



# East Gates

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

INTERNATIONAL

March - April 2016

*D*ear faithful East Gates partner,

Spring is here! We're certainly rejoicing, as it has been a long, wet winter here in Seattle. When days get a bit dreary, we always like to think, "When God *reigns*, it pours!" The heavens open so the earth can receive all its blessings and in return, it gives back in abundance. Trees are budding. Flowers blossoming. What we see all around us is a constant reminder of what God does for us. He blesses us from on High and we bloom. This is called *relationship*!

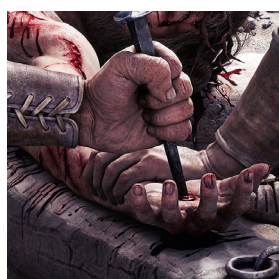


At a time in the beginning, when God was establishing the heavens and the earth, we read how after each day He created, He said, "**it was good**" (Hebrew, *ki tov*). In Hebrew, something is considered "good" or *tov*, if it fulfills the purpose for which it was created. Hebrew scholars say that when God was creating life on earth, the only day the expression "it was good" was **not** expressed was on the second day. Reason being, rain (created on the second day) had no value or purpose unless there was dry land to fall upon, to yield fruit and vegetation (created on the third day). Once the heavens and the earth could regenerate one another through God's life-giving power, there was relationship. "**It was good.**"

We share with our Chinese brothers and sisters that in this season of rebirth and resurrection power, it's important to remember that when God created man and woman after all of Creation had been set into motion, He didn't just say, "It was good." God said, "**It was EXCEEDINGLY GOOD or MEOD TOV!**" (Genesis 1:31) Why? Because now everything was present and accounted for to serve God's divine order and eternal purposes. Everything. Most of all God. And in case we freely chose another path leading to dis-order, dis-ease and death (which we did), God had already fully invested or covenanted Himself to restoring us back to life through His Son, Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah (Revelation 13:8b).



Man's disorder and dis-ease,  
only leads to death.



Yeshua, eternal life in the  
flesh, conquers spiritual  
darkness and death.



Resurrection power.  
Divine order restored.

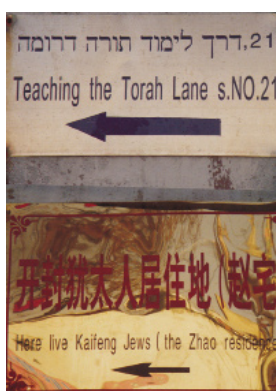
“IT IS GOOD! IT IS TOV!”

When we ask Chinese believers if they are fulfilling God’s purpose in their lives, some say immediately, “Yes!” Others ask, “What does that mean? I don’t know.” We share with them, “It doesn’t mean you have to be a preacher, missionary, youth pastor, evangelist or full-time church worker. No. Through the power of God’s Holy Spirit, if you are a daily conduit and temple of God’s love, His grace, peace, sincerity, forgiveness and compassion in this world, then you’re fulfilling and becoming all He wants you to be. In fact, you may hear Him speak into your soul at times, ‘This is supremely good!’ like He did at Creation.”

At East Gates, we look at God’s BIG picture. We’ve been prayerfully encouraging and supporting Chinese Jews who have a heart for Israel. Esther Guo, a Kaifeng Chinese Jew we met in Kaifeng, China, is dedicating her life to building stronger and more meaningful relationships between China and Israel. We also support a Chinese couple who have learned Arabic and have a strong calling to share God’s truth and love with the growing Muslim population. In God’s time, all nations will flow to Jerusalem.



Esther’s humble home stands out among others as she proudly displays the Star of David.



Esther and her husband live on *Teaching the Torah Lane*.



Christina and Esther flank a drawing of the Soong Dynasty synagogue (1163 A.D.) which at present is buried underneath a hospital around the corner from her home. Esther established a small one-room museum to educate visitors about China’s Kaifeng Jewish history and the synagogue which she is working towards getting excavated. Her biblical name, Esther, is appropriate. God has given her a great vision for a time such as this. On the right, Esther stands in temple regalia before a display of the ancient synagogue.



A few years ago, I met another “Esther” at a Christian Women’s Tea in Shanghai. It was a divine appointment. Inspired by my love for Israel, Esther visited the Holy Land for the first time in 2014 and is now immersed in theological studies at a U.S. seminary with hopes of serving in Israel someday.

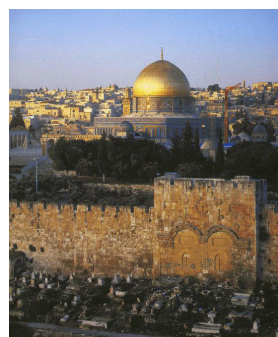


Esther and Christina

The *Chinese Christian Business Association* prayed at the Great Wall for a powerful revival in Israel and China. Both countries are sharing more of their spiritual, cultural and technological wealth (right).



“And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of Jacob (Israel), that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Micah 4:1-2).



Jerusalem and the Eastern Gates

It is important to remember that God blessed Ishmael (father of the Arabic nations) as well. Unlike today, there was peace between Isaac and Ishmael at Abraham’s death (Genesis 25:9).



Chinese Muslims

“As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation” (Genesis 17:20).

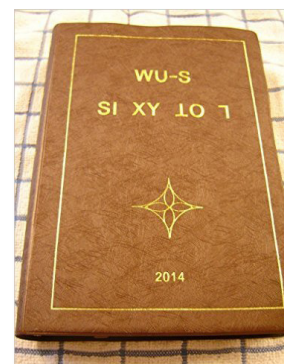


*“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb” (Revelation 7:9-10).*

## LISU BIBLE TRANSTATION

In light of the future fulfillment of Revelation 7:9-10, God is doing an amazing work today through Bible translators throughout the world and those who support them. Recently, a group of scholars approached East Gates to help fund a Bible translation in a specific Lisu tribe dialect. Translation work is underway.

The Lisu people are of Tibeto-Burman origin. They form one of the 53 recognized ethnic groups in China. 730,000 Lisu live in Yunnan and Sichuan province. According to the United Bible Society, the gospel first reached the East Lisu people in 1903. For 100 years, they never had a Bible in their language. Today they do, thanks to a small, dedicated group of Lisu translators. At present, there are around 50,000 East Lisu Christians. Given the diverse dialects of the large Lisu tribe, the CCC/TSPM has invited the United Bible Society to assist with more translations.



The Lisu Bible and a page from within.

To translate God's Word in a completely new language is an art and a calling. Imagine trying to translate the biblical concept of sin (I John 3:16) when you only knew the term for “guilt” or “shame.” Quality translations take years to complete. The best “Bible” is God's love expressed through personal, covenantal relationships but also through the wonders of God's Word. Therefore, please pray for God to raise more faithful, committed and gifted translators.



More Chinese ethnicities have Bibles translations in their “tongue” now!





**"WE WERE NEVER MEANT TO DIE."**

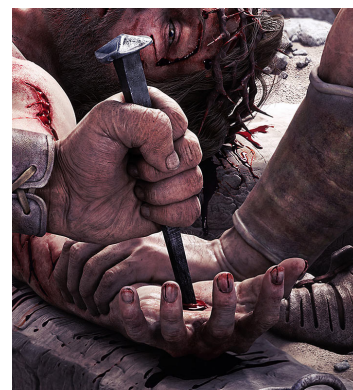
Living in this Age of Man, oftentimes it's difficult to grasp God's sacrificial love and heart for us. At some communion services nowadays, Christ's "flesh and blood" are represented by a pre-packaged cracker and sip of grape juice.

With the coming and going of another Easter celebration, it's important to remember that in the beginning, when

God created the heavens and the earth, we were never meant to die. Due to our lack of vision and disobedience, death became inevitable; but supreme heartfelt thanks to God as He performed the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf, to redeem us from eternal bondage and separation from Him!

Our faithful Chinese brothers and sisters continue to study the Bible, knowing that out of its pages are the words of LIFE. We help them to understand in greater depth God's purpose for Israel and the nations in a world that continues to reel in turmoil.

As Passover approaches, we share how the Exodus is such a pivotal and epic biblical account because it was literally the birthing of a nation through which God's Word would be made known. For the Israelites, the miraculous parting and opening of the Red Sea was literally like being pushed through a narrow birth canal. In Hebrew, the words are rich in literal and symbolic meaning. God was taking the Israelites from Egypt, (*Mitzrayim*, a place of immense constriction and bondage) to a wide open space and freedom. Freedom to worship Him!



"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you" (Isa.43:2a).



Powerful worship exists in China today because they know what true freedom tastes like. East Gates supports missionary teams as they share the gospel and pray God's Name and blessings over China.

**"WHEN GOD REIGNS, IT POURS!"**



Blessing be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. (Ephesians 1:3-4).

*Ned and Christina Graham*

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