

NEWS

Dr. Ming Wang, recipient of Honorary Doctorate, restores sight to the blind

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Left to right, standing: Dr. Ming Wang, Trevecca President Dan Boone, Ben Speer. Seated: Faye Speer.

Dr. Ming Wang was one of three individuals awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters at the 114th Commencement at Trevecca. Wang was honored for his Christian service and exceptional ministry through his vocation as a laser eye surgeon.

His is a story of overcoming the odds and making a difference in the world around him.

As a child, Dr. Ming Wang escaped what could have been a life of forced, hard labor during China's Cultural Revolution. With the help of his parents, Wang was able to make it to the United States with just \$50 in his pocket. Against all odds, he graduated from a joint Harvard Medical School/MIT medical degree program and received a Ph.D. in laser physics from the University of Maryland.

Throughout his years as a laser surgeon, Wang has performed over 55,000 eye procedures from nearly every state in the U.S. and from over 55 countries worldwide. He's also considered the "doctor's doctor," as he has operated on over 4,000 physicians. Wang

established a non-profit foundation called the Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration, which provides free-of-charge sight restoration surgeries for needy patients who otherwise would never have the opportunity to receive them.

Wang's connection with Trevecca began through Dr. Jim Hiatt, dean of the School of Business & Technology and business professor. Hiatt and Wang both attended a Christian executive group, and Hiatt grew interested in Wang's story as he opened up. Wang was invited to share his life experiences and journey to a few classes at Trevecca. He was well received by students and faculty and has been invited back to speak on campus several times.

"Dr. Wang warrants this recognition because of all the good he has done in the world. He continually reaches out to people he meets and encourages them to pursue their dreams. He motivates people to become better and more productive citizens not only by his words, but also by his example," Hiatt said. "His generous spirit exemplifies the love of Christ and spills over into his daily life."

But Wang hasn't ever forgotten where he came from. The "China Bible Project," an extension of his ministry through the Wang Foundation for Christian Outreach to China, is working to send 10,000 Chinese Bibles to the people of China. Back in the states, Wang is the founding president of the Tennessee Chinese Chamber of Commerce and co-founder of the Tennessee Immigrant and Minority Business Group. He serves as a voice for Tennessee's minority and immigrant communities.

Dr. Hiatt, who has become a friend and advocate for Wang's ministry, has loved hearing about and seeing where Wang's ministry has taken him.

"Those who know his story can only marvel at how a young man from China who had been disadvantaged was able to immigrate to the United States with a barely rudimentary knowledge of the English language and ultimately earn a Ph.D. from Harvard and MIT," Hiatt said. "Dr. Wang is truly an amazing and gifted individual."