



East Gates

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

INTERNATIONAL

November - December 2020

Dear East Gates partner,

‘*T*is the season to be grateful for the manifold blessings our great God continues to shower upon us from heaven despite what we experience here on earth. Jesus Christ, as our King and Savior, always had the Kingdom perspective and taught His disciples to have the same.

*I*n **Matthew 6:10**, He told us how to pray, “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” In **Psalms 131**, one of King David’s shortest Psalms of Ascent we see the same mindset, “O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; nor do I involve myself in great matters, or in things too difficult for me. Surely I have composed and quieted my soul like a weaned child rests upon his mother, my soul is like a weaned child upon me. O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forever.” In **II Corinthians 5:6-9**, the Apostle Paul also expressed His Kingdom perspective as a word of encouragement to the believers during times of great persecution, “Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord -- for we walk by faith, not by appearance -- we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be home with the Lord. Therefore, we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent to be pleasing to Him.” These are a few of God’s life-giving words we’ve been admonishing our Chinese brothers and sisters as we leave 2020 and enter 2021.



Yeshua (Hebrew for *salvation*), the Living Word of God, was born into this world and died in His prime as a living sacrifice in our stead, so we wouldn’t have to eternally die in the Spirit. We won’t grasp the profundity of this reality until God brings heaven back down to earth.

CHINA’S KINGDOM POTENTIAL...



A number of years ago, we discovered a gifted Chinese calligraphist in Shanghai’s People’s Park (24.3 acres). With a simple jug of water and the graceful strokes of his hand, he would beautifully water brush classic Tang dynasty poems along the stone walkways. At an opportune moment, we asked him to write out *East Gates International*, 東門國際. As the Chinese characters glistened in the sun, we only wished they could have lasted forever like the fruits of our labors. We prayed silently for this amazing artist, as what a treasure he would be for God’s Kingdom scribing God’s Words in Chinese on stone...

EAST GATES CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Since East Gates' inception in 1990, much has happened in the People's Republic of China (PRC). We've served the Church in China through four PRC administrations under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and now Xi Jinping. In the first ten years, East Gates had direct input on China's religious policies, promoting more freedom to worship than constraints. Unfortunately, in the last few years, many policy reversions have cancelled much progress that was made.

In 30 years, we've learned a lot from our Chinese brothers and sisters. Amid all the tumultuous geo-political, socio-economical and religious changes, we've seen them transform pain into spiritual power, a *test* into a *testimony* and a mess into a *message*...just like their Lord and Savior. It continues today.



(L to R) - Ned Graham, Billy Graham and PRC President Jiang Zemin meet in Southern California in 1997.



Chinese believers now know that Yeshua's birth, death and resurrected life reveals why they were created and what is their true, promised destiny.



East Gates was close friends with the late Dr. Han Wenzao (1923-2006) President of the China Christian Council (1996-2002). In 1999, Dr. Han (left) and Ned Graham sign the second Bible contract allowing East Gates to purchase and distribute two million Bibles.



Like King David, Chinese believers know how to sing over their tears because they have a living God who is the lifter of their head! Psalm 3:3 -- "But You, O Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the One who lifts my head." Shandong Province



East Gates staff have always treasured their times of fellowship, counselling and equipping the House church believers throughout China. A vast network has been established and our relationships stay strong even with COVID. Anhui Province

FOR THE WORD OF THE LORD IS UPRIGHT, AND ALL HIS WORK IS DONE IN FAITHFULNESS.

~ Psalms 33:4 ~

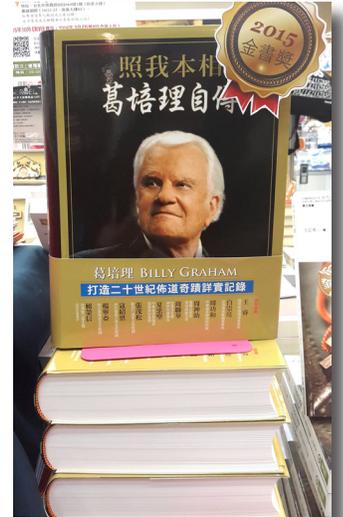
Thirty years of God's work in China cannot possibly be reflected in four short pages but we hope the spirit and heart of what has been accomplished is conveyed in these snapshots of time. Many have come before us and many are still with us. We pray in the generation to come, those who are specially called will come alongside us to bless China.



Over the years, East Gates (EG) has had the privilege of distributing over 4.5 million Bibles legally throughout China. In 2020, due to COVID, our Project Director said requests for Bibles increased significantly and we were able to meet the demand in a timely fashion.



EG providing Bibles for a pastor to give to her congregants in Inner Mongolia. Many had never seen or touched a Bible before.



EG has published key Christian literature that will open believers' eyes to how God can work in people's lives. It took 10 years to properly translate and publish Billy Graham's autobiography in Chinese.



EG partnering with experienced marriage counselors to conduct much needed marriage enrichment retreats. Anhui Province



EG continually equipping training center students with quality Christian resources they can use in full-time ministry. Jiangsu Province



EG is always encouraging unity within the Body of Christ (Psalms 133) and to not just go through the motions but to *believe* in what the communion elements truly mean. Jiangxi Province



EG investing, witnessing and taking part in outdoor baptismal services. Every one is unique and a miracle. Yunnan Province



Our deaf and mute brothers and sisters have always taught us as much as we teach them. Great is their faithfulness. Shandong Province

THANK YOU LORD FOR YOUR GREAT FAITHFULNESS AND TO ALL OF YOU FOR ASSISTING US IN BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN CHINA!

TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, THE WORKS THAT I DO, HE WILL DO ALSO; AND GREATER WORKS THAN THESE HE WILL DO; BECAUSE I GO TO THE FATHER.

~ John 14:12-14 ~

*I*n the Bible, it seems the 30th year was the timeframe when leaders came of age to lead. Joseph was 30 when he became 2nd in command to Pharaoh (Genesis 41:46). King Saul came to the throne at 30 (I Samuel 13:1). King David began his reign over Israel at 30 (II Samuel 5:4). Ezekiel was called to be a prophet at 30 (Ezekiel 1:1). Priests officially entered service at 30 (Numbers 4:3) and Yeshua started His full-time ministry at 30 (Luke 3:23).

*E*ast Gates doesn't know what next year will bring but God does. Perhaps with East Gates turning 30, even greater "gates" will open in 2021. Regardless, God's Kingdom plans move forward despite earthly circumstances and situations. We stay focused on the vision and mission we've been given and keep sowing into China's potential "Josephs, Deborahs, King Davids, Ezekiels, Esthers, Pauls and Marys" of our time. Given what occurred in 2020, more college students have a desire to become urban pastors and missionaries.



(L to R) - Brother Zhang, Christina & Ned Graham, Brother Hung and of blessed memory, Brother Tsang (1954-2020).

*W*e want to thank all of you who have prayerfully, faithfully and sacrificially given over these many years so the seemingly impossible could be made possible (Luke 1:37).

Wishing you all a most blessed Christmas.

Let us keep God's Light shining brightly in China and the year to come!

 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham