

Renman University and the title of his dissertation is "The Logic of History in New Testament." The main purpose of his visit is to collect materials for his research entitled "Christology in the Synoptic Gospels."

A Visiting Scholar's Report by **Professor CHOONG Chee Pang**, Academic Consultant of the Lutheran World Federation (Geneva), Visiting Professor of Peking and Fudan Universities

Visiting Period: 19 December 2004 to 8 February 2005

First of all I wish to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the ISCS, and especially to Mr. Yeung, the Executive Director, for giving me the wonderful opportunity to be a visiting scholar at the Institute from 19 December 2004 to 8 February 2005. I am also indebted to the academic and office staff of the Institute for their kind hospitality and fellowship throughout my entire stay here. The whole environment of the Institute coupled with excellent library of the nearby Lutheran Theological Seminary are most conducive for writing and reflection. My only regret is that my residence here this time is not long enough for more serious work. I can only look forward to another opportunity to do so. As one who has been deeply involved in Christian studies in the Chinese academia since 1988, I believe I have already been treated more or less like an ordinary mainland scholar, and I am certainly very grateful for such generous treatment. Since my stay here is relatively short I could only focus on the following two writing projects.

1. A book on the Basic Elements of New Testament Greek for Chinese Students.

Having taught NT Greek as a very short course in both Peking and Fudan Universities, the thought about writing a simple grammar book for Chinese students has been with me for quite sometime now. There are obviously quite a number of good grammar books already in the market in both English and Chinese. However, these are largely meant for theological students and the course usually takes about one academic year, or about eight months to complete. This is unfortunately not quite possible for average Chinese courses. As such, a much simpler and far less ambitious Greek course has to be designed for the Chinese student. Having consulted an experience teacher who has taught intensive New Testament Greek in a well known British university, I have decided to produce a modest grammar book which could be completed in about three months by the format of this writing project which will lead to the actual writing up of the lessons. This will obviously take a much longer period of time to accomplish.

2. A paper on Christian Studies in the Chinese Academia

I have been approached by a British publisher to write a paper on the subject. In order not to repeat what I have presented in an international conference in the Chinese University of Hong Kong in September-October, 2004, I have given a tentative title

to the new paper: "Studying Christianity and Doing Theology *extra ecclesiam*." One of the unique features of current Christian studies in China is that it is largely done by scholars who are *extra ecclesiam* (outside the Church). I have managed to gather some useful materials in Beijing and here in the last few weeks for the paper.

Concluding Remarks

The value of my residence at the ISCS is not limited to a couple of writing projects. The interaction with other scholars in the ISCS as well as in other academic institutions in Hong Kong has also been most valuable. The stay here has also enabled me to observe first hand the *modus operandi* of the ISCS. I have been very much impressed by the strategic network that the Institute has established and the excellent work it has been doing, especially in the promotion of Christian studies in China and Sino theology internationally. May the Lord continue to honour and bless its ongoing mission. Amen!

Guest Professor

- Our guest professors, **Dr. Pertti Sulevi Nikkila** and **Dr. Aune Kaisa Maria Nikkila** were invited to lecture on "Christian Thoughts" in November 2004 in Zhejiang University, Shandong University and Heilongjiang University. Both of them received their Th.D from the University of Helsinki. Their research interests are mainly on Systematic Theology, Religion and Culture & Religious Education.
- Our guest professor, **Dr. LIN Hongshin** was invited to participate in the "Christian Religion and Civil Society Conference" held in Beijing in 9-12 December 2004 and presented a paper entitled "Moral Man and Immoral Society: Niebuhr's Christian Realism." Dr. Lin holds a Th.D and Ph.D from Tübingen University and Nottingham University respectively.
- Our guest professor, **Dr. Jochen Teuffel** was invited to teach a credit course "Christian Theology" in English in Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, from February to June 2005. This course is part of our long-term joint cooperative program with Sun Yat-Sen University. Prof. Teuffel holds a Th.D. from University of Erlangen-Nürnberg.
- Our guest professor, **Dr. Theodore Zimmerman** was invited to lecture on "New Testament Hermeneutics" and "New Perspectives on Paul" in March 2005 in Henan University and Shandong University. He holds a Th.D from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary.
- Our guest professor, **Dr. Milton WAN** was invited to lecture on "The Influence on Missionary Personality and the Idea of Culture from the Perspective of Jesuit's Training in the 16th Century," "The Beauty and Ugliness of Chinese Culture: A Christian Transformation," "From Philosophy

of Science to Comparative Religious Studies: The Implication of Philosophy and Religion of Bayes' Theorem, " and "The Impact of World War I in the Theology of Karl Barth and Paul Tillich" in March 2005 at Beijing Foreign Language University, Central University for Nationalities, Tsinghua University and Nankai University. Dr. Milton WAN received a D.Phil. from Oxford University and Ph.D. from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

- Our guest professor, **Dr. Per Sangild** was invited to lecture on "Religion and Science: From the Perspective of a Western Biologist" in April at Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou. Dr. Sangild holds a professorship in the Department of Human Nutrition in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Visiting Students

(from February to May 2005)

LI Dan *Second year master's degree student at the Department of Religion & Philosophy, Renmen University of China*

Research Topic : From the age of Monologue to Dialogue: The Theory of Religious Dialogue in Leonard Swidler

Research Content: New epistemology, religious practice and religious studies in the thought of Leonard Swidler.

LI Lixia *Third year master's degree student at the Department of Philosophy, Sun Yat-Sen University*

Research Topic : Reflection on the Thought of Weber's Religious Ethics

Research Content: By analyzing Weber's thought about functions of Protestant ethics in the modern social life, try to show the nature and meaning of Christian Religious ethics.

PAN Daozheng *Second year doctoral degree student at the Department of Philosophy, Nankai University*

Research Topic : God in Babel

Research Content: The Examination of the relationship between God and human language through the analysis of Babel story in Old Testament and other explanations.

XUAN Qingwen *Second year master's degree student at the Department of Philosophy, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou*

Research Topic : Translation of Chinese Bible

Research Content: The Examination of the key concept in Bible through the study of its Chinese background, and to understand the process of East-west communication

YU Wen *Second year master's degree student at the Institute of Christian Culture, Shannxi Normal University*

Research Topic : The Concept of Existence with special reference to Kierkegaard

Research Content: The examination of "Existence" of Existentialism and Christian Humanism through the method of etymology and the philosophy of Kierkegaard.

ZHANG Fuling *Second year master's degree student at the Department of Philosophy, Zhejiang University*

Research Topic : Eros: The Problem of Otherness in Levinas

Research Content: The role of eros in early Levinas and its ethical implication

ZHOU Xuanyi *First year doctoral degree student at the department of philosophy, Wuhan University*

Research Topic : The Concept of Modernity in Schleiermacher's Theology

Research Content: The integration of Rationalism and Pietism in Schleiermacher's theology based on the idea of religious passion.



Academic Staff

Dr. Keith CHAN (Program Officer and Research Fellow)

- Conference: On 10-12 December 2004, together with Mr. Daniel H. N. YEUNG and Dr. Jason LAM, Dr. CHAN attended the conference entitled "Christianity and Civil Society" organized by Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. More than over one hundred scholars, mainly from Mainland China, attended the conference.
- Lecture: In October 2004, Dr. CHAN presented the lecture "Paul Tillich's Ecological Theology" in Shaanxi Normal University and Wuhan University. In December 2004, together with Mr. Daniel H. N. YEUNG, Dr. Jason LAM and Prof. LI Qiling, was visited the Department of Philosophy at Sichuan University. Apart from strengthening the cooperative relationship between these two institutes, Dr. CHAN presented a lecture entitled "The Situation of Sino-Christian Studies in Hong Kong." In March 2005, Dr. CHAN was invited by Central University for Nationalities to be guest lecturer to teach a course entitled "Selected