



# East Gates

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

INTERNATIONAL

July - August 2017

Dear East Gates partner,

We have much to share once again in our newsletter. Thank you so much for all the encouraging comments you provided on the last one!

We live in momentous times. An exponential increase in knowledge has not given us greater wisdom in how to live. We seem to be experts in creating alternative worlds by which to escape but find no solace.

Just two years ago, Tencent, China's most prestigious multi-billion dollar social media company came out with a mobile game called "King of Glory," translated "Honor of Kings." Today, it's claimed there are 50 million users daily in China alone. It's so addictive, children have been found to take their parents' charge card and rack up thousands of dollars in internet usage fees. Even though Tencent now logs off youth under 12-years of age after one-hour of play each day, Beijing is now stepping in because as the state-run *People's Daily* recently stated, the amazingly popular "King of Glory" is a "poison" that constantly spreads "negative energy." China's *Xinhua* news agency said "King of Glory" distorts Chinese history by giving its historical figures virtual powers.

According to *Forbes* magazine<sup>1</sup>, "In 2008, China became the first country worldwide to declare gaming addiction a 'clinical disorder,' with parents sending children to military-style boot camps to undergo therapy and training for a cure. In 2010, China's Ministry of Culture introduced the country's first anti-addiction law." But as with all laws, youth have found ways to skirt around the regulations. In the meantime, other Asian countries such as South Korea and Japan have found ways to limit game times and pass bills to control this "abuse" much like gambling and drugs. The West has not found it necessary to take such measures. Unfortunately, Christians in the West are affected as much as non-Christians. As usual, observe how the world takes biblical terminology to create a culture of death versus Life.



<sup>1</sup> Wang, Yue. "After Blasting Tencent, China Plans to Crack Down on Online Games. July 13, 2017.  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ywang/2017/07/13/after-blasting-tencent-china-plans-to-crack-down-on-online-games/#743df42f3afa>

C.S. Lewis, the renowned British theologian, apologist and author of Christian classics such as *Mere Christianity* and *The Chronicles of Narnia* once stated, “It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” And we might add, far too easily entertained or distracted.

Chinese Christian parents know what is at stake with today’s “toxic” trappings. Left unbridled, the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2) will continue to consume their nation’s spirit and soul.

Thankfully, the East Gates’ staff and co-workers continue to bring God’s Kingdom way of life to the Chinese people. We support and equip Chinese teachers with the tools they need to feed young minds and hearts with *living*, not dead food. Their “tribe” or community is not to be formed solely through the social media but “face to face” (II John 12) and “hand in hand” relationships. Here we are at a House church.



PRAYER IS THE  
BEST WIRELESS  
CONNECTION.



在众教会的祝福中

*I*n one of China’s Northeast provinces that we’ve been working in for the past decade, it’s inspiring to see the next generation desire to be anointed, blessed and put into the missionary field. Backed by a spiritually strong and faithful support team, they are ready to be sent out to express God’s redemptive love, meaning for Life and hope in this seemingly hopeless world.





As the typical Chinese in the bus, subway, factory or city street ponders about life without any answers, we're grateful for your faithful support and prayers which allow us to equip another crop of Kingdom disciples, like this year's graduating class at Jiangxi Seminary, who will now go out and sow eternal truths to their contemporaries.



Years ago while in China, I (Christina) was with one of my Chinese seminary girlfriends, Ling, trying to flag down a taxi. One finally stopped and the minute Ling climbed into the backseat, she knew our ride would be short so she started conversing with the driver as he stepped on the gas, puffed on his cigarette and sipped his green tea. She asked him if he enjoyed his work. He said there was nothing else better to do. She told him that even though he was a great cab driver, he wouldn't be doing this the rest of his life because there was a God who created him and had his eternal welfare in mind. Stone silence came from the driver. By the time we reached the seminary, Ling had sowed into this man's soul. She asked him how much was the fare. Without looking at us, he said, “走啦!” (Go!) and waved us out with his hands. Ling said, “How much?” He replied, “不要付啦!” (Don't need to pay!). She said, “Of course we do. A laborer is worthy of his hire!” At that point, I sensed the taxi driver was moved by what Ling had shared and in his own way wanted to return the favor by not charging. I said, “Ling. Lets go. He was moved.” Nudging her out, she poked her head back in the window and said, “Hey, if you ever have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them! I live here!” This is just one of the countless stories I have about my Chinese sisters and brothers who have such a passion and heart to share their true freedom and promises in Christ. Do we have this kind of fire in our bones?



## THE TESTIMONIES CONTINUE...

There's a common saying in Israel, "We don't just believe in miracles, we live by them!" The same can be said of our Chinese brothers and sisters who have been genuinely transformed by the loving power of our Almighty God. Inevitably, every second on a given day, there will be a passionate group of Chinese believers who are either fasting, praying, studying or worshipping together with the sole purpose of following God's admonition to *search and rescue* (Matthew 4:19, 18:12). For them, there is no Jew nor Gentile, slave or free, male and female...for all are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). That is why when some co-workers saw the heart-rending sight of child labor and immense impoverishment in one of the neighboring Islamic countries (see below), they were inspired to act. They recalled the biblical account of the Israelites' slavery in Egypt. Chinese believers at home just wept when they saw the video footage.



These young children are forced to make thousands of bricks in the heat of the day. This is just one small window into their existence and the world of their parents.



Chinese believers called for this "love mission" prayed and fasted for God's vision, courage and guidance. They started studying the local language and culture. In time, God gave them much favor as local Islamic authorities opened doors for them to buy land and permission to build a school for the children. They were delighted and so were the locals.



Over the years, the walls have come down to where it's now an honor for our Chinese brothers to wash our Muslim brothers' feet and vice-versa. Hallelujah!

As you can see, much has been going on within the growing Body of Christ in China. It's only the tip of the iceberg. Your invaluable contributions and Holy Spirit-led prayers enable us to infuse our brothers and sisters with renewed vision and mission -- to press in and press on. You're as much of an inspiration to them as they are to you. Please keep all of us in your devout prayers!

 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham