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The constitution of the SCCG states that we are a membership organisation, and we're delighted to have members from all the main church denominations and from partner organisations in Scotland. Individuals can also become members. There is no cost, but membership ensures you are kept up-to-date with our work and activities. Contact Patricia Johnston if you'd like to know more (details below).

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Scottish Charity No. SCIO SC033740

We Love Chinese!

by Simon Macaulay



SCEN (the Scotland China Education Network) exists to support the study of Chinese language and culture across Scotland. In 2021, the turmoil which Covid-19 has brought to all our lives, including students and teachers, together with shifting priorities within schools, means that SCEN's role is more challenging now than in recent years – and, at the same time, even more important. SCEN is a registered charity and independent body, and we work with all agencies involved in promoting and supporting the Chinese language – providers and academic bodies together with government and non-government agencies. SCEN is also pleased to be working with other charities involved with China, including the SCCG.

But, the pandemic has meant that SCEN, as most equivalent organisations, has moved nearly all of its work online and this has meant a new focus to our priorities. Our expanded online presence allows teachers of Mandarin to engage with each other – sharing professional practice as well as discussing the particular difficulties of teaching through the period of the pandemic. This summer, SCEN launched a new website with the aim of being more accessible and informative to anyone interested in Mandarin learning in Scotland. Our growing online presence will be linked to this.

Earlier in 2021 we, along with the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS), organised a very well-attended national webinar to discuss where we are with the teaching of Mandarin. This will be a springboard for future events, including a seminar planned in the autumn bringing together providers of Mandarin and other bodies to take stock and look to give a new impetus to Mandarin learning and teaching in Scotland. As part of this we are looking to organise events in those parts of Scotland where very little – if any – Mandarin is being taught. There have been many successes in online teaching, but face to face contact with a qualified teacher of Mandarin is irreplaceable.

SCEN is also seeking to develop 'Youth Voice' within our organisation, actively seeking feedback from students. We are discussing ways of bringing school students together using a safe and secure media platform where young people themselves can bring forward ideas of ways in which the voice of Mandarin learners can be clearly heard within SCEN – and how older learners can engage with younger students about the many benefits of learning Chinese. It is SCEN's role to persuade young people of the huge benefits of learning Mandarin – especially as China's role in the world grows ever more important. It is an opportunity which should not be denied our young people.

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Autumn 2021

Art for Therapy

The SCCG is funding Zhou Bo, the Director of the Amity Children's Development Centre in Nanjing, to attend an accredited introductory course in Art Therapy. It is an online course that consists of 10 modules including Introduction to Psychology; Creative Therapy; Mindful Creativity; and Art Therapy for Children. Zhou Bo has started the course and hopes that it will prove a useful tool to benefit the children who attend the Centre.

New Amity Project

We are currently in discussions with the Amity Foundation to support another strand of their work, probably focussing on one of their projects relating to climate change or rural revitalisation. Rural life remains precarious for many people in China with ageing populations facing severe difficulties. These sorts of project are overseen by Amity staff member Xie Jie, and SCCG members may remember that we hosted Xie Jie as she visited a number of environmental and conservation projects in Scotland in 2018. Amity is involved in a diverse range of vital projects in China in the fields of health, relief and development, and we are glad to be able to support the full range of their work.

Scottish Churches China Group

苏格兰教会中国会



NEWSLETTER



Photo: © The Amity Foundation

Latest Covid Outbreak in China

We contacted our partners in China in July amidst reports about the spread of the Delta variant of Covid-19, including a severe cluster in Nanjing. Our partners working at the Amity Children's Development Centre in Nanjing reported that due to the increase in infection rates, staff from the Centre were working from home. Despite this, some training is still taking place (see p.2 for some details). Amity Foundation staff also distributed PPE to local organisations and institutions.

Although Shenyang has had some new cases of Covid-19, it has not been affected in the same way as Nanjing. As a result, most of the activities of our partner, the Caritas Social Service Centre (CSSC), have been able to continue – care of the elderly and housebound; the Little Sunflowers Project and a range of groups/activities that support people living with HIV/AIDS. The Cathedral and some of the other churches have been asked, intermittently, to close as part of infection control measures. However, we hear that a number of Catholic communities in China are being blamed for the Covid-19 outbreak. This has happened in some areas where there is knowledge and insight into the Christian faith so it is unexpected and is a worrying development.

“Please name our child!”

Christian personal names in a Christian community in China

by Mark McLeister

Pastor Liu has been leading Christian communities since the early 1980s. Within months of becoming a Christian in 1982, he was asked by the growing group of Christians in his village to teach them about their newfound faith. With few resources at hand, Liu studied the Bible diligently. On Sundays, Liu, carrying his wife on the back of his Forever bike, would cycle the twenty kilometres into the city to attend the only officially-opened church in order to learn more from experienced Christians. Nearly forty years on, and Liu is still kept very busy with leading a network of churches, preaching and teaching, training new leaders, baptising new Christians, and visiting churches and small groups throughout the district and beyond.

Many of Pastor Liu’s pastoral duties are not too dissimilar to those of church leaders in places like Scotland with one exception – choosing suitable Christian personal names for new-born babies. Pastor Liu is widely recognised as having a God-given gift in selecting names with a deep spiritual meaning. Many local Christians attach great importance to choosing names which are believed will help provide a Christian identity and guide the bearers throughout their lives. When Liu’s son was born in the mid-1980s, he took the bold step of naming him ‘Gospel’ (*Fuyin*) in the hope that one day his son would grow up to preach the Christian message to many people. Although some Christians had named their children with names related to their faith in the first half of the twentieth century, the practice was largely abandoned in the 1950s when it became socially and politically unacceptable to publicly display signs of religion. After the beginning of economic reforms in the 1980s, Liu was an early reviver of this practice. His son is now a preacher, and his grandson has been named *Shengyan*, which means ‘Holy Speech’ in the hope that he, too, will spread the Christian message to those around him.

Pastor Liu claims that the names he chooses for newborn babies come from God. Selecting an appropriate name is something he takes seriously. He spends time praying in the expectation that he will be ‘moved by the Holy Spirit’ and a name will come to his mind. There are many different types of Christian personal names. Some are biblical character names (*Yuese* Moses, *Yinuo* Enoch), some are biblical place-names (*Jianan* Canaan, *Yilin* Elim), some biblical word names (*Mana* Manna, *Muyi* Yearn for Righteousness), and some based on biblical concepts (*Tianyue* Heavenly Joy, *Qien* Beginning of Grace).

The names show belonging and a Christian identity which the parents hope their children will grow up to understand more fully.



A headstone showing the name of a local Christian lady, whose name was ‘Well of Grace.’ The headstone was erected by her son, whose name is ‘Holy Dove.’ (Photo: Mark McLeister, 2019)

Mark McLeister is Lecturer in Chinese Studies at The University of Edinburgh

Palliative Care at Shengjing Hospital

by Patricia Johnston

We are so used to hospice care being central to the services offered to people with terminal illnesses, it is easy to forget it is not a service everyone has. We have worked with Dr Wang Yumei, Director of the Palliative Care ward at Shengjing Hospital, for many years. Scottish practitioners have visited and we have been pleased to host Dr Wang and some of her staff on observational visits here in Scotland. However, Dr Wang is one of only a handful of doctors in China who are working to promote and develop hospice services in that vast country. I wanted to share with you her latest update to me this August:

“I would like to report to you our recent work progress:

“1. Together with the competent departments of Liaoning Province and Shenyang Municipal Government, I have promoted the development of hospice care and palliative care in the whole province and the whole city. At present, I have visited 17 pilot institutions in all parts of the province and more than 20 pilot institutions in the whole city.

“2. Organize online system professional training for Shenyang hospice care pilot institutions, more than 30 this year, once a week. Our ward continues to receive refresher healthcare workers to help them master the basic clinical practice of hospice care as soon as possible. At present, the effect of various professional training is good.

“3. Cooperate with the government to strive for special policy support for hospice care and medical insurance, which is expected to be realized this year.

“4. We applied for the elective course of medical students’ hospice professional literacy education in China Medical University, students can take the elective course this autumn semester.

“5. We are planning a hospice care medical alliance in Shengjing Hospital to further realize the linkage and close exchange and cooperation with various institutions.”

All of this reminds me how important our partnership and accompaniment is. I know Dr Wang highly values the connection with us so we look forward to that continuing and growing.

A Foreign doctor in Mukden



Dr Dugald Christie, a Scottish medical missionary, travelled to Manchuria in 1882, and went on to found Shengjing hospital in Shenyang (Mukden) the following year. Christie was born in rural Glencoe in 1855, but experienced an evangelical conversion (DL Moodie’s mission in Scotland in 1874) and ended up studying medicine funded by the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (EMMS).

Christie believed that his medical work was the gospel in practice. In the hospital in Mukden, Christie trained local people in medicine and this came to full fruition with the founding of the Mukden Medical College in 1912.

The legacy of his pioneering work has been huge and enduring. Shengjing hospital is now part of the China Medical School and is a large, modern hospital. The SCCG is proud to have historical links with the hospital and delighted to provide continuing support and training for staff there today.



Statue of hospital founder Dugald Christie at Shengjing Hospital photographed in 2017

The lantern slide pictures featured here are from a collection of the Centre for the Study of World Christianity (CSWC) at the University of Edinburgh, references CSWC47/LS8/37 and CSWC47/LS8/2. Reproduced with permission. Find out more about the CSWC on their website www.cswc.div.ed.ac.uk



“On my arrival in Manchuria in the autumn of 1882, I visited Moukden [sic] with Rev. Mr Ross, who had already seen good fruit of his labours there, the first convert having been baptized in 1876.

“In May, 1883, we removed to Moukden, and property was acquired for a Medical Mission house in the east suburb of the city. During the months while it was building both families had to be crowded into one small house. The contrast now is very marked; our little terrace containing four comfortable dwelling-houses.

“The congregation, the first time I saw it, was but small, and met in a humble low-roofed house. Now from two to three hundred worship every Sunday in a large imposing church.

“The arrival of a foreign doctor in Moukden, even one who as yet knew but little of the language, caused some stir; and as soon as I was able to see patients, people came in crowds.”

From *Ten Years in Manchuria: A Story of Medical Mission Work in Moukden, 1883-1893* by Dugald Christie