

CONTENTS

List of Figures.....	11
List of Abbreviations.....	13
Foreword.....	15
Acknowledgements.....	17
1 Introduction and Background	19
Historical Context.....	19
The Word of life House Church as a Renewal Movement.....	21
A Brief History of Chinese Christianity.....	22
Contact with a “Western” Christianity.....	22
Protestant Missions to China in the 19th Century.....	23
Chinese Indigenization Movement and Spontaneous Revivalist Movements in the Early 20th Century.....	24
The Beginning of the TSPM and the House Church.....	28
The Word of Life Church.....	32
Definitions.....	33
The House Church(es) and the TSPM Church(es).....	33
The Word of Life Movement.....	34
Liberal and Conservative.....	34
Renewal Movements.....	34
Delimitations.....	35
Basic Assumptions.....	35
Sources Used in the Research.....	37
Research Methodology.....	37
Interviews.....	38
Participant-observation.....	38
Theoretical Framework.....	38
Significance of the Study.....	41
2 Review of Relevant Literature.....	49
Part One: Renewal Movements.....	49
Thomas P Rausch.....	49

Howard A. Snyder.....	50
Richard F. Lovelace.....	51
Charles G. Finney.....	52
Richard M. Riss.....	53
J. Edwin Orr.....	54
William G. McLoughlin.....	55
Charles H. Kraft.....	55
Anthony F. C. Wallace.....	56
Donald F. Durnbaugh.....	56
Gregory P. Leffel.....	57
Luther P. Gerlach & Virginia H. Hine.....	59
Donald A McGavran.....	61
Part Two: Christianity in China in General.....	62
Jonathan Chao.....	62
Tony Lambert.....	64
Kalun Leung.....	64
David Aikman.....	66
Paul Hattaway.....	66
Alan hunter & Kim-kwong Chan.....	67
Part Three: The Word of Life House Church Movement.....	69
Jonathan Chao.....	69
China Ministries International (CMI).....	70
Ruizhen Wang.....	71
Gonghe Zhou.....	71
Summary.....	71
3 A History of the WOL Movement.....	77
Preparatory Stage.....	77
Family influence.....	77
Onto the Route of a Missionary.....	80
Establishing House Churches.....	81
Revival Stage.....	82
God's Furnaces of Revival.....	82
Emergence of a Leader.....	84
Organizational Stage.....	85
Need for Spiritual Food.....	85
Leadership Issues.....	87
Influence of the First Generation Christian Leaders.....	88
Formation of the WOL Theology— <i>The Seven Principles</i>	89
Theological Education ("Seminary of the Fields").....	91
Repercussion of the Publication.....	93
System of Training.....	94
Mission-oriented Stage.....	96
Structure of the WOL.....	96
System of Theological Training.....	101
The Gospel Band.....	102

The Role of Women in the WOL.....	105
Finances and Financial Need.....	105
Unity Stage.....	106
Denominational Divisions.....	106
Efforts to Regain Unity of the Body.....	107
Back to Jerusalem Movement.....	107
Sinim Fellowship, Shenzhou Fellowship and BTJ Gospel Band.....	108
Challenges to the Church in China.....	109
Conclusion.....	110
4 Inner Dynamics of the WOL Movement.....	115
Rediscovering the Nature of the Gospel.....	115
Stage One: Suffering in Hope of the “Heavenly City”.....	116
Stage Two: Centrality of the Cross.....	117
Stage Three: Unity among the House Churches.....	119
Existing as an <i>Ecclesiola</i>	120
Small-group Structure.....	123
Master-Apprentice Discipleship.....	123
Contextual Form.....	124
Theological Identity.....	125
Variety of Meetings.....	125
Transformed Sense of Community.....	127
Limitation.....	127
Structural Link with the Institutional Church.....	128
Commitment to the Unity, Vitality, and Wholeness of the Larger Church.....	131
Unity of the WOL Church.....	131
Unity of House Church Networks.....	132
Back to Jerusalem.....	134
Mission-oriented Structure.....	135
Dynamic Motion of the WOL Structure.....	135
Four Development Routes.....	137
Covenant Based Community.....	137
One Community, Many Locations.....	138
<i>Koinonia</i> in the House Church.....	138
Witnessing Community.....	139
Context for New Forms of Ministry and Leadership.....	140
Contextual Leadership.....	140
The Role of TE in Leadership Formation.....	141
The Role of Coworkers’ Meetings in Leadership Formation.....	142
Close Contact with the Poor.....	143
Emphasis on the Spirit and Word as the Bases of Authority.....	144
Foundational to Renewal: Spirit and Word.....	145
Statement of Faith.....	145
Spirit and Word in Ministry.....	146
Summary.....	147

5	Toward a Theology of Renewal for the Chinese Church.....	151
	Amplifying the Mediating Model for Chinese Church Renewal.....	151
	Back to the Heart of the Gospel.....	152
	Corporate and Dependent Prayer.....	153
	Speedy Production of Workers for Service.....	156
	“Rhetoric Framing”.....	157
	WOL Uniqueness and Contribution.....	159
	Gaining/Maintaining New Reality in Community.....	159
	Centrality of the Theology of the Cross.....	161
	WOL Itinerant Evangelistic Model.....	162
	A Model of Renewal for the Chinese Church.....	165
	“Life” as Prerequisite.....	166
	The Word and Spirit as Authority.....	166
	Corporate and Dependent Prayer as Power.....	167
	Suffering as a Mark of discipleship.....	167
	House Church as Basic Structure.....	168
	Transformed Sense of Community as Goal.....	169
	Active Discipleship as Imperative.....	170
	Mission as Evangelism and Transformation.....	170
	Biblical and Contextual Leadership as Model.....	171
	Interlink and Fellowship as Practice.....	172
	Kingdom as Framework.....	172
	Summary.....	173
6	Conclusions and Suggestions.....	177
	General Conclusions.....	177
	The Mediating Model for Church Renewal.....	177
	Signs of the Spirit of God in Renewal.....	178
	The Role of Human Agents in Renewal.....	178
	Missiological Contributions of the Study.....	178
	Challenges and Opportunities.....	179
	Challenges.....	179
	Opportunities.....	180
	Missiological Recommendations.....	181
	Suggestions for Further Study.....	182
	Quantitative Study of the WOL Movement.....	182
	Contextual Change and Its Implications.....	182
	Back to Jerusalem Movement.....	183
	Bibliography (English Language)	185
	Bibliography (Chinese Language)	199
	Index	207