



"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption of the world caused by evil desires."

1 Peter 1:3-4

Office: 330-682-5455

Cell: 330-698-0185

Email: go4th@valkyrie.net

Web: www.goforthministry.org

As a Christian, have you ever felt that there just had to be something more? That you're so close, but not quite connected to God in the way He wants you to be?

In the famous painting by Michelangelo Buonarroti entitled, "The Creation of Adam", can't you just feel the heart of God and the heart of the first man as they reach out for each other? The message is simple, but so powerful. To connect with our Creator is to connect with the source life itself. Yet the focal point of this painting does not seem to be about actually connecting with God, but is about that very small distance that separates man from God's touch. How many eyes have looked on this painting over the past 500 years and have been able to identify with feelings of futility portrayed by the artist of forever reaching out but never quite getting connected, ...so close, but it may as well be galaxies apart.

What keeps people from really connecting with their Creator? I think that there are a lot of people who could fit right into this painting. Always hoping and reaching for something or someone that will give a sense of purpose and meaning to their existence. Yet the connection never really happens and in fact, they may not even understand what they are trying to get connected to. They certainly know about God and rejoice in His saving grace, but they feel like they have failed to have ever really gotten caught up in His purposes and plans. Thus their Christian experience is one of forever reaching, but never quite connecting.

God wants us to connect with Him! He really does have wonderful plans for our lives that can begin to happen today! Consider what God says to us in I Peter 2:3-4.

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

Everything a person could possibly need to live in God's purposes for their life and for godliness can be found by connecting to God and His divine power. That is God's promise to you and me. So we must ask, "Am I connected into God's divine power? If not, why?"

As God called out in search of Adam as he was hiding in the Garden of Eden in ashame of his sinful condition, God also calls out to us to connect (fellowship) with him. And to make this possible, God has given us incredible promises so that through them, we can "participate in the divine nature!" Wow! Now that's an incredible offer! Can you list some of God's promises to you? How about...

"I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

"Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

"But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes on you".

...and the list goes on and on. It actually takes an entire Book to contain all of God's wonderful promises. Promises to us so that we can connect and participate in God's "divine nature" through His "divine power." Amazing! What could be worth more than a person would strive for in this life than to connect with his Creator? What are you reaching for? Are you connected to Him?

"Behold, the Lamb of God"

Behold (be-h ld'), *v.t.* to fix the eyes upon; have in sight; look at; observe with care:



John the Baptist summed up his discipleship program by simply pointing his followers to Jesus. "Behold Him" he told a couple of his disciples. So the disciples went to Jesus to see where he was staying and then brought others to him.

This is starting place of a what disciple does. It is simple. To 'behold' Jesus. To get his eyes focused on Him and then help others see Jesus. Everything else will be born out of that and must be built upon the intimacy that comes as a result of 'beholding him'.

It's so easy to get distracted from the simplicity of this mission, isn't it? This world we live in is surrounding us with a mind and heart numbing cacophony of distractions that demand immediate attention and offer tantalizing instant remedies. We (including the general Christian community) have become a society of techno-dependant, fast food, on-the-run, drug enhanced, career driven, self-sufficient, multi-tasking people, rapidly boxing ourselves in with an increasing array of must-have time-saving conveniences that seem to be getting more and more difficult to afford, operate, and maintain. At every turn we are bombarded with products, programs and methods to resolve every sort of problem, crisis, and self-centered need or want, real or imagined, with "satisfaction guaranteed or your money back", ... "but wait there's more" ...if you call in the next 30 minutes.

Have you heard this same kind of spirit roaring within the Christian community as well? The 'Christian media' is disgorging an ever changing array of 'gotta-have' new insights into the mysteries of God's Kingdom. We are razzled and dazzled by the Who's Who of Christian super-preachers and music stars, the 'top ten' praise and worship songs, the latest best-selling Christian music cd's, books, maga-

zines, clothing, and religious paraphernalia, and yet another sure-sell quick-fix program for successful mega-church growth.

And you're so right! It's not all bad. I understand that. But when is enough, enough? Is all this actually bringing us closed to Jesus or are we reaching for a 'Christian experience' built on a substitute that forever promises but never fulfills a persons deepest longing to really connect with his life-giving, all powerful, promise keeping Creator. Have we lost touch with the sweetness of the day by day presence of the Holy Spirit, ...of our hand safe and secure in God's hand, no matter what, and caught up in His purposes for our existence? Have you lost touch?

Perhaps it is time for those who have been putting their hopes in the prepackaged, glossy coated church-ianity and who have found themselves disillusioned and bored to a point of religious lethargy, to come back to the original simple plan! To "Behold, Jesus"! To simply focus on Jesus and follow, love and obey him. We can do this by focusing on God's Word without allowing ourselves to be distracted from the voice of the Holy Spirit by preconceived ideas based only on the opinions and experiences of someone else, or self-centered expectations.

Yes, the Holy Spirit can really communicate to you! He is not a dove, logo, or doctrine. He is alive and as real among us today as Jesus was when he physically walked the earth! It is the desire and the purpose of the Holy Spirit today to enable men and women, young and old, to connect (or reconnect) with God so that we can "participate in his divine nature".

Sometimes I wonder... could it be that things are really not much different today as it was in Jesus day when so many people were reaching out for God? Preconceived concepts prevented them for recognizing Jesus and connecting with God. How close they really were.....

Bro. N. had been scouting across the nation for 'worthy' house-churches pastors after a special financial gift of \$4000 a month was given to GFM to assist 60 pastors over one year. This proved to be a big challenge for us, yet in accepting the challenge, our eyes have been opened to what God is doing on a larger scale. "Did you find 60 worthy people," I inquired. "Brother," Bro. N. replied, "The Boss clearly led us to the exact people, but there are so many more with great needs."

Please pray with us as we continue to search for ways to establish the pastors to become self-supporting. Our current strategy for these 60 pastors is to offer shares in a herd of cattle at the end of the 12 month period for those who have been found faithful to Jesus and to the work He has given them to do, and who have proven their integrity.

After just three months of supporting these 60 pastors, 20 new congregations representing 200 new believers have been established! Over 2000 heard the gospel for the first time. That's in just 3 months!

I'm so grateful for the privilege of knowing, loving and serving Jesus! And I'm so grateful for others who share this passion and who allowed the Holy Spirit to guide them in partnering in the mission God has give us. Thank you so much for your part in helping to build God's kingdom as lives and nations are being changed from the inside out.

Asia Missions Strategy Conference

Report by Jan Walker

From March 21-23 Go Forth Ministry sponsored an Asian Strategies Conference held in the Dalton/Kidron Ohio area. The sole speaker was a Western missionary based in one of China's larger cities. To protect his identify, I shall call him Brother Liu. For those who want to tap into what God is doing, Liu gave a look at the big picture.

CHRISTIANS NEED TO RECOGNIZE CHINA'S IMPORTANCE. As recorded in the Bible and known by Christians, Jesus commissioned His followers to spread His Gospel from Jerusalem throughout Judea to Samaria to the ends of the Earth. In the U.S., we are surrounded by God's Word and have become numb to its power. But throughout the world, the Word is affecting people in a powerful way changing their hearts, which leads to changing entire nations. Greedy men become generous, liars stop cheating. Liu emphasized that churches and missions need to strategize on how to finish this Commission, stressing that China, a nation that has grown from 1 million to an estimated 100 million Christians in 25 years, is very important to God's agenda to evangelize the 60-70% of the world population that has not heard the name of Jesus Christ.

In stressing the importance of the Chinese mission, Liu pointed out that China is rising and becoming an economic super power for the 21st century one that countries in Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East are looking to. He believes the prayers of China's Christians are affecting that power the same as 19th century Christian missionaries affected England's power. God blessed England so its missionaries could go afar including to America. As God's mission prepared to take the Word from America to the darkest parts of the world, Satan stopped all movement through the two World Wars.

He pointed out that after the Second World War, God blessed the American economy, we became the power we are today, and God has done wonders through American missions in every country. Currently, the U.S. provides 70% of the world's missionaries. That is why Satan is attacking every corner of American society to destroy the basis of God's power and His mission forces by cutting religion out of government, schools, universities, courts and other institutions. Liu said that due to the American legal system, he can do more in China than here. But whether Americans go to church or not, we live by basic Christian values and our nation is still strong because it was built on the Bible.

Right now Chinese people want to learn from Americans; if Americans come to China and pass out tracts, people will take one. But after the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, the capital of the world's most populous country, the Chinese people will take the position that China is the best and it will be very difficult to bring Christianity into the country.

VIETNAM; a nation on FIRE!



"Brother! My contry is on fire!" My mind immediately spun back to recall a letter Daisy and I had received about 12 years ago. It had come during the time of our work in the Vietnamese Refugee Camps in Hong Kong. The letter was about a 'vision' that a friend had. In the vision they had seen a map of Vietnam. A fire began to burn in the center of the map and spread to both the North and South until the nation was ablaze. Now the memory of that vision suddenly came alive as I heard the very same picture described by the Vietnamese who was calling me from half a world away.

Bro. N. continued jabbering excitedly on the phone as he tried to explain in his broken English the move of God that is sweeping across Vietnam. He had just spent 20 days traveling the length and breadth of the nation in search of men and women who were serving the Lord. "This is much bigger that I realized," he exclaimed. "The 'Boss' is working everywhere, especially in the highlands. The profits are huge there." Bro. N. was using our code language to say that large numbers of people are coming to the Lord. "There are not enough workers though to meet the many investment opportunities and those that are working are exhausted and hungry."

Liu said that unlike America, which was built on Christian values, China's system is corrupt. Communism attempted to eradicate religion and destroyed the teachings of Confucius, leaving China, a nation consisting of 22% of the world population, with no philosophical and social values. Now everything is changing. Communism is gone; the Government has to incorporate capitalism and democracy. Fast urbanism and materialism are coming. The family is breaking down. The people are empty due to the lack of spirituality; their belief is in the power of money. Their greatest need is spiritual. Liu said there are 2 choices for China: Completion of the Christian vision or the Muslim agenda, pointing out that Muslims occupy a Chinese province bigger than Texas.

Liu emphasized his belief that the Muslim Nation is not a religion of peace. Muslims have taken over Indonesia and are systematically killing Christians. Now they are taking over the South Pacific Islands. The Muslim world is growing and they have plans to influence government and universities in China; there is an agenda and intentional design. What happened in Russia could happen in China.

CHINA'S CHURCHES

Chinese Christians urge America to pray for their religious freedom.

Liu shared what Go Forth Ministry knew, that Chinese people are still under restrictions and Christians, especially, can't live in peace. Whenever there's a gathering on a private property the police can arrest the leaders and teachers, Chinese people aren't allowed to mingle with foreigners, and people who criticize Government officials risk being attacked by those who lose face. But Liu sees that in all of Asia the spiritual balance is changing. God has released a new anointing on His Church and Chinese Christians are doing things that were unimaginable. The SARS epidemic opened the door by giving Christians an opportunity to come together and serve the community. They distributed "love packages" containing food, Bibles and tracts and because people needed the food, the Government didn't intervene. He thinks it is still under review. By now, they have given out over 10 million tracts. Also, in order to avoid an international issue, the Government and police are getting much better about protecting people's rights.

China's churches have a burden for mission. From 1950 to 1976, many were killed in an attempt to eradicate Christianity but the Gospel and Movement were preserved by Christians risking their lives to participate in underground "house" group meeting that occurred after midnight. With no church or Bible, they followed the teachings of Jesus and now there's an estimated 100 million Chinese Christians. The underground "house churches" continue today. Christ is the Head of their structure and works through local church authorities which have evangelist teams and local leaders. Under that are local bodies and individual leaders. Their main focus is saving souls.

Gifts of \$12,330.00 to Go Forth Ministry printed 8220 Chinese Bibles at \$1.50 each for China house Church Christians so far this year.

20 Million Born Again Christians are in Government-controlled churches. China's "legal" Christian churches are registered and controlled by the Communist Party's Religion Bureau. While the higher levels of their structure are not focused on saving souls, the local churches contain millions of real born again Christians. Unfortunately, if you send them money, the Government can use it for anything. Their current direction is joining with a world church council to become a Unitarian movement, looking at rewriting the Bible to bring in the Muslim view.

Liu claims China is becoming an ascending nation. The communist ideology has failed, and Chinese people's minds are a vacuum for Christianity to fill. China's churches have a burden for mission and Christians a vision to go out, spread the Gospel and multiply. God is hearing their prayers and empowering them. An important mentality for the Middle East is that Chinese Christians are all nondenominational and thus not divided. Already, Christians in China and Russia are coming together to bring the Gospel to other parts of the world. And because the mission is directly related to God's commission to complete the spreading of the Gospel, Liu believes that the praying China can affect all bordering nations and thus play a key role in the return of Christ. He pointed out that Asia contains 90% of the world's un-evangelized population.

Next exciting Bible Courier trip to Hong Kong & Beijing, China:

November 3-16, 2005

20,000 - 28,000 are now turning to Jesus daily in China!

China ^{still} needs
Bibles!



We deliver!



Is God nudging you to help?
Call now for details: 330-682-5455

GOD IS WORKING TO SPREAD HIS WORD. Liu explained that God is moving His Gospel through Central Asia to the Middle East, which is why we hear so much about these areas the Lord is speaking to His people. Areas that missions couldn't penetrate are opening up and China's Christians have the burden to take the Gospel beyond China to reach the other parts of the world. There's both a revival and a spiritual warfare. Liu addressed some situations as follows:

South Pacific/Indonesia. Since the Second World War, the South Pacific has seen the wickedness of black magic and the power of Christianity. Now Muslims are taking over and Christians are pleading for help. Indonesia can be entered by boat and radical Muslims have done this, killing Christians and burning churches. No one was punished because Christians are a threat to Muslim government under Muslim law. Christians said, we won't avenge this our God will. This was followed by the Tsunami, that has frustrated the Muslim plan to take over the South Pacific, made public the Indonesian killings, and opened the door for the Gospel to move in. The people are meeting Christian pastors and doctors from all over the world. The Government set a deadline for outsiders to leave, but they remain there, loving the Muslim hearts. This has brought so much encouragement to the Christians, who are still being systematically killed but not surrendering. Pray for them.

Iraq. In places missionaries could not handle, God has sent American Marines. He is working to bring the Gospel to Iraq. Because of the spiritual warfare, lives lost will bring the opportunity for billions of people to hear the Gospel. Satan is trying to confuse America on whether its course is right, a matter for the praying world to focus on.

STRATEGIES FOR ASIA

Why did the Lord bring Liu to our area? Liu has faith that God will raise up a lot of missionaries from here. He gave Mennonites as an example of potential missionaries willing to relate themselves to the Chinese people by building a personal relationship. If you just go help people, in the long run they forget about it. Missionaries have to assimilate into the culture. If our mindset is religious, we will fail.

Why America is important. Liu pointed out that in South Korea, 30% are Christians but there are no Godly values in the lives of people or in government or business. In Africa it's this way even though 70% are Christian. America still possesses Godly values as our strength. Even if you don't go to church, you have the value of not killing or stealing. All of our systems are based on bible teachings. We are turning away, but it's still there. In mission fields, people are still killing and corrupt. We can't just randomly go to these countries to do mission. We need to target people and the primary force will be America's business communities.

New strategies for mission. According to Liu, China is like a little baby that America can shape. People are struggling to find answers and the Bible is the answer. The traditional mission mindset is to spend 10 years preparing to be an effective missionary. In modern days one year can make a tremendous difference. The old mission strategy was to go in, spread the gospel and form a group that grows. Now mission work will be done through institutions, such as business, schools and government. Right now, there is so much opportunity for American influence.

Liu said that in today's world, 99% of mission work is dealing with intellectuals living in a building, driving cars and struggling with money issues. Most of the world doesn't have a concept of management because they've lived in darkness for centuries. What's common sense to us is a revelation to the other side of the world. In China, the people who heard the gospel from the missionaries who came to teach at the universities are major leaders today.

As dictatorships end, veils are being lifted and 21st century people are beginning to see the light and grab onto the future. They look to business. The whole mindset of doing business, especially in terms of those doing it, has to change. Businessmen will bring missionaries into an area. Consider that if you come into Saudi Arabia as a pastor, you risk your life. As a businessman, they come to you. Consider that 2 Asian nations America can rely on are South Korea and Japan. This is because we work with their economy. When other nations have a stable structure business will go in there and that will open the doors for mission.

21st century retired professionals should think about mission work. Liu claims that in China, such Americans would be respected because they are older, yet self-supporting. They would be a great influence in Chinese educational institutions.

There's a huge opportunity in media. Liu pointed out that Chinese Christians number a third of America's population. But they have only 400 Christian books published without Government influence. In America, secular organizations control Christian publishing. In China, Christians are slowly getting purchasing power, the door is open and there is opportunity for Christians to publish materials and return a profit. If Christians don't come, the world will, just to make money. Christians need to take advantage so they can invest back into God's Kingdom.

Universities are crying out for psychology instructors. Communism destroyed China's traditional values; for 50 years, humans existed for the benefit of the State mechanical beings with no concept of psychology. Now people have become very materialistic and will sacrifice family and friends to make more money. The family structure we rely on has broken down in China. For the past 20 years couples were restricted to one child. This new generation has no cousins, uncles or aunts. And for 6 parents and grandparents, one child who didn't learn to share is the center of their universe. As universities see that students lack even the concepts needed to live with roommates, they are crying out for instructors to fill new psychology departments.

Impacting traveling Chinese. 30% of Japanese people are engaged in world wide travel. If 30% of Chinese travel this would be more than 3 times the population of Japan. This creates opportunities to affect Chinese, for instance, when they come to American universities. Throughout the whole world, industry needs to redesign to accommodate the Chinese as God is creating work for them outside of China.

Networking through the Internet. Liu stressed that Satan can better attack individual groups and that its time for a new paradigm of how Christians and Churches network and share resources to shorten the Great Commission's completion time. China's a big unorganized country. East, West, North and South are totally different. While Bibles are extremely valuable in the West, the East is connected through the Internet. He believes Christ will build His Kingdom through churches that preside over a network of ministries using computers all over the world. The world's churches need to connect and strategize how to train and use the millions of Asian missionaries willing to go out and spread the Gospel. Every denomination needs to see the vision and unite. They need to consider how powerful this would be, for instance that a unified effort could buy up a CNN.

With no 1st-generation missionaries, 100 million disciples need leadership training.

Liu said that in our local area, there are more pastors than in all of China and the few they have are untrained. On the front line, God is using mightily ordinary men from the street who have the burden to preach the Gospel. People from all over the country pack into a room to hear preaching for 10 hours straight so they can learn as much as possible and take the Message back to their people. He referred to Jesus' disciples, some fishermen, and reminded us that as followers, we are not called to plant churches but to make disciples. That is how God nets a nation.

Christian Americans have a very important role in completing the spread of the Gospel because we have experience, infrastructure and finances to go to China and train missionaries. We can train millions of Chinese, Indonesians, and others now willing to go out and preach the gospel. To make their mission as successful as possible, Chinese Christians are looking to the U.S. for mentoring and training that would lead to these attributes and skills: Pioneer, communicator, educator, entrepreneur, servant and giver, peacemaker, pasturing, bible teaching, church planting, disciple training, intercession, counseling, and mentoring.

Learn from recent mistakes. Liu pointed out that when AIDS was rising in the 70's, Christians didn't have a heart for caring for these people, allowing seculars, especially homosexuals, to have great influence; they have raised billions of dollars. In Africa, China, Japan and the Islands, homosexuality is growing. In a place where 90% are Christians, there are billboards promoting homosexuality. They allow it because of the power of these groups. If God opens a door and Christians don't enter, Satan will.

This is gearing up to be a rather busy summer for us.

June 6 - 26; We head off to China with a Bible Courier team of 14. After two weeks the team will return to the States but I'll head down to Vietnam to meet some of the Christian leaders and return to the States on June 26. Meanwhile Daisy, Ellie, and Jonnie will stay on in Hong Kong with family until July 8.

July 1 - 3; Pennsicola, FL for a reunion of Christian Vietnamese Refugees we ministered to in the Hong Kong refugee Camp who have settled around the US over the past 5 years. This will be an important opportunity to encourage these precious people who are coping with the complexities of the 'American Dream' while striving to continue on in the faith they received in Hong Kong.

August 17 - September 1; Daisy and I will be going to Kenya, Africa with a small team for a Pastors Conference and other outreach / ministry.

Of course we really appreciate all your prayers. I certainly wouldn't want to try to face the kind of battlefield we've been called to without a strong prayer support team. Thanks so much! Your ongoing support through prayers, finances, going, and providing opportunities for us to share what God is doing in your church, among all the other things you do, are directly and indirectly touching thousands of lives for eternity. And think of it, someday we will get to meet those people as we worship together around God's throne! I can't wait!

In His Service,

Wendell & Daisy Martin