



East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

March - April 2021

*D*ear East Gates partner,

As we've now entered the beautiful Spring season as creation is blossoming and blooming to new life, so should we because of what our One and only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has done for us and humanity. It has been more than a year since COVID-19 surfaced and although this invisible virus seems to have "masked" or silenced the majority, when it comes to God's Life-giving message, the voices around His Throne Room have not only magnified but intensified.

From our experience, when true believers in China come to the awareness of being created in God's image (Genesis 1:26) every day becomes a revival. They don't wait for a crisis to occur to revive, arise, be renewed or resurrect. They take Psalm 118:24 seriously, "This is the day which the LORD has made; let us REJOICE (emphasis ours) and be glad in it." The Hebrew word for "rejoice," is "gil" (גִּיל) which means to literally spin around passionately as one does in a celebration. That is why despite the many seemingly external "winter" seasons in China, there has been tremendous growth because our genuine, believing Chinese brothers and sisters do not allow circumstances and situations affect their faith in the One True God. As their mind is renewed daily in Christ, you see the fruits as shown in the photos below. The traditions of men are being replaced with a vision and mission for God's just and righteous Kingdom.



Years ago, China's Amity Foundation asked a gifted Christian artisan (once a hardened criminal) to carve Jesus going after the one lamb in 99. Eventually they were mass produced. Now we know that God will go after one in a billion and desires that ALL humanity be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). Please keep praying that God continue to lead East Gates during these tumultuous times in wisely blessing our Chinese brothers and sisters.

興起
ARISE!



Since dynasty times, Chinese would hang red banners over and alongside their front doors with the hope their gods would grant them good luck, health and prosperity for the New Year.

Today, Chinese believers still display these red banners but they symbolize the blood of Christ (Exodus 12:13-28) and God's Word and promises over their lives. Hallelujah!



At a large House Church gathering prior to COVID, this image of the Forbidden City was projected for all to see as they worshipped and prayed for their homeland China to ARISE 興起 and God be glorified.



Chinese Christians have had to exercise great patience and tolerance during this past year and now into 2021. As new religious rules and COVID regulations continually come to the fore, we're encouraging them to live out II Corinthians 5:11-21 and their call to the ministry of reconciliation, not condemnation as well as Proverbs 25:15, "Through patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a gentle tongue breaks bone."

上海市民族和宗教事务局

沪民宗发〔2021〕12号

关于我市宗教活动场所恢复集体宗教活动的通知

各区民族宗教事务办公室，各宗教团体，机关各处室：

根据新冠肺炎疫情防控需要，今年春节期间，我市宗教活动场所暂停了集体宗教活动。鉴于当前国内和我市疫情防控形势积极向好，总体平稳，为满足广大信教群众的宗教生活需求，将有序恢复宗教活动场所集体宗教活动。现就有关事项通知如下。

一、有序恢复宗教活动场所集体宗教活动

3月19日起，我市依法登记开放的寺庙教堂、固定处所在属地统战、民宗等部门指导下，可有序恢复集体宗教活动。具体日期由各区根据实际情况确定。

前期实施“双暂停”（暂停开放、暂停集体宗教活动）的场所，需按照恢复场所开放的要求，经属地疫情防控部门审核同意



The Pu-kou church in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province resume services.

Due to COVID-19, religious meetings were suspended for a period of time in certain regions of China. Above is a notice from the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Ethnic and Religious Affairs stating meetings can resume in Shanghai on March 19th. Foreigners still prohibited.



“Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers.”

J. Sidlow Baxter (1903-1999)
Australian pastor/theologian



I AM THE LORD AND I WILL...

Chinese Christians know that their God who spoke to the Israelites in the wilderness in **Exodus 6:6-8**, also speaks to them today with the same love and conviction in their “wilderness.” In this passage **“I am the LORD”** is expressed three times and **“I WILL...”** seven times (inferring “completeness”).

“Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, **“I am the LORD**, and **I WILL** bring you out from under the labors of the Egyptians, and **I WILL** rescue you from their bondage. **I WILL** also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

I WILL take you as My people, and **I WILL** be your God; and you shall know that **I am the LORD** your God, who brought you out from under the labors of the Egyptians.

I WILL bring you to the land which I swore to give you to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and **I WILL** give it to you as a possession; **I am the LORD.**”



Please pray as we continue to provide Bibles and remote training to “thirsty” and “parched” rural areas in Yunnan province. They’ve been “arising” for quite some time.

In our last newsletter, p.2, we shared with you about our continual work with the deaf in Shandong province and photos of Pastor Tang giving Bibles that East Gates provided to his students. Shortly after, we were informed he would need immediate intestinal surgery. He was admitted the week of March 12th. Recently, our staff reported the operation was successful. Praise God. We share this event because Pastor Tang is known to share the love of Jesus wherever he goes and it should be an onus for us as well.



Pastor Tang recovering from surgery.



One of Pastor Tang's many congregational members prayed fervently and filled in for him while he was gone.

PASTOR TANG'S TESTIMONY

虽然手术完了还在观察室，头脑也因麻药劲没过还很迷糊，但心里突然强烈有个感动要向这几个医护人员宣讲耶稣！感谢神所赐话语，就开始给她们几个医护人员讲耶稣，感谢神！她们很喜欢听，答应等我出院后再专门来医院给她们每人送本圣经，感谢神！

"I was staying at the Observation (Recovery) Room after the surgery and my mind was foggy due to the strong anaesthesia. My heart was suddenly moved to share Jesus with the medical staff! Thank you Lord for giving me the words. I started to tell them about Jesus. Thank you Lord! They loved listening and after my hospital discharge, I promised them I would return and give them a copy of the Bible. Thank you Lord!"

PASTOR WANG - NEVER RETIRING, ONLY REFIRING!

Pastor Wang (89 yrs. old), an East Gates colleague of over 30 years has been an integral part of China's church growth. God's calling on His life plus other faithful Chinese shepherds have led thousands into God's family.



Pastor Wang (rt) and his 90-year co-worker head on a train to NE China to minister and teach.



Age and reduced mobility have not kept Pastor Wang (left) and even older friends from doing God's Work.



"For this reason, it says, 'Awake, sleeper, and ARISE from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'"

Ephesians 5:14



In Pastor Wang's earlier years, he would stand for hours baptising hungry souls in every possible venue you can imagine.



East Gates and Pastor Wang have been a familiar face amongst Bible students throughout China.

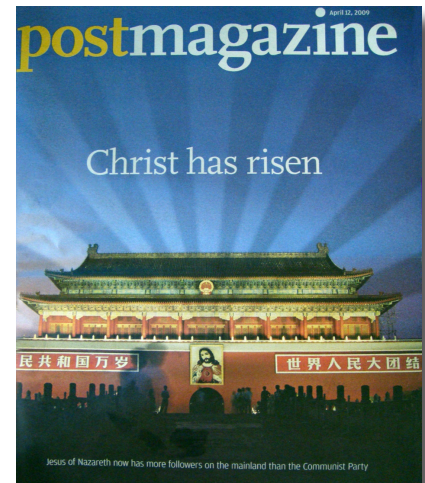
Chinese believers know that at the very beginning, humanity was never meant to die but because Adam and Eve allowed the voice of the serpent (a most cunning beast as mentioned in Genesis 3:1) to override God's Voice, it was if at that very moment, their Lord and Savior was crucified on the Cross for their eternal redemption.

Today, our Chinese brothers and sisters see the vivid consequences of their own nation, the US, Middle East and entire world without God. Especially during this resurrection season, they take great hope in scriptures such as Isaiah 60:1-2:

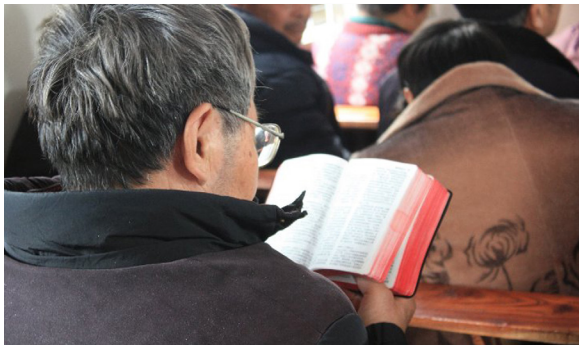
“ARISE, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has RISEN upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will RISE upon you and His glory will appear upon you.”



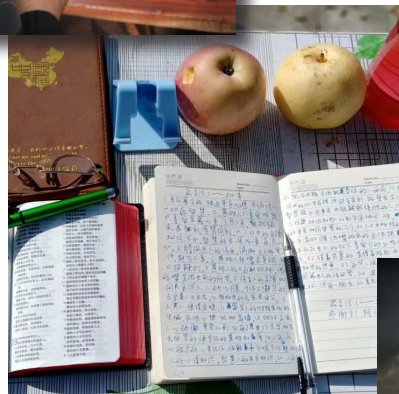
Chinese believers know that Christ was sacrificed before time began for them. Rev.13:8



In April 2009, Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* featured a bold cover article on the growth of Christianity in China. Millions of Chinese continue to pray for a risen China. May we as well!



興起!
ARISE!



As many Chinese believers have finished reading about Passover and seen how God delivered Israel and the nations from bondage to true freedom, they acknowledge it's one thing to receive God's deliverance from "Egypt" and another thing to remove "Egypt" and its cultural conditioning from one's soul!

During this resurrection season, continue to pray fervently for the US and China, East Gates ministry and all of our Chinese brothers and sisters whom God is using powerfully through diligent study, worship and prayer to establish the Body of Christ on the Rock and lift their nation higher and higher.

Thank you for your sacrificial giving.

 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham



**“Your dead will live;
Their corpses will rise.
You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy,
For your dew is as the dew of the dawn,
And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.”**

Isaiah 26:19