



# East Gates

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

INTERNATIONAL

September-October 2015

*D*ear faithful East Gates partner,

We're now entering the autumn season. Biblically, it's the time of the Fall harvest. Spiritually and physically, what we've sowed in the Spring should now be ripe and ready for gathering, so our family, community and others in need may enjoy the fruits of our bounty. We see this clearly expressed in the way God named Israel a beautiful olive tree and the nations, as grafted, wild branches (Rom.11:16).

We share with the Chinese how the key attributes of the olive tree are fruitfulness, faithfulness and steadfastness. It stays green throughout the year and is primarily pollinated by the *wind*, not bees. Even when chopped down or burned, new shoots grow forth from its roots. Olive trees can live in any type of temperature or terrain. That's why its abundant fruit blessed the ancient world year around with oil for light, nutrition, healing and anointing. God designed us to bear fruit for the same purpose -- to be a light in the midst of darkness, nourishment for the spiritually hungry, the oil of gladness for those who lack hope and an eternal blessing to all around.



**The LORD called your name, "A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form..." (Jeremiah 11:16)**

## SPRING PLANTING



## FALL GATHERING



## THE HARVEST

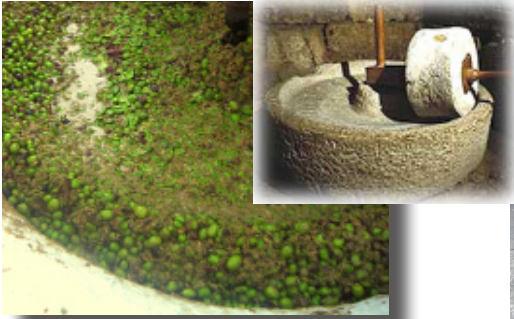


East Gates working with pastors in the planting and gathering of God's harvest in China so they may proclaim like King David, "But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the lovingkindness of God forever and ever." *Psalms 52:8*



*Names and places not mentioned, to protect the believers, given increased tension in certain areas. Please keep them in your prayers!*

CRUSHING



EXTRACTION



PURE VIRGIN OIL



*B*etween August and October are when olives are harvested in Israel. Farmers in antiquity and even today, know that harvesting olives is just the first step. Once collected, the multi-step process begins to transform the nutritious fruit into pure, virgin olive oil. Interestingly, there are many analogies behind the life of Yeshua (Jesus), the walk of a true disciple and how olive oil is made.



*I*n the 25 years East Gates has been working with believers throughout China, we've experienced first hand their desire to *bring forth fruit* that is consistent with true repentance and their genuine change of heart to live a life worthy of their calling. Like the Jews, the Chinese are acquainted with persecution and the theology of suffering. Over the course of history, they've been bitterly crushed and crushed again. For all of God's children who believe in the One true God, the journey is not easy but the eternal outcome ~ glorious.

**“Just as this oil is initially bitter and upon completion of its production it is sweet -- so too, Israel.”**  
**(Song of Songs Rabbah)**

...and so too in China and the rest of the world, where believers are being tested more than ever on their faith. That's why it's not just about handing a person a Bible but becoming God's words for them.

*A* situation occurred a few years ago when my (Christina) Chinese ministry partner, Sarah, and I were working together in a rather sensitive area of China. Sarah truly has the gift of healing, so a group of people had already formed around her for healing prayers. Being 10 pm, I was too tired from a week of training in another city, so I just sat in a corner praying. The next thing I know, the House church pastor taps me on the shoulder. He signals me to go over to this emaciated, haggard-looking woman whom I imagined was only 35 but looked 60. Her face was like leather and she stood frozen as a board, staring into space. People around me said, “She can't be helped. She's mute and just grunts. When she was little, she was whipped, severely abused and treated like a slave. She hears voices all the time. She's littered with demons.” I looked up at the pastor and whispered, “Sarah would be best to help this poor woman.” He replied, “You help her.”



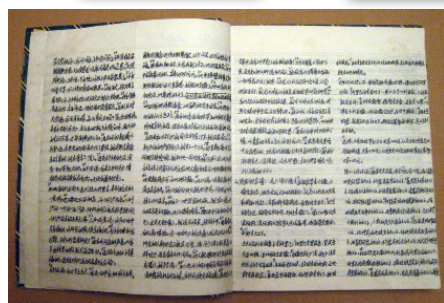
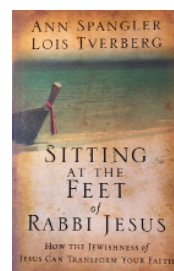
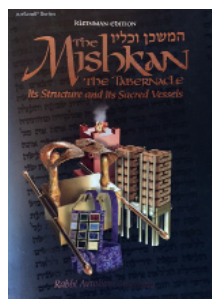
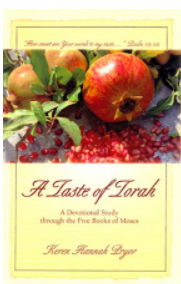
Now, all eyes were staring. I took a deep breath and just said, “God, this is to Your glory and what You can do for one of Your children...” This lady’s hands were clenched so tight, I couldn’t even gently pry them open. There was a subtle shaking and vibration throughout her whole body. What I sensed God telling me was to have her sit on my lap, cradle her, rock her and rub her heart with my hand while telling her in Chinese, “God loves her. She is loved.”

With the help of this lady’s friend, we were finally able to have her sit on my lap. For the next hour or so, I just rocked and embraced her saying, “Shen ai ni” (God loves you). Long story short, in time, her fingers began to relax and open. The Chinese looked around in amazement. I kept asking God’s Spirit to break every generational curse and stronghold in her life and to have her no longer listen to the lies of the enemy but to the loving voice of God. In time, her body slowly unwound. Eventually, she stood up, walked over to the pastor and started talking to him. I just sat there so relieved and praising God! The pastor came up to me and said, “You healed her.” I said, “Oh no! God is the ultimate Physician. HE healed her. I was merely a conduit for what He was doing in her heart.” Galatians 4:6-7 came to mind, “And because you are sons (daughters), God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son (daughter) and if a son (daughter), then an heir through God.”

Stories like these are many and unfortunately, there are thousands of Chinese who live these kinds of lives. Sometimes you feel helpless, but you do what you can through the power of God’s Spirit, otherwise one can easily develop compassion fatigue. Getting to the core issues through Bible education and prayer is key, so problems like these do not pass to the next generation. It takes divine patience, perseverance and hope.



As we are now living in the last days, we’ve been literally and metaphorically blowing the shofar, calling the Chinese to “Arise, obey and hear the voice of the LORD!” This next month, we’ll be revealing to them more than ever, how they are the Temple of the Living God (II Cor.6:16) as seen through the amazing way in which God designed His Mishkan or Tabernacle. Through the Bible and key books we’ve translated into Chinese, we will disciple believers on how they can walk in God’s authority, and become more faithful, steadfast and resilient believers in the same manner He designed the olive tree.



It takes about one-year to properly translate a quality Christian book from English to Chinese. If you’re moved to contribute in this area, we would greatly appreciate it!

Shown on the left are the copious training notes of one of our students. They are working out their salvation through God’s grace and deed. They know if they don’t “workout,” it won’t work out!

*T*his past month, our team was in Changsha, capital of Hunan Province and where the young Mao Zedong was said to have converted to Communism. As China's economy escalates and experiences great volatility, the gap between rich and poor increases. Millions of Chinese cherish the time when Mao was in power, when living conditions were seemingly more predictable and egalitarian. How soon they forget the ruthlessness of this despot.



**[LEFT]** A statue of Mao Zedong in Orange Isle, Changsha is 105 ft. or 9.5 stories high. For scale, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt's face carvings on Mt. Rushmore are 60 ft. high.

**[RIGHT]** A support rally for the Mao Zedong era.



*D*espite the mounting tensions in China and the world, it's good to know China's believers are focused on God's Kingdom business. While in Changsha, we were able to fellowship with local pastors Mr. Huang and Ms. Yu, who warmly welcomed us. In times past, East Gates provided a great number of Bibles and Christian reference books, as well as started the first Christian Reading Room in the area 15 to 20 years ago. We wanted to see what more we could do.

*P*astor Huang said besides their regular church ministries, they have an elderly home which is next to their historical Cheng-bei church. He said their elderly home is the least expensive among all the Christian elderly homes run by the Church in China. They have three buildings that accommodate 206 elderly. They accept applications from non-believers too, since it's a way the church can benefit China's social welfare system. This way, they can attend the Sunday services at the Cheng-bei church, Bible studies and prayer meetings. Pastor Huang said right now, they're under much pressure to increase rent due to high inflation. Our East Gates team said we would be more than willing to assist in any way we could, such as providing large print Bibles, training and financial subsidies. They were so grateful.



Cheng-bei church



Christian elderly home cooks.



Christian elderly home next door.



Praying

*D*uring this biblical Fall festival season, we're SO blessed for God's precious oil that He pours upon you, to us, and which overflows to our brothers and sisters in China.

In heartfelt gratitude...

*Ned and Christina Graham*

Ned and Christina Graham

