



East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

May - June 2020

Dear East Gates partner,

We hope all of you are doing well and staying healthy and safe. We also hope you gained insights from our last Passover/Resurrection celebration issue. With the COVID-19 plague still present, our Messiah's Life-giving blood that was shed sacrificially for our unintentional and intentional sins has had far greater meaning for believers worldwide. Now that we've been fully purified and cleansed by our Savior's blood, what next? Shavuot ("Feast of Weeks") and Pentecost!

We share with our Chinese brothers and sisters that when Jesus was on earth, He and His disciples would follow God's admonition in Leviticus 23:15-16 and start counting the omer (sheaf of grain) after Passover for 49 days until Shavuot. Like their ancestors, they would reflect on the miracles of Passover as they prayerfully moved towards Shavuot, a day commemorating when God Almighty gave Israel and the mixed multitude His Torah (instructions, will and wisdom) at Mt. Sinai so they could permanently leave the shackles of slavery and live out their true identity and purpose. This way, other nations would say, **"For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him?"** (Deut.4:7).

By tradition, Jesus and His disciples would also recite Psalms 67 each day while counting the omer because prophetically it pictured a time when God would save all nations of the earth. Can you imagine what Jesus or Yeshua (Heb. for "God saves") must have felt like while reading it?

"GOD BE GRACIOUS TO US AND BLESS US AND CAUSE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON US SO THAT YOUR WAY MAY BE KNOWN ON EARTH, AND YOUR SALVATION AMONG ALL NATIONS. LET THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU, O GOD..." ~ PSALMS 67:1-3A

Yeshua is "the Way"! He is "our Salvation"! Millions of Chinese believers know that they're part of the reality of what Psalms 67 states now! Because Yeshua was slain before the foundations of the world for their sins, as depicted on the Cross, they've been saved from eternal death. As "cleansed" vessels, God can now pour out His Holy Spirit upon them so they can now have His LIFE-giving power within them to live out their redemption and become a part of His pure and spotless Bride.



Shavuot commemorates God's marriage to Israel at Mt. Sinai and the exchange of wedding vows through the Ten Commandments.



Pentecost (Grk. for "50") celebrates the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on Jews and all nations so His Life-giving power within can enable us to walk in God's image and fulfill the purpose of our unfathomable redemption.



Psalm 67 is also known as the "Menorah Psalm" because it has seven verses, one for each candlestick. It's also known as the "Counting of the Omer Psalm" because it has exactly 50 Hebrew words linking the miracle of Passover with Shavuot/Pentecost. This 18th century artwork illuminates it beautifully.

*P*salms 67 asks God to bless Israel so that God's eternal and Life-giving way (i.e. divine order, code of ethics, instruction book) can be manifested through them as a testimony, blessing and inheritance to *all* nations AND that their Messiah, "God's Salvation," will be known throughout the world. What's truly remarkable is this has and is happening. Today, in every nation, God's ways and salvation are being taught. This has happened because the Bible has gone out from Jerusalem into all the nations.



*A*s the COVID-19 virus flares in North-east China and a second wave attacks Wuhan, we continue to supply our co-workers with Bibles as they use every health and safety precaution out on the streets in sharing God's message of hope in the midst of hopelessness. Please keep our East Gates co-workers in your prayers!



One of our co-workers below (blue jacket) has been busy ministering out on the streets. He's not only gifting locals with his joyful spirit but with Bibles and devotionals we supply him with. We pray for divine appointments.



This homeless man above will be reading and discovering he's not alone. Most of humanity is wandering, in exile and "homeless." Our co-workers will help him realize we all have a forever home our Creator has prepared for us. The same can be said for the vegetable vendor below. There is a great harvest coming!



CHINA...

“CEASE STRIVING AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD; I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS,
I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH.” Psalm 46:10

~ An excerpt from a Chinese medical student who shared with us his present struggles and spiritual thoughts.

We're receiving different kinds of earth-shattering messages every day. During this time period, we're also continually seeking truth. We want to know what really happened with the epidemic, source of the virus, logistics, treatment program, drugs research...but information comes slowly so it is hard to calm ourselves down. So we look for things to be busy with. So maybe in reality we really don't want to calm down. We've had such an extremely busy life before the epidemic with no way to slow down but this epidemic has forced us to slow down. In Psalms it says, "Be still, and know that I'm God." I think if we made God a priority, it would make us feel scared and unsettled. Not everyone is able to accept and bear the truth. My heart is so disturbed after being surrounded by such negative news all the time. I feel fretful and how life is unfair. Yet, I feel better when I read scriptures like in the Gospel of Luke, "For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open." "Martha, Martha! You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Also, the words of Jesus come to mind, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Thank you Lord. The oppression and depression inside my heart is released because of these scriptures. I remember what I put on WeChat one day, "A fairy tale is a fairy tale. Hans Christian Andersen wrote about how the little child was the only one who cried out, "The Emperor isn't wearing any clothes" but he didn't tell us the outcome of this child. I'm thinking, we really need the truth but it has to come from the Truth because the Truth will set you free. The Book of Isaiah says, "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength." We, as Christians at this moment, have to quiet ourselves before the Lord so we can regain strength. At last, learning more about medicine will not save China, but belief in God will save China.

~ 独白 2020.3.4, *Soliloquy*

THERE IS AN AWARENESS AND PURIFICATION PROCESS GOING THROUGH THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF CHINESE AND MANY AROUND THE WORLD AND THAT IS A GOOD THING.

感谢主。有时候我真没法来理解我们的上帝。他的恩典实在高深莫测。好多次想放弃。特别是今年，实在是太难。我知道过去我骄傲，得罪神，我总想靠着自己的能力来服侍主。但是真的是不可能。这样一个疫情就让我们计划全都失败。但是我坚信这个班是神给我的。这群孩子是上帝交给我的任务。我的尽头就是上帝的开始。谢谢您。任何时候神总是好的。

Thank you Lord. Sometimes, there's no way for me to understand our Lord since His grace is a profound mystery. I've really wanted to give up many times, especially this year, it's really been too difficult. I know in the past I've been proud and have sinned against God. I always wanted to serve the Lord through my own abilities, but it's really impossible. This epidemic has caused all of our plans to fail. But, I firmly believe this class (he's a teacher) is given by God and this group of children is the task entrusted to me by God. My end is God's beginning. Thank you. God is always good anytime. ~ Brother Su Wen-xing

求天父赦免我們人類的無知，高傲目空一切，求天父讓我們能真心相信，順服神的帶領，憑着信心倚靠神，將我們完全交託于祢，求祢憐憫醫治我們，讓我們在疫情之中，明白神祢教導我們的功課，在這黑暗時間，搶奪更多失喪的靈魂歸向祢，奉主耶穌基督得勝的名字祈求，阿們。

May our Heavenly Father forgive the ignorance of human beings and our pride and arrogance in everything! May our Heavenly Father allow us to truly believe! May we submit to the leading of God, rely on Him through our faith and entrust ourselves to You completely! Have mercy on us and heal us! Allow us to understand the lesson you're teaching us during this epidemic. In this dark time, may more lost souls return to You. We pray in the victorious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. ~ Sister (chose to stay anonymous)

TRUE REVIVAL CAN ONLY HAPPEN WHEN THERE IS UNITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY!

As Shavuot and Pentecost (May 31) approaches, there is hope around the Judeo-Christian world for a great manifestation of God's power like at Mt. Sinai and on Pentecost in the Upper Room (Acts 1:13-14, Acts 2). Whenever God's presence and *shekinah* (Heb. "cause to dwell") glory fell, it was when the people were in true unity. That is the only kind of atmosphere and environment in which God will fully manifest Himself.

In the Old Testament, God pulled Israel out of Egypt so He could create a unified community or congregation (Heb. *edah*) out of Israel. *Edah* is a group of people with a common destiny, direction and common purpose. In Exodus 15:27, we find the congregation of Israel encamped at Elim. The Hebrew word for "encamped" (*chanah*) is in the plural, meaning they were not unified. After Moses takes Jethro's suggestion that he needs help in teaching and organizing the tribes, we see peace in the camp (Exo.18:23). In Exodus 19:2-3, the Israelites are now encamped at the base of Mt. Sinai. Interestingly, the Hebrew word for "encamped," (*chanah*) is in the singular form now, inferring the Israelites are of one mind and unified. God can now come down in His *shekinah* glory and power to make His marriage covenant with them. From this epic historical event, Jewish priests and sages believe that if they want God to visit in power and revelation, their families, communities and nation must be in unity. The greatest blessing is to have the presence of the Lord. There must be unity in community!



"FOR NO ONE CAN SAY YESHUA IS LORD EXCEPT IN THE HOLY SPIRIT."

I CORINTHIANS 12:3

PRAYER

Dear Father ~

Your Son prayed, "I have given to them the glory and honor which You have given Me, that they may be one as We are one: I in them and You in Me, in order that they may become one and perfectly united, that the world may know and recognize that You sent Me, and that You have loved them as You have loved Me" (John 17:22-23). We pray that as Your Body, Jew and Gentile, we may truly humble ourselves and allow the Blood of our Savior and the Holy Spirit to purify and unify us so Your Son's prayer may be answered in these days. In His precious Name. Amen.

 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham



All are healthy and safe in this remote village where our pastoral co-worker lives out Acts 2 with the locals. The Chinese characters in red read: "We went to visit the De-ji family in Bang-na village." (Faces are purposely blurred).