



East Gates

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

INTERNATIONAL

November - December 2023

*D*ear East Gates partner,

As we conclude this year together, we discover our lives can change overnight. Although we are 2000 years removed from the time when Yeshua (Jesus) walked this earth, his half-brother, James, was inspired to write, "...you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. For you are just a vapor that appears for a little while, and then vanishes away (James 4:14).

Given all that has occurred over the past few years with the Covid pandemic, natural disasters, mounting corruption and evils around the world, our Chinese brothers and sisters are very cognizant of their mortality but thanks to their Lord and Savior, Yeshua HaMashiach (the Messiah), they're *even more* aware of their immortality and eternal future with Him when He brings heaven down to earth.

Chinese believers know the Age of Man is coming to an end. They know their great calling as always, is to share and live out God's Truth to not only the next generation but with as many Chinese as they can. They've shared how there is increasing spiritual darkness working "out in the field." One of Satan's tactics is if he can't speed you up, he will slow you down. People are drained. Tired. Chinese pastors and missionaries have shared with us that in this crazy day and age, people want a Savior but not another Lord (master). They just want the product but not the process. Regardless, they work tirelessly to share the gospel. We receive many prayer requests like the one below.



In November, our staff and Chinese believers had prayer time at this small House church. These believers have gathered here for the past 20 years.



Local pastors and lay leaders continually hold Bible studies and training sessions.

INTERCEDE FOR CHINESE PASTORS

"Sunday work is divided into three periods: morning, afternoon and evening. Sometimes I feel tired and need prayers. In December, I will work in Zhejiang for two days and Shandong for three days. Additionally, I need to prepare a sermon for each service and I have to prepare for a Christmas crusade. There are two year-end revival gatherings and one year-end thanksgiving gathering in December. [1 Corinthians 15:58] "Therefore, dear brothers, be strong and abound in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." ~ Pastor C

周日工作分为三个时段: 上午, 下午, 晚上. 有时我感到疲倦, 需要祈祷. 12月份我会在浙江工作两天, 在山东工作三天. 此外, 我需要为每次服务准备一篇布道, 并且我必须为圣诞节布道活动做好准备. 12月有两次年终复兴聚会和一次年终感恩聚会. [哥林多前书 15:58] "所以, 亲爱的弟兄们, 你们要刚强, 多多做主的工, 因为知道你们的劳苦在主里不是徒然的."

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM ~ Psalm 122:6

Over the decades that we served in China, we noticed how our Chinese brothers and sisters were not that aware of the prophecies concerning Israel, the Land and the eternal covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We found this fact to be true even within Chinese churches in the U.S. It seemed most Chinese pastors believed that all the promises made to Israel and God's chosen were now obsolete since Yeshua had come and brought a "new covenant." Therefore, the Church had replaced Israel (i.e. Replacement Theology). In recent years, however, more Chinese and American pastors have come to realize this teaching is heresy. As Yeshua stated in Matthew 5:17: *"Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill."* As world events unfold, with the epicenter being Israel, they're seeing the words of inspired major prophets such as Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel come to life. They see these prophecies link directly with the Book of Revelation. Old Testament passages and symbols such as the golden lampstand in the Holy Temple, are no longer obscure but are coming into far greater Light and meaning. East Gates continues to teach and help Chinese believers understand the WHOLE Bible, not just the New Testament. We see the fruits of this when we receive prayer requests like the one below that came in two weeks ago from a House Church pastor in Zhejiang Province.



The 7 candlesticks on the golden lampstand point to all of what Yeshua represents, has fulfilled and continues to fulfill.

7 Holy Festivals - Leviticus 23

7 Spirits - Isaiah 11:2

7 Churches - Revelation 2 & 3

7 Angels/Seals/Trumpets - Revelation 8:1-2

*"P*ray for the war between Israel and Palestine, to take care of the people who fled the war and the injured people and minimize the casualties. I also pray that peace will come as soon as possible. If there will be many wars before the Lord comes: [Matthew 24: 6-8] *"And ye shall hear the wars and rumors of wars, see that ye be not troubled for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."*

I hope what happens will come true according to the prophecies in the Bible. During the war between Israel and Palestine, ask God to remember the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even forever. Let people all over the world know that Jehovah is the only God, and the God that the Jews believe in is the only God." ~ Pastor W



In Israel, there a saying. "We don't just believe in miracles. We count on the them!"

“为以色列和巴勒斯坦之间的战争祷告，照顾逃离战争的人和受伤的人，将伤亡降到最低。我也祈祷和平尽快到来。如果主来之前会有许多战争：[马太福音 24:6-8] “你们要听见战争和战争的风声，要留意，不要惊慌，因为这一切的事是必成的，但结局却是还没有。因为民族要攻打民族，国家要攻打国家，多处必有饥荒，瘟疫和地震。这一切都是悲伤的开始。”

我希望所发生的事情能够按照圣经中的预言实现。在以色列和巴勒斯坦之间的战争期间，求神记住他与亚伯拉罕，以撒和雅各所立的约。众山怎样围绕耶路撒冷，耶和华也照样围绕他的百姓，从今时直到永远。让全世界人民都知道耶和华是独一的神，犹太人所信的神也是独一的神。”

THEN HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW.
THEREFORE, PLEAD WITH THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST.
~ Matthew 9:37-38 ~

*T*imes have not changed in 2000 years. The harvest is still overly ripe and ready to glean but the workers are still few. For many, one's mission field may be one's home or workplace but we must pray that more answer the call to reach areas that are not for the faint-hearted; where there is great persecution, spiritual warfare and loneliness. We received an update from a close House church pastor who asked for prayers (below). He gave us an update on their mission work. In 2024, we will be assisting with his mission activities on multiple fronts.



*D*evout missionaries like Pastor Y and his prayer warriors take the high ground and pray over Lhasa, Tibet (left). Churches continue to ebb and flow amid challenging and dark times (right).



*“P*lease pray for more believers to be called into the missionary work. We have a missionary couple who have been preaching in the Tibetan areas for seven or eight years through music. Tibetans love the beautiful lyrics and melodies of the hymns and it's a great way to share the gospel. It's too difficult to go there now, so I plan to visit them next April because seven young people there have already accepted the gospel. This past July, I went to Guizhou Province. There is a missionary couple from Hangzhou who has been working with the local Buyi people for three years. Although they have experienced many difficulties, they found that when someone becomes a believer, it influences more people to participate. The missionary couple also introduced me to another missionary couple from Shandong Province who have been working in Yunnan and Guizhou Provinces. I also met several young missionary couples and asked them what their biggest difficulties were. One said: “When you are lonely, you can only humor yourself.” This sentence penetrated my heart deeply. It reminded me how it has been more than 200 years since the gospel was introduced to China. In the past ten years, there have been many people shouting we need more missionaries but in reality, few are out there doing the real work. This is why our church communicates regularly with our co-workers who have adopted the Buyi people. Together we actively participate in local missionary work, investing in the power of the gospel near and far. We plan to conduct a short-term missionary activity every year and if financial and material resources permit, we can support families who are on missionary assignments abroad. Each year, as a church, we plan to donate 20% of our offerings for missionary work to various churches where the gospel is proclaimed. This is a three-step process. We become fishers of men. We provide new believers with stepping stones to take advantage of opportunities to grow in their faith through formation training.” ~ Pastor G

請為更多的信徒被呼召參與傳教工作禱告。我們有一對傳教士夫婦，在藏區透過音樂傳教已經七、八年了。藏族人熱愛美麗讚美詩的歌詞和旋律是分享福音的好方法。現在去太困難了，所以我打算明年四月去拜訪他們，因為那裡有七個年輕人已經接受了福音。今年七月，我去了一趟貴州省。有一對來自杭州的傳教士夫婦，已經與當地佈依族一起工作了三年。雖然經歷了許多困難，但他們發現，當一個人成為信徒時，就會影響更多的人參與其中。傳教士夫婦也向我介紹了另一對來自山東省，一直在雲南，貴州省工作的傳教士夫婦。我還見到了幾位年輕的傳道夫婦，問他們最大的困難是什麼。有人說：“孤獨的時候，只能幽默自己。”這句話深深地刺入了我的心。它提醒了福音傳入中國已有200多年了。在過去的十年裡，有很多人喊叫我們需要更多的傳教士，但實際上很少有人在那裡做真正的工作。這就是為什麼我們教會定期與收養布依族的同工溝通。我們一起積極參與當地的宣教工作，投資遠近福音的力量。我們計劃每年進行一次短期傳教活動，如果財力，物力允許，我們可以資助在國外傳教的家庭。作為教會，我們每年計劃將20%的捐款捐給宣揚福音的各個教會，用於傳教工作。這是一個三步驟過程。我們成為得人的漁夫。我們為新信徒提供墊腳石，讓他們利用機會透過培育訓練來成長他們的信仰。”

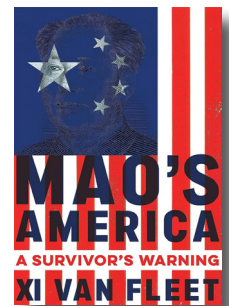
AND LASTLY, THE NEXT GENERATION...

In this last newsletter of the year, we've shared just a few of the many prayers and updates we receive regularly from Chinese pastors and co-workers in the field. It's just the tip of the iceberg. At times, the amount of Kingdom work to be done and needs to be met seem overwhelming but with God ALL things are possible. Last month, our staff met with Pastor M, a long time friend from Zhejiang, Province. We share below an excerpt from a letter he wrote us expressing his vision of how to disciple the next generation.

“Today, many churches in China are not unified or connected, so cultivating the next generation has become a top priority. Thankfully, I know some young people who have a heart to train and serve the Lord. The cost for a student's semester tuition, room and board at a reputable seminary costs about 5,000 yuan (US\$700). I hope church members can help. Secondly, many pastors are around fifty years old now. They have served faithfully for ten or twenty years but they are showing signs of age. Young people need fully equipped and trained full-time teachers who can understand their rapidly changing culture and social environment. To employ already qualified teachers that are between 25-40 years old will require paying for their travel and teaching expenses, as well as working around their family and work schedules. In the new year I will start to collect more information on qualified personnel and good training resources. I would like to start with about 30 people. Please pray for us as we pray for you.” ~ Pastor M

We told Pastor M we would assist with their training needs the best we could and would certainly covet his prayers because the US churches are not unified and quite disconnected as well. As in China, the next generation is a most challenging demographic to reach. Chinese missionaries who have come to the US are astonished at what has infiltrated our country. They see all the signs of what they thought they had left back home. A Chinese House church pastor who immigrated to the US over 20 years ago, highly recommended every US citizen read the recently published, *Mao's America - A Survivor's Warning*. He said the handwriting is already on our walls. We shared how he must also read Dr. L. Nelson Bell's, *While Men Slept*, based on Yeshua's parable of how the enemy sowed tares among the wheat while the workers slept in the field (Matthew 13:24-30). Although published back in 1970, it was recently reprinted. Dr. Bell's admonition to the Church is more relevant now than ever before. It can be found on our website at www.egmi.org.

As we turn the corner into 2024, we want to thank our great God and all of you; for all that has been accomplished this year through your faithful giving and priceless prayers. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours.



As we enter this season of Light and miracles during the shortest days of the year, we're reminded that the *Light of the World* came into our realm and pierced the darkness but the darkness was not able to overcome it (John 1:5). Therefore, may we all continue to walk in His Light-bearing authority and Truth for His Kingdom glory!

 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham

