



# East Gates

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

INTERNATIONAL

May - June 2015

*D*ear faithful East Gates partner,

We hope your summer has been going well and been spiritually productive. It's hard to believe that half of 2015 is over. Time keeps moving along. From a biblical timeframe, we can say for certain that we are one day closer to the soon-coming return of Jesus Christ! Are we living life with this great anticipation and expectation? Our Chinese brothers and sisters are!

Oftentimes, we're asked the question, "How many Chinese Christians are there in China now?" Our immediate response is, "How many Christians are there in the United States?" The person inquiring usually pauses for a few seconds and says, "Hmm. That's a good question." Obviously, the number of Christians in the U.S. can't be based on church attendance alone because if that were the case, the numbers would be inflated based on individuals who only go to services on Christmas and Easter. They're called "Christers." Also, many Western believers today opt out of congregational worship and choose to just "do church" through the internet or whenever they feel like it. Thankfully, this practice is not commonplace in China yet. In fact, they cherish the religious freedom they now have and value the time they can spend together during the week or weekend in prayer, worship, fellowship, and Bible study.



Wherever and whenever we visit our Chinese brothers and sisters, inevitably there is some prayer meeting or gathering occurring.



ON PENTECOST, THE  
FIRE OF THE LORD,  
CAME DOWN ON A  
COMMUNITY  
OF BELIEVERS.

~ ACTS 2 ~

We share with our brothers and sisters that in a time of relative peace we must prepare. Geopolitical situations in the 21st century can change overnight, especially in China. God can speak to us in many different ways; through His Spirit, through His divinely inspired Word or both ~ Shandong Province.



Whenever two or more are gathered in harmony, heaven opens a way.



*R*ecently, we were in Yunnan Province, located in the south-central part of China. It's where most of China's minority tribes live. Over the decades, God has used us to plant many fertile "seeds" in this area. What's wonderful is that every time we return, we find greater spiritual growth. It's totally contrary to what the Apostle Paul experienced with the Galatians. He quickly returned after one missionary trip and discovered the locals had totally abandoned God's life-giving message for another futile belief system (Gal.1:7). Not so in Yunnan.



These Yi tribe members are in their 70s. They don't find it a chore to walk miles to church. They told us they consider it a blessing.



As we walk alongside them, there is no greater joy than bringing them your warmest greetings and gifts as they shower us with theirs -- God's love and hospitality.



Through your generosity, East Gates has been able to help the Yunnan tribes build the churches they've desperately needed. As always, it's a congregational affair, where each person takes part.



*H*uman resources are never lacking but oftentimes, finances are. In the rural areas where locals may only make US\$400/year, our timely contributions are like water from heaven. They are truly grateful.





Many Christians from the minority tribe regions live in squalor-like conditions where illiteracy, disease and lack of work are common.



The government has invested in well-staffed and constructed schools but too often, additional space for students is limited.



This is where churches can provide a safe haven for local Christians to gather as well as provide for community needs. We assist with church building and renovation projects for this very reason (above, left). In addition, we provide Bibles, pray with them and teach parents how to spend more quality time in God's Word with their youth. They take our counsel seriously.



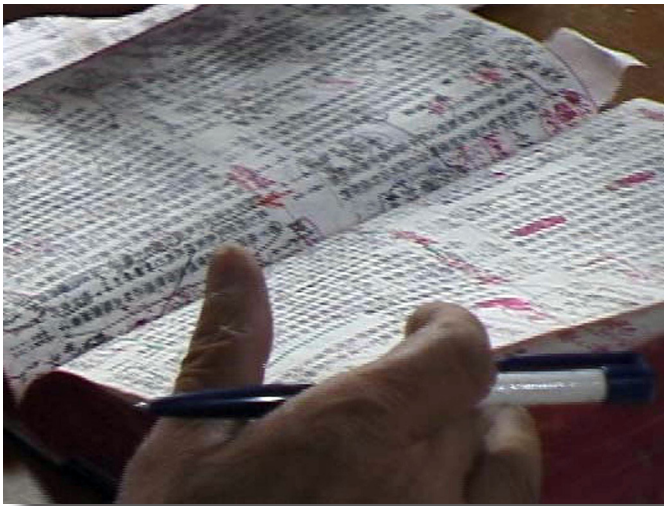
**“...continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

***II Timothy 3:14-17***



While in Yunnan, this 91-year old believer shared with us how Western missionaries in the 1930s and 40s made great sacrifices to share God's Truth with them. Many of the missionaries' children died prematurely from the harsh conditions and disease. Today, you can see their tombstones in places like Gebu, China.

Like a diamond that forms after a billion years of extremely high temperatures and pressure, its brilliance is best seen against the backdrop of black velvet. The same can be said of true Christians. They shine the brightest in the midst of great darkness.



80 years ago, Bibles were scarce in China. Missionaries who could not stay, but had to pass through, would sometimes find a page of their Bible missing, as a House church believer would rip one out for everyone to copy and study. Imagine if that page were Ephesians Chapters 4-6 and each believer fully obeyed Ephesians 4:29 through the power of the Holy Spirit. *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."* The transformation would be incredible and that is just ONE scripture.

As we move through China, we share with believers that in less than a century, 100 million Bibles have been printed in their country. The nation has incurred dramatic geopolitical and socio-economic changes. The average Chinese Christian has far more disposable income than in any time past, but will God find faith in China when He returns? Yes. He will. But before then, their faith will be tested. Therefore, in a time of relative peace, we must prepare, for *"God's foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn from wickedness.'"* (II Timothy 2:19).

Please continue to pray for East Gates as we minister to the Chinese in the fullness of God's Spirit and power and thank you for your invaluable contributions which make it all possible.

Ned and Christina Graham

Please note that our main office number has changed to 425-255-8888. Also, if you are moving to a temporary address or are having mail forwarded, please inform us ahead of time. Thank you so much!