



# East Gates

INTERNATIONAL

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

March - April 2019

Dear East Gates partner,

Springtime is a season of new beginnings and revelations about what God is doing in heaven and on earth. Throughout creation, we see the pattern of death and resurrection; going to sleep and waking up to new life; coming out of darkness and into the light. We connect to the Source and purpose of this reality through the annual celebration of Passover and Easter.

Most of us know the account surrounding Passover. The Israelites were in Egyptian bondage for around 400 years. The Hebrew word for Egypt is *mitzrayim*. It means “narrowness” and “constriction.” Literally, the Israelites were oppressed and repressed for centuries in a place they could hardly breathe. Finally, they cried out to God (Exodus 3:9). God heard and He made a way for them to escape this spiritual and physical prison by parting the Red Sea (like a birth canal) into a wide and open place. Here they would be able to worship their One and only true God who would love them to Life, not death.

The ultimate expression of God’s love is when He chose to step outside of His eternal and limitless domain into a realm of immense constriction which He Himself designed -- the womb and human body. From there, He took upon a world based on free choice which He freely granted. Inevitably this involved sin which leads to death but He provided the only solution. Our Creator, Jesus or Yeshua (Hebrew for *salvation*), sinless and unblemished, became our sin-offering to redeem us.

On the Cross, Yeshua revealed how our “temple” was not created to die but live forever. Like the Red Sea that parted and the thick Temple curtain that tore from top to bottom, when our Savior died, it was as if the Throne Room doors flung open in the heavenly realm. We now had FULL access to the inner sanctum of the Holy of Holies and to Him. Prayer would now be our sacrifice.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. *Psalms 51:17*



**A Chinese House church pastor sent us this photo above. She said it is symbolic of what it means to live in this world. The watermelon can choose to live or die. Flourish or diminish. Change or adapt. The pastor said that sometimes nothing can be changed but the key is, are we willing to change? It’s what’s inside that counts.**



## BEHOLD, I AM DOING A NEW THING!

ISAIAH 43:19



*A*s East Gates stands with all of our Chinese brothers and sisters in their trials like Christ's disciples remained and persevered with Him through His (Luke 22:28), we also celebrate in their joys like this baptism ceremony in Yunnan. We walk with them through the Red Sea. We sing the Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb (Revelation 15:3) together. We pray and bless them as they start out their new lives in the power of God's Spirit.







*E*ast Gates continues to sow into the vision and mission of local churches in Yunnan Province where there is great spiritual potential and growth. A close friend and pastor in this area asked if we could help subsidize the building of their new church (left). We did and as always, we gifted each person with Bibles. We are a welcomed part of their close community.



*F*ree will offerings are important towards sustaining and growing a church. East Gates encourages believers to be responsible titheers. We compensate for their lack and many times give over and beyond what they are able (right).



*A*s in all cultures, children are a great blessing. In this minority tribal area, we have made Bibles available to them in their language. Parents start their children early, reading God's Word. In these rural mountain areas, there are no distractions such as gaming and social networking. Face-to-face relationships are the most important.







Pastor Heng, President of the Christian Council for the area.



Pastor Heng preaching to a small group of believers in this beautiful yet very poor, mountainous area of Yunnan.

*E*ast Gates has close relationships with many of the pastors in these seemingly inaccessible areas of China. Here in this small remote village, we helped subsidize the building of Pastor Heng's church as well as provided Bibles and Christians resources. They now have a temple in the wilderness from which to worship. On nice days, they can breathe in the beauty of God's creation. Please keep praying for these precious believers so they may hear God's voice and live out their faith for all to see. East Gates' footprint continues to extend to the far corners of China.

*"Behold, I will do something new,  
Now it will spring forth;  
Will you not be aware of it?  
I will even make a roadway in the wilderness,  
Rivers in the desert.*

Isaiah 43:19

With springtime here, our God of resurrection, love and power continues to do a "new thing" throughout China. We celebrate these Passover and Easter miracles and thank you for making it all possible!

 

Ned and Christina Graham