



East Gates

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

INTERNATIONAL

January - February 2015

*D*ear faithful East Gates partner,

As we enter 2015, there is much to be thankful for. God has brought us to this time and season in our lives for a very divine purpose. He has a special mission for each one of us. So what will our New Year's resolution be? To be a better living testimony to the fact God is ALIVE or a growing statistic of the spiritual apathy that seems to surround us? In 2013, Gallup polls showed that three out of four Americans said that religion was losing its influence in the U.S. and thought we should be more religious.



Jack Ma

*I*n light of this sad statistic, just a few weeks ago, a close Chinese friend and faithful prayer supporter of East Gates, Ms. Liu, brought to our attention a most enlightening interview with Jack Ma (50) or Ma Jun (in Chinese). He's the richest man in China and founder of Alibaba, China's largest e-commerce company, now serving over 240 countries and territories. The topic of his talk? *Thoughts on Christianity and America's Founding*. Below are excerpts. We know you'll be inspired. The Chinese link and complete English translation can be found on our web site at www.eastgates.org.

THOUGHTS ON CHRISTIANITY AND AMERICA'S FOUNDING

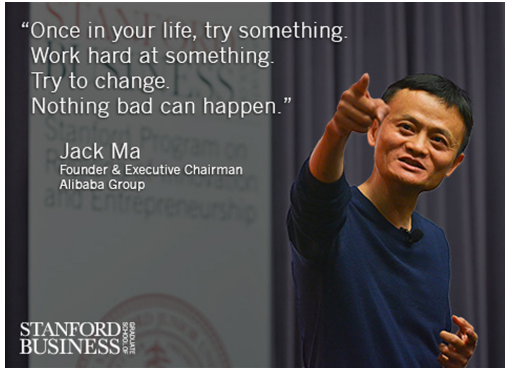
A good life depends on self discovery. Today, China's expedient economic development seemingly has brought us much satisfaction, but our value system has totally collapsed. Our culture has been greatly damaged. The earliest New Life Movement in the 1930's replaced old traditional values but without much success. Later on, the Cultural Revolution of 1966-1976 totally destroyed our value system, producing a confused society with no positive value whatsoever. Today, many Chinese scholars look to the West, especially America, for the right answers, and they think that by adopting the American legal system China will change from the inside out. Wrong, wrong! When you say someone is good-looking, is it simply because of his or her nose? Of course not. America's strength is built upon her Christian cultural heritage. From her belief system came her legal system, and from her legal system came her political system - with power given to the people to elect their leaders. The whole system of American society has evolved from her Christian foundation, permeating to every aspect of her people's lifestyle, educational institutions, medical practice, public safety, social welfare, social structure, and role of government.

I firmly believe that you, as concerned citizens of China, will help us to look for a positive value system to be established on this land. Only then, will China start to move forward with real progress towards a bright future.

As for America's mainstream cultural values, it is not hard to discover where they originated. America's first rock of democratic foundation was the Mayflower Compact in 1620, stating:

"In the Name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten...having undertaken, for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith...a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these present, solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic for better ordering and preservation..."

Furthermore, in the Declaration of Independence, the Word of God is mentioned four times. If the Word of God was omitted from this document, the spirit of the Declaration of Independence would be non-existent, thus meaningless. Christianity is the foundation of America's culture. Like a tree's root system that continuously feeds and nourishes the whole tree, Christianity has nourished America. Only until you understand this close association will you know the truth of America's success as a great nation. In America, the concept of democracy, justice, and liberty for all originated in her Christian faith, with the Bible, the Word of God, as its source. Ideas such as equality, forgiveness, unconditional love, even forgiving your enemy, were based on Scripture and taught and practiced among believers who founded America as a new nation over 200 years ago.



Basic Christian teachings include the belief of human beings' sinful nature - that man is limited and imperfect with many flaws. Therefore, man-made systems will also be flawed. This means power needs to be checked and balanced because absolute power will corrupt absolutely. This is why separating the powers of government into three branches - Executive, Legislative, and Judicial - works brilliantly in the American political landscape.

Many American Christians firmly believe God's Word, the Bible, and many go to church regularly to wash the dust from their hearts and lift their souls to a higher ground, to meet their Creator, to confess their sinful deeds, to ask for forgiveness, and to start another week on the right path to be pleasing to God. Many people in America live with this kind of attitude in getting along with others. They believe and trust each other. This reaffirms what has been

said in China in recent years, "Planting one more church will lead to one less prison, one more Christian and one less criminal." Christian belief teaches us that God is God and man is man. Only God is above us and He is omnipotent. Man will always be under God's authority, and man can never be above God. This concept of God's rule over man automatically limits earthly rulers' powers, minimizing one's power hungry, self-seeking ambition. **Even the most powerful political ruler needs to be humble when facing citizens' demands. The famous, the powerful, and the popular need to examine themselves in the presence of God, for disobedience to God means self-destruction personally, politically, financially and/or professionally.** According to American political thought, liberty, equality and democracy are as absolutely important as one's bloodline. Therefore, dictatorship, special privileges and favoritism cannot be tolerated by Americans. [Break]

Christian culture does not discriminate in economics and business, and it even encourages people to become prosperous through hard work and laboring to gain fruits through blood and sweat. Protestants even go one step further and do not seek wealth and profit for their own gain but to use them properly for God's purpose to glorify His Name. Working ethically, living frugally and tithing to God are considered by Christians as virtuous living and obedience to God. John Wesley summed it up best when he said, "Work all you can, save all you can, and give all you can for His Kingdom."

Nothing is by accident in the real world. Certain people can prove themselves with the passage of time to be honest and sincere or vain and fake. Many of us have a hard time coming to terms with why China, a proud ancient nation with 5,000 years of history, is still struggling and searching in ways that America, a young country with barely 200 years of history, is not. From Jonathan Edwards' family we can see the power of Christian belief. Two distinctive seeds were planted among the Edwards' family from the beginning: the seed of love and goodness which produced so many physicians, professors, and college presidents, and the seed of worshipping and respecting the ultimate authority -- God. Children taught to fear God and respect His authority will learn to be accountable and responsible for their own actions. Therefore, being humble and not proud is considered an admirable quality by Christians.

Today, looking around at our own people, I see deep in the hearts of those in power, the love of money and position. What do they think of what I am saying? "Grandpa, what's the use of Heaven?! I am the most powerful! There is nothing I dare not do!! Just look at me -- how successful and how powerful I am! I can do anything I want..." [Break]... **"let us choose a belief system that is founded on the greatest love -- that of Christ's. This will give us unprecedented power to change us from the inside out. Remember, whoever possesses those two seeds will be truly successful down the road. This is the ultimate truth -- a right belief system is the fastest way to powerful living."**

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*I*t's quite inspiring to have one of the most influential men in China and the world see the heart of what has made America great. Perhaps standing 10,000 miles away and going through times like the Cultural Revolution gives one perspective. These types of insights were never expressed by American-bred billionaires like Bill Gates (Microsoft), the late Steve Jobs (Apple), Jeff Bezos (Amazon) or Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook). In China, God speaks and people are listening. That's why East Gates' work continues to move forward. Please keep praying.

WHOEVER CALLS UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.

Romans 10:13

In Hebraic thinking, “to call upon” a King or Master means one has the heart and desire to be under its authority or leadership. As the headstrong disciple Peter finally realized, after being in the company of Yeshua (Jesus) long enough, “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*” (John 6:68).

Today, Jack Ma would be happy to know that millions of Chinese throughout China have sent a silent “phone call, email or text” to God and He has answered. They’ve tasted the “right belief system that leads to powerful living” and it works. It’s good for China, the world and God’s Kingdom.

In 2015, East Gates will continue to work alongside our Chinese brothers and sisters, building the Body of Christ in China, “living stone” by “living stone.”

WHEN THE LORD RAISES UP A
WORK, THE BUILDERS DO NOT
TOIL IN VAIN.



Once we reach our destination, we take the high ground and start praying over the region, the city and its people.



Long time friend, Pastor Wang, prays over and blesses our brothers and sisters as they prepare to share God’s love to Tibetans and local minority groups.

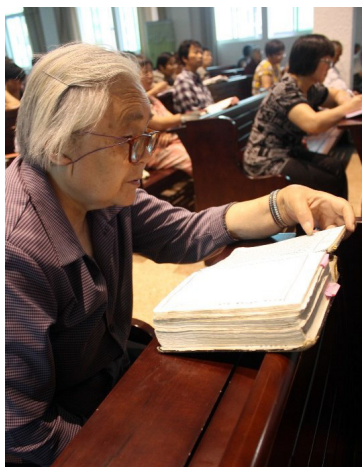


In Yunnan Province, we’ve been providing Bibles, Christian literature and financial support to the Baoshan Training Center’s work as they start local Bible Study groups in remote villages.



When God calls you to a place, you trust open hearts are on the other end.

*F*or the first time in 2012, China's urban population exceeded those who lived in the rural areas. This trend will not change. The Chinese are quickly discovering that exponential growth in technology, higher standards of living and increased access to the worldwide web does not give one greater wisdom in how to live. Therefore, churches and meeting points continue to grow in number and size to meet the spiritual needs for those looking for a "belief system" that works. We see how in the Book of Acts when believers fully depended and believed in the Word of God, only then did they become one with God's Spirit. Only then did true harmony and revival occur. We see this coming to pass in the churches and fellowships we've engaged with such as the Thanksgiving church in Shanghai, the Huaian Training Center in Jiangsu Province and House churches throughout China where they have quality leadership. Teaching believers how to pray and properly handle the Word of God is key.



We teach the elderly not to retire but "refire" for the Lord.



2014 Thanksgiving Church Retreat, Shanghai



East Gates staff member, Michael Tsang, prays over Huaian Training Center students in hallway.



East Gates staff, Mr. Hung (far left) and Mr. Tsang (far right) give Huaian church pastors Ms. Zhang, Mr. Ni and Mr. Chen, our training resources at the Ruth Bell Graham Bible Institute and Museum in the Huaian Training Center.



A humble and teachable spirit is precious in God's sight.

*T*hrough your loving support, thousands of Chinese are joining God's family each day. In God's Book of Life, He knows each one by face and name. May our Lord increase East Gates' capacity to fulfill the Church in China's growing needs this coming year.

Christina

Ned and Christina Graham