



East Gates

Seeing Beyond the Impossible™

INTERNATIONAL

July - August 2015

*D*ear faithful East Gates partner,

We have much to share with you. With each and every passing day, we come closer to our Lord and Savior's soon coming return. We're living in amazing Bible times. As we read more into God's Word, we begin to realize how Jesus' prophetic warnings to His disciples 2000 years ago, are as true then, as they are now. For our Christian brothers and sisters in China and around the world, it's in their backyard.

~ MATTHEW 24:1-2 ~

Jesus departed from the temple area and was going on His way, when His disciples came up to Him to call His attention to the buildings of the temple and point them out to Him. But He answered them, "Do you see all these? Truly, I tell you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."



Hundreds of churches and monasteries in the Middle East, like this one in Syria, continue to be destroyed.



In China, a number of churches have been razed to the ground and crosses continue to be dismantled day and night.



*W*hen it comes to China, why do prominent church buildings and Christian crosses appear to be more of a threat to the Chinese government than before? Scholars such as Edward Law in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at the Hong Kong Baptist University say it's because some governmental authorities believe the "holy cross" is a political symbol tied with Western ideology which competes with Chinese Communism. Therefore, these authorities must find ways to restrain Christianity's growth and influence, despite its many positive contributions to civil society. Pastor Chen, a respected Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province church leader, feels that even though Christianity's roots began in the Middle East, Chinese leaders still believe Christianity is "Western" and therefore, a major threat. Ironically, China seems to have an insatiable desire for everything else that is of Western culture -- Kentucky Fried Chicken, McDonalds, Starbucks, I-Phones, information technology and its higher educational system. In fact, a recent cover story in one of our local Seattle/Eastside business magazines was entitled, "*The East Comes to the Eastside.*" Thousands of Chinese have been moving to the Seattle area. And like what a Chinese Duke University graduate, who just became an Amazon employee soon discovered, there is far more to life than making money. He was recently baptized at a local church.

Meanwhile, East Gates is happy to report that not all of China's scholars and government officials believe that Christianity is a threat to China's welfare. In fact, one of China's more notable historians and scholars, Yi Zhongtian, a professor in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Xiamen University, feels that Christianity is a belief system China should seriously consider.

This past April, Professor Yi gave a talk at Beijing University (comparable to our Harvard), entitled, "*China: What Does China Believe? Too Many Religions Is No Religion.*" He compared the rise and fall of two great empires -- the Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220AD, China's Golden Age) and the Roman Empire. He analyzed each empire's amazing military, religious, economic and political achievements but stated that in the end, they both fell. Why? Because they had no core values. They worshipped the emperor and every god and goddess they could create in their own minds, but to no avail.

Professor Yi pointed out to thousands that day in the nation's capital, "Chinese idol worship is futile...China and the Chinese people have suffered much in the last 3,700 years simply because they lacked the firm belief in a power greater than themselves -- Almighty God." He continued, **"It is the belief in a supernatural power greater than ourselves, in the image of Jesus Christ, with all His humanity, resurrected from death, to save mankind from ultimate death, that is missing in China today."**

Professor Yi brought the audience back to a time when China wasn't polytheistic. He stated, "At the very beginning of our history, during the first three dynasties, Xia, Shang and Zhou, our ancestors worshipped Shang-di, 上帝, the Supreme God who ruled heaven and earth. Somehow, this belief system disappeared after Emperor Qin Shi Huang, the one who built the Great Wall." East Gates has a presentation on this fascinating time in China's history for any churches that are interested. Praise God, that worship of the One true God has returned to China with far greater revelation!

In summary, Professor Yi candidly shared how today, Communism cannot compete with the market economy. China may be wealthy, but it's filled with spiritually lost and empty souls. He expressed how most Chinese equate Christianity with the "successful" West (i.e. Holy Roman Empire, democracy, Western culture) but one cannot equate true Christian faith on these secular constructs, for they are a faulty template when it comes to expressing God's eternal core values. As history and the present reveal, they do not lead to longterm societal peace, harmony or stability. China will inherit the same fate if it follows the same path.

Thankfully, God has raised up notable Chinese leaders in their keys areas of expertise for a time such as this -- Jack Ma (business) and Professor Yi (history/literature). They've been transparently sharing what China truly needs for its future. They are **aware**. From Professor Yi's studies and astute observations, only a focussed and devoted love relationship with the One true God will secure China and her people's destiny.



Professor Yi Zhongtian



Thousands attend Professor Yi's lecture. April 2015. Beijing University.

我们需要的是真信仰. 像爱情一样专一!

We need true faith. A wholehearted devotion like two true lovers! ~ Yi Zhongtian

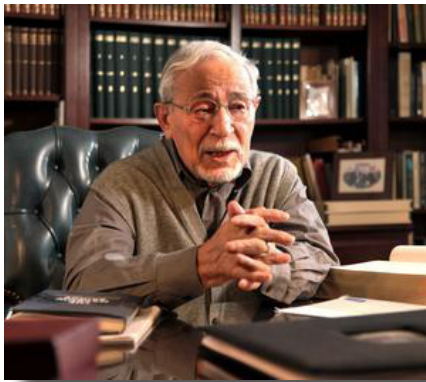
* Professor Yi's complete lecture in English will be made available on our web site soon.

As the nation of China becomes more aware of the hope that lies within them and as millions of believers contend for the faith passed on to them (Jude 1:3), East Gates encourages our brothers and sisters with the fact that their crosses may be coming down, but no one can annul or remove what Yeshua Ha'Mashiach, Jesus the Messiah, did on the cross during that pivotal moment of eternity for all humanity.



For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12, NASV



**Of Blessed Memory
Rabbi Isaac Neuman
(1923-2014)**

A day before I (Christina) was to leave for China last October, my friend, Rabbi Isaac Neuman (91), asked to see me for a short visit. It was a rare moment given his ailing health, so I felt quite honored. He was the lone Holocaust survivor of his entire family. He tells his story in his book, *The Narrow Bridge - Beyond the Holocaust*.

Rabbi looked at me with pensive eyes and said, "Christina, the world is beginning a time of sorrows and birth pangs. It's just the beginning. There will be a clash of civilizations. ISIS. Evil shrouded in good. Good shrouded in evil. Evil with a little bit of good in the corner. Russia will feel the blade of ISIS's knife at their neck as well. Asia has a very significant role to play in this clash of civilizations. It will not be about the East versus West but about the Caliphate / Ottoman Empire versus the rest of the world."

Rabbi then asked me, "So what are you going to do in China this time?" I replied, "Teach Torah and the Bible. Teach how the Lord our God is One (Heb. *echad*) and how to have faith (Heb. *emunah*) in the midst of trials as the Chinese increase my faith as well." Rabbi nodded and said, "Good. If I am still here when you return, we must start another Torah study group." I quickly replied, "You will still be with us rabbi!" He shrugged his shoulders and quietly said with a smile, "If I am still here..." Rabbi passed away a day before I came home. I've never forgotten our timely meeting, nor his words. They were meant for me to hear.



**A tabernacle for praise & worship
in Hong Kong.**

I return back to China in October and November to teach and train with our staff. The churches are hungry to learn about Israel, the Tabernacle and how it pertains to their lives today. They've been preparing.



May Chinese hearts beat at one with our Lord.

FROM THE PROPHET MALACHI...

“For from the rising of the sun to its setting, My name shall be great among the nations, and in every place incense shall be offered to My name, and indeed a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.”

~ Malachi 1:11 ~



As we've seen in this newsletter, China craves to know the One true God of Israel and the nations. We share with Chinese believers, to remember what God told the Israelites through Moses in Deuteronomy 4:27-30, “The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations...there you will serve gods, the work of man's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. But if from there you will seek the LORD your God, you will find Him, if you search Him with all your heart and all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice.”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS AND PRAYERS AS WE MINISTER TOGETHER WITH OUR CHINESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS FOR ISRAEL, CHINA AND THE WORLD!



Ned and Christina

Ned and Christina Graham

Please note that our main office number has changed to 425-255-8888. Also, if you are moving to a temporary address or are having mail forwarded, please inform us ahead of time. Thank you so much!