



# East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

July - August 2022

Dear East Gates partner,

We hope your summer has been going well. With respect to China, lockdowns in the major hubs such as Shanghai seem to be cautiously lifting as main transportation arteries such as subways and bus lines slowly restore service. Parks are reopening although limiting visitors to half the capacity.

With respect to East Gates, during the “Zero-Covid” policy, we’ve had to work mostly with our pastors and co-workers through social media. After close to 3-months of being locked down in their Shanghai apartment, our East Gates Project Director, Mr. Zhang and his wife are now able to go outside, ride their bicycles and visit stores. Now that they’re more free to travel, Sister Wang, a wonderful friend and East Gates co-worker, invited them to stay in her retreat home in Jiangxi province where one only needs to quarantine for 3-days versus two weeks. Mr. Zhang will be meeting with other local believers face-to-face to see what their real situation is like and what their needs are.



Lockdowns throughout China have been tiring for millions but it seems there is light at the end of the tunnel...at least for now. No longer locked in his home, this man finds peace, fresh air and rest on a park bench in Jiangxi province.



The marathon lockdowns in China have made the locals appreciate what they once took for granted -- the freedom of gathering together in the beauty of God’s creation and the ability to share life heart-to-heart versus through texting. As one believer stated, “One doesn’t realize what simple blessings are until they’re taken away.”



Chinese love their parks and recreational areas. Here in Jiangxi province, park paths that were once empty and served as Emergency Supply Points (what the green signs state) are now strewn with locals where they gather daily to play cards, Chinese chess, dance or exercise. It’s their happy place.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT + GOD'S WORD = NEW CREATION

*I*n the beginning, when the earth was a wasteland and in a state of chaos and darkness, God hovered over the face of the waters and His life-giving Spirit (Hebrew - *ruach* or breath) transformed the darkness into light and disorder into divine order. What was lifeless became teeming with Life. With His Words, He spoke forth Creation into being (Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-3).

“By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made.  
And by the breath of His mouth all their lights.” (*Psalms* 33:6)

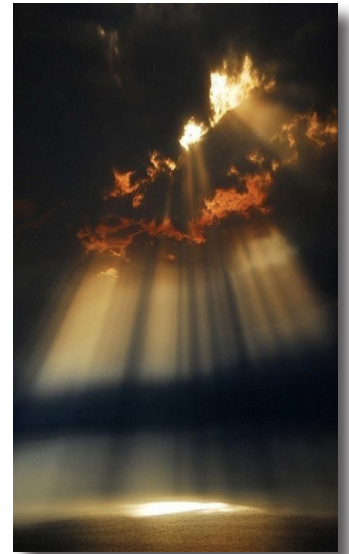
Today, Chinese know that only through God's Holy Spirit *and* His Word, can they become a New Creation, one made in His image and nature. It requires both.

Below is a testimony from a young Chinese church sister, Pastor “P,” who shared with us how the Bibles and Christian reference books we’ve provided, have helped with her sermon preparations.

“*B*eing a pastor called to serve the Lord, the Word of God is the foundation of my service to Him. I must be able to discern and evaluate the Truth correctly because only God's Truth can set one free and bring true spiritual revival. If God's intentions are misinterpreted or forced to say something based on one's own will, the consequences will be disastrous to oneself and all those who hear His Word. Correct interpretation results in correct application. If one wants correct interpretation, one must spend time in God's Word with His Spirit leading.

I oftentimes feel weak and powerless while studying God's Word because sometimes it seems difficult to understand or is unclear. I feel inefficient and must stay up late preparing what I believe the Lord wants me to share. Since God knows my needs, I thank Him for His abundant grace and for the *Bible ~ Outline and Lecture Series* you gifted me. The incredible wealth of Bible study material is so well-organized and saves me so much time from having to research countless other sources. The Old Testament used to be difficult to understand and not interesting but now with the clear outlines, historical information and excellent commentaries, this section of the Bible has come alive. I am able to spend more time praying, drawing near to Him, seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit and enjoy preparing sermons so it will have much vitality to the congregation. I will share the *Bible ~ Outline and Lecture Series* with my co-workers. We have to learn and grow together. First we take root in God's Word and then we have the strength and authority to serve.”

~ Pastor “P” ~ Jiangsu province



Pastor “P” preparing her sermons using the Bibles and *Bible - Outline and Lecture Series* reference books we gifted her.



*Bible - Outline and Lecture Series* reference books. Old Testament series (L) and New Testament - 4 Gospels (R).

## II TIMOTHY 3:16

ALL SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED

AND IS USEFUL FOR TEACHING, REBUKING, CORRECTING AND TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.



## WE HAVE A DREAM...

Recently, Pastor “L” wrote us regarding their church building project in Yunnan province. We would like to share with you his letter and how your offerings contributed to their dire need.

“Peace in Him! We’re the brothers and sisters of Habo Ma Xinzhai Christian Church in Yunnan province. In our fellowship we have 46 families and 167 attendees of which 90 are baptized. We have one pastor and one elder. For years, we have been sustained by the grace of God. We love one another and live in harmony together. We stand on God’s Truth and His teachings. We love our faith and our country to the Glory of God and do whatever is most beneficial for the people.

Our old church was built on April 25, 2005. Due to insufficient funding and cheap labor at the time, the original structure was not constructed well. Over the years, the foundation, pillars, walls and roof have deteriorated to where it is not safe to meet there anymore. As a result, church members have stopped attending regular worship services. We formed a church building committee and decided to demolish the old church and rebuild a new one. We have a dream that the new church design will reflect our ethnicity and national culture. We live in a high mountainous area where transportation services are inconvenient and the local economy is poor. Our building committee has counted the cost and it will require RMB420,000 (\$62,654) to build our new church. Over the past 10 years, we’ve only been able to collect RMB270,000 (\$40,300). This is a big gap. We hope pastors, brothers and sisters in the Lord will pray for us and hopefully provide some assistance. May God remember your labors! Emmanuel! ~ Pastor “L”



Architectural rendering of what they hope will be their new church building. Thankfully, the new design is not open to the elements like the old church.



Rotted wood beams exposed throughout the church structure reveal major safety hazards.



Their present church is unsafe to enter due to structural deterioration of foundation, pillars, wood beams and rafters.

**EAST GATES WILL BLESS THE HABO MA XINZHAI CHRISTIAN CHURCH WITH RMB30,000 (\$4,475) TOWARDS THEIR NEW CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT.**



Church members never missed a service until they were told it was unsafe to meet inside. Congregational unity and harmony come with a loving pastor and allowing God’s Spirit to work with His Word in transforming lives.



## II TIMOTHY 3:15

BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD AS A WORKER WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED, ACCURATELY HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH.

*In* a recent study conducted by George Barna, Director of the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, only 37% of Christian pastors in the U.S. have a biblical worldview. In other words, 63% hold to a syncretistic or blending of different faiths and belief systems in concert with their Bible teachings. The significant societal changes with respect to gender identity, family, educational and geopolitical values have caused a major increase in the number of pastors to exit full-time ministry. 29% in 2021 to 42% in March of 2022.\* Nowadays, many who take communion every Sunday do so out of tradition and unworthily if one follows I Corinthians 11:27. No wonder Christian missionaries from overseas (i.e. Africa, South Korea and China to name a few) feel moved to come to our shores to pray for spiritual revival.

*A*nother church we equip and support in Yunnan province recently sent us video and photos of their Mother's Day celebration. We didn't know they celebrated Mother's Day! In these rural churches, there are no issues with gender and identity. They understand clearly God's simple Truth on how humans created in God's image" are miraculously birthed into this world (Genesis 1:26). Being a new creation or "new man and woman in Christ" (II Corinthians 5:17) they're not wasting their time on idle chatter or futile debates but living out their Kingdom freedom circumspectly, knowing their freedom came at a great price with the blood of Christ. Pastors in the West need to come to these poor village churches to get a sound biblical perspective!



On Mother's Day, the fathers and men in Pastor D's church sang for the mothers and women. We've discovered that minority tribes are gifted when it comes to music be it singing or playing instruments. They never make a joyful noise but joyful melody!



Margaret C. Kuo (1931-2022)  
Born: Beijing, China

Ruth Bell Graham (1920-2007)  
Born: Qingjiang, China

*O*ur beloved, late mothers, Ruth Bell Graham and Margaret C. Kuo were both born in China. As believers growing up during one of the most tumultuous times in China's modern history, they knew the precious price and value of freedom from a spiritual and physical perspective. Their allegiance was first to the Kingdom and second to the U.S. where they would eventually immigrate to a nation where even the currency states, "In God We Trust." As far as East Gates' work in China, they were always our greatest cheerleaders. We can hear their voices echoing now. STAND FIRM.

*Kingdom blessings to you all.*

*Ned and Christina*



East Gates supports youth in poor regions who have a heart for worship and developing their music skills for the Lord.

\* <https://www.christianpost.com/news/only-37-of-pastors-have-a-biblical-worldview-barna.html>