



East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

January - February 2020

Dear East Gates partner,

We've now entered 2020. It's not only a new year but a new decade and it will inevitably prove to be a most momentous one as we become more aware of the Light and darkness that surrounds us. With today's technology, we're now in touch with world events 24/7 through every media platform and it's quite evident that an exponential increase in knowledge has **not** given us greater wisdom in how to live. China and the United States are a perfect example but since China is East Gates' mission field, let us start there.

In just 40 short years, China has grown in leaps and bounds mostly due to Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms and Open Door Policy that began in 1978. It's as if China has been able to transition from the LP record to internet download overnight. As with all rapid societal changes, it comes at a great cost. China's statistics regarding health, well-being and family instability now seem to match the United States.

In 2011, China's largest English newspaper, the *China Daily*, featured an article entitled, "Can China's Moral Fabric Hold Together?"¹ They interviewed Sociology Professor Gu Xiaoming at Fudan University in Shanghai who stated, "At a time of unprecedented opportunities and materialistic impulses, people tend to measure every step they take against the possible material benefits that it might bring them. Plus, one has to cope with the pressure of having to survive a rapid pace of industrialization and urbanization. People tend to be driven by the idea, 'everything that is not beneficial to me is none of my business.'"

The article continued by noting, "Incidents demonstrating a total emotional detachment from a fellow human being's suffering have been reported in recent years -- boatmen asking high prices to retrieve drowning bodies, crowds gathering to watch a woman trying to commit suicide by jumping from a building, treating it as a spectacle, to name just a few." Gu commented, "We need to nurture a tradition of loving others again. We had it before but lost it over the years. Take the Spring Festival, for example. In the past it was a great time for reunion of families and friends, an opportunity to show our love to families, acquaintances and neighbors. But now it is all about shopping, entertainment and commercial activities."

With this continual impending crisis in morality, obviously China doesn't plan to step down its frenetic pace of globalization or high tech development. Instead, for the past decade, China's central government has been designing a Social Credit System for its 1.3 billion citizens, in hopes to create a far more "trustworthy" and honest society. This year, they expect full implementation nationwide.



China's facial recognition technology is among the most advanced in the world, capable of identifying a person from a database of more than two billion people in a matter of seconds.



China is the leader in developing Artificial Intelligence to manage and control society, as well as determine what is right and wrong.

¹ http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-12/29/content_14349109.htm

According to the Social Credit System, a citizen is considered “trustworthy” if they adhere to and follow the government’s rule of law and code of ethics. This covers conduct such as online speech, paying one’s taxes on time, how often one visits one’s elderly parents or even picking up after one’s dog. In brief, this is the Communist Party’s (CCP) way of trying to improve public behavior and maintain social order. If a person is a law-abiding citizen, then one accrues “social credit” points. If not, they are docked points. In 2018, 17.5 million travelers were banned from buying plane tickets for “social credit” misdemeanors such as not paying overdue fines. 5.5 million couldn’t buy train tickets. 123 could not leave the country for unpaid taxes.²

How does the average Chinese citizen feel about this monitoring system? Some feel it keeps those who cheat, commit fraud and lie accountable. Others feel it is a total evasion of their privacy. As with the one-child policy, it’s hard to say exactly how this social experiment will play out but with more of the world’s reality controlled by the virtual, cyber and quantum realms, societal ills will continue to grow because humans were never “wired” to live in such a way. In the end, there is a very fine line between anarchy and totalitarianism.

So how does this affect the Church in China? The Christians in China are used to being monitored. Their main concern is the CCP’s revised “Regulations on Religious Affairs” released February 1, 2020; specifically Articles 5 and 17 that state:

Article 5 - Religious organizations must adhere to the leadership of the Communist Party of China, adhere to the constitution, laws, regulations, rules and policies, adhere to the principle of independence and self-government, adhere to the direction of China’s religion, practice the core values of socialism, and maintain national unity, religious harmony and social stability.

Article 17 -Religious organizations shall educate and guide their religious staff and religious citizens to support the leadership of the Communist Party of China, support the socialist system, and adhere to follow the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics...

In recent years, most of the large scale House churches and mega churches in China’s urban centers have already been forced to close. House churches in every large city have now dispersed into congregations less than 50 or they meet in cell-groups. Since Xi Jinping’s rise to power, his directives have been to transform every sector of life to socialistic ideology. Science is “god.” Even religious festivals in schools and in public have diminished.



China has acquired from the U.S. and developed on its own, amazing data gathering mechanisms that continue to grow and expand not only within its country but around the world.



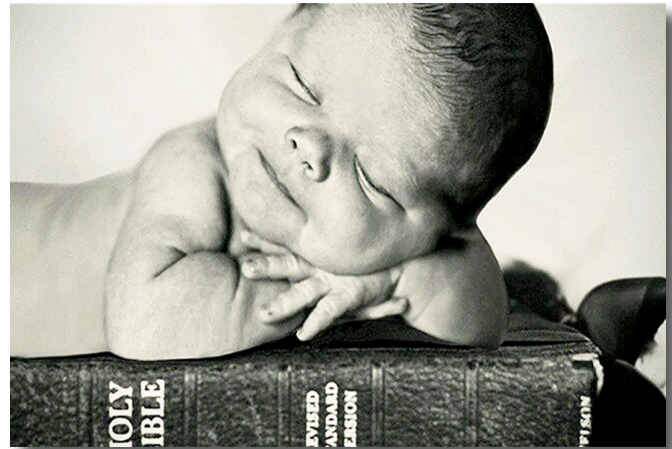
In 2020, China will have 626 million surveillance cameras positioned throughout the country.



House church brothers embrace during a private gathering.

² <https://apnews.com/9d43f4b74260411797043ddd391c13d8>

We're all a miracle and by God's loving design, He breathed us into becoming a praying creature so we could communicate with Him. If we so desire, He gifts us with His Holy Spirit and the Holy Bible, an instruction manual on how to live. This way we can become a vibrant temple where He can dwell to bless the world. China needs this revelation and it's being made manifest by those whom we're serving and teaching like the minority tribe members you see below.



Chinese Christians and their communities of faith, led by the Holy Spirit and Word of God, know they do not need a Social Credit System in which to be monitored, judged, rewarded or punished. They know Titus 2:11-15 by heart. “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”



East Gates' work with training centers like this one in Yunnan Province is invaluable because once these pastors and lay trainers finish, they will go back to their congregations and teach others. We emphasize “practical theology.”



Given the challenging times, there is greater need for more trained pastors to minister to the substantial increase in smaller groups. They need our genuine encouragement and prayers.

KINGDOM OF GOD PERSPECTIVE

As we approach the soon coming return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we encourage our Chinese brothers and sisters and all of us who support them worldwide, to seriously meditate on who we are in Christ and to pray and live out these scriptures.

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

Alive with Christ	Gal. 2:20
Anxious for nothing	Phil. 4:6
Appointed by God	John 15:16
Belonging to God	John 17:9
Bold and confident	Eph. 3:12
Born of God	I John 5:18
Chosen	Col. 3:12
Christ is my life	Col. 3:4
Citizen in heaven	Phil. 3:20
Complete in Christ	Col. 2:10
Died & life hidden in God	Col. 3:3
Empowered to obey	Phil. 2:13
Equipped	2 Tim. 3:16-17
Eternal life	Rom. 6:23
Forgiven of my sins	I John 1:9
Resurrection	Rom. 6:5
Victorious	I Cor. 15:57
Without condemnation	Rom. 8:1

~ With a grateful heart ~

 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham

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.”

1 Timothy 2:1-6

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.”

2 Timothy 2:19, 24-26

“Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness...The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”