



# East Gates

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

INTERNATIONAL

January - April 2023

*D*ear East Gates partner,

Greetings from Seattle! We apologize for not getting to you our January-February 2023 issue. Our printers were transitioning to a new facility and we wanted to hear from more of our East Gates co-workers before sharing project developments. It's been an interesting time in the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the central government finally loosened its stringent "Zero COVID policy" due to economic and political duress. After being locked down and confined for so long, the Chinese were ready for freedom and a new "normal."

In the meantime, our Chinese brothers and sisters who are familiar with hardships, have made the most of a bad dream. Like Olive Tree Ministry's Pastor "T," they know that when we pour ourselves out to the spiritually and physically hungry and satisfy the desires of the afflicted, then our light shall rise in the darkness and our gloom or calamity shall be as the noonday (Isaiah 58:10). It's one of God's many promises that He continues to fulfill in these foreboding times.

As shared in our last newsletter, unlike most churches and ministries that have folded between 2020-2023, Pastor "T" kept his small, faithful staff and with the help of East Gates, adopted even more challenged youth produced from the national trauma of the past three years. It's not just about providing them a safe haven for now, but providing them an eternal perspective of how God's presence in their lives is their real forever home. Their Creator desires SO much to abide and become "one" in them. We show these orphans, deaf and physically challenged youth how this amazing truth is revealed in the Bible and why it's divinely beneficial for them to study and know God's Word. Through East Gates, Olive Tree Ministries provides every youth with a Bible when they cross its threshold. Some of the most comforting scriptures they first read are in John 14.

*"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places (Greek: μόνή, mone); if that were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you (v.1-2)...I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, so that He may be with you forever (v.16)...I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you (v.18)... On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I in you" (v.20).*



We teach the youngest to the oldest that only as a team can you fulfill your dream. When love is deep, much can be accomplished.



God is about unity and harmony. If God can dwell in you, He can also dwell in those whom you're learning to like! It's a growing process.



There will be times when it is just you and God and that is a good thing. He will NEVER leave you or forsake you (Deut.31:6; Heb.13:5).

Our goal is to teach the students how to discover on their own what the Word of God is saying with the guidance of a competent Bible mentor and teacher so they can learn how to depend on the Holy Spirit to guide them into all Truth. We're teaching them how to fall in love with the Word of God and God Himself.



Too often, the most humble and teachable in society are the ones that the majority view as weak and meek and yet the true definition of the word “meek” in the Bible is *prautes* (Greek) which means someone who is able to do the right thing, at the right time and with the right disposition. In other words, someone who knows how to wield true power in the right manner. This virtue only has a divine source and is non-existent in the world today. We're teaching these “set aside” youth to go directly to the One and only true intelligence of the universe and not the artificial or virtual realm to define who they are and what their destiny is. Their Creator is the authentic lover of their soul, the only One that has their eternal welfare in mind.



Pastor “T” leads a daily Bible study and prayer time for his “family.” This is God’s “Think Tank” in operation.



In the meantime, there's another realm of artificial intelligence (AI) that has quickly swept the globe. It has now become a required class in most educational curriculum, K-12. In China, science is god. These precious minds are now challenged with their true identity and what is really real.

GOD SAYS TO BE AWARE AND BEWARE...

*Psalms 135:15, 17-18*

“The idols of the nations are nothing but silver and gold, the work of human hands...They have ears, but they do not hear, nor is there any breath at all in their mouths. Those who make them will become like them, so do all who trust in them.”





## Proverbs 4:23

*"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."*

*I*n this chaotic and confusing day and age, battling the forces in dark, high places is not easy. We share with the youth that nowadays people only want the product but not the process but in "real life," not the virtual, the process is just important as the product. Yeshua or Jesus knows. As God in the flesh, He revealed how the proper process, pattern and rhythm of life, as revealed through Him and His Words will ultimately result in the eternal creation humanity was destined for. The enemy, Satan, and those whose souls have been hijacked or kidnapped by the dark side have cunningly convinced the rebellious to think otherwise. As the Bible clearly reveals, humans who build other gods for themselves, will become like them. We see this clearly happening in the USA, China and around the world today.



*I*n 1966, the classic Star Trek movie and eventual TV series made its debut. One of the major alien enemies to the human race were the Borgs. Once human themselves, the Queen Borg (left) was all about getting humans to completely assimilate and become an integral part of its "collective."

The main narrative of the Borgs when they've captured their prey was: "We are the Borg. Lower your shields and surrender your ships (vessels). We will add your biological and technology distinctiveness to our own. Your culture will adapt to serve us. Resistance is futile."



We view this as fiction but a growing sector of today's technological world led by the US and China do not.



Our East Gates co-workers sent us these wonderful Miao tribe wedding banquet photos so we could celebrate with them from afar ~ Yunnan Province

*C*ontrast this to a world that God, the Creator of all life, is continually revealing on earth with those who have chosen eternal freedom in Him! God's sole desire is to dwell in and with His children when He brings heaven down to earth. East Gates' calling has been to help this reality come true like in this Christian Miao tribe community, Yunnan.



Our beautiful Miao bride. She won't let anyone steal her crown!



*T*his year, Passover begins on April 5th and Easter on April 9th. Those who are not “sleeping” understand the eternal significance of Jesus’ supreme sacrifice to set humanity free from being assimilated into Satan’s collective. There was nothing “artificial” that hung on the Cross that infamous day when our Savior bore all our past, present and future sins to redeem us. He was fully aware of all that was at stake and in His supreme love for us, endured the unfathomable pain, suffering and torture so death could be defeated once and for all. He made Satan impotent.



*I John 1:17*

*“...and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

*R*ecently, a Chinese brother told us that there is a co-worker whose special calling is to reach the Tibetans and share with them the life-giving power behind Christ’s sacrifice. We’ll be providing him assistance. As you can see from the photo below, as in ancient times, all religious temples were built on the highest points around a village or city where they believe their gods chose to dwell. When King David cried out, “*I lift up my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from?*” He knew it wasn’t from these gods and temples that surrounded Jerusalem. He proclaimed, “*My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*” *Psalm 121:1-2*



Ga-dan Song-zan Lin Monastery, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan province sits high on the hills overlooking the entire area and wields great influence over all those who ascend and worship there. Please pray for them.



*I*n 2023 East Gates will continue to do what the Lord has called us to do best. Provide Bibles. Disciple, equip and support believers with great needs and subsidize the building of churches. Thank you for your prayers and for making it all possible with your gifts, tithes and offerings.

*Ned and Christina Graham*

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