



East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

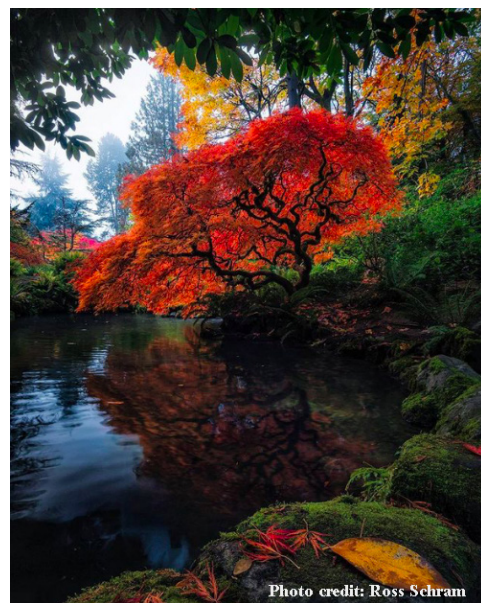
September - October 2021

*D*ear East Gates partner,

We are now in the midst of the Fall season and I'm sure in many of your areas, the leaves are now turning into all those beautiful gold, orange and bright red hues just before they release their life into the ground. God could have created it such that prior to winter, all the leaves would turn a depressing gray tone but it's as if God is intimating, when you leave this earth and prepare for new Life in the season to come, go out with a ball of fire!



God is the author of times and seasons. In fact, He states in Genesis 1:14, that at a time in the beginning, He created the lights in the heavens to serve as signs and seasons (Hebrew: *moedim* or appointed times).



Kubota Gardens, Seattle, WA

We share with our Chinese students that it's not a coincidence that China's traditional autumn moon festival always falls on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, a biblical Fall Festival that celebrates a future time when God will bring heaven down to earth and all nations will flow to Jerusalem.* Growing up, Jesus and his parents made the arduous trip every Fall for this great 8-day celebration which prophetically represented a time when the King of Kings, Jesus Himself would usher in the Kingdom of God on earth! Given everything that Jesus and the major and minor prophets proclaimed would happen in these last days, Chinese believers see even greater meaning in what the Spring and Fall festivals mean for our times. They're connecting the dots.



The scriptures are coming to life for them and they're seeing how Jesus is the LIGHT of the world as depicted through the menorah that was positioned in the Temple's inner court. The 7 lampstands all correlate to the 7-days of creation, 7 biblical festivals, 7 spirits of God (Isaiah 11:1-3) and 7 churches (Rev.1:20, Rev.2-3).

*Exodus 23:16; Leviticus 23:33-34,37,40; Numbers 29:12, Deut. 16:13, II Chron. 8:12-13, Ezra 3:4, Nehemiah 8:17-18, John 7:2-3.

~ MATTHEW 25:1-13 ~

“WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YOU KNOW NEITHER THE DAY NOR THE HOUR WHEN THE SON OF MAN WILL COME.”

Knowing their Lord is returning soon, Chinese believers like the Lahu and Wa tribes we serve in Yunnan province are getting themselves ready. Covid has subsided in the area so they're gathering at homes, outside. We admonish them to know God's Word by providing them Bibles in their own dialect and to live by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

They are familiar with the parable of the 10 virgins where when it came time to attend the wedding feast, 5 had made the most of their time on earth and were wise. Their oil lamps were filled (with the Holy Spirit) and they truly knew the Bridegroom. They were ready. The other 5 were not. They brought NO oil and could not borrow from those who had. One cannot enter the wedding banquet on the spiritual readiness of others. The Lord told them, “Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.”

Pray for the pastors, lay trainers and believers so they may keep their lamps burning and experience God's presence in ways they never have before. They need His encouragement!



PLEASE PRAY FOR
ALL OUR CHINESE
BROTHERS AND
SISTERS.
MAY THEIR LAMPS
BE GENUINELY
FILLED!



MANY HAVE THE VISION FOR MISSION



In Yunnan province, where much of our ministry attention is given, the lyrics to many of the believers' worship songs are a sermon in themselves which is important as they hum or sing them while working in the fields and factories.

One of the most popular songs Chinese believers like to sing is *Here I Am* or *Hineni* in Hebrew. This expression is seen in response to God's call and is found 17 times in Genesis, Exodus, Samuel and Isaiah.

Today, there is a true heart for missions within the Body of Christ in China. The faithful, older generation sees the great need to pass the baton to the younger and praise God, there are many who are equipped and saying, "Here I am Lord. Send me!"

HINENI ~ HERE I AM (LYRICS)

Yahweh! O my LORD my God.
Come and help me forsake my love.
Forsake my love, my all.

Yahweh! O my LORD my God.
Help me break down all my idols, idols in my heart;
till I give myself in worship as a sacrifice,
with no regrets, no turning back.
Till I at the altar, hear the calling for my life,
with no regrets, Here I am.

Hi-ne-ni. Hi-ne-ni.
Purge me. Send me, Yes! Here I am!
Hi-ne-ni. Hi-ne-ni.
Purge me. Send me. Yes! Here I am!

For the darkest corners of the world, O LORD! Send me!
For the souls hopeless in despair, Here I am!
Lord. Here I am. Hi-ne-ni.



Recently, one of our long time ministry colleagues, Pastor "W" (in his 90s), blessed two brothers for work out in the field. More were standing in line.



ROMANS 2:19-21

If one is to be a guide to the blind...and a light to those who are in darkness...You, therefore, who teach someone else, do you not teach yourself?

We encourage missionaries to know God's Word and to not quench God's Holy Spirit power so they can serve where He leads them in His love, grace, wisdom and anointing.



Our co-worker, Pastor Y (right) and his assistant, baptize a new convert who desires to be used by the Lord near Tibet. There is great admiration for Pastor Y, as God gives him great wisdom in knowing how to work with governmental officials, registered and unregistered pastors and a myriad of different ethnicities in China.

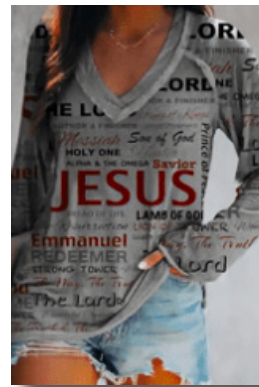
When it comes to sharing the gospel in China over the past few decades, it's never been easy. Case in point, when it comes to their youth culture, they've believed for the longest time that "Whatever is best is from the West." In their garment factories, thousands of workers produce clothing for overseas markets but oftentimes, they have no clue as to what is being advertised. We're praying that God raise up Chinese "Josephs, Daniels, Esthers and Deborahs" who can discern the times and speak forth into this Babel (confused) culture that has swept the East and West.

THE RIGHT PATH...

Life has always been difficult in the rural and village regions of China but we believe this is where most of God's true Chinese remnant abide and dwell. Jesus had the most humble of beginnings as well. We've discovered over the decades that even today, despite their awareness of social media, they're NOT confused about their true identity. Their Facebook is *God's Face and His Book*. Within the thousands of minority tribe believers, God's divine order exists. Praise God!

Given our over 30-years of full-time ministry in China, we stay in contact with as many of our Chinese brothers and sisters as possible. Recently, one contacted us from the Zhaotong Pass area in Yunnan Province. He wrote: "Good morning brother! Early around 4:35 am, an earthquake occurred once again at Zhaotong Pass with a magnitude of about 3. The building in which I live moved with pattern of, 'bang, bang and bang,' 'bang, bang and bang.' It repeated in this fashion again and again. My bed and floor swung from left to right. I was awakened by the 'bang' noise. I opened my eyes in darkness but the 'bang' noise I heard in my dream continued. Although my heart was at peace, I stood up immediately and shouted in a loud voice, 'Oh Lord! Save us. Lord keep us!' several times. When I fully awoke a few seconds later, I declared, 'Oh Lord! I feel your fury! Oh Lord! Calm down your fury! I repent of my sins!'"

Our staff member was able to belay this brother's fears by praying with him and admonishing him to keep calling upon the Name of the Lord and to build His foundation upon the ROCK whose Kingdom cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:26-28).



China is the largest consumer society in the world. Above, Chinese models advertise T-shirts with little thought as to what they're selling. It's like the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Chinese believers need to point their family and friends down the right path.



Minority tribe youth are proud of their family origins. For church services, they "dress up" instead of attending in cut-offs, sandals and jeans. They know they're coming before the King!



Zhaotong Pass in Yunnan Province is considered major EQ territory. Many village structures do not meet building code.

Chinese believers in this region know what it means to stand on shaky ground. We share with them how we live in a potential time when God will be shaking the heavens *and* the earth* prior to His return and we ALL need to be ready. May we keep our lamps filled with Holy Spirit oil and burning!

Heartfelt gratitude for your sacrificial offerings. It's making the Kingdom difference for our "family" who are living out and spreading the gospel in China.

Ned and Christina Graham

*Isaiah 13:13; Joel 3:16; Matthew 24:29-30; Haggai 2:6.