



# East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

January - February 2019

*D*ear East Gates partner,

We enter 2019 with great hope and anticipation of what God will continue to do through East Gates for the eternal welfare of our Chinese brothers and sisters as they minister to each other, their nation and the world.

As we see in the life of Yeshua (Jesus), true ministry is not about doing something “new” at every twist and turn but learning how to be consistent, obedient and faithful under the loving authority of the Almighty who intimately knows the history of every nation, tongue and tribe.

As we’ve seen in the news, 2018 finished with US-China relations at an all-time low as on-going trade wars, China’s growing military presence in the South China Sea and the U.S.’s request for the extradition of Sabrina Meng Wanzhou (CFO to China’s largest telecom company, *Huawei*) for fraud and breaking American sanctions with Iran continued to erode any trust and hope for better East-West relations.

Throughout history, whenever Sino-American relations did not fair well, indigenous Christians were always affected. One of the main reasons is because China always viewed Christianity as a “Western religion” with geopolitical and socioeconomic objectives that did not have the “Middle Kingdom’s” best interests in mind. China, with its 3,500-4,000 years of recorded history versus America’s 240, remembers well events like the Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864) in which Christian tenets (albeit properly or improperly expressed) came head to head with a corrupt and dying Qing dynasty. The bitter taste of the Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901) still lingers as well for it was a time when anti-foreign, anti-colonial and anti-Christian sentiments ran high. In the end, the Chinese government felt shamed in a way they’ve never forgotten.

So directly and indirectly, these major rebellions affected the central government’s stance on religion, especially the Christian faith since from an overall historical perspective, Christianity always seemed to be one aspect of Western culture that threatened China’s national security and ideologies. The irony is, in March 2017, China printed its 160 millionth Bible of which half have been exported to over 100 countries. It reminds of us of what the Anglican theologian Bishop Hanley Moule (1841-1920) once wrote:

*There is no situation so chaotic that God cannot, from that situation,  
create something that is surpassingly good.*



*He did it at Creation.*

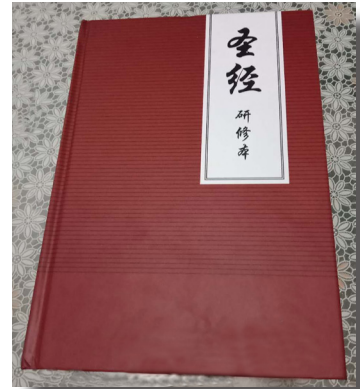


*He did it at the Cross.*



*He is doing it today.*

In 2017, the American Christian publishing company, Crossway Books, the United Bible Society and China's National Chinese Christian Council / Three-Self Patriotic Movement worked closely together to publish a new Chinese Study Bible (ESV version). On the first day of its release, 6,500 sold immediately. Since that time, the stock has been sparse. Recently, however, our Project Director, discovered there were several cases at one of the Bible distribution centers so he bought the remaining 250 copies and had them sent to pastors and Bible teachers in Shandong, Zhejiang, Yunnan and Shaanxi provinces.



Outside of the Life Application Bible, there are few if any Chinese Study Bibles. This one has received great reviews because for the first time, pastors and believers say this version has explanatory notes, maps and charts that tie scriptural meanings to their standard Chinese Union Bible version. They now have a greater sense of the culture, times and context in which the Bible was written.

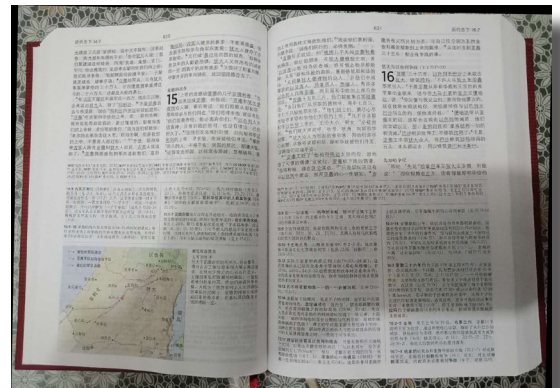
One of our long-time Bible missionary teachers shared, "Given the increasing tension that surrounds us, it has become more difficult to have large gatherings. We've had to increase the number of co-workers to oversee smaller cell groups. This means they require better training so the Study Bible has been a great tool. It answers a lot of the questions the students have. We really appreciate this gift with a grateful heart and will remember you when we thank the Lord!"



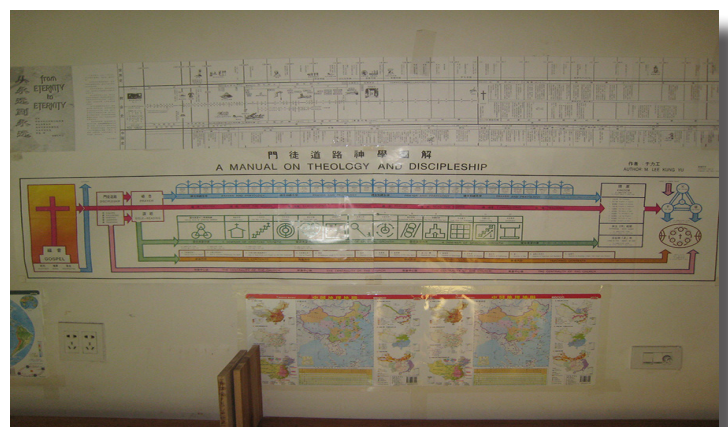
FOR WITH GOD NOTHING IS EVER IMPOSSIBLE,  
AND NO WORD FROM GOD SHALL BE WITHOUT  
POWER OR IMPOSSIBLE OF FULFILLMENT.

*Luke 1:37, Amplified*

For those who have been contributors and followers of East Gates' ministry over the decades, you know God is preparing an amazing harvest in China. They are serious students of the Bible. In many homes and training centers, God's Word is like their wallpaper (see below). They're redeeming the time!



Chinese Study Bible (ESV version)







A believer with her “first love” is a beautiful thing to see. Look at the joy that comes with receiving her first Bible.



Large registered and unregistered churches may be heavily monitored these days, but it does not keep believers from attending Christmas Eve celebrations like this one in Jiangxi province. If anything, the Public Security Bureau and local officials who may be present are blessed by experiencing God’s joy and the gospel message!

*The* Body of Christ in China has always revealed to the world that when times get more challenging they become more resilient and strong, not fragile or weak. Last year, during the Mid-Autumn Festival or Moon Festival, when most people get time off to spend with their families, a missionary team we’ve assisted and equipped went to Tibet to share God’s love with more than 400 orphans. They blessed them with truckloads of donated food and clothing and taught them biblical life skills.



Delighted orphans

*P*lease pray these orphans eventually get to know their Creator, the One who will bring heaven down to earth. We all yearn for the day when we can live in perfect unity with God in our “forever home” in true peace and harmony.



Teaching the orphans how to develop good interpersonal relationship and communication skills.



Unloading a generous truckload of donated food and clothing for the orphanage.



The group leader asked all those who came and were supporting the team back home, to pray and fast for the trip's success. The prayer request list was three pages long. A key scripture was I Thessalonians 1:2-7 (Amplified):

“We are ever giving thanks to God for all of you, continually mentioning you when engaged in our prayers, recalling unceasingly before our God and Father your work energized by faith and service motivated by love, and unwavering hope in the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah. O brethren beloved by God, we recognize and know that He has selected (chosen) you; for our preaching of the glad tidings of the gospel came to you not only in word, but also in its own inherent power and in the Holy Spirit, and with great conviction and absolute certainty on our part. You know what kind of men we proved ourselves to be among you for your good. And you set yourselves to become imitators of us and through us of the Lord Himself, for you welcomed our message in spite of the much persecution, with joy inspired of the Holy Spirit; so that you thus became a pattern to all believers--those who adhere to, trust in and rely on Christ Jesus...”

That is our prayer for you as well. As you support us and we support our anointed and dedicated Chinese brothers and sisters in China, the power of God's love dispels fears, breaks down walls, reconciles hearts and more are adopted into God's family!

As we've now stepped into 2019, let us remember our Chinese co-workers, who in the midst of darkness, cling to scriptures like Hebrew 12:2-3.

“Looking away from all that will distract to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith and is also its Finisher. He, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the Cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. **Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself -- reckon up and consider it all in comparison with your trials -- so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds...**”

May our Lord be the most inspiring example to us all.

Ned and Christina Graham



The Tibetan orphanage directors and some of the orphans greet their “new friends.”



APF/FILE