



(from left to right) Rev. Philip Jensen, Rev. Raymond Lee, Mr. Samuel Dy

# Reflection on 7<sup>th</sup> CCOWE

Timothy Fung

- Growing Emerging Leaders
- Working In Inter-Generational Partnership
- Bringing the Gospel to the Nations

When I walked into the main hall of the Macau Forum Center, the historical photographic display of Robert Morrison caught my attention. The 7th Chinese Congress on World Evangelization retold the story of Morrison, who came to China two hundred years ago and brought the Gospel to a culture that was totally foreign to him. It reminded all participants that the Chinese churches around the world have not only received the Gospel but also the mandate to preach the Gospel to non-Chinese. The time is now, therefore, for us to follow Morrison's example of carrying the Gospel to the culture that is different from ours.

Being a cross-cultural missionary, I am especially interested in how cross-cultural missions are integrated into CCCOWE's vision in this conference. The theme for this congress, "Spreading the Holistic Gospel of Christ to All Nations," caught my attention. It speaks not only about preaching the Gospel but also carry the tone of world missions. In fact, the daily plenary topics have effectively weaved the five thrusts of the theme—renewal of life, church, society, culture, and all nations—into the whole conference. These topics are not only relevant to the ministries for Chinese churches around the world, but also applicable to missions.

I did not, however, sense the cross-cultural mis-

sion was part of the emphasis or in the major thrust of the congress. Through conversation and dialogue with other participants and from the message in the congress, the greatest goal among the Chinese churches is still mostly about reaching the Chinese people in the world. Many Chinese churches that participate in missions focus on Mainland China and Chinese in different parts of the world. The conference organization did provide some opportunities for the participants to discuss the issues of cross-culture missions through workshops, but perhaps not enough to promote world evangelism to all nations and tribes. Still, to many Chinese Christians, bringing Christ to all nations is often understood as reaching Chinese people in all the nations. I hope cross-cultural missions can be one of the major thrusts in future CCOWE conferences. It will truly follow the footsteps of missionaries who brought the Gospel to us. But more importantly, it is the essence of the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. If the Chinese church is the future missions force of the world, as some speakers have suggested, it will need to recognize that cross-cultural missions are just as important as reaching the Chinese scattered around the world.

(The author is a missionary to East Africa.)