

March 2017

Dear Friends,

Partnering with nearly 20 churches and leading Christian organizations, the BTGMI Chinese ministry team hosted the 5th Word Symposium in Taiwan March 3-4. The purpose of the event was to share and develop the strategy for Christian media ministry in the new media era. Praise God that He blessed us with many top speakers from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the US, together with more than 300 attendees! On the topics of cultural context, technology, communication, and content creation, the speakers shared their remarkable expertise. We had an in-depth and fruitful discussion. To our surprise, this was the biggest Chinese Christian media gathering ever.

Due to historical and political factors, compared to Taiwan, Christian resources in China are very limited. However, China is very advanced in new media development. So the Word Symposium serves as a platform to connect the "resource" and "market" together. After the Symposium, I went to Hong Kong and then Shanghai to visit Christian organizations and church leaders, to further partnership in new media ministry. Lord willing, I hope that in the future, the Word Symposium can be held alternately in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. As a result, Christian media ministry can move forward effectively and unitedly, not just for China, but also in the greater Chinese-speaking area.

Now that I am back in the States, I am working hard with my team to prepare for another important conference that will be held in Grand Rapids, MI on April 7-8 with 20 Chinese scholars and publishers from mainland China. Our hope is that in commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, we can discuss the direction of publication and media ministry, so as to advance the growth of the church and Christians in China.

I would like to request your prayers for one particular thing. Since February of this year, the Chinese government has imposed strict scrutiny on Christian online content and even deleted many postings. If they continue to do so, I am afraid it will affect the Christian media ministry immensely. But of course, we believe that just like Christianity in China, the development of new media ministry cannot be stopped by any earthly power. As we saw in the past, with obstruction of Christianity, there is even more growth. We are thankful that God has given the BTGMI Chinese ministry a unique role so that we can serve Him in such a capacity in such a new media era as this.

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Jerry An, Chinese Ministry Leader

