve, support, and strengthen the China ministry community and assist in building the church in China.

The core activities embedded in our mission are educating and connecting. We educate the global church on critical issues facing the church and ministries in China. We connect Christians inside and outside of China, providing a platform for engagement and mutual learning. These are done for the purpose of advancing the kingdom of God globally. We cannot do this alone and we wouldn't want to. Rather, we are convinced that the accomplishment of this mission requires partnerships, and it is our privilege to invite other Christ-followers in joining this mission. It is through partnerships that we educate and connect.

As a result of these strategic partnerships, ChinaSource has been able to help birth new ministry initiatives. We've aided organizations and individuals in understanding the changing ministry environment in China, leading them to adjust their strategies. We've also been a platform for Chinese Christians to speak to the global Christian community.

During the launch of a new initiative for which we provided context in understanding the China ministry landscape and critical introductions to suitable partners, one leader said,

Ministry happens best with kingdom colleagues with deep insights to better inform both strategy and context. The team at ChinaSource helps inform right thinking and right tone, while serving with joy and humility that fosters collaboration.



Partnerships in Action

We believe that an informed understanding of China and the experience of the Chinese people, both historical and contemporary, is critical to effectiveness in ministering to Chinese everywhere.

Broadly speaking, our partnership activities can be divided into four broad categories: advisory relationships, networking, education and equipping, and content generation.

Advising Relationships

This year a significant portion of our kingdom impact has taken place quietly, as we have been privileged to be a background source for one book and several media outlets, both secular and Christian, adding balanced biblical analysis to current events in China.

Other advising projects this year included providing analysis for two China ministry organizations on the current situation in China and potential opportunities for the future, briefing a European lawmaker on current Chinese leadership, conducting research relating to the treatment of Christians in the mainland, and counseling an international ministry on the future of their operations in Hong Kong.

Networking

Three times in 2021 we convened organization leaders representing active ministry to tens of thousands of people worldwide from various aspects of the China ministry space. This gathering has been a safe, trusted place for leaders to share openly, learn from one another, and pray together about how to move forward well in the challenging ministry climate.

On a number of occasions during various in-person and online conferences, ChinaSource has had the opportunity to connect ministries that were unknown to one another, but shared similar visions and missions, helping to facilitate vital on the ground partnerships.

We hosted three virtual ChinaSource Connect events featuring talks by several key thought leaders. In addition, two online prayer events took place, one focusing on cross-cultural workers currently stranded outside China because of visa restrictions due to COVID-19 and a tightening political environment, the other on ministry among Chinese students both at home and abroad.

Since these events were online and not limited by geographic proximity people from around the world participated. In addition to attendees from Canada and 35 states across the US, people attended from 31 other countries as well.

Education and Equipping

In partnership with the US-China Catholic Association (USCCA) and ERRChina, we served as host once and co-host twice for a total of three virtual lectures. For the ChinaSource-hosted lecture Dr. Jesse Ciccotti spoke on the importance of expressing Christian thought in ways that are natural to Chinese speakers. The live event had 177 attendees; over 250 more viewed the recorded video on YouTube. The completed lecture series was considered a tremendous success.

ChinaSource sponsored two additional webinars; well-known author Dr. Jackson Wu spoke at one, ChinaSource Vice President for Partnerships and China Engagement Joann Pittman spoke at the other. Total attendance at these two events combined was 297, with more than 600 additional people viewing the recorded videos on YouTube.

Other highlights from 2021 included invitations from six different ministries and educational institutions to ChinaSource leaders Brent Fulton and Joann Pittman to speak on various topics including an up-to-date overview of the church in China and how to become a good learner of China. Brent and Joann also received the Matteo Ricci Award for Service of God and China, honoring their lifetime commitments to advancing God's kingdom with the Chinese.

Content Generation

We partnered with *China Christian Daily*, *7G-TV*, and other entities (names withheld for security purposes) to enable Chinese Christians themselves to tell their stories in *Chinese Church Voices*, a column of the *ChinaSource Blog*. Making it possible for Western ears to “listen in” on conversations that Chinese Christians are having strengthens the body of Christ.

We partnered with several highly respected professors from universities and seminaries as well as other experts in Chinese history, philosophy, and theology to provide written content and deliver engaging online webinars. Another valued partner provides a valuable historical perspective in the “Pray for China” item in each week's *ZGBriefs*. Other key partnerships have also allowed us to increase the number of Chinese writers contributing to our blog and the *ChinaSource Quarterly*.

Publications Report: Learning Together



Campus ministry took center stage in the 2021 *ChinaSource Quarterly*. In two consecutive issues we looked at campus ministry inside China—including its long history in the mainland, the current challenges, and the ongoing potential for cross-cultural impact—and then at campus ministry among Chinese students studying overseas. The second issue also discussed the impact of the pandemic on returnee ministry and work among international students on Chinese campuses.

The spring issue, focusing on the ministry of women in China was the first *Quarterly* written entirely by women. Our final issue for 2021 will explore today’s Reformed church in China.

Two significant series in the *ChinaSource Blog* were “Understanding God’s Work in the New Normal” by a Hong Kong missiologist and “From the Middle East to the Middle Kingdom,” an overview of the history of the Hui ethnic minority group. Book reviews, testimonies, translations from the Chinese internet, analysis, personal anecdotes, and a variety of other content filled out the year.

We are grateful for our expanding pool of contributors from around the world as well as our many North American writers. Living out our mission to be a platform for educating the global church the *ChinaSource Blog* included over 50 writers, nearly half of whom are new with some contributing from China, Australia, and Europe. The variety, richness, and depth of ChinaSource content is largely due to these who give generously of their time, expertise, and experience through their writing and advising.

Strategic Planning and Vision for the Future

by Kerry Schottelkorb

The week of June 21–25 the ChinaSource board of directors and staff met in Denver for in-person meetings for the first time in over twenty months. We were joined virtually by members of our team in Asia who were not able to make the trip. In the space of that week, the new ChinaSource vision, mission, focus, promise, and strategic themes for 2021–2024, along with objectives and key results were confirmed.

This was a watershed moment for ChinaSource. We saw the Holy Spirit move through a season of prayer and collaboration to align our hearts with what we believe Christ is calling us to in this next season of ministry. Following are the kingdom outcomes our Father is calling ChinaSource to pray and work for in the next three years:

- Ensure that authentic voices of the church in China are heard globally, informing partnership development, prayer, and ministry support, benefitting Chinese Christians in the mainland, Chinese diaspora, and Body of Christ worldwide.
- An expansive network of ministry partners, audiences, and media platforms, helping Christians around the world align with God’s heart for China, while equipping them for ministry.
- Realizing a ministry synergy through a collaborative development of content that is timely and relevant, maximizing our service to the China ministry community.
- Facilitation of partnership opportunities for global Christ followers with a praying, serving heart for the Chinese church and God’s work in China.
- Equipping and empowering ChinaSource team members to serve the China ministry community, nurtured and flourishing in their walk in Christ.
- Opportunities for friends to pray, support, and help ChinaSource adopt operational best practices, enlisting called and gifted staff and volunteers, learning, and growing together, while powerfully advancing the kingdom of God.

In the digital age the world appears to be moving toward a permanent digital/physical hybrid state. We are not primarily a “presence” organization. However, in the digital age the definitions of “presence” and “front lines” are being redefined.

The need for collaborative partnerships is greater than ever. ChinaSource continues to be a bridge between the church in China, diaspora churches, and non-Chinese churches. In a world that is increasingly fragmented we promote, amplify, and help unite voices both inside and outside China, that proclaim and model Christ. And we continue to bring people together whether digitally or physically, to advance the kingdom of God both inside and outside China.

As we enter 2022, we want to praise and thank God for birthing this ministry twenty-five years ago to serve the church of Jesus Christ in China. We’re also honored to follow his will and fulfill his purposes in the days ahead.

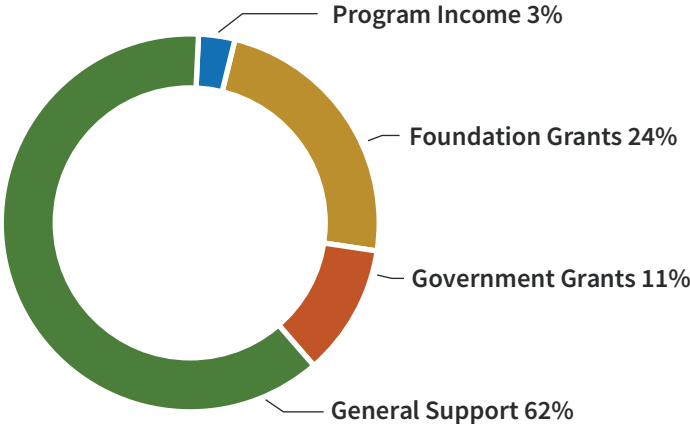
As Brent Fulton has observed, “We need one another if we are going to effectively live out Christ’s purposes for his church in today’s world.”

We hope you will continue to partner with us in this unprecedented season, one that is both challenging in its potential for dividing the church and extraordinary in its capacity to lead us to new levels of church partnership for the spread of the gospel.

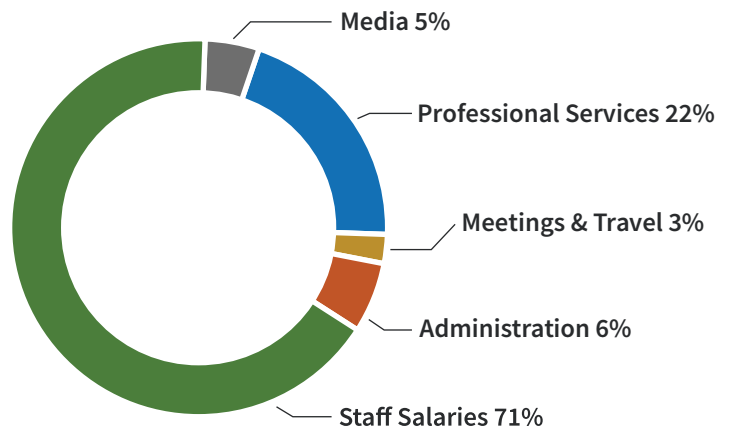
Likely, the most fruitful and toughest days in ChinaSource history lie ahead of us. However, we know we are traveling on holy ground because he is with the church in China and will be with us, “to the very end of the age.”

Finances 2020

Sources of Revenue	(USD)
General Support	\$340,391
Foundation Grants	\$130,000
Government Grants	\$61,308
Program Income	\$17,014
Total Revenue	\$548,713



Expense Categories	(USD)
Staff	\$319,643
Professional Services	\$98,082
Meetings & Travel	\$11,850
Media	\$22,407
Administration	\$29,182
Total Expenses	\$481,179



Enhancing Trust

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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

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