



East Gates
INTERNATIONAL

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

January - February 2022

*D*ear East Gates partner,

As Chinese have all welcomed in 2022 and the Chinese New Year (Feb.1-11), we share with you what our Chinese brothers and sisters have been celebrating in the heavenly realm despite all their earthly challenges.

On December 23rd, in the UK's Independent, an article entitled, “*Festival of Shame’: Why China has cracked down on Christmas*” gave account of how in recent years, China’s central government (CCP) has denounced Christmas, promoting the holiday as “Western spiritual opium” and the “Festival of Shame.” On December 24, 2021, Hong Kong’s South China Morning Post featured an article entitled, “*China cancels Christmas: Why Santa Claus is not coming to town for Chinese kids.*” The article mentioned how, “Schools and universities across the nation have been instructed by educational authorities not to celebrate Western festivals.” Despite CCP warnings, however, Christian and non-Christian families felt moved to gather this year, as the joy that came with the holiday overrode the possible risks and consequences.

*C*hinese believers always live with the awareness that events can change overnight so they choose to be aware and take one day at a time. They much rather live in the eternal moment with joy than a non-ending barrage of propaganda and fear-mongering for months on end.

As Chinese believers grow in the faith and learn more about what Jesus Christ’s incarnation truly means, let us keep them in prayer as they model for us what it means to celebrate together in the midst of persecution.



The lights that come with Christmas celebration brightened the “darkness” of 2021 filled with COVID deaths, massive floods, a swine flu epidemic and starvation.



Chinese children light a birthday cake in honor of Jesus.



At an elderly home, the residents enjoyed one another’s company in making Christmas wreaths.

WISDOM IS WITH THE AGED, AND WITH LONG LIFE COMES UNDERSTANDING.

~ Job 12:12 ~

Chinese always love a celebration, so more than at any other time of the year, Chinese New Year is when all family members come home to rejoice, feast and bless one another with their presence and gifts. It's a time when the elderly who live in nursing homes can see their loved ones!

East Gates has always had a heart for China's rapidly growing older population. Early on in the ministry, we helped subsidize the building of what is now one of China's most highly-rated Christian nursing homes. The founder is a pastor and our close friend of many years. His vision was to see China's neglected and rapidly growing elderly population be "loved to life" and to help them transition to their "new address." It's a great blessing to see what God has sown, bear so much fruit.



At this wonderful Christian elderly home, the residents are blessed with Sunday services and Bible studies every week. Visiting pastors often come to share an inspiring message.



Every festival usually centers around a beautiful dance. Chinese New Year represents a time when one leaves winter behind and welcomes in spring which brings new hope and renewal.



The residents enjoy watching the facility's Chinese New Year celebration program.



The Christian Elderly Home staff do more than just measure vitals and care for the resident's medical needs. They enjoy serving in many different capacities.

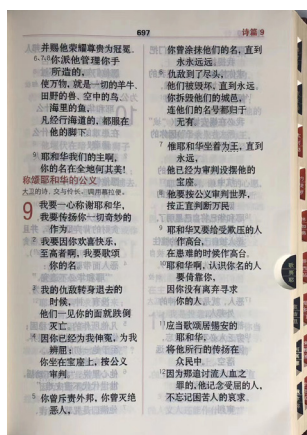
In the past decade, East Gates has not been able to safely assist as much in venues such as this because China's State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) continues to place more stringent measures on how foreign ministries can help wonderful projects like the above. In fact, at the beginning of this year, new SARA laws now state that all religious information posted on China's internet must be registered and approved by their proper department(s); otherwise, they cannot publish anything religious on the world-wide web. Please keep this issue in your prayers.

~ PERILOUS TIMES ~

II Timothy 3:1-5

“BUT KNOW THIS, THAT IN THE LAST DAYS PERILOUS TIMES WILL COME: FOR MEN WILL BE LOVERS OF THEMSELVES, LOVERS OF MONEY, BOASTERS, PROUD, BLASPHEMERS, DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS (DISRESPECTING THE ELDERLY), UNTHANKFUL, UNHOLY, UNLOVING, UNFORGIVING, SLANDERERS, WITHOUT SELF-CONTROL, BRUTAL, DESPISERS OF GOOD, TRAITORS, HEADSTRONG, HAUGHTY, LOVERS OF PLEASURE RATHER THAN LOVERS OF GOD, HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS BUT DENYING ITS POWER.

China's elderly have seen the best and worst of times in their nation. For those who are well-versed in God's Word, they're seeing II Timothy 3:1-5 come alive with each passing day. Many of them have Psalm 31:14-15 memorized, “But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.”

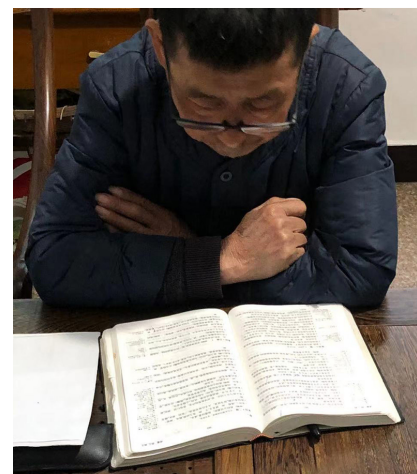


While time still allows, our delight is to gift as many large-print Bibles as we can to the elderly throughout China. In concert with the Holy Spirit, God's inspired Word enables them to discern the times, live in God's love and cast all lies, fears, superstitions and disinformation aside. *I John 4:18.*



In a country that neither slumber or sleeps, we teach the elderly that if Satan can't slow you down, he will speed you up. So, in this golden season of their lives “...redeem the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

Ephesians 5:15-16



AND LET THEM MAKE ME A SANCTUARY, THAT I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM

~ Exodus 25:8 ~

*E*ast Gates loves working in the minority tribe areas where the people are so gifted yet humble, passionate and teachable. God gives them a vision as expansive as the heavens above and they obey. Talk about redeeming the time! Pastor "D" recently thanked us and others for helping make their dream come true in completing their new church right before Chinese New Year began. Her letter reads:

Today is the Dedication and Thanksgiving meeting of our new church. Thank you Lord for His Blessings. Thank you to every pastor, co-worker, brother and sister that offered donations for the construction of our church. The construction could only be completed because of your love offerings. May God remember and bless all of our brothers and sisters, pastors and co-workers who made it possible. ~ Pastor "D"



Constructing the wooden pews.
It takes inspiration and perspiration.



Opening day. Ribbon cutting ceremony.



We look forward to the day when we can share a meal together with all those who have prayed for us and that we've blessed. It will be when Jesus returns at the wedding supper!



If you build it in harmony, He will come!



*T*hank you for helping to build the Body of Christ in these remote areas of China. They're certainly on God's map. More uplifting Kingdom news to come in the months to follow!



**BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
FEED YOUR FAITH AND YOUR
FEARS WILL STARVE TO DEATH.**

Christina

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