



East Gates

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

INTERNATIONAL

November - December 2016

*D*ear East Gates partner,

As 2016 comes to a close and we welcome in 2017, East Gates has much to be grateful for and much to reflect upon. Thanks to your invaluable partnership, once again we have been able to touch the lives of countless Chinese for God's Kingdom.

On November 9th, we visited China the day after the U.S. Elections. It seemed the only questions we were asked were about Presidential-elect Donald Trump and his democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. At many of China's major universities, conferences large and small were already convening to discuss the ramifications of US-Sino relations given Trump's unexpected victory. Interestingly, commoners, like a hotel handyman we ran into, told us, "Chinese like to read the U.S. news first and China news second."

Today, the U.S. is inextricably intertwined with China. For the present Chinese generation, it seems whatever comes from West is the best. Fashion, food, movies, technology, social values and lifestyle choices. Wherever you turn, it's present in China.



Chinese watching a Western movie in 3D.



Chinese live on "fast food."
Fast everything.



Gay Pride Week celebration
in Shanghai.

About 30 years ago, when East Gates first entered China, a high-level ranking Chinese leader said, "If you want to come share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in China, you must come quickly because in 40-years they will have unteachable hearts." What he said has pretty much come true. In a sense, the same can be said for America as well. It's not so much that people aren't interested in God or Jesus but in this cyberspace age, it's too easy to create Him in our own image versus allowing God to create us in His own image. There is a major difference. To allow God to change us into His image these days is not comfortable, nor is it convenient. God doesn't answer questions or prayers as fast as an app or WeChat.

For perspective, an elderly Chinese man told us he used to climb up muddy mountain roads with a case of Bibles on his back to bring God's precious Word to remote villages. Today, one Bible seems too heavy to carry to church. A smartphone is better. House church leaders shared how young men would come to their in-home Bible studies mostly for the free dinner they prepared beforehand. If they didn't serve many meat dishes, the attendance would drop. On this trip, church pastors told us that nowadays, many co-workers view ministry as just an 8-5 pm job. There is no "fire in their temple."

While in China, we shared with the believers that the U.S. and China will continue to be inextricably intertwined together. What happens in one country will directly impact the other, the next day if not sooner. This includes the Christian faith. We told them that when the United States was conceived, our Founding Fathers built the nation on biblical values. In fact, the three main branches of the United States government -- Judicial, Legislative and Executive, were based on Isaiah 33:22. "For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; He will save us." Sadly, in a short 240 years, most of that has all changed.

Throughout our trip, Ned taught how Chinese Christians should be the best example of what their nation is looking for in a citizen. Despite the pulls of modern culture, we have the sovereign authority, necessary tools and abundant grace, through Almighty God, to live out His Truth. Other East Gates staff shared how in a world that assaults our senses, we must allow the Holy Spirit to make us more sensitive 敏感 (*min gan*) to God's voice.

We encouraged believers with the fact that throughout our years of travel in China, we *know* there is an innumerable "Silent Majority" in China that is praying for our King of King and Lord of Lords to bring Heaven down to Earth and to not grow weary in well-doing!



Ned shares about East Gates' work in China and our Christian responsibilities.

PRAYER IS THE BEST WIRELESS CONNECTION



ISAIAH 30:15



"In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength..."



Despite the many “signs of the times” we saw hitting China, we were also greatly encouraged to see how many of the seeds we helped plant decades ago had now taken fruition. Our regular stop to Amity Printing Press enabled us to see how they had just finished printing 150 million Bibles, mostly for export. If each Bible were about 2 inches thick, 150 million Bibles stacked would be 848 times the height of Mt. Everest!



Amity prints Bibles in more than 90 languages.

Chinese Bibles flow off the conveyor belt.

Bibles stacked and ready for daily shipment.

Anyone who knows East Gates by now, realizes that we work at multiple levels from the government down to the grassroots. Amity Foundation (AF) is one of the largest non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in China. We met with long-time friend, Secretary General of Ambassador Foundation, Mr. Qiu Zhonghui. He updated us on all of their projects as we did on ours. Amity Foundation’s main goals are to 1) Contribute to China’s reform by advancing social development. 2) Help Chinese citizens become more aware of Christianity’s involvement towards meeting China’s societal needs. 3) To serve as a channel for resources that build mutual respect and harmony between faiths.



On a beautiful woven tapestry, Mr. Qiu shows Ned their immense involvement in China’s multi-ethnic and diverse landscape.



Mr. Qiu presents Ned and East Gates with a special edition, Amity printed Bible.

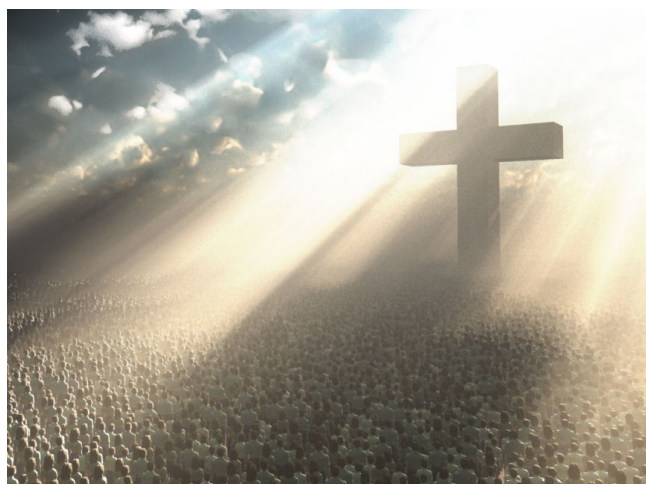


East Gates, like AF, continues to provide Christian love and resources to help the disenfranchised, be it providing Bible studies to the homeless (left) or giant-size print Bibles for the elderly in remote areas (right).



Only through the sacrificial birth and death of Yeshua (Hebrew word for *salvation*), Jesus Christ, can the work of East Gates and other Christian-based ministries in China have Kingdom worth. Only God knows who the growing “Silent Majority” are that are true to His Name. It is our responsibility to plant the seeds and water.

Below is an amazing sculpture and mural designed by a Nanjing Seminary graduate. Based on Galatians 6:14, it depicts Christ’s sacrificial crucifixion and how His blood washes over the sins of the world.



“But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” GALATIANS 6:14

你的话是我脚前的灯, 是我路上的光 ~ 诗篇 119:105
东门国际同工祝您圣诞快乐



On behalf of our East Gates staff, may God continue to spiritually bless and prosper you and our precious brothers and sisters in China. Thank you for your heartfelt prayers, faithful tithes and special offerings. We could not continue this ministry without them.

May God’s Word be a continual lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path (Psalm 119:105).

 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham