



East Gates

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

INTERNATIONAL

July - August 2023

Dear East Gates partner,

We live in an amazing time in biblical history as the deeper meaning behind the simple Bible scriptures we're used to reading are coming alive and into full view. They are making more sense day by day.

Case in point, with the growing developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI), of which the United States and China are spearheading, there are now applications or apps that can completely imitate people's voices. Can you imagine the implications?

This past April, a mother of two in Arizona received a call from her distraught 15-year old daughter who was crying over the phone saying she had been kidnapped. The sobbing, tenor and inflections of her daughter's voice all sounded exactly like her but the mother eventually discovered it was not. The scammers had effectively used AI to simulate her daughter's voice in efforts to obtain a large ransom.

In light of what humanistic hearts and minds are creating these days, the scripture that immediately came to mind was John 10:27.

"My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me..." (John 10:27). The Greek word for "listen" is ἀκούω (*akouo*) and it means more than just to "hear." It means to intimately perceive what is being said.

We share with our Chinese brothers and sisters that only the Holy Spirit will enable them to discern between what is real versus fake, what is Truth versus lies. There is only **one voice** that AI will never be able to mimic or replicate and that is the voice of our King of King and Lord of Lords. So we admonish the faithful Chinese remnant that they need to make sure their Holy Spirit lamp wicks are trimmed and vessels filled for we are coming to a time when even "the elect" could be deceived (Matthew 24:24). They know it's also mentioned in Mark 13:21-23: **"And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ'; or, 'Look, there He is'; do not believe it; for false christs and false prophets will arise and will provide signs and wonders, in order to mislead, if possible, the elect. But beware; I have told you everything in advance"** (our emphasis).

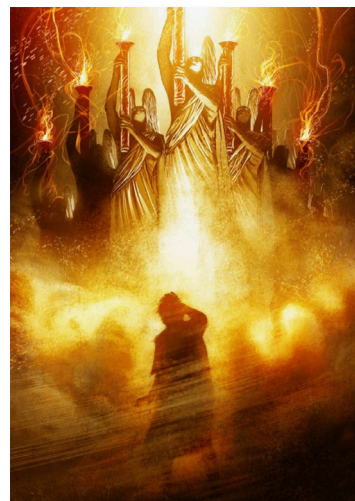
Yes. Chinese believers share with others that the only way anyone can know what will happen in advance is by knowing God's inspired Word.



Voice recognition is no longer a way to secure your identity.



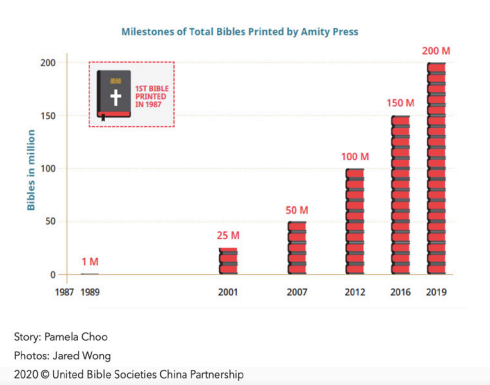
Each day we have a myriad of opportunities to discern and know God's voice. He's speaking. Let's listen.



We ask our Chinese brothers and sisters, "When Christ returns, will we and they be ready? We pray so.

Since time immemorial, God's Word has always been under attack. Only with God's intervention has it been able to be preserved for us today. In 1919, the first *Chinese Union Version* (CUV) of the Bible was published. It took a panel of reputable Chinese and Western theologians 30 years to complete. A revised edition (RCUV) was released in 2010 to update the language and still keep it as close to the original translation as possible. It is the most commonly read version by most Chinese Protestants in the world today.

Over the years, you've seen us share how as of 2019, the Amity Printing Press in Nanjing, China has printed over 200 million Bibles for domestic and international distribution. The irony is, China is an atheist country where humanistic thinking (placing man and science as god) is the order of the day. Unbeknownst to many, the Chinese government has been trying to revise the Bible for decades. It's only recently, that this "project" has made major headlines in the Christian and secular media. It's not surprising, however, given the fact in the past 10 years, China's present administration has been rapidly moving forward towards sinacizing or infusing China's communist ideology into every religion in the nation. It's a major issue we all need to pray about with fervency.



It took Amity Printing Press 25 years to print 100 million Bibles and only seven years to print another 100 million.

At present, our China and Hong Kong staff have not seen this re-written Bible for distribution through the registered channels. Their thoughts are, "We're just grateful for the window we've had in the past three decades to legally distribute the millions of Bibles we have, and are still able to provide, while the harvest is ripe. We know there's coming a time when there will be as the prophet Amos wrote, '...a famine...of hearing the words of the Lord' (Amos 8:11). That time may be sooner than we think either in the form of the government's re-written Bible replacing the RCUV, ESV and other similar versions or greater persecution. In the meantime, we provide the 'five loaves and two fishes' and let God take care of the multiplication."



Christians from a registered and official church in Anhui province tried ordering Bibles without success. They contacted us and during the first week of July sent photos thanking us for the Bibles they received.



In Shandong Province, we gifted these large print Bibles to the elderly who did not have the funds to purchase them. Out of kindness and gratitude, most Christians who order Bibles from us always let us know when they have received them in good order via a photo or as in the case above, a short video.

Sometimes pastors will send us requests for Bible replacements because after years of church use, they need a new supply. In America, we can just place a small or large order via Amazon and it's at our doorstep in a few days. Not in China. That is why many depend on East Gates to provide and deliver.



East Gates provided cases of Bibles like those on the left to replace the heavily used on the right. One could say it's a good problem.

JEREMIAH 20:9

But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones;
I was weary of holding it back, and I could not.

We've had a longstanding relationship with Pastor "D" in Yunnan Province where most of the minority tribes in China reside. Her early vision and mission to grow churches and disciples for Christ has resulted in generations of pastors and lay leaders in her region. Much of her work is in the poor, rural areas where the thirst for God's truth is great but the financial means small, so God continues to use East Gates to support her Kingdom work.

Like Pastor "D," we are very concerned about the next generation. Much prayer and financial support has been vested into young believers who could have chosen to go to a local trade school, college or get a job but instead, they have chosen to first study at a reputable Bible School and Provincial Seminary to solidify their moral and spiritual foundations. Thank you for your continual gifts in this much needed area.



Pastor "D" organized a reunion for pastors who graduated from Bible training school in 1989. 64 students graduated although only 10 were able to return for the gathering. Here are some of the attendees singing "Praise the Lord."



Pastor "D" (center) stands with six young men who now attend Bible School or the local Provincial Seminary. We pray alongside Pastor "D" and her congregation for the continued success and spiritual growth of this next generation and its new leaders.

Now that the Covid-19 quarantine season is over, one of the greatest blessings is for churches and ministries to meet together for vibrant fellowship, study, praise and worship. Our close friend, Pastor "W" sent us a photo of a men's summer camp he organized. He didn't expect such a large turnout. Praise God!



PSALM 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

PLEASE PRAY...

For those of you who have been following one of the main ministries East Gates works closely with, Pastor “T’s” *Olive Tree Ministry*, we have good news and not so good news. The good news is the children are doing well in the loving home and Bible school environment that’s been established for them but their “daddy,” Pastor “T” has had some major health challenges. In the past few months he has been hospitalized and has had operations on his lungs and kidneys. He has come back to be with the children but is awaiting further diagnosis. Please keep him, the staff and youth in your prayers.



The Olive Tree staff and adult family members send their greetings to Pastor “T” while in the hospital.



While Pastor “T” was gone, the staff carved out “tent time” to pray and intercede for the greater needs of the ministry.



Meanwhile back home, volunteers cared for the youth to ensure their daily pattern and rhythm of life stayed the same.



PLEASE PRAY...

We were given word by one of our best friends, Pastor “L” in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region (see map) that one of their highly respected church members, Brother “Y” has been imprisoned. She said he and his wife love the Lord very much and have contributed chairs, computers and an electric boiler to the church. Just recently, the Public Security Bureau (PSB, China’s police) incarcerated him for improper mining business practice even though the court found him to be innocent. Brother “Y’s” wife said the PSB told them they cannot run their business anymore and they will take all their hard-earned money and profits from them. She said in mining towns, family-owned businesses oftentimes resort to unethical practices to survive but being Christian, they will not. Even so, they are still targeted for their profits. Brother “Y’s” wife believes it is also because of their faith. Pastor “L” reached out to us for prayer. She said, “May God protect our brother from injustice, unfairness and the disaster of prison. May Brother ‘Y’ return home safely and be able to keep his property that was bestowed to him by God!” Let us keep Brother “Y’s” family and Pastor “L’s” church in our prayers.



Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

Thank you for your continual heart and sacrificial offerings to East Gates. We know it’s making the eternal difference in your life and China’s. May God abundantly bless you, more than you can possibly imagine.

Ned and Christina Graham