



East Gates

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

INTERNATIONAL

January - February 2018

*D*ear East Gates partners,

The New Year 2018 has begun on the Julian calendar. On the Hebrew calendar we are in the year 5778. It should be a momentous year on all accounts. God pays attention to numbers as we can see throughout the Bible. He is the One who taught us how to count! In fact, He seems to like certain numbers such as 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12, 40. We see them surface throughout the Bible. It's not surprising then, how in other religions and cultures such as China, there is great meaning placed on numbers too, "8" in particular.

In Chinese, the word for "eight" (pronounced "ba") also sounds like the word, "fa" which means "good fortune, prosperity and the ability to generate wealth." That's why the Chinese were ecstatic when they won the bid to host the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing 10 years ago. In fact, China's Olympic Committee planned it such that the Opening Ceremonies would begin exactly 8 minutes after 8 pm on 8-8, 2008!



Interestingly, there is such a pre-occupation with the number 8 that Chinese couples will purposely choose August 8th as their wedding date. In China, the telephone number 8888-8888 was said to have sold for \$270,723. Ironically, when East Gates was acquiring a new office number, 425-255-8888 just happened to be available at the time! Of course, it was free.

Now when it comes to the biblical Hebrew language, numbers also have great significance and words that sound the same also find close association with each other. For example, if you remember from our last November-December 2017 newsletter, we wrote about how we are now God's tabernacle and sanctuary. In Hebrew, the word is *mikdash*, מִקְדָּשׁ. It comes from the root word, *kadash*, קָדַשׁ which means "to be set apart as sacred." A *mikdash* is therefore a "set apart space" or a "holy place" that represents something treasured. It's a place of beauty, worship and refuge. Naturally, other Hebrew terms with the same root word *kadash* are ~ Holy Spirit, sanctification, Holy of Holies and more.

We tell our Chinese students, this is what God desires us to be - a *mikdash* or place where true rest can abide. With full trust in Him, through the power of the Holy Spirit, (Heb. - *ruach HaKodesh*, רוּחַ קֹדֶשׁ), we can be a realm where no fear, guilt, bitterness, worry, insecurities and unforgiveness resides. We tell them, instead of setting a 2018 New Year or Chinese New Year's resolution (which starts Feb. 16th), consider committing to a Biblical resolution! Human promises are easily broken yet if we truly love God and His Word, a biblical resolution is one that should stick. Commit to becoming a holy temple to the Lord this year!

*D*o you not know that your body is the temple, the very sanctuary (*kadash*, קָדַשׁ) of the Holy Spirit (*ruach HaKodesh*, רוּחַ קֹדֶשׁ) Who lives within you, Whom you have received as a gift from God?
I Corinthians 6:19

YOUR WORDS WERE FOUND, AND I ATE THEM, AND YOUR WORD WAS TO ME A JOY AND THE REJOICING OF MY HEART; FOR I AM CALLED BY YOUR NAME, O LORD, GOD OF HOSTS.

~ JEREMIAH 15:16 ~

To help build the growing Body of Christ in China, we continue to work with local groups to meet their hungry needs. Last December, the *Gospel Mission Team* spent time in Inner Mongolia and led 500 people to Christ from the Han race and Meng tribe. They asked if we could donate 500-1000 Bibles of which we gladly did. Thank you Lord!



The Gospel Mission Team shares with new believers that they didn't know the Name of the One true God before but now they do. They can now release the past and walk in the newness of Life which can only be found in Yeshua (Jesus)!



In the frigid regions of Inner Mongolia, new converts will now experience the warmth and sweetness of God's Word in their lives. In an area of China where life is hard, they'll see how **"...with God nothing is ever impossible, and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment"** (Luke 1:37, Amplified)



In the world of social media, it's refreshing to see these smiling faces from Dalian who cherish God's Word in hardback and as this gentleman in the car told us, "I never leave home without it!" Thank you East Gates partners for making this all possible!

We continually visit churches and training centers to discuss with pastors what their members need and like to read.

As additional doors continue to open for us to be a life-giving blessing to the Chinese people, we're reminded of the number 8 in biblical terms. The Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters and each letter is linked to a numeric value. Interestingly, the number 8 is associated with *chet*, ח, the letter symbolizing life and new beginnings. 8 souls were saved during the Great Flood. The Lord reaffirmed His covenant with Abraham 8 times. The covenant of circumcision, marking the beginning of a boy's life is on the 8th day. The Feast of Tabernacles or Sukkot is an 8-day festival anticipating the Kingdom of God coming down to earth.

ח

CHAI = LIFE

8

With this biblical pattern in mind, we know that 2018 / 5778 will be a season of new beginnings and miracles for East Gates, you and your families!

Since time immemorial, the Chinese have always placed great value on education, study and literature. When the topic is God's purpose for humanity and their role in His eternal plan, the interest increases exponentially. We tell students, "If you truly understand who Yeshua (Jesus) was and what mattered most to Him, then it's much easier to understand who you are and what should matter most to you."



In Jiangsu province, there are two major seminaries -- Jiangsu and Jinling Theological Seminaries. They accept students from around the nation and oftentimes the competition is quite stiff. The Huaian Training Center (above) provides auxiliary short-term training for pastors and lay-leaders who perhaps did not make the cut or due to church responsibilities have limited time and funds. Classes usually last three months and the main purpose is to equip them to better serve the Lord and their church.

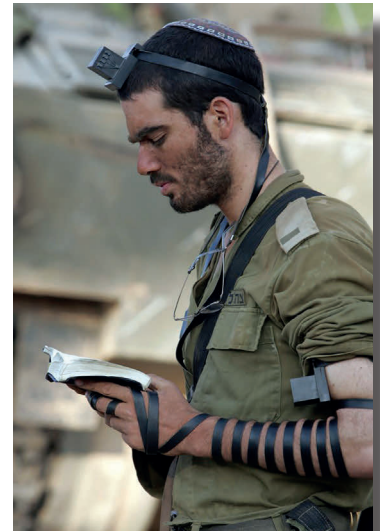
Every time we have the opportunity to visit the Huaian Training Center and sow into their new crop of students, we're continually reminded that the greatest asset to a country is its people. This is especially true for the small State of Israel where the Aramaic expression, *Safra veSaifa*, holds true today. The expression does not mean "The Book OR The Sword." Rather, it's an interface, blend and synthesis of two extreme core values. It means, **The Book AND The Sword**. Notice how the word "Book" is placed before the word, "Sword."

According to a Jewish rabbi and good friend of ours, the ethos, *Safra ve-Saifa*, "Book and Sword" is given expression at the end of basic training for all Israeli soldiers when they're asked to swear allegiance to the State of Israel and to protect it with life and limb. This is performed at a meaningful place be it at the Western Wall or Masada. Afterwards, each soldier is gifted with a Tanakh or Book of Scripture (Old Testament). It roots them to their eternal identity as a nation, culture and peoples.

Chinese students know that the word, *disciple*, is linked to the word *discipline*. To know and stand for the causes of Christ requires daily prayer, training and field work. That's why providing them the complete Bible and teaching how them to wield the double-edged "Sword" is crucial given the times we live in.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places"

Ephesians 6:12, NASB

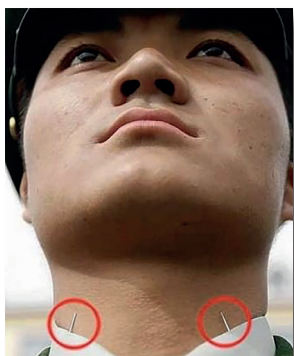


An Israeli Defense Force (IDF) soldier gains daily strength and divine perspective from Torah.



IDF soldiers pray together at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

*I*n the military, different techniques are used to get soldiers to stand up straight and tall as they march in perfect unison and formation to the voice of their commanding officer.



Straight pins are tucked in a soldier's shirt collar (circled in red) to keep the head up.



Wooden crosses are strapped on the soldiers' backs to keep them standing erect.



Different methods are used to keep the soldiers marching in perfect array and formation.

*T*o be a Christian soldier, we inspire our students with the words from the Apostle Paul: "For though I am away from you in body, yet I am with you in spirit, delighted at the sight of your [standing shoulder to shoulder in such] orderly array and the firmness and the solid front and steadfastness of your faith in Christ, [that leaning of the entire human personality on Him in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom and goodness]. As you have therefore received the Christ, [even] Jesus the Lord, so walk--regulate your lives and conduct yourselves--in union with and conformity to Him" (Colossians 2:5-6, Amplified).

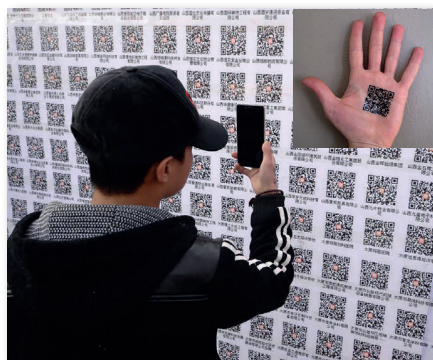


Chinese believers have the heart, focus and desire to drink in God's truth. More gifted teachers and trainers are always needed. Please pray.

This present generation will have many battles to fight in the spiritual realm. Humanity continues to spin in a sea of confusion. God's divine order is clearly lacking. Chinese believers must come into alignment with the Head which is Yeshua, their true Savior. We pray they hear the voice of the Lord, make good decisions and be able to fulfill their biblical resolutions this year!



We continue to educate our deaf and mute Chinese brothers and sisters. We are always humbled by their ability to hear and talk to the Lord in ways those without their challenges do not.



The QR (Quick Response) code is humanity's solution for providing information on anything you can scan except for the God-component in man!

In closing, we thank you for your continual prayers and faithful support to East Gates. Despite the cacophany that surrounds us, we can always sing, "I am ever mindful of God's Presence, **He is my right hand**; I shall never be shaken. So my heart rejoices, my whole being exalts, and my body rests secure" ~ Psalm 16:8-9.

Ned and Christina Graham

Christina



The Hebrew letters for *Yeshua* (Salvation) are present on our right hand!

ישוע