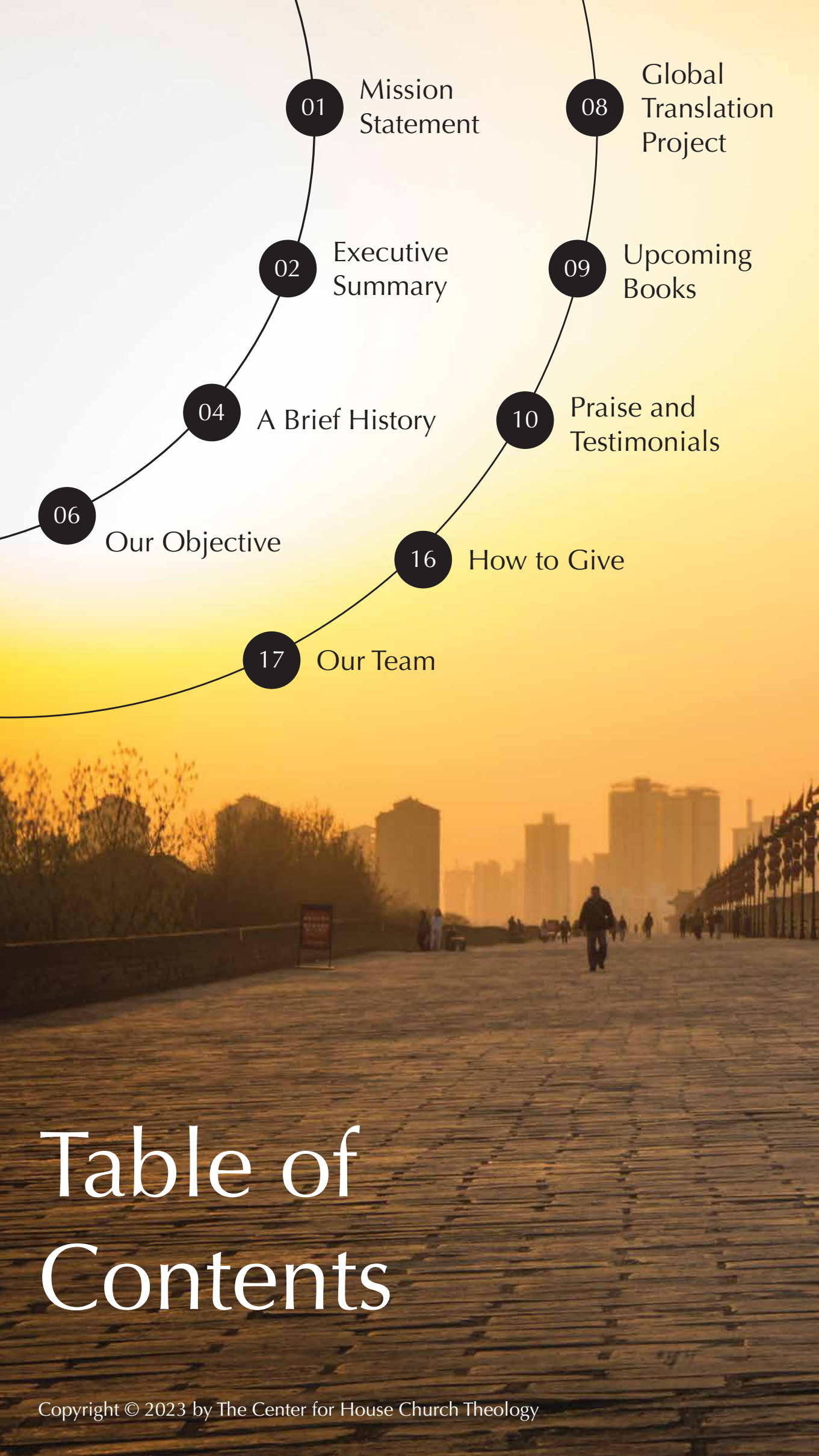




The Center for
House Church
Theology

EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY



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Our Mission Statement

The Center for House Church Theology (CHCT) desires to foster and further the international publishing of pastors, church leaders, and teachers committed to the historic gospel of grace in China's urban house churches.

In promoting the theological leadership of China's urban house churches, we believe dialogue between Christians in China and those from other cultural contexts will lead to mutual edification and sanctification.

Executive Summary

The Need

We now profess to be part of a global church where the majority of Christians live outside of Europe and North America, and are pastored by indigenous leadership rather than cross-cultural missionaries. These churches worship, evangelize, and serve as faithful communities, often following Christ under cultural pressure and marginalization.

We must ask ourselves: how can the global church benefit from listening to pastors who have counted the cost of discipleship? How might theological reflection be enlivened by including the voices of those preaching the historic gospel of grace in the world's most challenging contexts? How does their faithfulness expose our cultural idols and blindspots?

It is time to hear the voices of the Chinese house church.

The Challenge

- Evangelical Christian literature has been dominated by pastors and theologians from Europe and North America.
- When global voices are published by Western evangelical publishers, they are often confined to discussions about missiology, ethnic studies, and anthropology. We need to treat house church leaders as authorities on theology, ecclesiology, discipleship, and prayer.
- Ministries based in Africa, India, the Middle East, and elsewhere desire to learn from authors who have endured suffering for their faith. They want a tested theology from tested pastors, like those from the Chinese house church, which has endured trials for more than 70 years.
- The Chinese house church has been cut off from the global church for most of its history. Without established relationships, excellent translation, and attention to security and context, publishing their voices would not be possible.

A Brief History

2021

The Center is launched with the help of generous seed funding.

- Published a total of 3 original long-form articles
- Signed 2 book contracts with major publishers
- Recruited 3 fellows and 3 advisors

2022

We finalized our non-profit status and published our first two trade books.

- Published 4 more original long-form articles on our website, as well as 3 study guides with responses from prominent thinkers outside of China
- Recruited 2 more fellows and 4 more advisors
- Successfully fundraised a \$10,000 matching grant
- Published *Faith in the Wilderness* with Kirkdale Press
- Published *Faithful Disobedience* with Intervarsity Press



2023

We made our website available in Chinese and began translating it for additional global audiences.

- Published 5 more original long-form articles on our website
- Signed 2 book contracts for books on Chinese prayers and the Psalms
- Launched our Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Bahasa Indonesian websites
- Recruited church partners, monthly and major donors to become over 50% self-sustaining



Our Objectives

We seek to publish and promote the leading voices of the contemporary Chinese house church for the global church. Our hope is to provide resources for the academic community, the evangelical publishing industry, and ultimately to resource the global church.

We have published:

- **Academic Books** such as *Faithful Disobedience*, a collection of primary resources from Wang Yi about the history and political theology of the house churches, which has inspired those in the post-Christian West.
- **Inspirational Books** such as *Faith in the Wilderness*, which has encouraged global Christians and congregations with the pastoral voice of the Chinese house church.



- **Papers, Sermons and Articles** from China, translated and published free of charge on our website.
- **Commissioned Responses** by prominent thinkers outside of China, creating a dialogue with Chinese house church leaders which has not been possible through traditional channels.
- **A Trilingual Resource Site** to connect Chinese, Indonesian, and English language believers with the writings of the house church.



Global Translation Project

We believe that the house church in China, which has endured nearly a century of persecution, has an important perspective for the global church to hear. It is particularly relevant for contexts where Christians are under political and cultural pressure or outright persecution.

Currently our primary audience consists of English speakers. By using automated translation technology and vetted translators and editors, we have begun translating our website into languages for contexts under persecution. We hope to resource these churches to endure their situations and remain committed to effectively testifying to God's kingdom, even under duress.

In 2023, we made our website available in Simplified and Traditional Chinese and in Bahasa Indonesian.

In 2024, we hope to make our website and articles available in the following languages:

Arabic	Thai
Dari	Turkish
Farsi	Ukrainian
French (for Africa)	Urdu
Hindi	

Estimated cost per language: \$7,000

Please contact us at info@housechurchtheology.com if you are interested in helping us reach these goals.

Upcoming Books

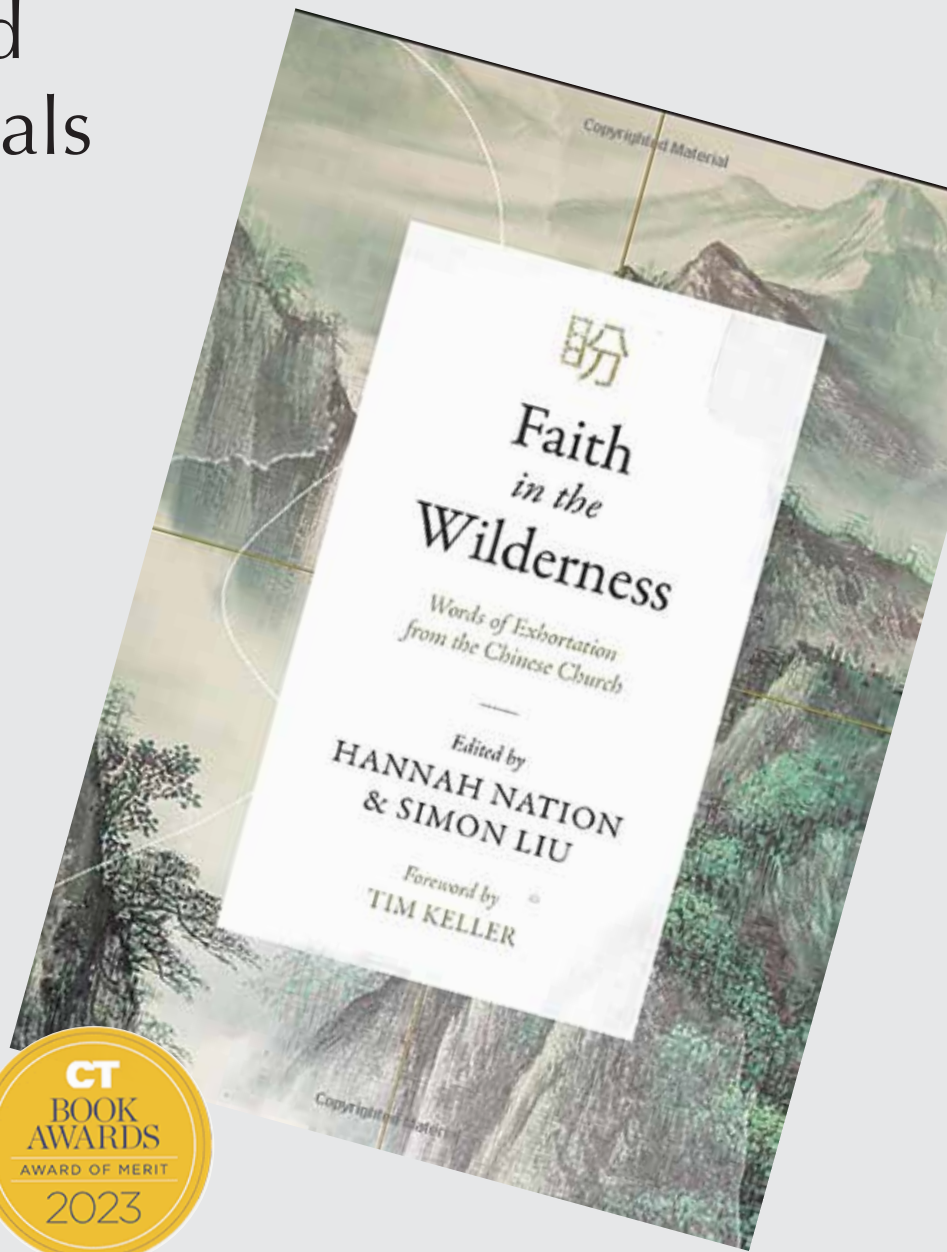
We have two books under contract:

- *Reign of Heaven: Prayers of the Chinese House Church* (working title), Lexham, 2024
- *Reflections on the Psalms from the Chinese House Church* (working title), Lexham, 2024

Additional books in various stages of development:

- A history of the Chinese house churches
- A guide to being the house church, for other contexts of persecution
- A collection of writings from women in the house churches
- A commentary on the book of Revelation by a house church leader
- A theological treatise on persecution, its inevitability, and how the church ought to respond to it

Praise and Testimonials



Praise for
Faith in the Wilderness:
Winner of an Award of Merit in
Christianity Today's 2023 Book Awards

“Faith in the Wilderness is a powerful and moving collection of sermonic letters and I am glad to recommend it. I am quite sure that if you take the time to read it, you will be both blessed and encouraged. Best of all, you will be better equipped to endure pandemic, persecution, and whatever else providence may have in store for you and for all of us.”

Tim Challies, author and blogger

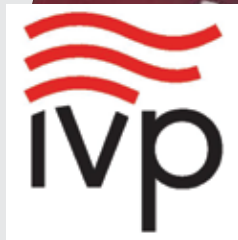
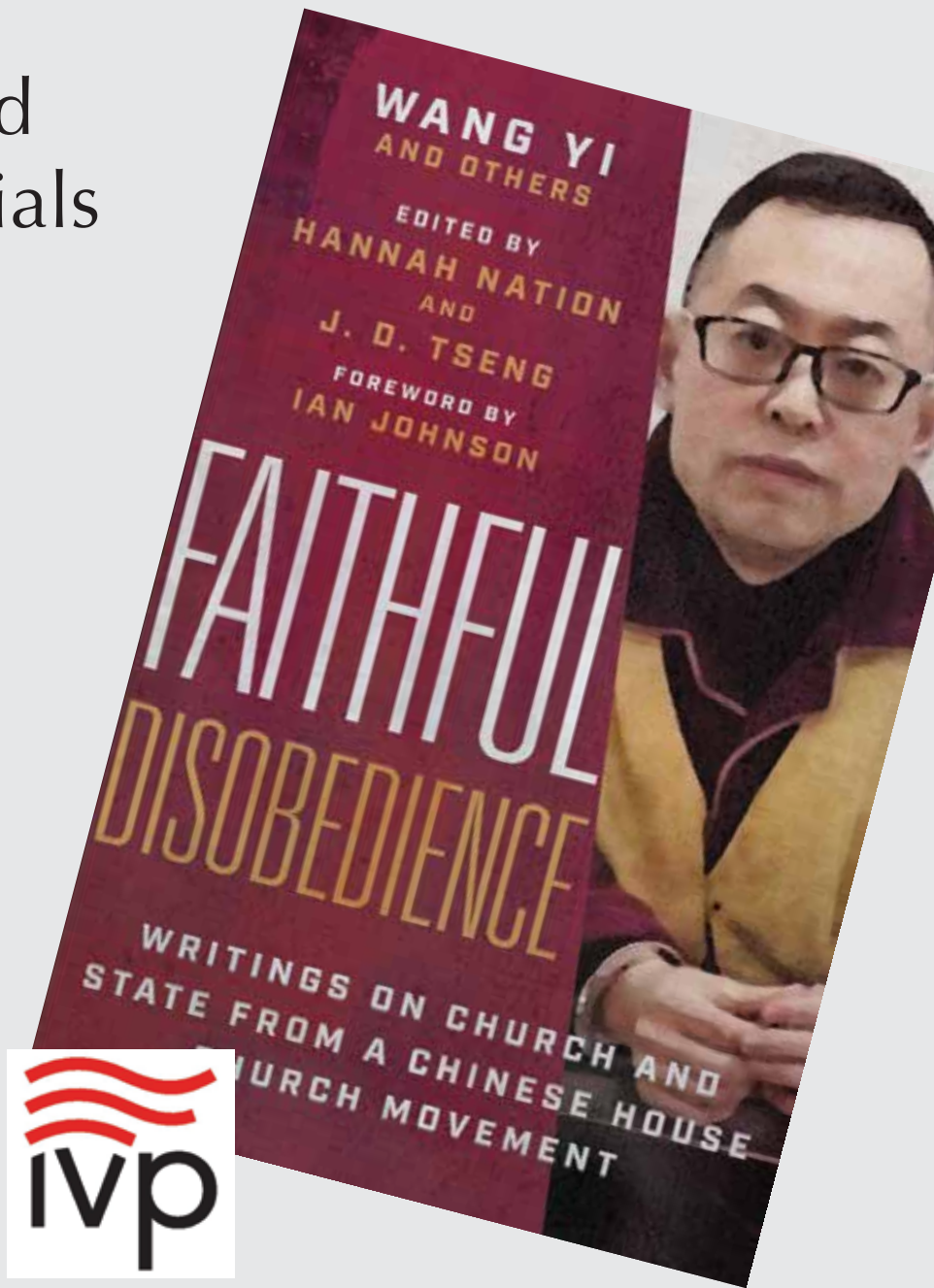
“Most Christians know that the Chinese house church has grown vastly in its breadth, but along with breadth it has also grown in theological depth. This theological depth is worth listening to and learning from, just as we have listened to and learned from oppressed saints who have gone before us in Western church history... China is not simply ‘the mission field,’ but a country that has theologically rich and faithful churches. ”

Noah Samuels, ChinaSource

“The sermons in Faith in the Wilderness are haunting. Suffused by hope, they escape the zoom rooms where they were originally uttered, and echo around a world reeling from pandemic, war, and recession. I'm including them in my preaching class at Western Seminary because I want our students to study preaching from the Majority World and to learn how to preach missionally-sensitive sermons amid suffering. In the secular city in which I live and minister, these hope-filled homilies are a breath of fresh air that shows us that we can have faith, even in our secular wilderness. ”

Stephen Stallard, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Program Director, Master of Divinity, Western Seminary

Praise and Testimonials



Praise for

Faithful Disobedience:

**Winner of the 2022 IVP Readers' Choice Award
in the category History, Politics, and Culture**

“The rich analysis of China’s house church and its theology contained in this collection offers precious insights into one of history’s most remarkable Christian movements.”

Brent Fulton for The Gospel Coalition

“My #1 best read of the year so far... May we all be crazy for the gospel! My advice, buy and read this book, you won't be disappointed.”

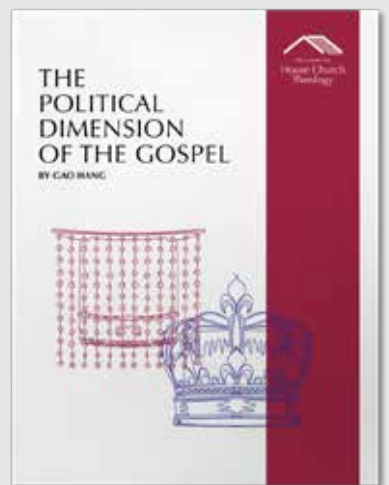
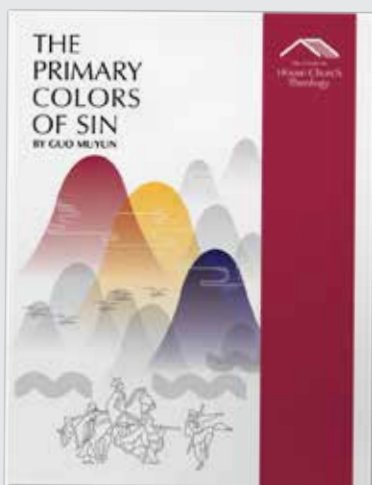
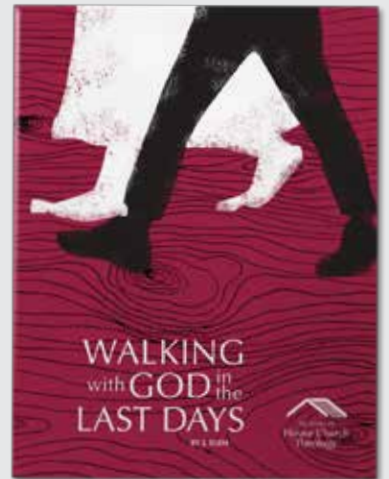
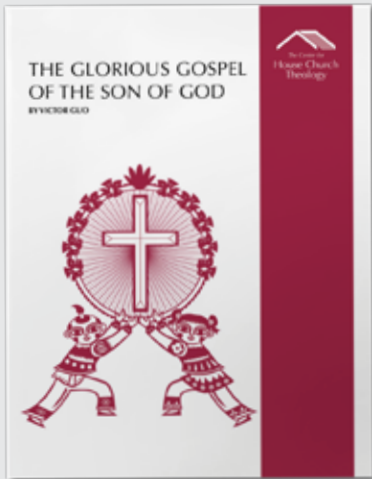
Michael Bird, Academic Dean and Lecturer in Theology and New Testament, Ridley College

“Through the persecution of this ordinary pastor and his church, we see a commitment to Scripture, a love for God, and a willingness to sacrifice that strengthens our resolve to do the same.”

Noah Samuels for ChinaSource

“Nation and Tseng succeed in collecting a rich bounty of primary texts that provide an invaluable understanding of the movement, and the focus on Wang Yi's writings benefits from his erudition and resolve. Revealing and wide-ranging, this is an essential companion to understanding contemporary Chinese Christianity.”

Publisher's Weekly Review



Praise for our articles:

“When I taught a course on the Church in China, I asked my students to check out CHCT’s website and read several recent translations of sermons and writings of Chinese church leaders and Christian intellectuals. My students found them very informative, insightful, and inspiring. It is fair to say these readings have stood out as one of the highlights of that course, and turned out to be a big factor in the success of that course.

The significance of CHCT's materials are fourfold:

1. In the English speaking world, a significant amount of key theological writings from the Three-self [officially sanctioned] church in China have been translated for quite some time. But this has not been the case with the house church movement in China. As the global church and academic community are increasingly eager to hear the voice of the house church in China, CHCT's materials represent the first intentional and systematic attempt to make the house church's voice heard beyond China and the Chinese world;
2. The translated materials selected by CHCT are authentic and authoritative. CHCT's careful selection is the result of solid scholarship and impressive expertise in the studies of Chinese Christianity;
3. The quality of translation is excellent and almost flawless;
4. The study guides are very helpful tools in particular for beginners to understand the church in China.

Overall, CHCT's timely translation project fills a huge vacuum, corrects a long-standing imbalance, and meets an urgent need in popular and scholarly understanding of the Church in China. The primary sources from the house church movement in China will surely benefit the global church in its ministry as well as the academic community in its research. ”

Jin Chen (pseudonym), Researcher, Chinese Christianity

How to Give

The Center for House Church Theology is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

All checks can be made out to:

The Center for House Church Theology
6425 Living Place, Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

You can also give online on a recurring or one-time basis at housechurchtheology.com/give. All online donations will incur a small credit card processing fee.

Your gift will fund the translation and publication of new books, articles, and teaching guides to bring the voice of the Chinese house church to the world.

Please contact info@housechurchtheology.com if you are interested in donating via wire transfer, stocks, or other means.

Our Team

All names in parentheses are pseudonyms to protect identities. You can find complete bios and writing samples at <https://www.housechurchtheology.com/team>.

Staff

Hannah Nation

Managing Director and Co-Founder

S.E. Wang

Director of Theological Content and Co-Founder

Clara Kim

Content and Operations Manager

Fellows

CHCT's Fellows are engaged in studying and writing about the modern Chinese house church.

Alicia Akins

Ryan Zhang

"Apollos Bell"

"Matt Zhao"

"Urban Farmer"



Advisory Board

Mindy Belz

Journalist and Writer

Ben Chen

Regional Director of East and Southeast Asia at Third Millennium Ministries

“Jin Chen”

Chinese Christianity researcher

Sean Cheng

Asia Editor for Christianity Today

K.A. Ellis

Director of the Edmiston Center for the Study of the Bible and Ethnicity at Reformed Theological Seminary

Todd M. Johnson

Distinguished Professor of Mission and Global Christianity and Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

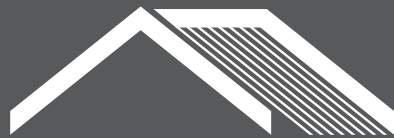
Brandon O'Brien

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