



# East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

March - April 2022

*D*ear East Gates partner,

Since our last January-February 2022 newsletter, much has happened on the world scene. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24th and the war continues. The ramifications have affected the entire globe. In the meantime, China has internal challenges of its own. Shanghai, its financial capital of close to 26 million people (three times the population of New York City) has been under complete Covid-19 lockdown since March 24th. Initially, all of Shanghai's east side was shut down. A week later, the west side. But as Covid numbers continued to climb, all tunnels, bridges and highways were closed and for the first time in modern history, the megacity came to standstill. Conservatively speaking, economist, Zeng Michael Song, at the Chinese University of Hong Kong believes the lockdown's economic cost to China is 46 billion per month and increasing.



Shanghai's 70 mile, man-made Huangpu river divides the metropolis into two regions. The Pudong region is east of the Huangpu river and the Puxi region is to the west.



Thousands of businesses, like the world's largest Starbucks in Shanghai are now closed.



Main streets and highways once teeming with traffic are now empty.



*D*espite the great economic loss, increasing starvation from food chain issues, short-handedness with medical care and other mounting socio-economic problems, the central government's "heart is still hardened" and holds to its "Zero-COVID" policy. As a result, millions are now crying out.

To the right, a Chinese citizen, dressed as the Grim Reaper, stands in line for his SARS CoV-2 nucleic acid test.



**FOR THE MIND SET ON THE FLESH IS DEATH,  
BUT THE MIND SET ON THE SPIRIT IS LIFE AND PEACE.**

(ROMANS 8:6)

*L*ike the Israelites of old, during the time of the Exodus, one can become accustomed to a culture that seemingly brings you all the necessities and securities of life but soon discovers you're actually slaves. Eventually those "gods" and "idols" reveal their true nature and life changes. Suddenly, you begin to see things for what they truly are and realize they're leading to physical *and* spiritual death instead of life. This is what's happening in China and around the world for those who have "eyes to see and ears to hear." (Deut.29:4, Ezek.12:2)



A child who was lame and incapacitated could not stand in line, so workers come into the home to administer the SARS CoV-2 nucleic acid test.



With the Zero-COVID policy, China's military has been consigned to assist with the massive Covid testing regime. Many citizens do not believe the vaccines or tests are that effective.



In the city, the younger generation deals with the angst of taking their "nth" Covid test by transforming their "real" world into one of *fantasy*. They dress in costumes and in some instances, try to make a wedding gala out of the event.



Standing in line for the Covid test, one sees Chinese dressed up in Marvel comic figures, especially Superman and Superwoman. Like the rest of humanity, Chinese yearn for superheros that can bring genuine peace and security for themselves and the next generation.

*I*nterestingly, the creators of the comic hero Superman were two Eastern European Jews - Joe Schuster and Jerry Siegal. They were born in 1914 when WWI started and lived through the zeitgeist or "spirit of the times" of WWII. Undoubtedly, it was a period when the Jews were hoping their Messiah or supernatural hero would come to save them. Many comic readers saw Superman to be a Moses-like figure. Chinese tell us they like Superman because he uses his powers to fight for justice, save the innocent and destroy evil. We tell them who their true God and *real* Superman is, Jesus their Messiah. We share how He's returning soon so they need to be ready!

“...AND THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY.” (REVELATION 12:11)

*A*s we have just celebrated Passover and Easter, we hope you all had a most meaningful time of reflection on the gravity of our Lord and Savior’s supreme sacrifice to secure the eternal welfare of those who sincerely realize the need to repent and return to the “Lover of their Soul.”

Despite these most challenging times where there are lockdowns throughout China, our Chinese brothers and sisters know they’re meeting their RISEN King when they press into His Living Word and pray. Pastor “W,” whom we’ve ministered with for over 20 years recently wrote us and shared, “Thank you so much for sending us these very good Old Testament (OT) reference books. Together, with my co-worker, we will write training notes from these OT volumes to disciple our students. I’ve just outlined Genesis and have completed typing out 80 Psalms for them. With the lockdown, I will spend 8-9 hours typing and sorting out the Psalms each day. Psalms is so good because it is the model for the spiritual life of a believer.”

CHINESE BELIEVERS KNOW THEY ARE SEALED AND COVERED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

PSALM 54:2-4,6



“*H*ear my prayer, God; listen to the words of my mouth. For strangers have risen against me and violent men have sought my life; they have not set God before them. Selah. Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the sustainer of my soul...Willingly I will sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, LORD for it is good.”



# I HAVE FOUND HIM WHOM MY SOUL LOVES...

~ Song of Songs 3:4 ~

## NOWADAYS, SCENES FAMILIAR TO MILLIONS OF CHINESE



Vegetables that one can buy online are posted everywhere. For a season, a miracle has occurred in much of China. They've been forced to rest and become vegetarians!



Imagine feeding 26 million people. In the past month, 35,000 workers from provinces around China have come to Shanghai's aid. Food is left on people's doorsteps in plastic bags. Sometimes you get what you order. Sometimes not. Sometimes nothing.



Residents who test Covid positive have a notice taped on their door. It reads: "Home quarantine. Don't go out and don't visit. Persevere and overcome difficulties together."



Prior to the lockdowns, many Christians saw the "handwriting on the wall" and prepared for lean times. House church Christians share with those who are without.

*We* are happy to report that our East Gates staff and co-workers have all tested negative so far and even though many of them are under lockdown, they share with us that they are not "locked down" in the Name of Jesus! They say they know their King of Kings who has risen from the grave and HE IS ALIVE and planning His soon coming return. HE is the lifter of their heads and HIS joy is their everlasting strength (Zech. 8:10). A wonderful example is Sister "Z," (92 yrs.old), who was a surgical nurse by trade but after retirement, she became an East Gates co-worker distributing Bibles and ministering to believers. She lives by Romans 8:11, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."



Sister "Z"'s husband passed away 60 years ago but she's known her true Bridegroom whom her soul loveth for quite a while!



Due to the pandemic, three of our East Gates co-workers drove 1884 miles non-stop, through seven provinces in three days, to share with those in isolation how their God reigns and bring them to His Table.



Our East Gates Project Director sent us a photo of his favorite mug of which he wakes up to every morning. "TODAY I CHOOSE JOY." Amen!

*As* we've completed celebrating another Passover and Easter in remembrance of our Lord and Savior, let us remember, "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" That is our heartcry for all of China!

*Christina*  
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