

Far East Broadcaster



Between Churches and Organizations

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CHRIST TO THE WORLD BY RADIO

Why evangelical organizations exist

Much has been discussed on the relationship between churches and evangelical organizations. A small number of churches are against the setup of organizations. If churches can do all the work properly, organizations need not exist at all. An instance is that communities like the marginal groups, those with psychological disabilities or inmates housed in correctional facilities are also included in Christ's Great Commission. Organizations exist to help believers know the needs of the society and to live and reflect on their life practically. Organizations have to realize their essential role under the wings of "vision", or they will be eliminated.

Complementary roles

Except for large churches that can afford comprehensive ministries, small and medium churches are mostly concerned with general preaching and witnessing functions. Some specialized operations like missions, school sponsoring or social services are aptly shouldered by organizations that offer viable development modes. Evangelical organizations, in particular, are able to explore and pioneer outside the church establishment in their unique ways. While churches need longer time for decision making, organizations can settle matters in a quicker pace.

Aspired mode of partnership

If organizations take the lead to initiate opportunities to preach the gospel, believers can get in touch with more alternative gospel communities. It is therefore essential for both parties to build strong ties. Many organizations follow this mode and take root more effectively. And as observed from the statistics of many organizations, their main income is not quite from the churches, but rather from individual believers. In this way, organizations can take the initiative to partner with churches, and churches can in turn show their concern pertaining to the needs of the organizations. They need not exist in a hierarchical relationship.

Strategic alliance

Churches can have local short-term joint ventures with organizations, or donate periodically to partnered organizations. Indeed it is a big challenge to revitalize rigid church establishments, especially dealing with sectionalism or personnel issues. It is worthy working on that coordination though. A path is not formed unless it's well-trodden.

The contemporary commission

The visions of organizations have to be recognized by church pastors and leaders. Their ministries are mostly posed as "platforms" that allow cross-denominational participation. They can go on to exercise this "specialized" power, together with their expertise and unique commission, to provide the kind of training churches cannot afford which bears explicit influence on God's kingdom. They can also serve as a perfect complement among various sectors in the vicinity of the churches. Many organizations even promote transregional evangelical ministries that are never possible with small and medium churches.

FEBC Hong Kong is an evangelical organization as well as a mission. Her specialty is broadcasting, spreading Christ's gospel via media to unreached peoples, to the ends of the earth. For many years, we also provide training and equipment service for our mainland listeners. May the Lord go on to use this specialty of ours as a channel, and grant us the company and partnership of the churches! 🙌





The Fruit of “Chai Chuan”

Connie Lam (Assistant Director, China Ministries Office)

Can you possibly imagine how these terms are related? “Chai chuan” (ship dismantling) vs “chai chuan” (missions), and “chi tang” (sugar eating) vs “zhi tang” (church planting)?

When I first joined FEBC Hong Kong, there was a program on Radio Liangyou called *Grace to all Nations* which presented the concepts of missions and stories of missionaries. Later in 1994, China tightened up restrictions on foreigners preaching on the mainland and demanded registration of all religious bodies. Radio Liangyou was just launching *Dawn China*, a church-planting movement through evangelism that encouraged churches to shoulder the gospel spreading commission and to build as many churches as possible. The Chinese church 20 years ago was green in every aspect, practically unaware of missions or missionaries. We always got comments from listeners who questioned why they had to “chai chuan”, meaning dismantling a ship, which should actually mean organizing missions. Some said they wanted very much to “chi tang” (eat sugar) when they were actually referring to “zhi tang” (plant churches). Our co-workers were just bedazzled.

I still remember asking Rev Kenneth Lo, Executive Director at that time: if such an initiative was just talking to a wall and taking us nowhere; if the program was too ambitious; if its production could wait till the Chinese church was a little more grown-up. Yet the leader looked really far. He said if we started the education then, believers would be able to take over the missions baton immediately once the church was ready. It would be too late to do anything when the need surfaced already.

I was not sure if that conviction was right until he showed up. One day, a listener called at our office, to see us on his return trip from a mission field. This young

brother of around 30 was sharing his story shyly, and I was moved. He has been a Radio Liangyou listener ever since he was converted. The program that gave him the greatest influence and inspiration was *Dawn China*. He was coming to the office with a reason, to tell the veteran he had followed the vision of missions. The church in their hometown had already organized missions and had been training workers sent to foreign fields, he himself being one of them.

This little brother is not the only one. Similar stories have since passed on to us. In a city in southwestern China, a number of churches have joined hands to organize missions that care specially for the gospel needs of minority groups. They have been running annual missions conferences in the past eight years, training up young believers on the tactics of short term missions and sending them off to remote regions during the summer vacations. After all the years of nurture, some believers have become mellowed in both conviction and techniques and are sent out for long term missions. There are also churches that send sisters to go in turn to overseas seminaries for support services like cooking and caring. Missions have become multi-level involvement.

So, in the past 20 years, the church in China has grown up, not only in the number of believers, or in their deepened knowledge of the Bible, or in the love for God and for each other, or in the maturity of their spiritual life, but also in their commitment to the Great Commission. So, the church can grow in multifarious ways at the same time, not necessarily by levels!

It is my pleasure indeed to have witnessed the process from “chai chuan” (ship dismantling) to “chai chuan” (missions) and from “chi tang” (sugar eating) to “zhi tang” (church planting). 🌾



*Footprints of broadcasting
Witnesses of accompany*



Brother Ge

Do what we should

Brother Ge was a student of Liangyou Theological Seminary and his story has very impressed. He was suffering from congenital heart disease. In August 2006, he was only 17 and already completed the foundation training program through radio programs and was awarded a certificate. Then he was enrolled in an diploma program and pursued learning wholeheartedly. He studied a total of 20 subjects and was awarded the achievement prize (scoring 80 or above marks in 8 subjects). It was the last time I got his examination paper when the news of his passing away reached me. He left us on 7 December 2007.

Can you guess what he was doing before passing away? Working out the answers on an examination paper! It was such a beautiful moment that a keen learner with congenital heart disease had done his best until his very last breath. He made the best use of the knowledge which he had acquired

in the courses to attempt all questions on the examination paper. He never would have thought that it would be so peaceful when he went to be with the Lord.

His death has motivated his mother Sister Li. At first, Sister Li just hoped to fulfil her son's last wish by taking the examinations for the remaining subjects. After receiving pastoral counselling, she finally signed up for the course herself. She has graduated from an diploma program and will graduate soon.

Brother Ge had simply done what he should. He fulfilled his responsibilities as a student by trying his best to get good grades in all subjects. He studied with enthusiasm and his devotion has encouraged his mother. Hope that he can make a difference in your life too.

Yes! I'd like to support gospel broadcast!

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