



East Gates

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

INTERNATIONAL

September - October 2017

Dear East Gates partner,

We are a day closer! Closer to the soon coming Age of the Kingdom of God. Right now, as most of humanity is caught up in the busy-ness of this life, thousands around the world have just celebrated the biblical Fall Festivals (Feast of Trumpets, Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles), a time commemorating when Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus the Messiah), our King of Kings and Lord of Lords, will return and establish His reign on earth. All nations will flow to Jerusalem where the Word of the LORD will go forth to establish true righteousness and peace!



Millions of Chinese feel they are “just a number” and are totally unaware of why they were born. East Gates’ vision and mission is to help them hear God’s voice in their lives. As He will go after the “one in 99,” He will also go after the “one in a billion!”



I Thessalonians 4:16 is lived out every year with the Feast of Trumpets celebration. *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”*



In **Isaiah 2:2**, the prophet foretold of a reality that would come to pass in the last days concerning Judah and Jerusalem, *“The mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it.”* Observing the Feast of Tabernacles is a dress rehearsal of this scripture’s ultimate fulfillment.

Given the immense trials that people face across the globe on a given day such as the recent super typhoons that swept through Macau and Hong Kong, hurricane Harvey in Houston, Irma in Florida or the 8.1 earthquake that rattled Mexico...people are getting on their knees. They’re looking to signs and wonders and trying to make sense of it all like the recent August 21st total solar eclipse and the September 23rd, rare celestial alignment of the sun, constellations and planets which many feel is the fulfillment of Revelations 12:1-2. Our Chinese brothers and sisters are asking the same questions.

We tell them that their only one true God and Creator has total authority and control over heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18) and given the fact He created them in His image, they are the greatest sign and wonder He is concerned about. If they come into alignment with His divine nature and purposes, which is what the Spring and Fall biblical festivals embody, then they won’t have to be mystified and worried about all the signs in the heavens and earth to come!

“...JESUS CAME UP AND SPOKE TO THEM, SAYING, “ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT...”

Matthew 28:18-19

*E*ast Gates walks in Jesus’ full authority when it comes to making disciples of all nations and baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A good example is our partnership and work with a church in Jiangxi province. Their passion is to share God’s way of life to the locals.



They always open with a special invitation and welcome.



The guests are escorted like royalty to the sanctuary where for the first time, they’re given a whole new perspective about who they truly are, what they are destined to become and how they can have eternal life through Jesus Christ.



Afterwards, the visitors and “seekers” are given helpful Christian materials that enhance their understanding of what they’ve heard. Discovering they were never meant to die has been revelatory and the fact their Creator’s divine power has given them *everything* necessary for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him, has filled them with great hope (2 Peter 1:3).



It’s not surprising that after they’ve experienced God’s profound love and truth that they want to be released from their former “dead” ways and immersed in God’s living waters. To see so many of our Chinese brothers and sisters make this heart change is most inspiring. Baptism is a common event here.

“NOW ON THE LAST DAY, THE GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST, JESUS STOOD AND CRIED OUT, SAYING, “IF ANYONE IS THIRSTY, LET HIM COME TO ME AND DRINK. HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, AS THE SCRIPTURE SAID, ‘FROM HIS INNERMOST BEING WILL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.’”

John 7:37-38

A NEW BELIEVER'S LIFE NOW BECOMES HIS-STORY...

*F*or anyone who has been a faithful follower of Yeshua (Jesus) for any length of time, one knows that it's one thing to be baptized and walk-the-walk versus merely talk-the-talk.

When we train and disciple in China, we try to help students understand the true essence of what the Hebrew and Greek scriptures mean and the cultural context in which they were written. Here are two examples.

Example 1: When one reads Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and makes disciples of all nations...” most readers take it as a command from Yeshua. Not so. The Greek word for “Go” used here is *poreuthentes* and is in the aorist, passive participle form and not the imperative (command) form. So for anyone listening to Yeshua make this statement during that time, they would have interpreted it to mean, “As you have been going along your journey in life, disciple others.” Change your paradigm and focus. And when a rabbi like Yeshua speaks about discipling others, He doesn’t mean, “Go and convert others.” He means, instruct and train a person’s body, mind, soul and spirit in the ways of the Father or HaShem (the Name whose Name is above all Names). We tell our Chinese students that the emphasis is on life-long training and a growing relationship with their loving Creator.



In August, East Gates’ co-workers worked with teachers and provided Bibles for this Summer Youth Camp in Zhejiang Province. Chinese children are able to grasp biblical truths, concepts and moral values at an early age. The word “discipline” and “discipleship” are in the same family. Gifted teachers help students view discipline as fun with immediate and eternal benefits. They stimulate their creative juices and bring out their natural proclivities to tell stories revealing how God is the ultimate storyteller and how we are now a chapter in His-Story! That’s a history everyone would want to have.

Example 2: In every culture there are idioms or an expression in a given language that is peculiar to itself grammatically. The literal translation may not seem to make sense but it does for those who know its history. For instance, in the U.S., we’ve heard of expressions such as, “It’s raining cats and dogs.” “Beat around the bush” or “Curiosity killed the cat.” They don’t make sense to a foreigner learning English but they do to those who grew up in America. The same can be said of Hebraic idioms in the Bible.

Luke 22:34 is a good example. Yeshua tells Peter, “I say to you, Peter, **the rooster will not crow today** until you have denied three times that you know Me.” Most modern Western readers understand this passage to mean, “Peter must have denied Christ three times before the rooster crowed in the early morning hours.” It seems pretty straightforward until one enters the world of ancient Judaism in the first century A.D.

During that time, priests and laymen were not allowed to raise roosters or cocks (*alektors* in Greek) in Jerusalem for fear of Temple defilement and desecration. Therefore, a rooster would not be found in the area. Also, in the Lord’s time, the Jews had already adopted the Roman’s military way of marking time.

The night hours were divided into four periods or watches beginning at 6pm. First watch: 6-9pm. Second watch: 9pm-midnight. Third watch: midnight to 3am. Fourth watch: 3-6am. This is revealed in Mark 13:35, "Therefore, be on the alert, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning. A watchman blew a trumpet with each watch change.

It's important to note that a Temple crier or priest would also blow the shofar three times a day for the evening, morning and afternoon calls to prayer. Linguistic scholars say the Temple crier was also called an *alektor* which we know means cock/rooster but it can also mean a "man." If this is the case, it would have been the Temple priest's call to prayer and not the sound of a cock/rooster that Peter heard in the courtyard where Yeshua was being questioned, This puts a far deeper implication on what Yeshua told Peter that night.



Essentially, Yeshua was looking into Peter's eyes saying, "Peter, before the Temple priest blows the shofar for call to sacrifice, service and worship, you will have denied that you know Me three times." In other words, "As a devout Jew, who never missed the call to Temple prayer, who have you been praying to? Were your actions motivated by keeping tradition and ritual or a genuine relationship? The fact you will deny any knowledge of Me before the shofar's call to prayer will reveal the truth."



We share with our Chinese brothers and sisters that this passage has profound meaning in regards to them today. At the future sound of the shofar or trumpet mentioned in I Thessalonians 4:16 will they truly know God or have a form of godliness but no divine connection or power? We don't want them to repeat Peter's mistake. It's one thing to have God's Word in your hand and another to have it in your heart.

In October, we've been asked to teach about God's Tabernacle in southern China. In a world dominated by information technology, artificial intelligence, mass consumerism and virtual reality, why would Chinese believers be interested in God's Holy City -- soon to be established on earth, the deeper meaning behind His Tabernacle in the wilderness and how we are the Temple of the Holy Spirit? Because they've been baptized into God's way of life with a whole new focus. Instead of worshipping themselves, they want to worship their Creator.



Looking forward to God's Kingdom on earth!



God's tabernacle and presence in the wilderness.

May the sound of the shofar find us all ready. A heart full of gratitude for your invaluable prayers.

You certainly have ours!

 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham