



# East Gates

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

INTERNATIONAL

March - April 2015

*D*ear faithful East Gates partner,

This year we celebrate East Gates' 25th anniversary in serving our brothers and sisters in China. From a biblical timeframe, 25 years is but a vapor. It's only one generation. Yet much is accomplished when God is involved. At His most opportune time, people and events converge to allow for conditions whereby eternity invades the present. Kingdom authority, Kingdom culture and Kingdom blessings are all revealed. Hearts are changed. Worldviews altered.

Our Project Director, Zhang Guiyan (Sonny), who has been with East Gates' since its inception in 1990, embodies what the ministry is all about. Given his wealth of knowledge and experience, we asked him to share his insights.

*“E*ast Gates entrance onto the stage of China's church history was inevitable. The Cultural Revolution began in 1966. All Christian churches were closed at that time. During that period, historians say China entered a “zero growth” period. The Communist Party defined it as “A Decade of Turmoil.” It finally ended in 1976. Yet, God's Word is never bound. Despite what the Cultural Revolution created on the surface, the Gospel of Christ continued to flow powerfully underneath and in the fullness of time, it caught on like wildfire across the land.



East Gates knows the art of Bible distribution. Ask Brother Zhang.

East Gates' diverse ministries to the House churches today, all began by supplying them with Bibles. After hearing our testimony, people inevitably praise God but always ask the question, “So what is the key to East Gates' success?” It's hard for them to believe that in a Socialistic country with such a huge population, we were able to deliver millions of Bibles to believers meeting in homes in such a short time. In addition, it's hard for them to fathom that East Gates has been serving China effectively for 25 years. In a quarter of a century, China's leadership has changed hands several times. There have also been internal ministry changes as well. So what has caused East Gates to continually succeed amid the “mountain and valley” seasons of time?

First, East Gates' service to China is literally a miracle. Everyone who has had a part in this ministry, no matter what their personal background, have all had a part in living out God's will in this venue. Also, Chinese culture

has always been shaped by events occurring at their most opportune time, making the most of its land and resources through the support of the people. After 1989, I believe all these factors converged, giving rise to East Gates Ministries.



Relationships are everything. Brother Zhang and his faithful Christian friends during China's most tumultuous times.

*E*ast Gates' attitude has always been one of transparency and never doing things in the secret or dark. Delivering millions of Bibles to unregistered churches could not have been accomplished without the Central government's approval as well as the permission and assistance from the Three Self-Patriotic Movement (TSPM) and China Christian Council (CCC). Some of the most respected House church pastors, who were there at the beginning, many of whom are now with the Lord, all admit and acknowledge this truth. At this time, given the incredible need for Bibles, they gave strong support for what East Gates was doing.

God is all powerful. Only He can make the most blunt and sharp objects smooth and into something of great use and beauty. East Gates is the work of God's hands!"



## EACH GENERATION WILL REAP WHAT THE FORMER GENERATION HAS SOWN

~ Chinese Proverb ~

*B*y investing into East Gates, you have eternally invested into countless lives. Brother Zhang is a perfect example of how through one life, we can serve the many.



Legal Bible distribution is our signature calling.



East Gates has a close bond with all those we teach and serve. They are far more than just one in a billion. They are a child of God with infinite potential...



Brother Zhang is an expert in Christian publishing. Here he gives a Chinese Christian teacher/trainer, a 60-volume work of a famous House Church pastor.



*"I've been working for East Gates close to 25 years now. The best years of my life have been dedicated to this ministry. Although my outer nature is wasting away day by day, I hope my inner nature is being renewed day by day. May I be like my Lord completely."*

~ BROTHER ZHANG GUIYAN ~

Brother Zhang



Prayer time with our brothers and sisters is key to helping them build greater trust and faith in God. Most Chinese students rise at 5 am to pray.

## GOD RAISED UP EAST GATES AT A VERY OPPORTUNE TIME

During the 1980s and 1990s, China was excited about reform. The days of Mao Tse-tung and his oppressive revolutionary causes were over. What would one-fifth of the world's population now devote their life's purpose to? As the saying goes, "Nature abhors a vacuum, even a spiritual one." So although traditional Marxism was no longer the core belief of the Chinese people, they quickly found other "isms" to take its place -- consumerism and materialism.

Liu Peng, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing has been studying this trend in China for quite some time. In his article, *After the "failed religions" of Mao and Deng, China seeks God*<sup>1</sup> he writes:

"...the devotion to 'making a fortune' is not a sacrifice that offers moral and spiritual sustenance. Material pursuits without the support of noble motivations and charity acts are nothing but 'worshipping a golden calf'... So the question then becomes, 'What is the true purpose of living?' The answers offered in the textbooks fall short because of the violent ups and downs of the past. The question of faith then quietly presents itself to everyone. For an individual, he must consider which religion or thought or theory should be his personal spiritual pillar. The nation must consider which belief system has the ability to bind the will and confidence of 1.3 billion people to an extent that they will be devoted to it and willing to sacrifice for it."

Today, many of China's most influential scholars and movers and shakers in society are realizing, "We're worshipping a golden calf!" They're searching for a belief system that China can give its heart, body, mind and soul to, so the nation can live in true peace, harmony and prosperity.

We're delighted to say that the answer has been in their backyard for quite some time. Over the centuries, God has been preparing and raising faithful ministries like East Gates to bring HIS Heavenly Mandate to the Chinese people. We even see intimations of His nature and Truth embedded in the Chinese language. After all, God is the Word (John 1:1,14)!

For example, the Chinese word for "righteousness" (yi) consists of two radicals or separate words -- "lamb" and "me." The word "lamb" sits over the word for "me" to create the traditional Chinese character for "righteousness." For Chinese believers around the world who have just celebrated Passover and the resurrection of Yeshua (Jesus), just by writing or reflecting on the word, yi, makes them realize that their righteousness is only due to the pure, unblemished sacrifice of the Lamb of God, whose unadulterated blood now covers them to walk in the power of His Spirit and life-giving nature. He is ALIVE and His Presence is forever with us. We have been redeemed.



羊 我 = 義  
Lamb Me

Exo.12:21, I Pet.1:18-20; Rev.13:8

<sup>1</sup> Liu Peng, *After the 'failed religions' of Mao and Deng, China seeks God*. AsiaNews.it, Sept.6, 2012, <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/After-the-failed-religions-of-Mao-and-Deng,-China-seeks-God-25739.html>



*E*ach year, we teach our Chinese brothers and sisters that this is the season of rebirth and rededication. *The Passover event is a universal story. The resurrection of Yeshua (Jesus) is a universal event.* It's not only for the Jews and Christians, but ultimately, all of humanity. We tell the story to our children so they know that the God of Creation keeps His covenant regarding the eternal life to come and He does not forget our afflictions here on earth. Chinese scholars and Chinese believers who study the Bible, all know the Exodus story. The event is epic because the historical account reveals a God who faithfully fulfills ALL His promises -- especially FREEDOM. Freedom from fear, guilt, insecurities, addictions...



NOT THE PLACE TO BE...

*T*he word for Egypt in Hebrew is *mitzrayim*. It literally means a place of narrowness or constriction. One is literally caught between a rock and a hard place. There is only futility. Bondage.

Once Chinese wholeheartedly receive what their Creator wants to pour through them, Psalm 118:15 becomes a reality.



THE PLACE TO BE -- FREEDOM!!

THERE ARE SHOUTS OF JOY AND VICTORY IN THE TENTS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

~ PSALM 118:15 ~



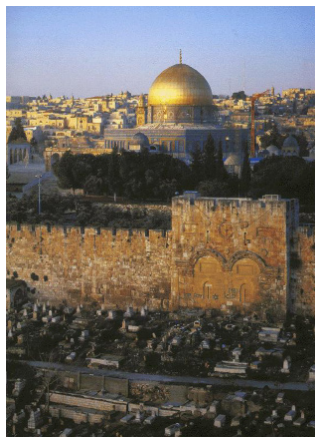
Baoshan Village, Yunnan Province. East Gates partners with local churches to hold Bible studies to teach villagers about eternal freedom through God's Truth.



East Gates brings God's revelatory Word to thousands in Yunnan Province where China's minority groups thrive.



East Gates blesses the blind with braille Bibles so they can really "see!"



Jerusalem's Temple Mount. Eastern Gates in the foreground.

*T*he Lamb of God will be returning soon as the Lion of Judah (Rev.5:5). He will walk through the Eastern Gates into the Holy City. The Song of Moses *and* the Song of the Lamb will be sung by every nation, tongue and tribe (Rev. 15:3-4). Because He lives, we live. Be the resounding voice of God to the next generation...

*Ned and Christina Graham*

Ned and Christina Graham



Ruth Bell Graham's gravestone. (1920-2007). At the top is the Chinese character for righteousness.