



East Gates
INTERNATIONAL

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

September - October 2023

Dear East Gates partner,

We are living in Bible times and as the contrast between “light” and “darkness” becomes more and more clear, God’s Word also comes alive in ways we’ve never seen before.

A few weeks ago, starting on September 29th, the Chinese celebrated their annual Autumn Moon Festival which occurs every 15th day of the 8th month on their lunisolar calendar based on Chinese astrology. The tradition goes back about 3000 years and is based on a mythical story around the goddess Chang’e who was known to bring light, prosperity and an abundant harvest. It always begins on a full moon so as a tradition, families and friends share moon cakes and in some cities, thousands of lanterns are released symbolizing the “light” Chang’e provides to the path of wealth and good fortune.

What’s interesting is that every year, the Autumn Moon Festival falls right around the same time when the biblical Feast of Tabernacles also begins. This feast is also initiated with a full, harvest moon. The major difference is the Feast of Tabernacles is on God’s “daytimer” and is one of His Fall festivals that commemorates when He will bring heaven down to earth. As the prophet Isaiah wrote, it will be a time when, “They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9). Today, God’s Kingdom power is moving towards this very time!



Moon goddess Chang’e



In Genesis 1:14, God created the lights in the heavens for signs and “seasons” or in Hebrew, “appointed times,” to mark special festivals that all point to Him.

BIBLICAL SPRING FESTIVALS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLICAL FALL FESTIVALS

THE FEAST OF THE LORD (The seven month cycle)

1. PASSOVER	2. PENTECOST	3. TABERNACLES
1 st MONTH - NISAN	2 nd MONTH - SIWAN	7 th MONTH - TISHRI
FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD	FEAST OF HARVEST	FEAST OF TABERNACLES
1 st Day - 14 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
14 th Day - 15 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
15 th Day - 16 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
16 th Day - 17 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
17 th Day - 18 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
18 th Day - 19 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
19 th Day - 20 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
20 th Day - 21 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
21 st Day - 22 nd Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
22 nd Day - 23 rd Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
23 rd Day - 24 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
24 th Day - 25 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
25 th Day - 26 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
26 th Day - 27 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
27 th Day - 28 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
28 th Day - 29 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
29 th Day - 30 th Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day
30 th Day - 31 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day	1 st Day - 1 st Day

BIBLICAL SPRING FESTIVALS

BIBLICAL FALL FESTIVALS

Our students know now that on God’s calendar, all of the Spring Festivals commemorate what Jesus did at His first coming and the Fall Festivals all manifest what He will fulfil at His return. God purposed it such that when we observe these festivals, we are living out our salvation history! The *Light* of the world marked the beginning of the Spring and Fall festivals with a full moon.

THE WORD OF GOD IS DEEP

When we provide our Chinese brothers and sisters a Bible, we teach them how to engage with God's Word and ask God questions. For example, most everyone has read the story in John 6:1-14 about Jesus miraculously feeding the 5000 men with only five loaves and two fishes. Actually, there were more likely over 10,000 there that day because women and children were also present (Matthew 14:21).

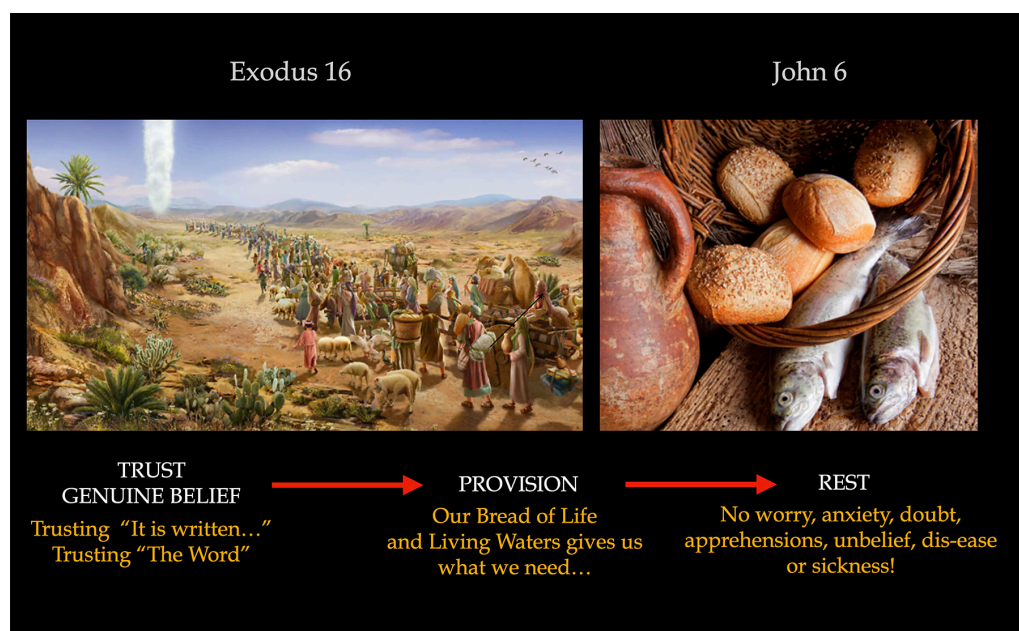
To understand the depth of Jesus' miracle, we share how the Apostle John mentions a few important facts they need to be aware of.



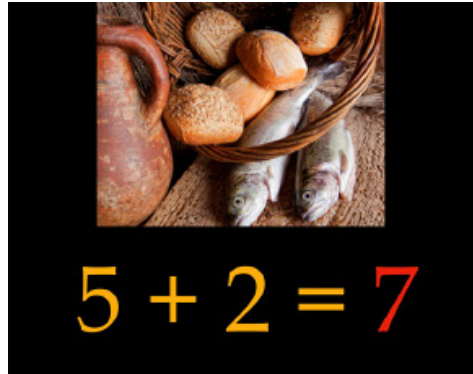
We have been providing large print Bibles to our pastor friend in Anhui Province. In the poor, rural areas, most of the women who attend Bible studies are elderly because the younger generation are all working in the fields or factories.

1) The masses are following Jesus because they want to see Him heal the sick. 2) It's around the time of the Passover. 3) They are in a desolated area. 4) Jesus tests His disciples with the question of where will they get enough bread to feed all the people. 5) A local boy happens to have five barley loaves and two fishes. 6) After Jesus feeds the thousands, there is more bread remaining than what they started with, so much so that 12 baskets are filled. None is wasted.

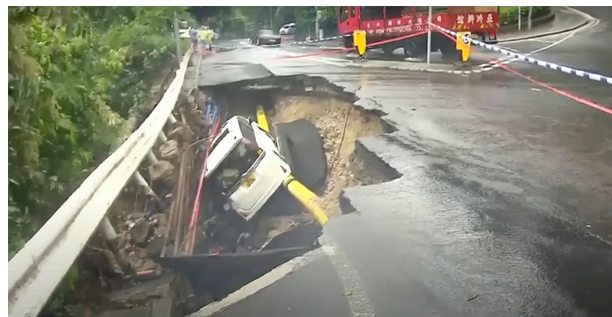
Now we teach the students to develop the mind of Christ. Jesus knows it is around Passover. Therefore, He knows that all the Jews that have gathered around Him would have shared with their children the story of how God saved their ancestors from the 10 plagues and Pharaoh. They would have rehearsed once again how God parted the Red Sea and safely led them into the wilderness to miraculously feed them manna, "bread from heaven." God gave them a double portion on Friday so they could rest on the Sabbath, the 7th day, which God made holy. The Sabbath represented a time when He would bring heaven down to earth and there would be true Rest throughout the earth. All of the Jews and the disciples knew about the miraculous story regarding the manna. So here was Jesus, the Living Bread, thousands of years later, miraculously providing bread for the multitude again! As it was millenna ago with their forefathers, Jesus wanted to impress upon the thousands who desired to be healed that if you put your full faith and trust in Me, I will be your true prosperity and provision. I am your Rest.



Now we ask the students if they've ever wondered why five loaves and two fishes happened to be available. Why not ten loaves and one fish or five loaves and five fishes? Because as in Chinese culture, numbers in the Bible have significance and meaning. $5 + 2 = 7$. In God's earthly realm, the number "7" stands for fullness, completeness, the Sabbath, true rest or when all of Creation is at peace. "7" also points to the Feast of Tabernacles when the Messiah will return and our King of Kings will rule and reign forever.

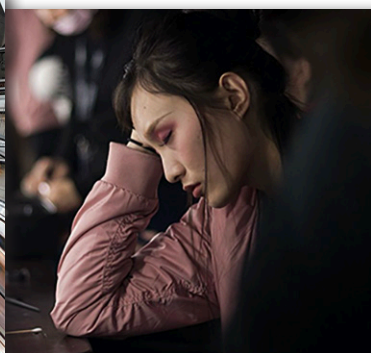


So our Chinese brothers and sisters are finding there is such depth to God's Word and everything ties together and makes sense. What a contrast to the world they presently live in. A few months ago, typhoon Saola devastated Hong Kong and there was massive flooding in Beijing and Guangzhou as well. Most Chinese pastors were probably preaching about how the church needs to build on the One and only firm foundation - the Rock, which is Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 10:4).



Torrential rains and winds caused major infrastructure damage. Roads collapsed and surging waters poured down subway escalators.

In the meantime, there is no rest for the weary. China's economy has not been faring well lately and the "new" work week that many have had to adapt to is known as the 996 工作制 (work system) whereby one works 12 hours days from 9am-9pm, six days a week. Brutal. China needs God and His pattern and rhythm to life.



Man's pattern and rhythm to life is not sustainable.

Getty Images

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL PRAYERS

Over the years, we've been supporting and helping the Baoshan Seminary and Training Center. We're happy to report that the Yunnan Provincial government has approved the construction of a larger facility to accommodate the growing number of students. May they train to proclaim and glorify God throughout the world.

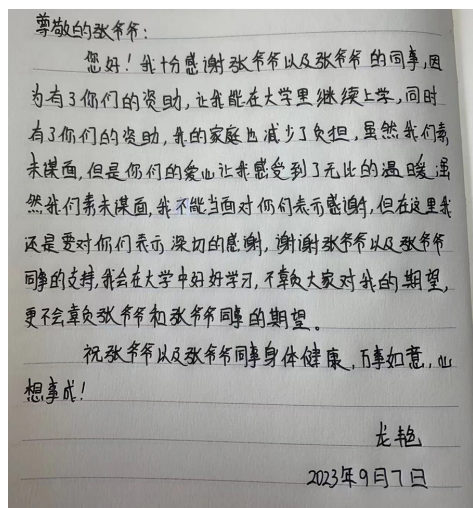


Above, an architectural rendering of the new Baoshan Seminary and Training Center and to the left, the building under construction. The student body has been growing.

We're also continuing to provide Christian youth with college tuition whose parents cannot afford to provide them higher levels of education. Many times we receive letters from students like Long Yan, thanking us through our East Gates Project Director, Brother Zhang.

Respected Grandpa Zhang,

How are you! I greatly appreciate you Grandpa Zhang and your co-workers. I can continue my studies at the university because of your funding. At the same time, with your funding, it makes my family less burdened. Although we have never met, your love makes me feel incredibly warm. I can't express my gratitude to you in person but I still want to express my deep gratitude to you. Thank you for your support Grandpa Zhang and of your co-workers. I will study hard in college and live up to everyone's expectations of me. I will not let you and your co-workers down. Wishing you and your co-workers good health. May all go well with you and may all your wishes come true. *Long Yan, 2023.9.7*



Thank you for entrusting East Gates with your Kingdom resources to bless our Chinese brothers and sisters. Your sacrificial contributions have always come when we've needed them most. Given what's happening all around us, we hope and pray East Gates can continue to be the heart, hands and feet of our soon coming Messiah. May we stay faithful, available and teachable in these latter days.

 *Christina*

Ned and Christina Graham