



East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

May - June 2021

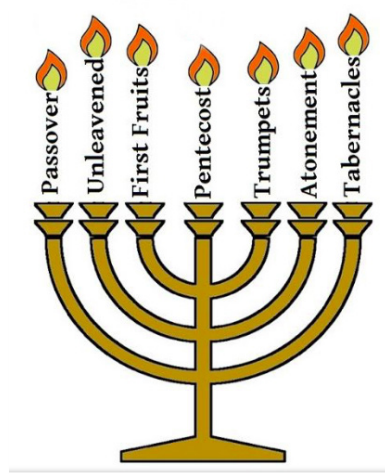
Dear East Gates partner,

As we enter the second half of 2021, there is much to reflect upon given all the disturbing events that continue to surface around the world. Although it becomes difficult to turn on the news nowadays, the Lord admonishes us in Matthew 26:41 to, “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” We admonish our Chinese sisters and brothers that the essence here in the Greek is that we must be actively watching and praying. But merely watching and praying has no contextual reference or relevance unless grounded on what Jesus accomplished at His first coming (as revealed in the Spring Festivals: Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Firstfruits and Weeks) and what He will be fulfilling at His return (as revealed in the Fall Festivals: Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles).

Most of our students know that because of God’s unfathomable Passover sacrifice through His Son, Jesus Christ, we are now cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. Through genuine repentance and what happened on Pentecost (Acts 2) they now realize that same *dunamis* power that Yeshua promised in John 14:26 is present in them!



God’s *dunamis* power has been working in the hearts and minds of our Chinese disciples as they treasure what God is doing in these days from Genesis to Revelation. They’re seeing how everything in the Old Testament ties in with the New and how Yeshua is the fulfillment of everything the Father promised!



Chinese believers are learning how in God’s realm, the spiritual is intimately tied with the physical and everything has symmetry. The Temple menorah within the Inner Court was the Temple’s only light source and had to be kept lit continually. The Spring Festivals add “light” to the meaning of Christ’s first coming and the Fall Festivals add “light” to His epic return. Pentecost reveals how only through God’s Spirit living in us, can we, as His Bride, be made ready.

This was only made possible because the Father had resurrected His Son and seated Him at His right hand as prophesied symbolically back in Leviticus 23:9-12 when right after the first Sabbath after Passover, the priest would take the “firstfruit” of the people’s Spring barley harvest or wave sheaf offering (representing Yeshua’s resurrection) and wave it to the north, south, west and east and from earth to heaven. (The Apostle Paul mentions Yeshua as the resurrected firstfruit in I Cor.15:20-23). Fifty days later, on Shavuot or Pentecost, the firstfruits of the Spring wheat harvest were to be baked into two loaves of bread (representing Jew & Gentile) for the priest to wave before the Lord picturing the resurrection of those who will become one new humanity with Yeshua (Eph.2:15)!



CAN YOU IMAGINE...YESHUA, OUR SAVIOR, COULDN'T WAIT TO DWELL WITHIN US!

~ I CORINTHIANS 11:26-29 ~

“...FOR A PERSON MUST EXAMINE HIMSELF, AND IN SO DOING HE IS TO EAT OF THE BREAD AND DRINK OF THE CUP. FOR THE ONE WHO EATS AND DRINKS, EATS AND DRINKS JUDGEMENT TO HIMSELF IF HE DOES NOT PROPERLY RECOGNIZE THE BODY OF THE LORD.”



Pastor “M” preaches about the deep meaning behind communion (whole-hearted union) within the Body of Christ.

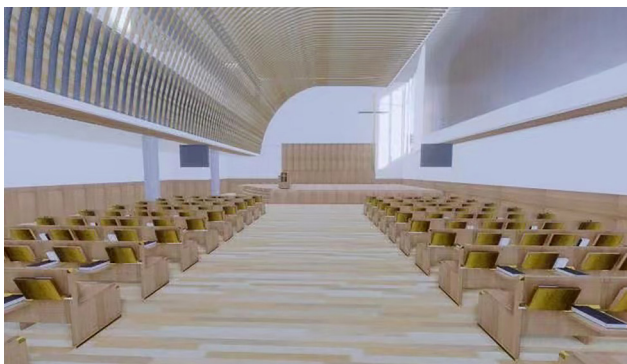
*The main reason why Joshua and Caleb had a different spirit and were the only two adults that were allowed to enter the Promised Land out of the thousands that were 20 years and older was because they were not just sustained by the manna and water in the wilderness but because they **truly** ate from the **Living Bread** and drank from the **Living Waters** - God Himself. We must do the same.*



After services, Pastor “A” prays and blesses the congregants who desire to be one in Spirit with God, their family and sisters and brothers in Christ.

Recently in Shanghai, House church leaders, “M” and “A,” whom we’ve equipped and helped support for over 20 years conducted services in a small home. Pastor “M” felt moved to preach about true unity and harmony within the Body of Christ. As in the U.S., the COVID pandemic has caused division within families and churches as to how this “plague” should be handled and treated. For example, within one family or congregation, some members believe the government is using COVID to control the masses politically and socio-economically and feel ongoing COVID regulations are too stringent. Other members believe everyone still needs to wear masks and be inoculated. Given this challenging season, Pastor “M” admonished the church members about what it truly means to take of the “Bread and the Wine.” It is **not** a casual religious tradition or practice which unfortunately has come to be, as believers oftentimes partake of the communion elements yet still haven’t reconciled with their family or fellow church “brothers” and “sisters” (I Cor.11).

In Sichuan province and a more urban setting, a 43,000 sq.ft. church will dot the landscape soon. We know the architect. He shared with us the architectural renderings. Given all the governmental building code requirements, it took two years for the plans and construction to be approved. We pray for unity and harmony within this new congregation and that it be a great “light” in the city so all those who flow through its doors will have an Acts 2, Pentecost experience.



~ HEBREWS 10:25 ~

“NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS; BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER, AND SO MUCH THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY APPROACHING.”

As church attendance has significantly dropped in the Western world even after COVID restrictions have lifted, it has not been the case in China. Here in Yunnan province, home to many ethnic minority tribes, we’ve been helping the Lahu community complete their new sanctuary. In 1994, the whole village made up of 62 families (232 people) came to the Lord. A church was built in 2004 but now it is no longer safe to occupy so they’ve decided to build a new one. They sent out a prayer letter requesting assistance. Local brethren have contributed as much as they can towards the total cost of \$US38,000 to cover building materials and construction fees.



Like most Christian ethnic minority tribes, they are very close knit and take great pride in their heritage. Now that they are “one in Christ,” it would be inconceivable for them not to meet, praise and worship together. They take coming before the Lord seriously and always honor Him by bringing an offering and dressing in their best tribal attire.



East Gates helped the Lahu community purchase all the roofing tiles so the church could be completed by the end of May when the rainy season began.

Each Lahu tribe member takes part with investing and building the church. In Exodus 35:30-35; 36:1-6 we read, “Every skilled person whose heart moved him” eagerly worked on the tabernacle of the Lord. Every aspect was designed to illustrate God’s relationship with His people.



~ ISAIAH 61:1 ~

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME; BECAUSE THE LORD ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE HUMBLE; HE HAS SENT ME TO BIND THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES AND FREEDOM TO PRISONERS.

*I*t's one thing to have the Spirit of the Lord hover over or be upon you. It's another thing to have God's Spirit living and thriving within you. When the latter occurs and the Spirit is not quenched, God's passion becomes yours.

Here in Tibet, our co-workers continue to serve with the Tibet Sunshine Children's Care Center in loving the leper, orphans, locals who are mostly poverty stricken and the elderly (60 yrs. +) whose population in China will grow from 17.4% to 30% by 2040. We subsidize tuition for the youth and diplomatically work with local officials with the goal of creating a Godly harmonious society.

Please pray that more funds and co-workers can assist in supporting this vital ministry.



In days gone by, East Gates staff and co-workers truly needed to pray for safe travel in order to reach some of the remote village areas to distribute Bibles or equip and serve local believers. We still have photos (above) reminiscent of when mission trips were pretty harrowing. Today, modes of transportation and roads have greatly improved but our target destination may still take a day or more to reach.



Our co-workers unload bundles of food and supplies for the Leprosy Rehabilitation Center.



Unfortunately, pain management is what most Chinese elderly must live with on a daily basis. A co-worker applies a small infrared heat unit on a resident's knee to help with her mobility.



The red banner states: *The Tibet Sunshine Children's Care Center expresses sympathy to the Jiang-qu Leprosy Rehabilitation Center in Qu-shui County.*



Outside of the much welcomed prayers and fellowship, we bring medical skills and new technology to address some of the children's and elderly's many needs.

MAY YOU BE BLESSED TO OVERFLOWING FOR YOUR CONTINUAL VISION AND HEART FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHINA.

Christina

Ned and Christina Graham