



East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

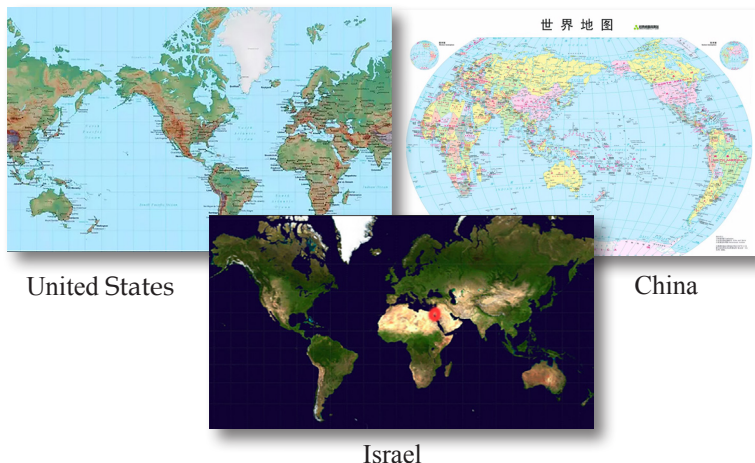
Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

May - June 2019

*D*ear East Gates partner,

As time marches on in this frenetic era in which we live, it's easy to lose perspective on what God is preparing here on earth. One of the first questions we ask our Chinese brothers and sisters during our training sessions is, "Are you ready to get married?" At first they look at us quizzically. We then share how God has a divine plan for all of humanity which He originally revealed to the Jews to share and bless the rest of the nations. Because of the Jews' faithfulness in preserving and passing down God's Word through the millennia and the power of the Holy Spirit, we can in loving obedience, follow His directives and prepare to be His precious bride when He returns.

A Chinese student asked, "How will we know when our Savior returns?" We said, "According to Matthew 24:36-44, we won't know the day or the hour but we will know the season because everything Jesus has fulfilled and will fulfill is revealed on His biblical calendar. You all have reminders for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and key appointments marked on your calendars, right? If you were to get married, we'd imagine you would want your whole wedding party to know the timeframe of your dress rehearsals and wedding. Well God has a day timer too but it's not based on the world's Julian calendar but His calendar, as divinely revealed in Leviticus 23. All of God's Feasts (Hebrew = *moedim* = appointments) are merely dress rehearsals for us to live out, to build greater faith in what He has, is and will accomplish when He brings heaven down to earth. He has given us everything we need to be ready. The big question is will we?"



Each country views the world from its own perspective and has its own time zones and then there is God's...



God's calendar keeps us in relationship with Him and His Creation; two things we're quickly losing in today's incredibly distractive and chaotic age.

Lets be honest, to disciple believers and potential believers in this present religious, geopolitical and socioeconomic climate is not easy. A well-known, late Chinese pastor in China told us 30 years ago, if you want to share the gospel in China, you better do it quickly because in a number of decades, the people will have unteachable hearts. One hears how the church in China is growing in leaps and bounds but given the present culture, there are many who continually backslide or leave as well. Like the rest of the world, Chinese are looking for a spirituality that works to deal with their woes and fears but as most Christian pastors will admit, there are more that “conform” versus truly transform.



In a day and age of ME, ME, ME, it's easier to create a god in your own image versus allowing God to create you in His image (Genesis 1:26).



Most Chinese we interview in China or those who have just come to the U.S. still feel that whatever in the West is the best. On one trip to China, we saw how they're masters at copying our branding and mode of consumerism, not realizing this way of life has short shelf-life.



According to the National Geographic, 18 billion pounds of plastic enter our oceans each year. God's living waters have now become a refuse dump.



On the average, cities like Seattle produce about 750 tons of trash per day creating mountains of waste. No longer can they export a good percentage of their recyclables to China.



China contends with the same problem. One apartment complex alone produces what you see above in a few days. Photo was taken from our hotel room.

Our Chinese students are seeing the Bible come to fruition in more ways than one as they connect the dots and see how God's Word reveals itself to be true in every sector of life. One Chinese disciple said, Matthew 16:26 seems to be so applicable today, “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Others see Romans 8:22 occurring all around them. “We know that the whole Creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now...” As God's ambassadors on earth, they want to contribute to His divine order, not man's disorder. We're teaching them how.



Diligent Bible students in Jiangsu Province.

As we prepare more Chinese believers for God's future wedding supper, we remind them that June 9th was Pentecost or *Shavuot* (Feast of Weeks) on God's calendar. It has amazing significance because it commemorates when God basically presented His wedding covenant, summarized as the 10 commandments, to the Jews and mixed multitude at Mt. Sinai. We read in Exodus 24:3 that Moses told all the people what the Lord had said and all the people answered with one voice, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." The "we will do" was short-lived, however, and very quickly they broke their marriage covenant with God. As a result 3000 men died (Exo.32:28). Despite the fickleness of human nature, God continued His plan to redeem humanity and 1200 years later, once again on Pentecost but this time in Jerusalem, 3000 souls were baptized (Acts 2:41). Jeremiah 31:31-33 was fulfilled. God keeps all His promises and is present at all His dress rehearsals leading up to His soon coming glorious wedding banquet!

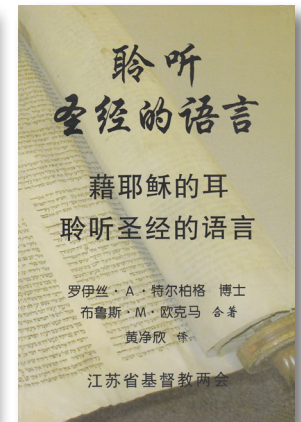
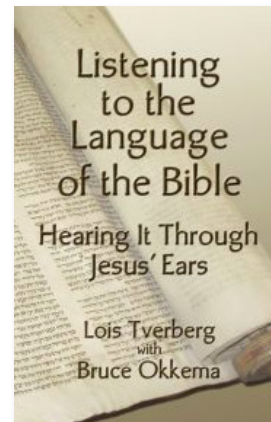
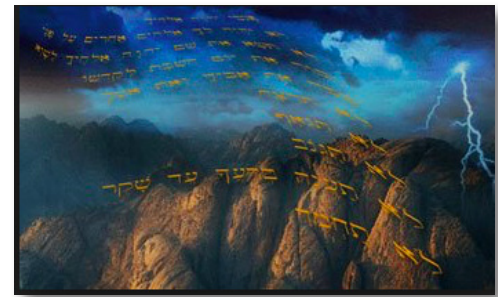
To help our Chinese students understand the way Jesus taught in His own culture and environment, we've translated into Chinese, two books by Professor Lois Tverberg -- *Listening to the Language of the Bible* and *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus*. She is a well-known scholar on the Hebraic roots of Bible scripture. The purpose of her books is to help readers experience the richness that can be gained by studying the Hebrew language and to imagine what it would be like to sit at the feet of Rabbi Jesus as one of His Jewish disciples. How would their understanding of the gospel have been shaped by the customs, beliefs, and traditions of the culture in which they lived? How did it impact Jesus and vice-versa? How will these deeper insights affect one's relationship with Him today?



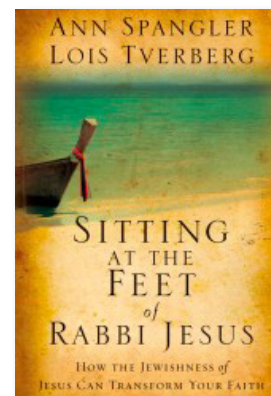
East Gates would like to increase its ability to equip our training centers with valuable resources such as the ones just mentioned. If you're moved to assist in this area, please consider sending a gift towards translation and printing costs. Thanks!



Artists rendition of the Mt. Sinai experience.



Listening to the Language of the Bible is a guide for discovering the richness of the Scriptures in their Hebraic setting. The book contains more than 60 brief, illustrated devotional articles that unpack the deeper meaning of biblical words and phrases for life today.



In *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus*, Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg paint powerful scenes from Jesus' ministry, immersing the reader in the prayers, feasts, culture, and customs that impacted all those who believed in His eternal message.

1000 LAHU BIBLES TO THE LAHU TRIBE IN YUNNAN PROVINCE

Recently, East Gates had the privilege of providing 1000 free Bibles (translated in the Lahu language) to the Lahu tribe in Yunnan, Province. With God's Spirit, they will now view His Creation, themselves and one another differently. They will learn how to bless their families, land and produce in ways they've never known before. Pastor Duan San-mei, who heads up the local church is an anointed leader. She said she will supply the nearby Zhai-zi church with these Lahu Bibles as well. May we keep Pastor Duan and all the Xin-zhai Er-zu church members in our prayers!



Pastor Duan San-mei stands behind the table handing out the free, Lahu translated version of the Bible to all her congregants.



Xin-zhai Er-zu church dedication ceremonies.

Thank you for partnering with East Gates in preparing the Body of Christ in China for God's wedding banquet. What a true celebration that will be! Let us be prepared and ready!



 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham