



# East Gates

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

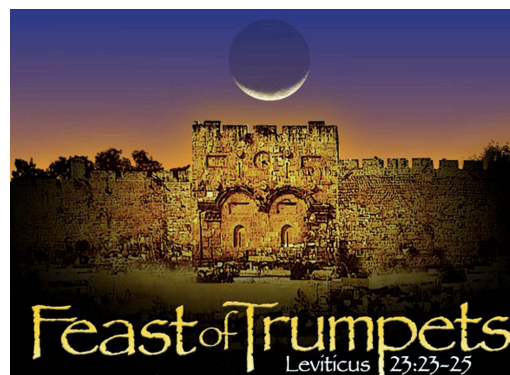
INTERNATIONAL

September-October 2016

Dear faithful East Gates partner,

We've now entered a very exciting time of the year when it comes to keeping in step and rhythm with the Biblical calendar. It's called the Fall Festivals. Rosh Hashanah (Heb. *Head of the Year*) has just past. It commemorates God's creation of man and woman in the Garden of Eden and their awareness of their roles in His Kingdom. It focuses on God's desire to become completely at one with all of His creation and how, with the precious sacrifice of the Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ, He can now bring us back to the Garden with a new heart, spirit, soul and mind.

Every Rosh Hashanah or Feast of Trumpets begins with the blowing of the shofar, which reminds us of the soon-coming return of our King and Messiah and the establishment of His Kingdom here on earth. God calls these Fall Festivals His *moedim* or appointed times. They are like wedding rehearsals that prepare us for the Great Wedding soon to come!



And the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing east...and He, said to me, Son of man, this is the place of My throne, and the place of the soles of My feet...(Ezek.43:1-7)



Pastor Pan, Brother Zhang, Mrs. Pan.

Speaking about weddings, just a few weeks ago, our Project Director, Brother Zhang, was given a special invitation to attend the beautiful wedding of Brother Pan and his lovely bride. Brother Pan is from the Miao tribe and pastors a church located two hours from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province. He's also a biblical scholar, who works with the United Bible Society and Yunnan Provincial China Christian Council to translate the Bible for the Miao tribe. Over the years, East Gates has equipped Pastor Pan with Christian reference books. Recently, with his help, we subsidized a local church renovation. His wife will soon move to his home and assist him with his many ministries. When this couple becomes "one," even greater Kingdom fruit will be born!



From Genesis to Revelation, we see God preparing for His Great Wedding feast. Throughout the millennia, the wedding institution has been imprinted into every culture and passed down from generation to generation.

“Sanctify them -- purify, consecrate, separate them for Yourself, make them holy -- by the Truth. Your Word is Truth... Neither for these alone do I pray--it is not for their sake only that I make this request--but also for all those who will ever come to believe in Me through their word and teaching; so that they all may be one [just] as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe and be convinced that You have sent Me.”

John 17:17-21 (Amplified)



The Processional



Two becoming one before God and a multitude of loving witnesses.



Rain fell all day until mid-afternoon causing treacherous muddy conditions. It didn't stop attendees from coming.



Singing, sermons and celebration went on until midnight.



A Wedding Feast



Chickens find a bird's eye view and quiet refuge before becoming dinner.



Thousands of Miao tribe members became Christians through the influence of overseas missionaries in the early 1900s. East Gates continues to provide them free Bibles and assists with training and church building projects.



All minority tribes in China have their own distinctive clothing colors, patterns and styles, as well as headdress and hairstyles which makes them unique.



Pastor Pan, Mrs. Pan and their bridesmaids and groomsmen.

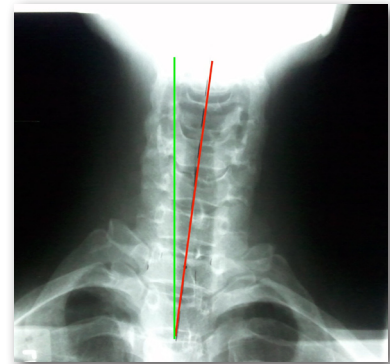


*T*oday, Chinese believers sense time is short and they want to get in alignment with the Lord but we find they have so many different views and feelings about the Christian faith. For example, by invitation, I (Christina) was sharing about East Gates' ministry at a Chinese Church in Rowland Heights, California a few months ago. When it came time for Q/A, a young lady asked why she couldn't have one foot in Buddhism and one in Christianity. Two weeks ago, I had a long conversation with a devout Chinese pastor who said many Chinese are finding forms of Zen Christianity attractive. They're entertaining a cocktail of different faiths but in this case they enjoy being "stirred" but not shaken.



*A*t East Gates, we ask our students if they know what it feels like to be out of physical alignment. Not many do until they start getting headaches, stiff joints and bone pain. X-rays can be quite revealing. It's the same spiritually. The body does not lie. We share with them to be aware. Our great Creator and Physician is returning to get the world back into alignment because it's seriously out of kilter and the world is doing everything it can to keep from toppling.

*T*he Apostle Paul wrote: "...let our lives lovingly express truth in all things--speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him, Who is the **Head**, [even] Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One. For because of Him the **whole body** (the church, in all its various parts closely) joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly (in all its functions), grows to full maturity, building itself up in love." (Ephesians 4:15-16, Amplified, "red" emphasis ours).



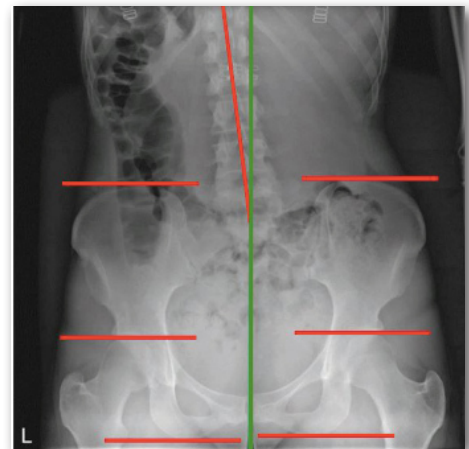
What may feel aligned may be misaligned!

**IT'S A PHYSIOLOGICAL FACT THAT IF THE HEAD IS NOT ALLOWED TO LEAD THE BODY, BUT THE BODY LEADS THE HEAD, THE NECK BECOMES STIFF.**

*T*here were times in King David's life when he was in alignment and out of alignment. But when the Lord revealed to him what major adjustments were needed, he FULLY repented. He fully straightened out. Not so with King Saul, whose fear of man overrode His fear of God. He just became more stiff-necked to where he lost his crown. Eventually, the crown and the anointing was given to the one who could carry it -- King David.

*W*e tell our students, Atonement is a time of great introspection and reflection. We need to ask ourselves, "Am I in alignment with my Helmet of my Salvation (the Messiah) or are my hidden sins causing me "dis-ease."

"See if there be any hurtful way in me, and **lead** me in the everlasting way." (Psalm 139:24, NASB)



**GOD'S APPOINTMENTS, ARE FOR GOD'S CHILDREN, TO LIVE OUT GOD'S STORY, CENTERED ON GOD'S SACRIFICE, RESTORING GOD'S CREATION, FOR GOD'S GLORY.**

*I*t's harvest time and the fields are ripe in China. 10 years ago, the XH evangelistic team came together to share God's love and Word with the small villages in the Northeastern provinces of China and Inner Mongolia. East Gates provided and continues to provide the free Bibles which are snatched up quickly. Unfortunately, the demand for Bibles is always greater than the supply because of the limited quota Amity Printing Press is allowed to print each year for China distribution only.



Much prayer and planning go into where the Lord leads the XH evangelistic team and how they share the gospel wherever they go.



The XH evangelistic team.



Handing out free Bibles.



We provide Christian resources to teach new believers how the Bible is God's love story to humanity in a way they can understand and appreciate.



We help them learn how to hear God's voice and how to develop a loving relationship with Him.

*T*hank you for your gifts that keep on giving and your prayers that are priceless. Our East Gates staff and co-workers throughout China are eternally grateful. Much more to share in our next newsletter!

  
Ned and Christina Graham