

Jensen and Phyllis Chang were born in Taiwan, where their families had fled from communist oppression in mainland China in the early 1950s. They met in the United States during Graduate School in the 1980s and were married in 1985. Both are formally educated in software development and analysis, interested in the Church in China, and passionate about sharing the Good News. Their connection to the Columbans is deep, and their ministry to help spread the word of Jesus Christ around the world is both powerful and visible.

The Changs first met Columban Father Bill Morton more than 15 years ago while he was visiting Sacred Heart of Jesus Chinese parish at Dallas, TX. Over the decades, they've stayed in touch and visited several times, including in El Paso, Texas/Anapra Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, where Fr. Morton is currently missioned. They stayed at the Columban Mission Center and experienced life on the border, and toured organizations and institutions who work on the front lines of border issues. The Chinese parish in Dallas has organized members to help with fundraising for Columban mission. On a few occasions, they have hosted meetings in their homes and invited Columban Fathers to speak.

Jensen encourages Phyllis to use her gift for languages in her ministry, to provide quality translations from English to Chinese. Their partnership has been of immeasurable help to Columban mission. Her level of dedication to translation projects is nothing short of amazing, particularly considering the scholarly nature of the works, and the dissimilarities of these languages and their alphabet sets. She compiled two collected works of Fr. Paul Pang, O.F.M. prior to his leaving Dallas to serve in Taiwan, and said, "When I read Fr. Woodruff's 'Columbans on Mission,' I felt deeply touched and connected because of the similarities."

In 2016, working with Columban Father Dan Troy, Phyllis translated into Mandarin the biography of Columban Father Charles Cullen, who was ordained in Ireland in 1921, and died in China on July 13, 1923. This work was published in Wuhan and has been circulated in Hanyang. Also published in China in 2017 were her translations of selections from 'The Dipper's Acclaim and other essays' by noted Irish ecologist and geologist, John Feehan, who has a strong connection to Columban Father Sean McDonagh. The English edition of Feehan's work was published in 2016 by the Columban Ecological Institute, Dalgan Park, Ireland.

Phyllis' translations of this work allowed the Columban Fathers to contribute to a Feehan-led workshop in China with local people in the Church. Feehan possesses a unique ability to discuss answers to the question: "Now, why did God create it like this?" He is a proponent of experiencing nature as a way to develop our sense of wonder at the world around us. Pope Francis' recent encyclical 'Laudato Si' provides a great encouragement to the Church to explore the themes in the integrity of creation, so this translation work by Phyllis could not have been more perfectly timed.

Her latest project is translating a document written by Columban Father Joe Houston, which describes Columban flood relief efforts during the 1931 inundation in Wuhan. Columban benefactors of the time responded generously to this effort, particularly considering that it occurred during the Great Depression. Jensen and Phyllis continue this generous tradition and spirit of Columban benefactors into the next century of mission work, by inspiring us to consider the gifts with which God has blessed us, and how we might employ them to share gospel joy!