



East Gates

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

INTERNATIONAL

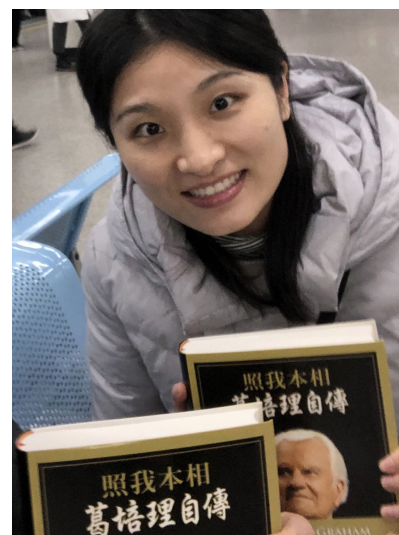
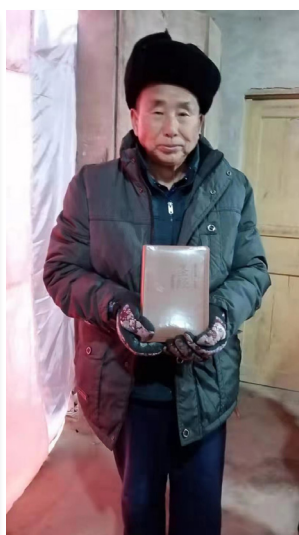
January - February 2021

*D*ear East Gates partner,

Greetings to you as the 2021 year has now begun and the Chinese New Year (February 12) is soon upon us! It's a reminder that the COVID-19 virus which quickly became a pandemic has been around for more than a year and has totally transformed daily life on earth. As with all crises, COVID-19 seems to have awakened the Body of Christ out of its slumber, for it's one thing to *read* about the pestilences of biblical proportion and another thing to actually *experience* them (II Chronicles 7:13, 20:9, Psalm 91:6).

Believers are now masked in their comings and goings but it hasn't silenced them when it comes to worship and prayers. In fact, the severity of COVID-19 has caused an awareness of the Church's present state and driven millions to repentance. Despite the call for social distancing, the heart plea from most Christians these days is the opposite when it comes to their relationship with God. They realize they've been "social distancing" with their Creator far too long, so now one hears, "O God! We cry out to You! We have not put You and the Kingdom first. May we destroy all the idols that have distracted us and consumed our time and space! Have mercy on us O LORD!"

In China, as in the West, Christians are not without challenges as they try to deal with continual lockdowns, increasing persecution and fake versus real news. What they do know, however, is God's News is *real* news and growing numbers are resonating with God's Truth.



Last month, East Gates was able to meet the great need for Bibles at this house church in Anhui province. COVID-19 has stabilized in this area so the pastor does not require his members to wear masks.

A Chinese sister requested two copies of Reverend Billy Graham's autobiography, *Just As I Am*, that we translated into Chinese. She read it cover to cover in eight days and told us how inspired she was by his life.



Additional cases of Bibles are reserved for churches and ministries such as the ones Pastor "S" has. Delivering them in small versus large quantities is safer at this time.

THIRST FOR BIBLES GUIZHOU

A few years ago, a close friend of ours, Pastor "S" in Guizhou province, was suppressed by authorities. He was interrogated, put in prison for a while and then released. Although his church has been shut down, ministries continue quietly. In wisdom, we send Pastor "S" Bibles and other Christian resources through Brother "SH" and his bookstore. Many churches are in this situation. Please pray for them as they pray for us.



Pastor "S" (left) asked East Gates for six cases of Bibles. Brother "SH" (right) delivered them.

DEAF MINISTRY SHANDONG



The deaf are devout intercessors and worship warriors. Here they are in what we call their "battle room."

Our late East Gates staff member, Michael Tsang used to visit and train our deaf sisters and brothers in several provinces. Today, we continue to support their needs for Bibles, prayer and fellowship. We hope in time, more gifted teachers, like Michael and our brother shown below will increase.



It has always been difficult for the deaf in China to find employment. It's even more so now with COVID-19. As you can see, they're making the best use of their time. Studying God's Word.



In Shandong province where COVID-19 has not stabilized, we've been providing additional Bibles to our deaf ministry as more new attendees search for meaning in life and God's Truth.

BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL YUNNAN

A Chinese student wrote to us stating, “My church and pastor are focusing on discipleship since we hope to train believers to be true disciples in this messy and disorderly world. It's a challenging time because of COVID-19. It has stopped most of the classroom lessons and the online lessons / fellowship are not as good as the classroom ones.”

This student's sentiments is common these days, especially from the city. Thankfully, there are Bible Training Schools like the one we equip and support in this beautiful area of Yunnan province where they can study and pray in God's creation.



Discipling and training the next generation during difficult times is not easy. One must cling to God's promises, faithfulness and exercise great discipline and commitment.



During this season of intense spiritual warfare, we've been sharing with our students the following insight:

In nature, the eagle does not fight the snake on the ground. It picks it up into the sky and changes the battle ground. Then it releases the snake into the sky. The snake has no stamina, no power and no balance in the air. It is useless, weak and vulnerable, unlike on the ground where it is powerful, wise and

deadly. Take your fight into the spiritual realm by praying and when you're in the spiritual realm, God takes over your battles. Don't fight the enemy in his comfort zone. Change the battle ground like the eagle and let God take charge through your earnest prayers. You'll be assured of a clean victory. Pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:18)!



SUNSHINE CHILDREN'S CARE CENTER

TIBET

Another way to push back the darkness is to fill it with God's Light. An energetic, visionary pastor and missionary we partner with has been busy in Tibet helping to fill the needs of the Sunshine Children's Care Center. With the help of co-workers and local staff, Pastor "Y" organized a tutorial class for the children during the winter holidays.



The opening ceremonies of the winter tutorial class. The banner above says: "Tibet Sunshine Children Care Center 2021 - An Opening Ceremony of the Winter Tutorial Class."



All the youth from the Sunshine Children Care Center are excited for the class and activities to start!



Pastor "Y" also partners with other non-profit entities like the Wenzhou Ruian Bethel Charity Foundation (Chinese characters on banner). They donated bundles of clothes to the Sunshine Children's Care Center. Pastor "Y" is a true servant leader and skilled in many areas. We're blessed, along with other Christian ministries, to be able to work with him in meeting many needs throughout China.

During this season, when more divisive actions and words are expressed between the East and West, we need to keep **God's perspective** in 20/20 view. His Kingdom initiatives, purpose and goals have not changed. As you can clearly see, they're alive and well in China. Masks cannot silence prayers. Lockdowns are not strongholds that keep our Chinese brothers and sisters from soaring like eagles. God is the lifter of their heads and so are you!

Ned and Christina Graham

Ned and Christina Graham



Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary (Isaiah 40:31).