



East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

November - December 2021

*D*ear East Gates partner,

As we close out 2021, there is so much to thank the Almighty for. We just had the opportunity to do so during one of the most blessed holidays in the Western world - Thanksgiving. The Apostle Paul wrote under inspiration that we must be grateful in all circumstances and situations (I Thess.5:18).

So often we ask, “God, what is your will?” And yet Paul reminds us, “**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you**” (I Thess. 5:16-18). We teach our Chinese students that developing the mind of Christ or learning how He thinks will enable one to have a continual spirit of joy, prayer and gratitude which is the best antidote for the true pandemic that has swept this world - *fear*.

During this past year, we’ve been teaching our Chinese students that throughout the ages, Judeo-Christians have always been in a spiritual battle of immense proportions. Before the foundations of the world when God chose us to be His holy sons and daughters (Eph.1:3-4, Rom.8:29-30), we soon discovered we were born into a military family with a doubled-edged sword in one hand (Word of God) and a shield of faith in the other! Essentially, Jesus is our armor -- our helmet of salvation (Yeshua), breastplate of righteousness, belt of Truth, feet shod with the gospel of peace (shalom) and our prayer language so we can boldly proclaim the gospel (Eph.6:10-19)!



East Gates has sown much into the Baoshan Bible Training Center in Yunnan Province. Here, teachers and students put on the armor of God daily and live out **Colossians 2:5**. They are a prayer force to contend with!

Chinese believers know from the get go that to be holy and set apart in an atheistic country invites persecution so they must be **UNIFIED** in spirit and continually **GUARD** what is precious to God.

COLOSSIANS 2:5

AMPLIFIED

“For even though I am absent (from you) in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, delighted to see your good discipline (as you stand shoulder to shoulder and form a solid front) and to see the stability of your faith in Christ (your steadfast reliance on Him and your unwavering confidence in His power, wisdom and goodness).”

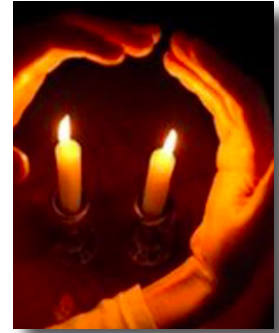
~ DEUTERONOMY 23:9 ~

“...BE ON GUARD AGAINST EVERY EVIL THING.”

Our Chinese brothers and sisters know we are living in Bible times and how their King admonishes them to carefully KEEP, GUARD and PROTECT what God has given to them for their eternal welfare and destiny. The Hebrew word for “guard” is **shamar**, שמר. It’s the same word used when God placed two guardians or angels to *guard* or *shamar* the Garden of Eden.

So from God’s Word that we place in our Chinese students’ hands, they are learning how to:

- Proverbs 4:23 Guard their hearts.
- Psalms 103:18 Guard His covenant.
- Psalms 106:3 Guard His justice.
- Psalms 119:55 Guard His law/teachings.
- Deut. 5:12 Guard His Sabbath.
- Rev. 3:11 Guard faithfully their crown...and much more.



Two candles are lit on the Sabbath day as a reminder of God’s directives to **remember** (*zachor* / Exo.20:8) and **guard** (*shamar* / Deut.5:12) His Rest. Interestingly, true Rest seems to allude humanity as DIS-EASE mounts in their desire to want to control every aspect of time, space and anything made in God’s image or nature.

What’s wonderful is by treasuring and protecting what God considers of infinite value, He guards and watches us.

- Psalms 145:20 The LORD watches (*shamar*) over all who love Him.
- Proverbs 2:8 And He watches (*shamar*) over the way of His godly ones.

When it comes to guarding our hearts against every evil thing, we’re teaching our students that we’ve entered a very special season of the year. On the biblical calendar, we’re in the 9th month of Kislev. It’s known as a month of darkness aflame with hope because it contains the longest night of the year yet is host to Hanukkah (Heb. *dedication*) also known as the Festival of Dedication or Festival of Lights. It was an annual festival that Jesus was well-acquainted with for we read in John 10:22-23, “**At that time the Feast of Dedication took place in Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple area, in the portico of Solomon.**” We ask our students why was this significant? Because here was Jesus, the **Light of the World**, piercing the darkness as the surrounding Jews wanted to stone Him because they couldn’t believe He was the Son of God. Here was Jesus, **Temple of the Living God**, observing a festival that commemorated a time about 200 years before He was born; when the Second Temple in Jerusalem was grossly desecrated by the colossal Syrian-Greek Empire, yet eventually cleansed and rededicated back to God through the military victory of a handful of Maccabean Jewish priests/warriors who all had the heart of a lion. A miracle occurred because the Maccabees guarded, treasured and restored what was holy and would not assimilate into Hellenistic culture.



Lahu Tribe Training Center students gather for prayer and fellowship.



Jesus lives in each one of them to light up China.

~ EPHESIANS 5:15-16 ~

“SO THEN, BE CAREFUL HOW YOU WALK, NOT AS UNWISE PEOPLE BUT AS WISE, MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL.”

A sister in the Lord who is making the most of her time and one whom we've assisted is Sister Gu. She became an urban church minister after completing her studies at a well-known overseas seminary but her priority has always been to preach the gospel to street vagrants and beggars.

About six months ago, she met this handicapped girl (right) begging on the sidewalk. At that time, she shared the Gospel with her and led her in prayer to accept Christ. Just recently, she met up with her again and discovered she is a Christian learning how to pray to the Lord. The blind beggar sitting next to her is a brother in Christ. He has a beautiful voice, so Sister Gu asked him to sing a hymn. He sang, *Tears of Thanksgiving*. May God raise up more servant leaders like Sister Gu.



Blind Christian beggar singing the hymn, "Tears of Thanksgiving."



Sister Gu led this hopeless and homeless elderly man to Christ.



Handicapped girl / beggar whom Sister Gu shared the gospel and led to Christ about six months ago.

As in most nations, it's incredibly difficult for the handicapped in China to be accepted or find employment. That is why we help equip and fund Pastor Tang's ministry, House of Olive, a church and home for handicapped children. We provide them Bibles, Christian study materials, medical assistance and more. Thanks for making this wonderful ministry possible!



House of Olive handicapped youth redeeming the time in a safe and secure environment.



PSALMS 18:28

For You Light My Lamp;
The LORD my God
illuminates my darkness.

As we draw from God's Holy Spirit (oil of anointing and blessing) to serve those whom He calls us to, by His grace, He gives us a long wick to be His Light and love in this dark world.

PSALMS 85:9

SURELY HIS SALVATION IS NEAR TO THOSE WHO FEAR HIM,
THAT HIS GLORY MAY DWELL IN OUR LAND.



As most of the Judeo-Christian world will soon be celebrating the birth of our Savior, Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah, like our devout Chinese brothers and sisters, let us remember to guard, protect and treasure what our risen King has bestowed upon us. May we walk in wisdom, not wasting the precious time He has so graciously lent us. With a grateful heart, let us continue to rejoice, pray and be forever thankful for the Light of the World has pierced the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:5)!



知足常樂

All Chinese know the
well-known expression,
Zhi zu chang le.

**A contented mind is a
perpetual feast.**



House of Olive believers soaking in God's
blessings and redeeming the precious time they've
been given. May we do the same.

We celebrate all that has been accomplished this year for God's Kingdom and glory in China. We, and our East Gates staff and co-workers, pray, praise and give thanks to you for your vision and mission through us as we continue to sow and reap for the great harvest to come. Together, we look forward to an even more bountiful 2022!

 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham