



East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

September - October 2019

*D*ear East Gates partner,

We are now in a very exciting and biblically relevant time of the year. It's the season of the Fall festivals ~ the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev.23:23-44). For all of those who understand the depth of their great meaning and live them out, they are God's "appointed times" (Hebrew, *moedim*) or dress rehearsals in preparation for Jesus Christ's second-coming.

This year, the biblical New Year or Rosh Hashanah (Feast of Trumpets) begins at sunset on September 29th and ends at sunset on September 30th, one day before October 1st which so happens to be the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). So in the next few weeks, as hundreds of Chinese Christians flow to Jerusalem to bless Israel and live out what may be a future reality in our lifetime - the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn / trumpet) announcing the return of our Messiah who will bring heaven down to earth (I Thess.4:16) - millions of their compatriots will be marching to another tune in Beijing.

On October 1st, China will showcase its military might and nuclear deterrence capabilities through Tiananmen Square; but in a nation where "show and tell" is more "show" than "tell," China experts believe it may be an indicator of how the Communist Party of China (CPC) senses its days are numbered. Modern history reveals that one-party regimes only last about 70 years.

Chinese, like the rest of humanity, have always cried out for **true** freedom, justice, and rule of law so perpetual peace and harmony could reign in their land. Since antiquity, the Chinese would call out to *Shang-Di* (Highest God) or for the *Mandate from Heaven* (a just ruler) to bring them this elusive peace and unity they innately knew existed. Today, the **true** and **living** God and His eternal purposes are no longer a mystery to millions of Chinese Christians. Their allegiance is to God's Kingdom in heaven and on earth. As you will see on the pages to follow, they're getting ready for the ultimate reality and celebration!



Chinese believers are among the thousands of Christians who come to Israel each year to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. They are living out a coming Age when every nation, tongue and tribe will flow to Jerusalem and God's Kingdom will reign on earth (Isa.2:2-3, Micah 4:1-2, Rev.7:9)!



China has the second largest economy in the world. It spends more on domestic and cyber security than on its entire military. Despite statistics and outward conformity, sinologists (those who study China) say the Mainland Chinese are more divided over ideology and a clear national direction than ever before.

The English philosopher and novelist, George Santayana once stated: “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” For the majority of Chinese, many feel President Xi Jinping has all but forgotten the lost generation created during Mao Zedong’s era (1949-1976). If anything, since Xi came to power in 2012, sinologists feel the hallmarks of Maoism such as complete dictatorship, ideological indoctrination and repression have been resurrected with even greater fervor. One sees this especially in the context of religion.

Nowadays, the Open and House churches and/or registered and unregistered churches are challenged. Our Chinese brothers and sisters tell us that youth under 18 can no longer meet with them. If believers have had engagements with overseas Christian groups, they quickly find themselves under strict surveillance or closed down. Sunday school classes are prohibited. One House church pastor told us they are not allowed to increase membership or register their church and yet another deaf church has been suspended by local authorities because they are not registered. Chinese believers know too well the daily reality of Ephesians 6:12 ~ *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”* Therefore, they put on their spiritual armor, continue to walk in God’s authority and move forward with wisdom. Pastor C* is an excellent example.

Now that the July-August monsoon season has ended in Yunnan province, when rural roads are typically washed out and treacherous for traveling, Pastor C and our co-workers can now reach the unreached. Pastor C shared with us how when one is away from the city, sometimes traveling by foot gives one time to hear from the Lord and prepare oneself to be a true vessel for God’s purposes. He trusts God is already working with those whom he will meet. He told us, he hopes to finish his life like King David, *“For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, feel asleep...”* (Acts 13:36). Over the decades, we’ve been so blessed to be able to work with Chinese pastors and co-workers like these. They are God’s true remnant in China today.



Pastor C walking to remote, unreached villages in Yunnan Province with Bibles and his personal belongings.



After Pastor C and his wife ministered to a local village couple and their son, they came to Christ. Pastor C said in the villages, the people are very thirsty and teachable.



As in the time of the 1st century church, when the parents become “souled out” on God’s Truth, the children soon follow from their example.

*Pastors and co-workers’ request their names and faces be kept anonymous.

In 2016, a good friend of ours, the late Elder Fu Xianwei, former Chairman of National Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China said: “Believers in China are very much in need of Bibles. They love the Bible very much...the most critical group is believers in the poor areas, they face real economic difficulty. So are their churches, which are unable to help them.” East Gates has been aware of this key need for quite some time. It has been one main area where our energies and resources have flowed.



Pastor C reached this high mountainous village where many families quickly came to believe in God's eternal promises for them through God's Word. Now, the real challenge comes with finding more “Pastor C's” to do the follow-up work of teaching and discipling them. Please pray that Pastor C and our co-workers can raise local leaders and/or missionaries to fill such positions.

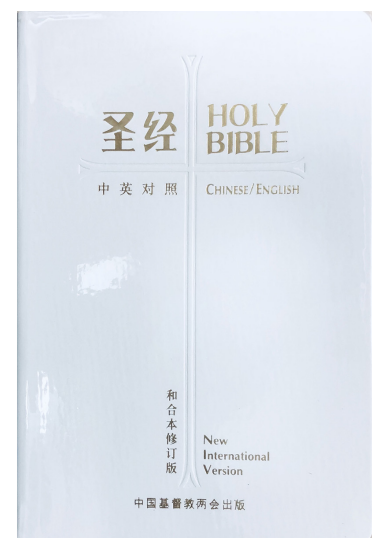
Despite the central government's more stringent adherence to its revised religious policies and laws, China's Amity Printing Press in Nanjing continues to be the largest Bible printer in the world. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first edition of the completed Mandarin Union Version Bible. Since 2018, 80 million Bibles have been printed for distribution to Protestant and Catholic churches within China and 100 million for overseas churches.



We're happy to see new Bible versions come out every time we visit Bible distribution centers like this one in Zhejiang province.



A new Bible cover was recently released for the standard Mandarin Union Version so it would have a more Chinese look and design.



With the majority of Chinese youth all studying English as a second language, the bilingual Chinese-English Bible is one of the most popular versions these days.

As China has risen from a tumultuous past, addresses a shaky present and even more precarious future, its “called out ones” now know the tempo and beat of their living Lord and Savior and are serving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken (Heb.12:28). In joy, they’re coming into greater alignment with God’s life-giving pattern and rhythm that resonates with heaven.

This year, the last great day of the Feast of Tabernacles is October 21st. Please pray for Israel, China, the U.S. and the rest of the nations when you read John 7:37-39 ~ Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive...



East Gates co-workers baptize a group of 12 deaf, blind and disabled believers in Shandong Province. Through the cleansing and healing of God’s perfect Word, in time they will truly begin to “see,” “hear” and “walk” in ways only heaven knows. We welcomed them into the family and their eternal covenant relationship with our living God.



The sound of the shofar is used for many purposes, one of which announces the coronation of a king. It is believed that on Rosh Hashanah, God created the world and by blowing the shofar, we acknowledge Him as our King. The shofar is also blown as a wake-up call and foreshadows the end of the present world order and the inauguration of God’s reign of righteousness throughout the earth.



The Old City of Jerusalem has eight gates. The sealed Eastern Gate faces the Mount of Olives.



As anti-Semitism increases around the world, we praise the Lord for the fact that millions of Chinese Christians love and bless Israel!

Please keep us in prayer as we continue to help our Chinese brothers and sisters prepare for the time when Jesus our Messiah will enter the Holy City through the Eastern Gate. May more Chinese hear the shofar blast or God’s trumpet call in their lives! Thank you for your faithful contributions that make the impossible, possible.

 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham