



FROM THE EDITOR . . .

As everyone knows, the four modernizations of agriculture, industry, science and technology, and defence are today setting China on fire. They are becoming the orientation for both the present and future construction of the country.

The four modernizations are indeed an urgent necessity for China today, and are also helping her to take the first step on the road towards a complete and total modernization. But, how are the four modernizations related to China's religious and ethical attitudes? What, in fact, is the relation between this not yet complete and total modernization and those religious and ethical views? This is the problem we Christians have to pay special attention to, and, in fact, will be the focus of this periodical. We hope through this periodical to be able to share and to discuss these with our brothers and sisters in the Church.

This periodical is named "DING", which is one of the 64 Chinese hexagrams. This Chinese character, according to one commentator, symbolizes the wood which is used for kindling a fire and for cooking. The sage's cooking is a sacrifice to the Sovereign on High, and at the same time it is nourishment for the wise man. This exchange brings true wisdom. The wise man makes progress by proceeding calmly and gently. By keeping to the middle way he is able to overcome adversity. This is the key to an effective creativity. The meaning of this character reflects the attitude of concern and persistence we Christians should have towards religious and ethical problems in China today.

This periodical's fervent hope is to try by means of an empathetic dialogue to experience today's religious and ethical problems in China and, in a simple way, to introduce these problems and to report on them. We hope thereby, to have a more complete understanding of the situation, to be able to reflect upon our responsibilities.

Since the staff of this periodical are still small and their abilities limited, editions will have to be published at irregular intervals. We plan to bring out a few editions annually. We hope that you, brothers and sisters, not only show your concern by accepting, correcting and propagating this periodical, but that you also enthusiastically contribute by submitting articles and pictures. Let us all join together to work diligently, so that through the modernization of our country we might all look forward to a brighter future, and so that the Kingdom of God might soon be realized in our country.