



Reformation Translation Fellowship Australia

澳洲改革宗翻譯團契

...but the word of God is not bound (2 Tim 2:9)

Every Square Inch, Every Heart

At this year's Chinese Congress on World Evangelization (CCCOWE) gathering, and again in the run-up to the 10th World Chinese Mission Congress, Chinese Christian leaders worldwide are being pressed toward the same conviction: the Gospel is not only about souls saved but about the Kingdom of God breaking into every corner of life — home, work, culture, public square. If Christ is Lord, His authority is not confined to Sunday worship.

This is a key strength of the Reformed tradition. Abraham Kuyper famously declared that there is not a single square inch in all human existence over which Christ does not cry, "Mine!" Christianity is not merely a private faith but a comprehensive way of life. Yet in our enthusiasm for kingdom vision and cultural engagement, we risk overlooking a prior question: how are sinful men and women reconciled to God in the first place?

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!"

Abraham Kuyper

Social renewal cannot replace personal redemption. Public justice does not remove our guilt before God. Education, activism, and institutional reform may restrain certain evils, but they cannot remove the sin that causes them. Does this mean Christians should withdraw from society? Not at all. Scripture calls us to love our neighbours and do good to all. But our public witness must be shaped by the whole counsel of God, not borrowed from the surrounding culture.

God calls sinners through the Gospel, unites them to Christ by faith, and renews them by His Spirit. The righteousness that makes us acceptable before God is not our own moral improvement; it is the righteousness of Christ, received by faith alone. Those whom God justifies, He also sanctifies; good works are the fruit of grace, not a substitute for it.

This is why the local church must remain central. God ordinarily matures His people not through conferences or

cultural strategy, but through the preaching of His Word, the sacraments, and pastoral care.

Leaders across the global Chinese Church have identified the danger: factionalism, traditionalism, and ethnocentrism keep the Church from its full calling. We would add one more: a vague or undefined evangelical identity, which leaves churches without the doctrinal strength to resist the very culture they hope to influence. The answer is not isolation but the recovery of doctrinal substance. The Three Forms of Unity and the Westminster Standards did not invent new truths; they summarised and defended Scripture so one generation could hand it down, undiluted, to the next.

This is precisely where the gap is widest for the Chinese-speaking Church. The explosive growth of Christianity among Chinese speakers — reflected in visions like the 2013 Seoul Commitment's goal of 20,000 missionaries from China by 2030 — has been driven almost entirely by Evangelical, Pentecostal, and Charismatic energy. That zeal is worth thanking God for. But it has left a confessional vacuum: the overwhelming majority of Reformed literature does not yet exist in Chinese, leaving pastors to choose between material that is accessible but doctrinally thin, or sound but locked behind a language barrier.

This is the specific work of Reformation Translation Fellowship: ensuring that translations are doctrinally sound according to a confessional Reformed standard, rooted in the Three Forms of Unity and the Westminster Standards, so that Chinese churches inherit the same theological depth that shaped the Reformed tradition elsewhere. A single well-translated confession or commentary can serve generations long after a conference is forgotten.

Paul wrote from his chains: "the word of God is not bound" (2 Tim. 2:9). Every square inch belongs to Christ. Every heart must be reconciled to Him — and the Word that reconciles them must not be bound by language either.

2026 RTF Australia Sponsored Project Updates

We're grateful to share the latest progress on our 2026 translation projects. By God's kindness and the generosity of supporters, we've seen significant momentum; most notably, two titles reached their full funding goals within a brief window between December 2025 and January 2026.

The Masculine Mandate: God's Calling to Men (Richard D. Phillips) is now fully funded at AUD 5,400. This practical guide offers a clear, Bible-centred vision of Christian manhood rooted in Genesis, calling men to humble responsibility in their work, marriages, families, and church life. We're delighted to move forward with this translation, making it accessible to readers navigating a culture of confusion over gender and calling.

Crisis of Confidence: Reclaiming the Historic Faith (Carl Trueman) has likewise reached its goal of AUD 4,760. In a culture shaped by individualism and identity politics, Trueman offers a timely and accessible defence of the historic creeds, showing how confessions serve as faithful summaries of Scripture that give the church shared stability and courage. We believe this will be a vital resource for communities seeking to ground their identity in historic truth rather than modern trends.

Union with Christ: The Blessings of Being in Him (Sinclair Ferguson) is currently 50% funded toward a goal of AUD 4,150. This warm, pastoral book introduces readers to the heart of the Christian life, our union with Christ. It is essential reading for strengthening assurance and deepening personal holiness, helping believers root their standing in Christ rather than their own performance. We invite you to help us cross the finish line on this project.

Your partnership through prayer, financial support, or simply sharing this update is what makes these treasured Reformed resources accessible to a wider audience. To contribute to the **Union with Christ** project or learn more about our work, please visit our website or contact us directly.

Prayer Request

We give thanks for the growing number of people hearing the Gospel in China and around the world. As we unite in prayer, let us bring these vital needs before our Lord:

- Under tightening religious restrictions, that God would open safe pathways for books to enter China and protect the churches and believers who receive them.
- For a renewed hunger to read, that Chinese Christians would grow in the knowledge of God through faithful books, and that the Lord would give us wisdom to commend Reformed literature.
- For wisdom and discernment for publishers to choose and produce the most valuable titles for the building up of the church.
- For pastors, elders, and congregations to be rooted in Scripture, standing firm amid rising persecution and witnessing boldly to Christ.

Please also pray for the RTF 2026 translation and publication projects:

- David R. Jackson — *Crying Out for Vindication: The Gospel According to Job*
- Zack Eswine — *Recovering Eden: The Gospel According to Ecclesiastes*
- Richard D. Phillips — *The Masculine Mandate: God's Calling to Men*
- Carl Trueman - *Crisis of Confidence: Reclaiming the Historic Faith*
- Sinclair Ferguson - *Union with Christ: The Blessings of Being in Him*
- *The Valley of Vision*

Reformation Translation Fellowship Australia

Mr Steven Yu (Chairman, NSW)
Rev Andrew Stewart (Secretary, VIC)
Rev David Chang (NSW)
Mr Brett Lee-Price (NSW)

The doctrinal basis of the Reformation Translation Fellowship is the Reformed understanding of Christianity as set forth in:

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| • The Westminster Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Confession of Faith◦ Larger Catechism◦ Shorter Catechism | • The Three Forms of Unity <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Belgic Confession◦ Heidelberg Catechism◦ Canons of Dort |
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