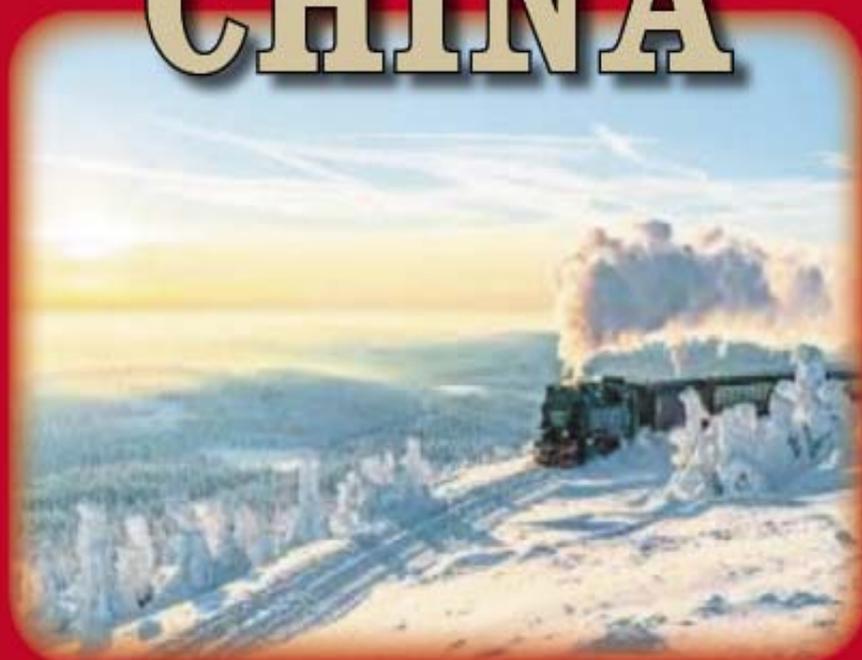


PASSAGE TO CHINA



The Opening Of A Great Door

DICKSON

Passage To China

Roger E. Dickson

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Preface

I will certainly remind you throughout this book of a very important principle in reference to making judgments concerning any nation of this world. Because of the often prejudiced reporting of the news media in order to create hysteria for the purpose of gaining a greater audience, one must never judge the people of a country by what is reported through the news media. The news media does not generally report the activities and beliefs of the ordinary citizen of a country. Ordinary does not sell newspapers. Riots and wars do. And in these times in reference to international affairs, expansionism seems to catch the attention of curious readers who should have long ago turned off their radios and televisions. And today, they should stay away from the internet and social media. My father also said, "You can't believe half of what you read in the newspaper. And the other half you must question." Nothing has changed.

China has received its share of bad press, whether true or false. If the bad press reports are true, then the objective reader has enough sense to conclude that such does not explain the nature of the people. This is especially true in reference to a Western understanding of the East. These two paradigms of civilization are very different. They are different because the history of both are so different. This is particularly true in reference to the American West that has only a couple of centuries of history, whereas China has millennia of history. The world view of China is thus very different from the world view of the American West.

However, because there is a difference in world views, this does not mean that the people are different. People are people, wherever they live in the world. It is government that is different. Most of the news media obsesses about the function of the governments of the people. But the people simply go on with their ordinary lives. They have the same economic and social problems wherever they live or under what ever government they may find themselves at any one time in history. Therefore, since we would not want others to judge our ordinary lives according to who sits in the government of our nation, then we must be fair and not judge the people of other nations by the government with which they have either been blessed or cursed.

As you read through the report of this book in reference to our move of the printing and distribution of the products of Africa International Missions, please keep the preceding in mind. Our focus and work is not with a government. It is with people who are struggling to fulfill their own calling in life. And in the case of Amity Press in Nanjing, China, these are people who came to our service in a time of need. I thought I would share with you how gracious they were in receiving me into their ministry of printing Bible materials for the world. My experience was certainly inspiring. The result of my passage to China turned out to be a victory for God.

INTRODUCTION

I have found that it is best not to judge a book by its cover. This truth is not only applicable to making judgments concerning books, but also in reference to judging a country. I am sure that you would not want others to judge your country by the present government, especially if you are a member of the opposition party. We would allow that same grace toward the country of China. Regardless of all the bad press that has come out of the country in recent years, we would not judge the country by the bad press, or the existing government. We may not agree with the policies of a particular government, but we must keep in mind that the government of countries often stand apart from the people in the streets, and especially those who live in the villages.

The serendipity of my trip to China in 2014 was a pleasant surprise. I was surrounded with the embodiment of the Chinese people who were just like other ordinary people around the world. There were certainly different cultural differences. But I will be the first to confess now that human beings, whether in China, Russia or America, are made out of the same emotional stuff. Cultures may vary. World views may conflict. But the inner core of the human spirit is the same worldwide. What I took away from China, therefore, was a reminder that all men are created equal in reference to what arrives in the world through birth.

Though things have changed in China in reference to religion under the present president, in reference to the religious considerations of the China government back in the days of my visit in 2014, I want to include the following excerpts from an address by Ms. Guo Wei, Director, Department of Foreign Affairs, State Administration of Religious Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The statements were made at the Amity Printing Company's 100 Millionth Bible Celebration in 2012. From reading the statement, I think you will agree with me that there continues to be a very strong undercurrent of faith that prevails in China, regardless of what we hear coming out of Beijing.

On behalf of the State Administration of Religious Affairs, I would like to warmly congratulate Amity Printing Co. for printing and distributing one hundred million Bibles, and extend heartfelt thanks to the United Bible Societies and all friends at home and abroad for your long-standing support to the Chinese church!



Ms. Guo Wei

Today, China has become the largest producer of the Bible in the world. Amity's printing of the Bible fully meets the needs of Chinese Christians. With the growing overseas orders, more and more Bibles "made in China" are provided to overseas churches. It is proved that the Chinese government sincerely implements the policy of religious freedom.

The Bible printing ministry enhances and expands the understanding and cooperation between the Chinese church and overseas churches.

Dear friends, the State Administration of Religious Affairs will continue to encourage and support the Chinese church to print and distribute the Bible. We'll continue to support the China



Christian Council and the TSPM Committee to communicate and exchange with overseas churches on the basis of independence, equality, friendship and mutual respect. We also encourage and support Chinese Christians and the Amity Foundation to cooperate further to serve the church and contribute to

society. Finally, I sincerely wish the Amity Printing Co., Ltd. to constantly make new achievements! I also hope all friends at home and abroad to continue to support the Chinese church, especially the Bible printing ministry and contribute to harmony, peace and development of the world.

Passage To China

– The Opening Of A Great Door –

Would you ever in your wildest imagination think that the statement on the preceding page would come from a government official in America, or your own country?

The planning for my odyssey to China began in 2013. It is necessary here to explain first a few things concerning this trip because there were at the time thousands of partners involved in the ministry of Africa International Missions (AIM). This book is sent out to those thousands around the world who have been involved in either supporting or distributing the materials that were offered by AIM. And since we made a paradigm shift in our printing and network of distribution, it is important that everyone understands where we feel God led us in those days.

As we look back, our only conclusion to the events that transpired throughout those years is that God powerfully worked in our lives to accomplish His work. There is absolutely no other answer to the tremendous amount of tonnage of materials from AIM that were sent out worldwide throughout those years. In one year, I remember, we sent out thirteen 20-foot shipping containers of books that I had written. I believe that would possibly have been a distribution record for one published author of the church.

Only God can do things like this. And such He continues to do. We have always been overjoyed to be on His side of this massive outreach. His work with AIM was to print and distribute the word of God, as well as the Mission Bibles with the *Encyclopedic Study Guide*. God did well through us, and thus, He must receive all the glory for what was accomplished. And to our Christian friends who partnered with us throughout the years, and Amity Press in China, we have certainly enjoyed a tremendous victory to the glory of God. What we have distributed will be with the people of faith for years to come.

• MAKING THE MOVE

At least five years before we moved our printing to China, we were seriously considering the move. Printing books in South Africa was rising in cost above the ability of the normal citizen in the developing world to pay for a copy of the Bible. So back in those days of thinking, we started searching for another means of printing and distribution. In our initial planning, we contacted two printing companies in China, who in turn, produced sample copies of the *Teacher's Bible*. They also gave us a quote on how much it would cost to print in China. When Martha and I compared the quotes with the cost of printing in Cape Town, we were quite shocked. There was at least a 40% difference, that is, 40% cheaper to print in China. But we were faithful to our printer in Cape Town, and thus, persisted in paying the bills. But as our bank account began to diminish, we started thinking seriously about the East.

Printing in Cape Town did give us the opportunity to work more directly with the distribution and the sending out in 20-foot containers of *Teacher's Bibles* and *Biblical Research Library*. But 40% was a difficult percentage in cost variation with which to live. Nevertheless, we maintained our commitment, though the price of printing continued to increase in South Africa.

The crunch came in 2013 when the cost of printing in Cape Town jumped about 20% for the *Teacher's Bible* and *Biblical Research Library*. Now we were getting serious about getting to know China. Besides the printing of these two volumes, we were planning to move into producing the Mission Bible.

In 2012 we were seriously considering the move of our printing to China. So I again started asking around for a printing company. Several years ago I learned that the United Bible Societies of Africa were printing their Bibles in China, but had no idea where. Having known Johan Cloete, who was the former director of the South Africa Bible Society, I asked him for advice. He directed me to the head office of the SA Bible Society in Johannesburg. I made contact, and was given the contact details of Amity Printing in China that was somewhere in a city called Nanjing, China, which at the time I knew was probably some-

where near the edge of the eastern world, if not the universe.

I went to the website of Amity Printing, and began to understand a few things about their printing operation, though I was somewhat still apprehensive about moving our printing to a far, far away universe. After all, it was in China, and everyone knows that China is in another galaxy. But at the time, I was thinking like a Westerner.

And then I must confess that I was not immediately perceptive to God's nudging. The first nudge was the rising cost of printing in South Africa. The second nudge was the swinking bank account. The third nudge was the advice of the South African Bible Society. After I connected all the nudging dots, I realized that God was working in this matter. And once one recognizes that God is at work, he must get on board for that ship is passing. So I set sail for China.

• **TIME TO JUMP BY FAITH**

So it was time to walk by faith. The email of faith went out to the only email address I had in reference to Amity. It immediately came back with the signature of one named Nancy Ou. I thought that was interesting, "Nancy" Ou. The last part of the name was Chinese enough. But "Nancy?" Anyway, Nancy, with others from Amity who were named Will and Luke and Greg, emailed me at different times in order to encourage me to make the visit to Amity Press. (Yes, you are thinking the same thing I am. From where did all these western names come?)

Nevertheless, I needed a little more encouragement. This was a tremendous paradigm shift in my printing operations that I had conducted throughout my life. The printing company we were using in Cape Town was in financial trouble at the time, so I was again being nudged on to get looking somewhere else. The Cape Town company closed down the first of 2014, so now I was really encouraged. It was more than a nudge. It was a kick from God to get on with what He was doing for preachers and church leaders throughout the world with the printing and distribution of the *Teacher's Bible* and *Biblical Research Library*.

You may not know what it is like to work alone in such major paradigm shifts in mission outreach. Martha was there always by my

side in all these matters. But there was no one else who could understand all the implications of changing the printing and distribution operations of a major literature mission. This was certainly outside the understanding of anyone locally who had little understanding of these matters. This was a decision that I had to make on my own, but demanded the work of God in my life in order to be accomplished. This is why I have always said that if you do not believe that God works in the lives of Christians who are engaged seriously in His work, then you need to look at what He has worked through work that Martha and I have accomplished throughout the years. When God promised that He *“is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us,”* believe me, this is not an empty promise (Ep 3:20). However, if you have not thrown yourself out there to trust fully in Him to carry your, you will not understand this promise.

Nancy at Amity was more than encouraging and helpful. She was my Macedonian angel who beckoned me to China. If China had a good public relations person to represent the country, then here she is.

So I bought a “Passage to China.”

I just went down to the travel agent, picked out some dates in February 2014, emailed them to Nancy, and said I was coming. Of course, one had to have a visa for China, but I trusted that the Lord would provide this. I paid for the ticket and hoped for the visa. I emailed the dates to Nancy, and unfortunately, I would be landing in China right in the middle of the Chinese New Year, the time when everyone goes on vacation. It would be like flying in on New Year’s Day. But who am I in all my ignorance of China to know that I should probably ask before I leap. (There is a little impetuous apostle Peter in me.) But you will see later how gracious Nancy was in representing the hospitality of folks in China and how gracious the people of Amity were to help me accomplish my mission. Again, I launched out into deep water, started to sink, but the Lord reached down and gave me a hand. All I can say is, “Thank you, Jesus!”

• GETTING READY TO LEAP

The month before I left, Matthew, my son, and I were hard into developing the new website for AIM with a new theme and concept. The concept was to make the site a resource center for teachers by taking the teacher, yours truly, electronically into all the world. I was working 10 – 12 hours a day in order to format 122 books for the site. It was intense work. So China was back there somewhere in my mind. In all the formatting and designing of the new site, I would give an occasional thought concerning the visa, knowing that I would eventually end up in China.

If it were not for Matthew, the new website would never have happened. I am not inclined toward those matters. I had delayed over five years before deciding to dump the old site in order to go with a new concept. The design and mechanics of the new site were Matthew's, while I worked with the new content.

I have always written with the support of the church, and thus, whatever I have written and distributed throughout the years was to be sent out free. And obvious reason for this was practical. The world to which I was ministering in my work of writing could not afford paying for books. And certainly I could not call myself a world evangelist if I were selling to unbelievers that which I wrote. 3 John 5-7 has always been a directive to me in reference to my ministry of writing:

Beloved, you [Gaius] do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and especially for strangers, who have borne witness of your love before the church. You will do well to support them [that's me] on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they went forth for the sake of the Name, taking nothing from the Gentiles.

Martha and I went forth for the sake of the name of Jesus. We have not taken up contributions from the unbelievers. Therefore, faithful supporters as Gaius have stayed with us continually since 1968 when we began our fulltime ministry. We have no desire or need, therefore, to take up a contribution from the unbelievers to whom we minister in writing. The understanding behind the development of the website

was not make everything free. We were not in the business of determining who was a believer or who was and unbeliever. If you want free books, therefore, go to the following website:

www.africainternational.org

Early in my ministry, therefore, and because I realized that God had blessed me with the desire to write, then what I would write must be distributed free to the world. This was the central thinking behind the development of the new website.

At the time when Matthew and I were developing the new website, I just could not think about China. My focus at the time was on the new website. I had a passage to China, and knew when I was to show up at the airport to leave, but still there was no visa.

Just about five days before I was to leave, I still had no visa. I was wondering if this was one of those times when God wanted me to trust in Him to the very last moment. I kept telling myself that the visa would come through, even if I did not add my worry to speed up its approval. So I did not worry about it much since I was intensely into the website production. For those of you who are reading this, I have come to the conclusion that God will work your faith until the last minute. It is in this way that He grows our faith. We can never grow in faith if we always look back in our lives and calculate that everything worked according to our plans.

But four days before departure, VISA! I was on my way, but still I could not shift my mind from website to China. Even in the morning of the day I left, I can remember that Matthew and I sent about five or six emails back and forth concerning the site. On the way to the airport in the afternoon of my departure, I said to Martha, "I can't seem to get my mind on going to China, though I know this is necessary." She replied, "Then get ready for God's surprises." She was an unaware prophetess at that moment.

• CHINA, HERE I COME!

I said to Martha on the way to the airport, “You know, there is no adventure in traveling by air. Along the way, one cannot get into the people and food, stand up close to the culture and experience the serenity of a campsite.” I can’t help myself. I love driving Africa.

Maybe I was being somewhat cynical because of my dislike for commercial travel. Or maybe it was the disconnection from the surroundings in order to get from one point to another without savoring the experience of the last encounter with a new one coming up too quickly.

Nevertheless, or whatever, I was sitting on the front seat of a Boeing, staring at a bulkhead wall in front of my face as the tires of that tin tube lifted off the runway of Cape Town International.

There I was, trapped in a flying tube and destined to some place where I had never ventured before. It was a mission. It was a mission to a land where the art of writing was born, but never got past what some have referred to as “sophisticated stick figures,” though when written in calligraphy, Chinese is the most beautifully written language in the world.

I had in my pocket an address of a printer in Nanjing, the city that was supposedly at the edge of the universe. The only email contact I had before forsaking the beautiful Mother City of Cape Town was the address of Amity Printing. I had no knowledge of the Amity Printing folks except that which I had from a survey of their website, and the emails with Luke and Nancy and Greg and Will, the “English Chinese.” Nevertheless, it was a time to leap into the depths of the unknown waters in an unknown land. At least it was for me.

Somehow, I could not initially get my excitement switch turned on for this trip. For previous adventures into the unknown I had always meticulously prepared for weeks for an expectant trip, savoring every detail of a lengthy preparation. But for some reason I was simply mechanical about this one. I knew all the website stuff, but now I had to flip a switch in my mind in order to set my face toward China.

My daughter, Angella, had visited China over a decade before. When I announced to her my intended trip, she gave me all sorts of



It was really great eating in those out-of-the-way places. I wanted to eat local food, not tourist food that is served in a hotel. Don't ask me what was in that pot on the table, I just ate it. Yes, you can eat a lot of things if you ask no questions about what it is. Just eat it!

advice. One was in reference to food. She cautioned, "The food will be different, so take some of the goodies you like." So I did. But when I returned from the food store before I left, and started packing my goodies, I threw in the suitcase rice cakes and noodles, both items I later read on the label, "Made in China." I later reconsidered, "I think I took her advice a little too far." I wondered, "What will the customs official say when he sees this foreigner coming into China

with rice cakes and noodles that were originally made in China?"

Oh well, what can I say. I have traveled Africa way too much, gone to places where there is no food but rats and ants. (Before I forget, when I returned home from China, I still had in my suitcase almost all those "goodies." When I was in China, I simply ate as China. China is simply an adventure in eating for a Westerner. A restaurant table is an opportunity for discovery.)

• THE CHINA WELCOME

It was a laborious fight. What long flight in a tube isn't? Cape Town ... Johannesburg, and then seventeen hours to Beijing. I just zombie-like followed the flight itinerary, for I had not been this way before. But after enduring endless hours of being cocooned in an elongated Boeing tube, I heard the pilot ease off those monstrous Pratt-Whitneys and we began our descent into Beijing. I felt a surge of excitement pass through my body.

It was about 9:00^{pm} as the flight came in over Beijing, whose city lights seemed to extend over the horizon. As we came closer to the ground, there were explosions of fireworks everywhere, constantly. It was a surreal sight throughout the entire city for as far as one could see

from the air in any direction. There were tens of thousands of fireworks going off, lighting up the sky. In my sleepless state of delusional thinking, I thought, “They sure know how to welcome someone to China.” But then I awoke to reality by realizing that this was the China New Year. And for the six days I was in China, the fireworks did not cease. Every day and every night until about 10:00^{pm} fireworks were going off. China knows how to celebrate.

Enduring a twelve-hour layover in Beijing was not really fun. I sought to force sleep in every bodily configuration possible in airport seats that were designed by someone who never had a flight layover. I am sure those seats were designed by contortionists.

Now you must believe me on this. I arrived at one terminal and it was a twenty minute drive on to the local flights terminal. But this was



Welcome to the Wanda Shopping Center in Nanjing, China. As you count the floors of this mall, keep in mind that there is also an underground level below all this you see above ground. What is interesting about the development of China is that the economy started at the same economic condition where most African economies were fifty years ago. But now, with lightning speed, the Chinese have far outpaced economically their African competitors.

there that I first experienced the China hospitality. This is interesting. First of all, I looked around and I could see no gray headed people in all the airport. None! Most of the weary travelers were in their twenties and thirties, with a few older people with only a sprinkle of gray hair. With my white hair I stuck out like a helpless old man in a confused state of mind, wandering here and there trying to figure out where to go in that monstrosity of an airport. I asked here and there for directions from people who knew no English. “Terminal 2,” was eventually the reply I was seeking. How do I get there? Someone eventually replied to the old white-haired, travel weay visitor, “Bus.”

So once I could say, Terminal 2, everyone was so helpful. I finally found the commuter bus, and on my way I went. While on the bus I must have looked somewhat confused, for when we arrived at Terminal 2, which was not marked, “Terminal 2,” some good gentlemen on the bus who recognized my confused expression, just nodded, “Here,” deducting that this old man with all his luggage was certainly flying on to another destination. So I got off the bus and wandered somehow to the right place. Like I said, I could not remember when I had a good sleep.

(I later made a comment to my host about their being no gray headed people in the airport. I was informed that it was the young who were becoming the mobile generation of China. Parents were not travelers as the young. The rising economy has made it possible for the young to move about while the aged remained content at home. And indeed, the majority of the travelers at the airport were in their twenties and thirties. This certainly made me an anomaly. It was also encouraging about the future of China. It was on its way to being an economically strong country.)



And some would place China in the “developing world” of countries. Well, maybe in some places of China, but not in the urban centers.

- **“CHECKED ALL THE WAY”**

That’s what she said, as my suitcase rolled onto the conveyor belt of the Cape Town International Airport. I was assured that I would not have to worry about that suitcase until I arrived in Nanjing. After all, it was “checked through to my final destination.” And what was my destination? Nanjing, China. Right?

So I landed in Beijing. We all scramble out of the tube through various openings, having survived the ordeal for over seventeen hours. I immediately saw the signs, “Transit Passengers.” So I headed that way, knowing that I did not have to go to baggage claim to fetch and recheck my suitcase on to Nanjing. After all, didn’t that lady in Cape Town say, “Checked all the way through to your destination”? Why do we feel so good and over-confident when those words are spoken at the check in counter? But it was a time when I fell as an innocent victim to the words of someone who should have gone into detail with a first-timer, especially an old-timer, who was headed to a foreign land.

So I was walking to the “Transit Passengers” area. I had a twelve-hour layover. There was no hurry to do anything, even to get over to local “Terminal 2.” I wandered some, checking out the mega-size of the airport terminal building with the thousands of people going here and there, even in the middle of the night. I searched for gray-headed old people with whom I could identify.

But then I had this urge. Can’t explain it. It was just there. You have had them, right? The urge was to go over to baggage claim and just check. So I did. I stood there in unbelief before the conveyor belt that brought the baggage in my past flight. And there was my lonely suitcase going around and around all by itself.

What if I had lost my rice cakes and noodles in the lost baggage? I thought of having to explain the contents of my baggage to the “lost baggage” department in Nanjing, who would have certainly have asked, “What are the contents of your baggage?” I would have had to say, “Rice cakes and noodles.” I could only imagine his blank stare at one who was coming into a country where rice cakes are manufactured and exported around the world.

• THE “VOMIT” FLIGHT

Now I found myself sitting on this plane headed to Nanjing. Remember how those flight attendants come over the intercom and say to the passengers, “If you will follow the demonstration, buckle and release your seat belt ... air mask pop down ... life vests are under the seat, etc. ...”? Frequent flyers can repeat the monolog in their sleep.

Evidently, with a population of over one billion people, China probably has a lot of first-time fliers. This is especially true during the one-week New Year period when young people of the city fly back to visit parents on the farms and small towns.

So I was taking a local flight from Beijing to Nanjing. The flight attendant came on the intercom and gave her normal spill. Nothing out of the ordinary.

Then at the end she said, “If you have to vomit, the vomit bag is in the seat before you. Take out the vomit bag and vomit in it. Once you have vomited, seal the bag and call the flight attendant.”

At about that time, and with all the “vomit talk,” I was reaching for the vomit bag in order to vomit. I am sure that flight attendant had cleaned up someone’s vomit on the previous flight. And in English, “vomit” was the only word that could be used to explain something that was so awful.

Now on this trip, and after the vomit introduction, I began my training in different Chinese food. Before I left, Nancy had asked, “What do you eat?” I emailed back, “If it’s cooked and does not crawl off the table, I will eat it.” So on this flight, I had my first test in Chinese dining.

The food came in a small box. I opened the box and there was some white stuff in a plastic container. There was some other stuff in another container. So off with the top of the white stuff, and with the first spoon full, it went into my mouth. Oh, it was flat and nasty. And when Dickson says “nasty,” you know it was nasty. So I thought, “The other stuff has to be better.” So into the chops went the other stuff, and I almost shriveled up. It was so salty and tart. I thought, “Where’s the vomit bag.”

I knew something must be wrong with this picture. So what do you do

in situations as this? You very nonchalantly look around and see what other folks are doing. And sure enough, with a couple of glances here and there the picture became clear. One mixes the salty and tart stuff with the white nasty stuff. And you know, when this is done, it was actually very good stuff after it was mixed. Really! My first meal of Chinese airplane food ended with conquest and a good taste in my mouth. Don't ask me what it was.

If I am allowed to take the apostle Paul's statement out of the religious context of not asking questions in reference to eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols, I would advise first-time travelers to China, *"Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake"* (1 Co 10:25).

• ABOVE GRASSHOPPERS AND CAMEL'S HAIR

If you have read some of my previous writings, I think by now you understand the type of character I am. If I had room in my suitcase, I probably would have thrown in my tent for this trip. You must understand that though the Kansas boy has long left the farm, the farm has had a difficult time leaving the boy. I am not one of those who feels that he is entitled to anything above "tatters and gravy," and a roof over his head, even though it may be made of canvass. I just believe that those who are of an entitlement culture bar themselves from so many wonderful places to which God can take them. And when they get somewhere, it is difficult for them to embrace the serendipitous moments in order to be blessed by God.



One thing I really like about China are the colors, red being the favorite color. When there was a festival, colors made the day.

I say the preceding to prepare you to understand the shock

I received with my encounter with China. As I previously stated, I simply bought a passage to China, was graciously permitted a visa, and then climbed on an airtube to go where I had never gone before. And going alone on an odyssey as this was a way of extracting faith that you did not know was in the depths of your soul. With journeys into the unknown, you are sensitive to the work of God in your travels. So I was prepared for surprises from God on this trip, just as the prophetess had proclaimed. The initial script for the adventure is always based on what Paul, the persecuted adventurerer stated in reference to his travels: “*We know that all things work together for good to those who love God*” (Rm 8:28).

I do not seek to test God on some of my treks. I simply feel that we are to walk by faith, and walking by faith means that we serve a God who works off the edges of our spreadsheets. I know this seems totally strange to the typical Western mind who must have everything laid out on a spreadsheet before he leaps. But how would one ever determine that he or she lived within the power of God if we never place our feet into unknown stormy waters?

So as I unloaded my suitcase from our vehicle on departure from Cape Town, I knew that Martha had become more apprehensive about being left alone at home. I said to her, “We have to do what we have to do to get the job done.” She reluctantly replied, “Yes,” and so we departed from one another, she to return home, and me to uncharted areas of our work and the possibly of a paradigm shift in our printing ministry.

• **“GOOD LUCK” VISITOR**

I was the good luck visitor. The first of something in China is always good luck for that which follows. Since I was the first visitor to Amity Printing for the year, I had the opportunity of bringing Amity’s good luck by being the first of about one thousand visitors who would eventually throughout the year visit the company.

Admittedly, I had a peanut knowledge of Amity Printing, as well as China. I was certainly no expert on China and its culture. After all, I had hibernated in my own Western world as most residents of the

West. You must understand that I was going to China on the suggestion of others. But if the Bible Societies were printing their Bibles with Amity in China, then surely this is where I needed to go if we were going to print the *Teacher's Bible*, *Biblical Research Library* and *Mission Bible*.

But even today as I write these words, I am still overwhelmed with the experience. I had a surreal encounter with the work of God in my life that totally caught me off guard. In the few words of this book I simply want to convey some of my thoughts and feelings for all of you who were at the time praying so earnestly for this trip. I want you to know that God went far beyond my expectations. This was one of those life-changing encounters where one understands Paul's statement that we serve a God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we think (Ep 3:20). It was an exceedingly fantastic trip, topped off with abundant possibilities, most of which we will never fully realize because of the thousands of *Teacher's Bibles*, *Biblical Research Libraries* and *Mission Bibles* that were subsequently printed by Amity and distributed around the world.

About sixty years ago—really—when I was a teenager, I read a *Reader's Digest* article about Egypt. The article was a published interview between Anwar Sadat, the president of Egypt at the time, and a reporter from *Reader's Digest*. I remember that it was an exclusive interview, one that took place right after Sadat kicked the Russians out of Egypt. I remember one statement clearly in my mind that Sadat said to the American interviewer, "The Russians, you can't trust the Russians. But the Chinese, they have history. My advice to America is that you can trust the Chinese." Well, in most areas, this is still true. In the present political environment of the world, there are many who would question this advice. The Covid-19 pandemic at least brought into question trusting the government of China. But in reference to the people, as I stated before, the people of China still have their integrity. They can be trusted because of their history. One is always somewhat naive to judge a people by the existing government.

And history China has. I joked with my hosts while in Nanjing. This was after I had visited Gan's Grand Courtyard Museum, the Ming

Tomb Museum, the Great City Wall, the Confucius Temple, the Presidential Residence Garden Palace Museum, the Nanjing Museum and the Nanjing Massacre Memorial. I said to Will and Nancy, my hosts, “I am glad I had only about 250 years of history to study in school in America. My history book was small. But your history book covers thousands of years of history. I’m sure glad I did not have to study your history book and take your history final exam.”

• **ARRIVAL! WOW!**

Being in Beijing was fine, except for the twelve hours crunched in a terminal chair, pretending to sleep. I had the address of a hotel in Nanjing, two hours flight to the south. But it was the wrong address in



Can one ever become weary of visiting museums? Not really when you truly want to learn a culture. Present-day culture is a reflection of history. And in order to understand present-day culture, you have to know the history of that culture. Before I went to China I emailed Nancy and said that I wanted to learn China. And boy did she deliver on that request. It was a thrilling adventure going from one historical site to another. Nanjing, a city I never knew existed before going to the website of Amity Printing, is truly a historical city. The most historical city I have ever visited. (Keep in mind that the museums were mostly outside and in minus 20 degree centigrade temperature (-4° F.). This is in the teens in Fahrenheit. Yes, it was cold.

reference to my arrangements with Nancy, the representative of Amity. I did not know where Amity was located, but did have a phone number. So upon arrival in Nanjing, I supposed I would make my way to some hotel, and then, proceed to call Amity to let Nancy know that I was in town. So for caution, I exchanged US\$100, thinking that would get me a taxi to a hotel somewhere in Nanjing.

So I was somewhat apprehensive on the flight from Beijing to Nanjing. But after going through the “vomit introduction,” the airplane food that almost brought the thought to reality, I landed in Nanjing. Now I cannot really explain this in words, but as we all crowded out the airplane—Chinese do not do well standing in lines—I headed into the reception area. What was going through my mind was, “What’s next?” But as I looked at the masses of people receiving friends and family, there was this one woman who just stood out from the crowd. She had a sign in front of her, but I was too far away to read the sign. She saw me and I saw her at the same time. I waved—I thought, “This could be someone’s wife receiving her husband”—and she waved back. As I walked closer I realized this was Nancy. I glanced at the sign she was holding. It read, “Welcome Dr. Roger Dickson.” God had sent His angel to fetch me.

So after our customary greetings, Nancy said, “Come with me.” Somehow those words sounded so reassuring to a lonely traveler who knew not where he was. Out of the terminal she led me to the Amity van that was being driven by her husband, Tony. We were on our way to a hotel where she had booked a room for me.

From the back seat I looked to Nancy in the front and she had a spreadsheet in her hand. It was her planning of my life for the next six days. And from that moment, I did not touch ground until six days later when I boarded my return flight for home. Don’t ever say that the Chinese folks are not hospitable or organized.

For six days I had an Amity vehicle every day with a driver and guide. I had emailed Nancy before going that I wanted to learn China. I wanted to eat China food and experience China history. I was not a tourist, but a visiting student of Chinese history and culture. I wanted to totally submerge myself into China. And did she ever deliver. Con-

cerning hospitality, that exchanged US\$100 was still in my pocket on the day of my departure from Nanjing.

In the later part of the visit, Nancy said to me, “You are not like others who visit. They don’t want to eat this or that, and they want to buy this and that souvenir. You are an easy visitor.”

And eat this and that we did. I wanted to eat the real Chinese food. She made it possible for me to go to those out-of-the-way restaurants. I remember one time my driver and Will, my Amity guide, were walking around the



I liked the Chinese culture of eating out. The different foods are ordered, and then, it is everybody for himself as the main courses are shared. It is real community oriented. I remember thirty years ago eating a meal out of one pot in Takoradi, Ghana. About five of us ate with our right hands by dipping in the pot, and the pot was stewed rats. Not bad. Really!



Will Yang showed me China. He is my correspondent with Amity Printing, the one through whom I work with all quotes and shipping.

middle of downtown Nanjing, trying to find this small out-of-the-way restaurant that someone had suggested. They just could not find the place. As we walked, I said, “That one looks small and quaint, why don’t we just go there?” But they were determined to take me to this “small and quaint” place that the locals said was great.

After some asking of questions for directions from the local folks, we walked back a couple blocks, and would you believe that my original suggestion was the place. And the food was just good. It was just a good feeling being with the folks eat-

ing what the folks ate. I am really not a hotel restaurant eater.

I said to Nancy and Will, “Chinese have the reputation of eating everything.” I then said, “But after being here for a week, it is not that Chinese eat everything, it is that everything they eat we Westerners do not recognize.” For example, I was in a fruit and vegetable store in Nanjing. But I have to confess that I did not recognize anything that was for sale. Everything was different. When we went out to eat, I just wanted some rice, but the way rice is cooked, you would not recognize it.

Everything seemed to be vegetarian. I have to give witness to you that I did not see one obese person in China. Not one! I said to Nancy, “After the Westerners obese themselves out of existence, China will have to repopulate the world.”

When going out to eat at any restaurant, there were several customs that I really liked. One was so totally non-western, but totally communal. The dishes of food would be ordered and placed in the middle of the table. Everyone would have their individual bowl or plate, and then take from the communal food in the middle of the table. We once ate where there was a lazy-Susan on the table. It constantly moved around and everyone took from the dishes on the lazy-Susan. I just thought this was community. In the West we order our individual plates that expresses our individualism, and then we go for it. We even think it is rude to eat out of one another’s plate. I think the West could use a little Chinese culture at the table.

Now I know that Nancy, Will and Tony will be reading this book. So I have a confession to make to them. As we drove here and there, I noticed that McDonalds was in China. I said to Nancy, “I would like to eat at McDonalds and see how it tastes compared to the McDonalds in Cape Town.” She



It’s a family ordeal. Order the main plates and share. Sounds like culture out of the New Testament, doesn’t it? Nancy and Tony, and others, fed me everywhere in China.

and the others I asked always responded, “No, you are in China and you have to eat good Chinese food.”

After some persistence, I asked, “Have you ever eaten there and did you like it?” “No,” they said. “It is not good food.”

I would ask Nancy or Will if I could just try it. They would not let me near the place. They took me to every Chinese place possible, but just drove by McDonalds.



The Golden Arches, a reminder from where I had come. Tony (left) and I just stood here for a picture by Nancy. They just would not allow me to eat at such places. I asked several times, but the answer was, “Nop.”

But I had to do the comparison test. So one evening when I returned to the hotel early, I covertly went out by stealth to a McDonalds that was about two blocks from my hotel. I did my order—Big Mac, of course—in order to make the comparison in taste. Well, what can I say. I owe Nancy and Will an apology. The McDonalds Big Mac lived up to its reputation of being JUNK FOOD! It was just nasty. I drank the coke, for in China I drank no cokes anywhere. But would you believe that that was the last coke I drank for over a year after visiting China. Again, I should have listened to Nancy, Tony and Will. It was junk. So I apologize to all three. However, when I recovered from the memory of the taste about a year later back in South Africa, I returned to McDonalds and ate a Big Mac. It was good, and still is today. Martha and I have always been simple eaters.

• THE STATE OF FAITH

Now it is time to test my western compatriots. I am going to ask a question, but before I ask it, you must answer it from the viewpoint of what you think God is thinking. And before you answer, think of the history of Israel in the Old Testament. Here’s the question:

Which is worse, having first a faith in society upon which your

country was built, and then voluntarily giving it up, or having a faith that is taken from you by the state, but you are trying to get it back?

I ask this question in view of the cultural paradigm shift through which the West is presently going. The cultural paradigm shift is an effort to throw off the faith and ideology that built America, and replace it with something the present younger generation does not know. At least one thing is definite about the coming paradigm that will be predominate in the American culture in the centuries to come. It will be predominately atheistic. Or at least, the religious environment will be identified by a religion that is foreign to that which we see in the New Testament. During the Cultural Revolution of Mao Zedong in China, he too tried to eradicate faith from China. But since that Revolution, faith is being restored in China.

I would like to relate to you some of my experiences in China in reference to the faith of many people. I went to China to find a printer for Bibles.—who would ever believe that? But also, I wanted to experience the religious atmosphere the best I could in such a short time. I knew that there were millions of people of faith who were meeting in house churches throughout the nation. And I knew that there were the traditional churches that were recognized and registered with the government. In America, churches are registered with the government in that they have a tax number. Many countries of the world require the registration of churches. So there is nothing unusual about registering a church with the government or the tax system of the government. Somehow, however, such seems to be wrong when this is what the Chinese government requires. But keep in mind also, that in reference to registering churches in China the government seeks to exercise a heavy hand over the function of the churches. The registered churches must function according to the guidelines of the government, or they will lose their registration. And in losing registration, the members of the church are subject to a great deal of scrutiny. It is not advantageous, therefore, to register with the government as a church lest the church is willing to sacrifice a great deal of freedom in reference to a functioning faith.

• FINDING SPIRITUAL ROOTS

In order to find the Christian spiritual roots of any country, we must follow the Bible, the source and definition of Christian faith. And since Amity printed Bibles, then it seemed to be the logical place for me to start. One determines the state of Christian faith in any society by the distribution of the Bible within the society. And today, China prints more Bibles than any other nation of the world, though Bibles in any other language than Mandarin must be exported. Go figure.

Access to copies of the Scriptures reveals the desires of any society to connect with God. In other words, no Bibles, no spiritual yearnings for the God of heaven. And without any Bibles, men simply create a god after their own imaginations. It is a natural inclination of man. Oppressive governments can try to stamp out religious faith, and replace such with an obsession to make government the new god. But once men are set free by their own government, they will return to their natural God-given desire to grope for the God of heaven (See At 17:16-31).

When governments stand back and free the people, faith will naturally arise in the human spirit. It is not a spirit of anarchy, but appreciation for the protective sword of government that allows the individual to freely seek God (Rm 13:1-7). For this reason, we give our thanks to those governments who protect our freedom to believe. We thus pray as Paul directed, *“Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty”* (1Tm 2:1-3). Christians pray for the officials of government. They do not work against the government. One can tell when he is seeking to live after Jesus by his prayers for the government under which he remains submissive. It is the government that maintains order in order that Christians can function freely in reference to doing their business as representatives of the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Tm 6:15).

I believe the West misunderstands China on this point. I believe the West violates a principle that we are taught in Culture 101, that is, **do not use one’s native culture to judge other cultures.** This, I per-

ceive, to be one of the problems with the communication between the West and East. The West has an unfortunate cultural practice of judging everyone according to the norms of their own culture, and particularly, their own government. And unfortunately, if there is a disagreement, it is assumed that the West is right and everyone else is in error. I have experienced too many Westerners coming to Africa and making this mistake. So before we judge the East concerning faith, it might be good to read again the statement by Ms. Guo Wei, Director, Department of Foreign Affairs of China, at the beginning of this book. This statement was made in reference to the printing and distribution of Bibles in China!

While the West is running from the Bible in a cultural paradigm shift that is deceptively atheistic, China, even at the government level in 2014, was allowing people to run toward it. Now keep in mind, that the Chinese appreciate the Bible, but some of the nonsense into which western “Christianity” has evolved itself is political and religious nonsense, at least this is true of many South African religionists. Many churches in South Africa seek to be small political parties. Others see religion as an opportunity to make money. I have a problem with the wave of miracle religions that have sprung up across the world, promising false hopes to the people. Many in China see this commercial religiosity and want nothing to do with it. Neither do I, and I assume, neither do you.

The efforts of the government of China in the last few years under President Xi Jinping, however, seem to be in a concerted effort to again suppress Christianity as in the days of the Cultural Revolution. But as Mao Zedong failed then, so will there be a failure today to suppress faith. The Chinese people seek faith, and thus, there will always be a search for and function of faith in China. One of the great advantages that the people of faith in China today have that was not present during the Cultural Revolution of Mao, is that the Chinese Christians now know how to function as small house fellowships throughout the country. And today, there are millions of Chinese meeting quietly in their homes throughout China.

One of the tragic mistakes the United States made after WW II

was to appoint a former missionary in China to be the American ambassador to China. This was a fatal error of judgment on the part of America. What it did was give the Chinese at the end of WW II the misunderstanding that there was an inseparable connection between the government of America and religion. What America did was actually give the impression to China something that was contrary to the American constitution, that there is a separation between church and state. For many years, therefore, China lived with the false impression that the West sought to impose their government (faith) on the world through “their religion.” No wonder the Chinese dictionary defined a missionary as a pre-western imperialistic representative of the West.

So putting all those mistakes behind, I was greatly encouraged by the rise of faith in China. I had time to visit only one of the traditional registered churches in downtown Nanjing. It was a cold, snowy morning, we made our way, with the guidance of Will, a new disciple, to an old stone-built church building in the center of the Nanjing.

Now go with me. We finally arrived at the building that was over one hundred years old. It had an international service that followed the service in Mandrin. But I told Will that I wanted to go first to the Mandrin service, and then to the English service.

As I entered the auditorium of the building, I was overwhelmed. Shocked! There must have been 600 people crammed into a building that could seat only about 300-400. There was no standing room. It was packed. When I entered, they recognized me as a foreigner, and immediately found a seat for me. I sat there in awe. “Am I in China?” I looked out over the masses and there were people from every walk of life. As I wrote two months later about the encounter, I remember that there was a lump in my throat when I witnessed the yearning for faith in a nation that had such a bad report on the subject. This was certainly not the picture that I had in my mind before I visited China. I believe the West is totally unaware of these matters. China is presently getting such a bad report in the news media that Western Christians often forget that a country should never be judged by the news media cover. It is the people who determine the heart of a nation, not the government officials.

Before the service was over, Will directed me to the annex where the international service was conducted. As I entered this hall, there was a large projector screen in front, bringing in the service of the main auditorium. This was the overflow of the masses that were meeting in the auditorium. My Western mind thought, “Am I in China?”

After the Mandarin service was concluded, the annex hall was emptied and in came the foreigners, a mix of orientals from everywhere. There were only two Americans, myself and another chap who was there working on a contract.

Now you have to somehow visualize this. This was a service in English. But it was not a service that was conducted by foreigners who spoke English. It was conducted by Chinese folks who spoke English. Are you with me? One person stood and gave a testimony of how God worked in her life as a new mother. Others sang English songs to us. Others read the Bible. Some taught a short lesson. They were seeking to minister to us as foreigners in their land.

During the assembly, about thirty people went to the front. This was the choir group. They began to sing in English the beautiful old songs that rang in my ears from yesteryear. You just cannot imagine how awesome this was. In perfect melodious English this group of Chinese men and women burst forth in song as heavenly angels. I sat there overcome. I was ministered to by that on which I thought I had a copyright. This was definitely not the China about which the western news media had led me to believe existed. This was faith in China.

Was this faith perfect? None of us are. But it was faith struggling to survive after a Cultural Revolution decades ago when a misguided government tried to eradicate faith from the culture. But the Cultural Revolution failed. Faith survived and was reviving again.

Will said to me that all the buildings of the registered churches are full. One of the problems is that there are not enough approved buildings in which people can worship. Faith is expanding in China. It is a nation whose faith was taken away, but is now struggling to find it again. Therefore, regardless of all the efforts of the present government to suppress faith in China, it will survive. We must find encouragement in this. It there ever were an evidence that proved that God created us with a

spirit of faith, China would be the evidence.

China is young. Those in their twenties and thirties are taking this country into the future. They have their smart phones and ipads, and even, Starbucks. They are headed for the future. In less than fifty years, if this country continues on its slow and sure transition, it will salvage simple Christianity from the institutional churchianity of the West, and possibly be the last bastion of simple Christianity meeting and serving in the world. Therefore, in the midst of all the negative news media about China today in reference to the Covid-19 pandemic, please keep in mind that there are millions of Chinese people of faith who also have a difficult time trusting in their own government, especially in those areas where the government seeks to suppress faith. As I stated before, be very cautious about judging a nation of people by the government we read and hear about in the news media.



You would not believe this, but this is Starbucks across the street from my hotel. And, the carmel macchiato is just as good in China as it is in Dallas, Texas.

• CONFUCIUS SAYS

The 2014 trip to China was very educational to me. This was an educational experience as I walked through the residences of emperors and philosophers who formed the historical foundation upon which the thinking of China is built today. One of these experiences was the Confucius Temple on the Qinhuai River that was south of Nanjing. The temple was built during the Song Dynasty. It eventually became a place of ritual worship and offering of sacrifices to Confucius. Today, the temple area has been restored to emulate the architecture of the Ming and Ging Dynasties. Those who built the temple took special care to reflect the era of Chinese history from A.D. 229 to A. D. 589, many centuries after the life of Confucius.

Confucius was more of a philosopher who formulated moral and ethical principles upon which a healthy society and political could be based. It is believed that he was born in 551 B.C. and died in 479 B.C. While Israel was sitting in Babylonian captivity in the Near East, in the Far East Confucius, through his disciples, was establishing through his teaching a moral behavior and ethical way of life.

Confucius' thinking was fundamental in reference to life behavior. He focused first on being a good person, and by being a good person, one was to have a good family. He believed that respect to the elders is shown through how we respect our children. Respect for husbands was manifested through the respect of their wives. His ideology made the family the foundation for the ideal government. The nature of one's life-style should first be reflected in being a good person. Such would be reflected in having a good family. One should then be a moral and ethical citizen of his community. And finally, one should seek to teach moral and ethical principles internationally to other people.

In order to promote his teachings, Confucius taught disciples, who in turn, spread his thinking to others. Because of his desire to help society through moral and ethical principles, he focused on study. His disciples were encouraged to study ancient and current philosophical thought in order to enhance their knowledge and ability to influence others. It is easy to understand now why the present government of China is seeking to restore respect for the teachings of Confucius. His teaching are not considered religious teaching, and thus, the teachings are not a threat to the socialistic ideology of the present government.



Confucius says, "Visit my museum." And I did. It was cold there, but I walked the grounds of history. This one man probably has had more influence on the philosophical and moral thought of China than any other person.

Confucius was more of a philosophical leader, not a religious leader. But in the void of religious influences within Chinese society following his death, his influence and teachings were elevated to principles of religion, and thus worship was extended toward him. By the time of the Cultural Revolution of Mao Zedong, Zedong considered Confucius teachings to be religious. With the eradication of all other religious faiths of China during the Revolution, the teachings of Confucius were also banned. However, the present government is seeking to reinstitute them.

Confucius was the master of anecdotes, the one thing for which he is probably known best in Western societies. He stated, “Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself.” Not bad advice. And then probably the most well known of his anecdotes would be an early expression of the Golden Rule. “Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself.” And we know that that is good advice, since the principle came in a positive statement from our Master.

• **GOVERNMENT, NOT GOD**

One of the most distinguishing differences between cultures as China, and most of the West, is in the area of moral accountability. In order to maintain social order, every individual of a society must feel accountable for his deeds in reference to his neighbor. Society cannot exist without this sense of accountability. If we sin against our neighbor, there must be a feeling that we will give account of our sin. This is the function of any religion with a society. This is not the work of government. Therefore, any society that seeks to extract religion from the culture of the people is setting itself up to be a society without a sense of stability.

In most societies of the world there are two “judges” before whom each individual of society has a revered conscience before whom one will give account. There is the judge of a Higher Power and there is the judge down at the local court house. If one wrongs his neighbor, and if caught, he knows that he will immediately meet the judge at the court house. If the person is religious, he knows that he will eventually meet the Judge in a final court house before the last Judge (At 17:30,31).

Within the conscience of most societies, a great sense of accountability before these two judges has always been vital to the moral and economic development of society. There is no social stability without both courts.

Unfortunately, atheistic communism sought to eradicate from the conscience of citizens a sense of accountability before the Judge in heaven. It was believed and taught that the judge of government would be sufficient to be the center of reference for all accountability. But when communism fell, with the fall of the Berlin Wall, the eastern block countries, including Russia, found that government was not sufficient enough to govern the relationships between citizens. Thus, there was the rise of the noted “Russian Maffia,” and all sorts of questionable behavior between citizens after the fall of the Berlin Wall. This is the problem with a country that does not have a leadership that is God-conscious. The economy of the country is often a basket case because the nation has been looted by “unscrupulous” (nonreligious) embezzlers.

So we come to China in a similar situation. During the decade of Chairman Mao and his Cultural Revolution, one of the goals of the revolution was to eradicate a religious conscience from society. What happened, therefore, was that accountability to a Higher Power was taken out of society and replaced with the judgments of an atheistic state.

The West has a very difficult time understanding China on this one point. As a result, some of the harsh treatment of Chinese citizens by government is not understood by the West. But the West must understand that the state is the only sense of accountability that is in the minds of most people of China. Therefore, if the state is not harsh, then anarchy would prevail in the absence of a God-consciousness in most of society. It is important to understand this point in order to understand China. But as the government seeks to maintain control in the absence of a sense of accountability before a Higher Power, the Higher Power is still in the hearts of most of the citizens of China. This is the encouraging thing about China today. There is a restoration of God-consciousness that seems to be arising among the young people.

On my trip to China, I realized that many in the West are living with a 50-year old impression of China. Our impressions go back to the days of the Cultural Revolution, not knowing that the government, as the people, are seeking to restore a God-consciousness, and the personal accountability that comes with such a consciousness. Not only has the system of government radically changed from



A picture of the future? America does not have a trademark on the Millennial Generation. Nancy operates two smart phones as her husband, Tony, fingers away on his. This is the China of the future, ... or maybe the present.

former years, but also, there has been a revival of faith among millions of the people. Keep in mind that much of the present leadership of the country was molded during the Cultural Revolution when an attempt was made to eradicate a religious conscience from the people. Therefore, much of the “religious persecution” today comes from these leaders of the past. But this will change, and is changing. When the new leadership arises to govern the people in the decades to come, things will change. There may be a reemergence of persecution of Christians under the present government, I have faith that the present generation of young people will grow up without a fear of being threatened by Christians faith.

When we consider Islam, this is a different matter. Islam is a theocratic faith. Government and religion are one. For the Muslim, therefore, in order that Islam function according to the Quran, government must be under the control of the religious leaders of the Islamic faith. This concept of function is totally contrary to the function of Christianity in reference to government. In reference to the function of the Christian in any government of the world, the government must always have control of society with the “sword” (Rm 13:1-7). The “sword” of government control must never be in the hands of Christians, lest they use the “sword” to convert people to King Jesus. But Jesus said, and we must never forget, ***“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom***

were of this world, then My servants would fight so that should not be delivered to the Jews. But as it is, **My kingdom is not from here**” (Jn 18:36). Christians, as well as government officials, must never forget this. There must always be a separation between the church and state.

Here is one point that might help the West to understand the predicament in which the Chinese government finds itself. It is God’s ordained plan that government exist among the people of this world. There are no perfect governments because there are no perfect people. Therefore, I would be very cautious about using the system of one government as the universal standard by which one would judge other governments. The West is often too quick to use their system of government as the final standard by which they would determine whether another government is either good or bad. But such is certainly not fair, neither objective. Even God’s people of the Old Testament existed under different forms of government throughout their history, even though God in the beginning of national Israel sought to maintain a theocratic system of government among His people. So we keep in mind that democracy is a recent political institution that did not exist for thousands of years among thousands of peoples around the world. It was the invention of the Greeks, and subsequently handed down to other nations throughout two thousand years of history.

Now consider the fact that we, as a government, are trying to govern 1.5 billion people. China is like Africa. China is a country of many cultural groups, as Africa is a continent of thousands of cultural groups. One of the unfortunate judgments that the West makes in reference to Africa is that Africa is one nation. South Africa’s Minister of Tourism once said, and correctly so, that “Americans are geographical challenged.” This is brought out in the fact that many Americans think that Africa is a country with one government, Nelson Mandela being the first freely elected president of Africa.

But Africa is not a country. It is a continent of fifty-two nations with a combined population of a little over one billion people. But on the other hand, China is a country. As the continent of Africa, China is a country of many, many cultures. It has a history of previously being divided into many different “tribal” groups. Through a great deal of

conflict throughout the last two thousand years, China has come together as one nation.

There are massive differences between the cultures throughout the vast territory of the land mass of China. Some of these cultural groups want to break away and from their own countries. At least two groups want to break away and be governed by religionists. Both would break away and take their people back to the Dark Ages and be governed by misguided religionists who would impose all sorts of nonsense on the people. This is particularly true in reference to those providences that are predominately Muslim. Now if you would govern such a divergent conglomeration of people as China, what would you do?

It is easy to govern a society that has a great deal of similarities among all the people. But this is not the case in China. For this reason, the government of China must behave differently from those countries that are composed of societies that have similar cultural traits throughout a nation. In the absence of a strong sense of accountability to a Higher Power, control of the country as a whole must be maintained by a strong central government. If you do not have this sense of a strong central control of the government, then you would have anarchy.

The West must keep in mind that the social struggle of the people of society as a whole is in many ways different between America and China. America struggles against the practice of a central control of government. China must have a strong central government in order to fight against corruption and the rise of anarchist groups that would pull away from the country in order to start their own favorite societies of people after misguided religious beliefs. My caution to the West, therefore, is to be cautious about making judgments in reference to the government of China, especially in trying to compare systems of government. I personally think that the Chinese government is doing pretty good in reference to the challenge they have before them.

Now bring this into a religious context. One glaring misunderstanding that I found in the thinking of the West in reference to China is that the West is living with a dated concept of religion in China. (Please read again the statements by Ms. Guo Wei at the beginning of the book.) At the 2012 celebration of the 100 millionth Bible printed by Amity

Printing, Tan Weimin, vice president of the China Christian Council (the government wing of registered churches in China), made the following statement:

The course of development of the Amity Printing Company is also a showcase of the growth of the Chinese church. Before 1986, the Chinese church had printed 3 million Bibles. Neither the quality nor printing schedule was able to meet the needs of the development of the church. The establishment of the Amity Printing Co., Ltd. enabled faster printing, higher quality, and increasing varieties of Bibles. **One hundred million Bibles printed by the Amity Printing Co., Ltd. proves that the Chinese government's implementation of the policy of religious freedom is the reality. The Chinese church and Christians enjoy real freedom of religious belief.** The 100 Millionth Bible Celebration held today, proclaims to the world again that China has indeed implemented the policy of religious freedom. (*Amity Outlook*, No. 2, Dec. 2012, p. 11). [Emphasis mine, R.E.D.]

It might be good to read that statement again. Now keep in mind that the old leadership of the Cultural Revolution sixty years ago is fast dying away. To recover from such radical cultural changes that transpired during that decade will take decades to overcome. But the religious yearnings of the country are coming alive.

We must not forget that the government must deal with those religious groups who would seek to break pieces off of China. One thing I learned about the past 2,000 years of history of China is that the country went through tremendous struggles in war in order to come to where it is today as one united nation. The West must understand, therefore, that 2,000 years of struggle have brought the people to the brink of great economic advantage. Should this be reversed because the West is suspicious of anything that is not western? I think not. Neither does the government of China. Why would we even consider that two thousand years of struggle to be one nation should be undone by the whims of those who would start their own religious empires?

America went through a century to become fifty **United States**.

And a little over a century after the feat was accomplished, she sacrificed over 500,000 of her population to death in a civil war to break it apart again. Why would the West judge China for behaving in a way not to reverse the result of 2,000 years of struggle? (**Those who are ignorant of their own history are often hypocritical in judging others who are living their own history**—Dickson, not Confucius.)

Now if you were trying to prevent religious coups, what would you do? You would probably be very suspicious of any religious gatherings. Right? Therefore, any religious group can meet in China. The only thing is that the government asks them to please register with the government. Fair enough? But we know that registering small groups of five or fifteen can be somewhat tedious. What happens is that there are tens of thousands of religious groups harmlessly meeting in homes throughout the country. But if one tries to assemble a large religious group without registering with the China Christian Council (the religious wing of the government), then you will have problems. If the group is not registered, then the government could view such a group as one of those religious separatists groups seeking to organize a protest against the socialist government. And when one considers the Islamists of the northwestern regions of China, then the government, that is basically atheistic, has some concern about such religious meetings. After all, it is religionists as the Islamists who have unleashed horrifying attacks on society as a whole.

Tang Weimin concluded in his statement,

The cooperation between the China Christian Council and the United Bible Societies continues to expand and grow. To print the Bible and preach the Word of God is not only the purpose of the United Bible Societies, but also the responsibility of the Chinese church. We believe that, under the guidance of a common intention, our future cooperation will be more effective and more conducive to the development of the Chinese church (*Amity Outlook*, No. 2, Dec. 2012, p. 11).

- **AMITY PRESS PRINTING**

The Amity Foundation was founded in 1985 by K. H. Ting. It was

founded as a benevolent ministry, for the founder believed that Christians must manifest their behavior to be from Christ through their service to their communities. In 1986 the United Bibles Societies signed an agreement with the Amity Foundation to begin the printing of the Bible in Chinese for the churches in China. The first Chinese Bible came off the press in 1987. All profits that come from the printing of Bibles goes to the benevolent work that is accomplished through the non-profit Amity Foundation. It is a win-win concept for China.

Today, Amity Press prints over **13,000,000 Bibles a year**. With its six web presses and eight flat sheet presses on a two-city block factory, the company puts out over **3,000,000 Bibles in Chinese** every year. The recently celebrated the printing of **100,000,000 Bibles**.

The Chinese Bibles are paid for by the Chinese Christian Council, distributed to all the churches that are registered with the CCC, and then sold to the members. **Anyone in China can own a copy of the Bible**. Whatever you have heard before in reference to the prohibition of personally owned Bibles by the individual in China is simply not true. When I visited the traditional church in Nanjing, there were Bibles everywhere. If one wanted a Bible, they could buy one. Amity Press is the only authorized printing company to print Chinese Bibles because the government religious department, the Chinese Christian Council,



The Amity Foundation was first established in 1985. It was an initiative of Chinese believers to help the people. The shop that I visited above, used mentally challenged individuals to run a bakery. The Foundation focuses on helping in the development of social welfare through education, health care, community development, disaster management, and a host of other social programs. The Foundation was established in order to manifest the behavior of Christians in society by being known for doing good to all men. There are now non-profit Amity Foundation centers established throughout every province of China. At the head office of all the centers, I was asked to visit some of these centers when I returned to China. (Would that I were twenty years younger.)

is the only distributor of Chinese Bibles. But to think that people in China cannot buy and own a Bible is not true. Over 3,000,000 Chinese Bibles are being printed and sold in China every year. Someone is buying and using these Bibles.

So to the western resident who is often so impatient to have change, please be patient. I would remind everyone of the thought that I stated before that faith was taken from China during the Cultural Revolution, but slowly, it is being restored. It may now go through a hiccup in reference to the reign of the present government, but they will never extract faith from China as was attempted during the Cultural Revolution of Zedong.

And must I remind by fellow citizens of the West, faith in the West is quickly being given up. The present social revolution of the West is atheistic. It is not an effort to restore faith. Those who march on the streets today in America, are not carrying Bibles as their grandfathers did in years past. Forty-six percent of my baby-boomer generation attended churches in America in the 1950s. But according to Rainer and Rainer, only 13% of the American Millennial Generation claim any kind of faith, with faith includes Islam, Hinduism, spiritism, etc. (See *The Millennials*, Rainer and Rainer, B & H Publishing Group, 2011). Only half of this 13% have any “Christian” convictions to assemble with others of a similar faith (church attendance). It seems to me that in matters of faith, America is going backwards and China is coming forward. Now you know why I was so very, very encouraged by my trip to China in 2014. China is a young generation of people who are trying to restore the simple principles of Jesus.

Be a good person. Be a good family. Be a good civic citizen. Be an international influence of the good of your country to other countries. And the reason to be good, is because Jesus led the way in life and into eternity. With Confucius in the background, China is starting here. With the principles of Confucius, many Chinese have simply inserted Christ for Confucius.

It might be good to quote a statement made by Josh Sanburn in his classic review of the Millennial Generation in the May 20, 2013 issue of *Time Magazine*. I give the quote here in view of the fact that it

seems that America is moving into a cultural era that will have less understanding of cultures as China. Sanburn wrote,

Not only do millennials lack the kind of empathy that allows them to feel concern for others, but they also have trouble even intellectually understanding others' points of view.

It is hard for a narcissistic generation absorbed in its own entitlement to engage and understand other cultures (Dickson, again). With the modern liberal movement of America away from the conservative society of their forefathers, there is little patience for any viewpoints of others who do not agree with them. In fact, the present division that has plagued the West is based on the inability of the socialistic liberal left to consider dialogue with those who opposed their views.

• INTO A NEW PARADIGM

When I went to China in 2014, Africa International Missions was moving into new and dynamic paradigms of getting its “products” distributed throughout the world. My trip to China played a significant role in establishing this new paradigm of taking the word of God to all the world. Because the cost of printing in Cape Town was becoming increasingly too high, it was necessary to make a change in printing plans in order to implement the distribution of more copies of the material that we were printing at the time. Amity Press offered this new pricing range of printing for the new paradigms of distributing the word of God and teaching material of AIM.

The concern from the West for the developing world is growing more indifferent. This means that contributions to missions is decreasing. As the generally unspiritual Millennial Generation in America (80 million strong), comes into the leadership of western churches, financial contributions to missions have decreased significantly. Therefore, I would say to my brethren in the developing world, we must take it from here. Europe, from whom Africa received her initial spiritual roots, has grown antagonistic to faith. America is headed in the same direction. As the new generation of unbelievers grows in the West, the

contributions to matters of faith will decrease. This is the new world in which we are moving. The Covid-19 pandemic has only accelerated the global paradigm shift. Therefore, Africa, and other developing areas of the world, must give up their “foreign aid mentality,” and take ownership of their own spiritual destiny. They must determine to evangelize their nations without the aid of the West.

All this infers that raising funds from the West to support missions in the developing world is greatly decreasing. I have experienced this particularly in the area of finding funds for printing literature. I can understand when people become weary of contributing funds for church buildings, but when one has to raise funds to print the word of God, then you know that times are not good. I am not a prophet, but this trend in America will continue in the way of unbelieving Europe. Remember, there is a generation of 80 million strong in America now between the ages of 25 and 35, who have little spiritual inclinations, and little desire to “go to church.” This is the future of the West. The culture of the West is becoming more atheistic, and thus is rapidly turning away from spiritual inclinations.

A positive factor to consider is the economic environment of the developing world. Until the pandemic of 2020, the economic growth went from 6% to 8% in the previous decade. It is about half that percentage today. Economic growth is slowing down worldwide. Now with the Covid-19 pandemic, economies, including the West, have gone to almost zero. Because of this pandemic, it will be several years before there will be any recovery to the pre-pandemic levels. The developing world must understand this. Once this reality sinks in, then the Christians of the developing world can better take ownership of the evangelization of their nations in the years to come.

Nevertheless, past strong growth of some countries in the developing world brought great deal of finances into the developing world. This is especially true of the urban centers. It is now time for the urban churches in the developing world to help the rural churches of their countries in supporting evangelism. What is encouraging is that we have two distribution centers that have been selling the *Teacher’s Bible* and *Biblical Research Library*. Those who operate these centers have

been successful in marketing the AIM Bible materials within their own countries. But in speaking generally, it is time for world churches to print their own material. We are greatly encouraged to see this very thing happening around the world. Books and materials are being printed in mass from India to Nigeria. Many of the individual books of the *Biblical Research Library* are being printed by local churches in order to distribute the books throughout country in which the material is being printed. We find that this is one of the most encouraging aspects concerning world evangelism for the purpose.

Rights to Print

If by chance someone in the world reads this book, I want to inform everyone that they have my permission to print any of the material that I have written throughout the years. This would include the commentary material of the *Teacher's Bible*, as well as the individual books of the *Biblical Research Library*. Everyone has my permission to print this material because the church supported me in writing the material. Therefore, I assume no copyright claim to prevent the worldwide printing and marketing of the material. Anyone who prints the material **must not** within their own country establish any copyright to prevent others in that same country who would also seek to print the material. In other words, no one has the right to establish a sole copyright for printing the material. Everyone must keep in mind that throughout the more than fifty years that I have been writing the material, all of us, myself and the supporters, have worked together in order to teach through the printed page. Under no circumstances, therefore, do we want to hinder the printing of the material by individuals or churches anywhere in the world. This right includes the right of those who print the material to order to sell to recover all costs of printing and distribution.

What all of us who are doing with the work of AIM is to produce a line of literary products, and then moving into establishing centers from which these products can be made available to Bible teachers of all religious groups in countries throughout the world. Because we have had such a faithful network of brethren scattered throughout the world, it is time to move on to helping them get started in marketing the products that we have developed over the past fifty years. Our move to print in China was for the purpose of bringing the printing cost of our material within the financial range of the developing world where

all partners of AIM could make the products affordable.

Even those countries that did not have sea ports were able to receive shipping containers. The containers were shipped to a neighboring country, and then trucked to the inland country. Everything was shipped out of Nanjing in 20-foot shipping containers. Many years ago we focused on sending out mail bags from Cape Town. But this became almost financially impossible in comparison to the cost of sending material in shipping containers to distribution centers



Loading out a container to be sent to a “partner” in Africa who has sent in their partnership funds to pay for the printing of the materials and/or shipping. In February 2014, we shipping out our first container for the year.



At one time Martha and I were packing and posting about 100 mail bags of literature a month. This was extremely expensive, and for this reason, we decided to do all our shipping of material from Amity Press to the world in shipping containers.

within key countries. In the change of the operations of AIM at that time, we were talking about going from mail bags to containers.

- **PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS**

By partnering, we mean that everyone must come up with some funds in order to make a mission successful. If the receivers want to freely distribute, this does not mean that they should freely receive. In a partnership, everyone contributes to the success of the program. In reference to missions as AIM, everyone in the partnership has the opportunity to join together financially in order to partner in the printing and distribution.

The reason for a partnership is that one party cannot raise enough funds to meet the tremendous number of requests that constantly arise in any mission effort. Every Christian must help in some way. If Christians in mission areas continually receive foreign funding for the ministry that they do, then they will never grow spiritually as they should in order to take ownership to evangelize their area.

Few people in the developing world fully understand the thirst for Bible study resources that are often taken for granted in the developing world. To those in the developing world, let me repeat for my friends throughout the developing world that they just do not comprehend the desire for study material by those who want to dig themselves out of poorer developing countries.

But those who do understand, and thus contribute sacrificially and sincerely in order help, we greatly commend. So when funds are contributed for printing and shipping of the AIM materials, all of us rejoice and praise God. For the moment, everything that goes out from AIM is subsidized by contributors. Therefore, all of us truly thank those who are contributing the most they can in order to preach the gospel to the world, and to aid Bible preachers and teachers who are giving themselves to the edification of the saints. But the days when the recipients received everything totally free are over. These are the times when churches within every country of the world must partnership together in order to print the materials that they need for their own local works.

• THE PRODUCTS

The year 2014 was a year of transition in AIM. From 2015 the materials started being printed by Amity Press and shipped out in 20-foot containers to distribution centers throughout the world. We were trying to establish the “subsidized cost,” which cost depended on the amount of funds that were contributed. So for some items, we could give only an estimated cost, which estimated cost was good only for 2014.

1. *The Study New Testament*: The *SNT* is a 510-page New Testament of the *International King James Version*, the version for which AIM holds the copyright. This edition contains the 80-page *Encyclopedic Study Guide*. Until 2014, we had printed and distributed from Cape Town over 500,000 printed copies of the *SNT*. This mission tool was distributed primarily to public schools. In 2014 it was our plan to distribute at least 100,000, depending on the funds we receive from contributors. The objective for this mission was **evangelistic** in that the *SNT* went forth as our “little evangelist” to teach the people.



Hundreds of thousands of the *Study New Testaments* have been printed and distributed over the last ten years. These “little evangelists” go into schools and throughout communities with the “teacher,” the *Encyclopedic Study Guide*. This is the most inexpensive way to evangelize one’s community.

In those days we were able to print and distribute the *SNT* for about US\$.75 cents each. Unfortunately, since 2015 we terminated the printing of the *SNT*. We did so when we completed the *Mission Bible*.

2. *The Mission Bible*: For years people have been pleading from AIM for a copy of the whole Bible. We have held off on the development of a whole Bible because of financial reasons. But by the middle of 2014, we will have the *International King James* easy-to-read Bible formatted and ready to print for distribution.

We have received an initial estimate cost of printing and shipping of the Bible. The printing and shipping cost per volume will be about **US\$3.00**. This is the entire Bible, plus the *Encyclopedic Study Guide*.

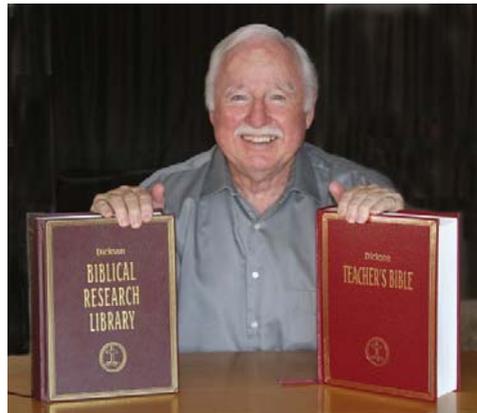
We have not yet determined the final subsidized cost of this volume, the cost for which we will distribute it worldwide. This depends on how much contributors want to give for the printing and distribution costs. But we are praying that the initial subsidized cost for 2014 will be about **US\$1.50** each.

3. *The Teacher's Bible*: The *Teacher's New Testament* was first published in 1982. We waited until 2006 to finally publish the *Teacher's Bible*. This is the complete study Bible for preachers and teachers. It is a one-volume commentary, with Bible text, footnoted scriptures, and the *Encyclopedic Study Guide*. Combined with the *Teacher's New Testament*, well over 100,000 volumes of this material have been distributed since the initial release of the New Testament edition in 1982.

4. *The Biblical Research Library*: This volume became the most requested product that was produced by AIM. By the time of the final printing of this volume, *Biblical Research Library* was a 2700-page phone-



Once the revision of the Old Testament was completed, the *Study New Testament* became the *Mission Bible*. The purpose for the distribution of this volume was to provide a complete Bible, including the *Encyclopedic Study Guide*, in order to offer Bible students a copy of the Bible that would aid their studies for several years.



The two major products that were printed by Amity Press were the *Teacher's Bible* and *Biblical Research Library*. In these two volumes the recipient received all the material he or she would acquire in a Bible training school.

book size volume of 65 books. Since it was first published, we added about four books a year to each printing of the volume. The volume is no longer printed, but now contains over 100 books. All books of the *Biblical Research Library* can be downloaded free from the www.africainternational.org.

Because preachers and teachers have little time to prepare for lessons, the *Biblical Research Library* has become the primary source of material for research and presentations. Combined with all methods of distribution of the *Biblical Research Library* material (including the *BRL* disk), well over 700,000 copies of either the printed or electronic format have been distributed. Now that we have established the new website, more copies of this material are being downloaded every month.

All the preceding volumes were printed and distributed by Amity Printing. When we moved the printing and distribution operation of AIM to Amity, it was a tremendous burden lifted from my shoulders. Amity did all the printing and made arrangements of distribution. I just paid the bill. It was a tremendous relief not to hassle through the oversight of a printing operation in Cape Town, and then actually load and send out the containers.

• THE BIBLE MARKER

At the time we commissioned all printing of the preceding volumes to Amity, I must mention this small mission project that we retained in Cape Town in view of the awesome reception it enjoyed. The purpose of the *Bible Marker* was to develop a very concise statement for a study of the gospel, obedience thereof, with a brief description of the body of Christ. This was not a tract, but a concise study guide of fundamental gospel truths that was retained by recipients in their Bibles for years. It was printed in four-color front and back on 350 milligram cardstock, with varnishing front and back. The objective was to distribute to Bible believers this page marker that would be retained in Bibles around the world for years.

We printed 100,000 to begin the worldwide “Bible Marker Campaign.” Within eight weeks after the delivery of the first 100,000 *Bible*

Markers to our Cape Town warehouse, **they were gone!** Unfortunately, we no longer print the *Bible Markers*.

Africa International Missions had the prime objective of being the resource center for Bible study materials for everyone who wanted encouragement on his or her journey to unity that is based on the gospel. All of you who have partnered with us on this incredible journey need to rejoice with us, for God did something marvelous. You may not understand this in the isolation of your own small group, but God globally did something wonderful for us in order to encourage Bible study throughout the world.

- **A MASSACRE OF 300,000**

One of the most heart-wrenching experiences I had while in China was visiting the Nanjing Massacre Memorial. One does not visit this memorial without being emotionally affected. As the Chinese say, “We can forgive, but we do not have to forget.”

In August 1937 before WW II, the Japanese faced strong resistance as they invaded China in order to occupy Shanghai. Because of the strong resistance, after they occupied Shanghai, they turned south to Nanjing, which was the the capital of China at that time. They entered the city on December 13, 1937, and subsequently slaughtered over 300,000 people in the first six weeks of the occupation. Murder and rape was the plan of war.

The Nanjing Massacre Memorial was built on the site of a mass grave of 10,000 of murdered souls in order to commemorate the holocaust. The late Premier Zhou Enlai said, “The not forgotten past can be the teacher for the future.” And so, Jiang Zemin, a past President of China, said, “With history as a mirror, let’s build a bridge for the future.”

What is so revealing about the memorial is the work of the sculptors who sought to portray in their works the agony of the weeks of invasion. In one sculptor a mother is anxiously searching for a lost child. In another, a father weeps in agony for his children. True-life pictures of horror are painted on the walls of the memorial. Thousands

of case files of trials after the holocaust fill book shelves that stand a full story high. It was a six-week event that changed the relationship between China and Japan forever. I can only imagine how much forgiveness was necessary in order to move past this horrific tragedy of history. Though forgiveness can be realized, that does not mean that we should forget such atrocities, lest we doom ourselves to live them again.

We are reminded of what Paul wrote to some Corinthians. *“Now such were some of you. But you were washed. But you were sanctified. But you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and in the Spirit of our God”* (1 Co 11:6). Though each of us may have formerly lived after the sins of the flesh, we have been forgiven. That forgiveness was strikingly illustrated to me by the Chinese and their relationship with Japan. Going through the Nanjing Massacre Memorial exemplified how hard it must have been for China to forgive Japan. But they did. And as God forgives us of all our past atrocities against Him, we forgive others. This is the spirit of Christianity. And this was the spirit that I witnessed among the Chinese people.

The Chinese are a people who are looking to the future. China is a country that has faith in its future. There was no fatalism there, as I have often witness in other countries, especially in Africa. China is a civilization of people who can still remember the hard times of the past, but now have faith in a dynamic future. If you would obey Paul’s exhortation of 1 Timothy 2:1,2, then this is a country whose leaders you need to put in your prayers. The best is yet to be for China, both economically and as a bastion of faith.

Past and present governments of China have taken the people through many social paradigm shifts. But the people have remained the same. The failure of the outside world in reference to understanding China is that the Western mind has little knowledge of the history of the Chinese people. We are who we were in the past. Our history makes us who we are. And with several thousand years of history, China is who they are today. We are a road map to our history. Past kings, demigods and governments have come and gone in China. China is presently in another transition. But we must not confuse the nature

of the people with the behavior of government policies with which we would disagree. My experience, or revelation, in my visit to China in 2014 taught me one very valuable lesson for life. **Never judge a people by what one sees in the news media.**

I was very grateful for the Amity team at that time. They helped me so much in accomplishing things far beyond my imagination. The Amity team was truly helpful in taking AIM to a another level of worldwide impact through the distribution of our materials. In all my correspondence with the Amity team from the first day I landed in Nanjing, they were truly inspiring. They were exceptionally helpful in performing all the tasks of printing and distributing the AIM materials. So Martha and I truly take our hats off to a great team who worked for us exceedingly abundantly above all that we ever expected when I booked that passage to China.



My reception upon arrival at the Amity printing two-square block printing facility was indeed inspiring. From left to right are pictured GARY CHOU GE, manager of export sales, LUKE LUE, general manager, ROGER DICKSON, visiting foreigner, NANCY OU, supervisor for Europe and Africa, WILL YANG, Sales Advisor for Africa.

**When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached,
don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.**

Confucius

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Download free from The Biblical Research Library,
www.africainternational.org

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 Book 2: *Biblical Interpretation*
 Book 3: *Sovereignty Of Deity*
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 Book 35: *Worship God*
 Book 36: *Worship Freely*
 Book 37: *One Lord With All Authority Over All Things*
 Book 38: *The Christ-Centered Faith*
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 Book 52: *His Grace – Our Faith*
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 Book 54: *Committed To World Evangelism*
 Book 55: *Organic Function Of The Body Of Christ*
 Book 56: *The World As It Is*
 Book 57: *The Godly Giver*
 Book 58: *Thirsting For Word From God*
 Book 59: *Following Jesus Into Glory*
 Book 60: *The Seven Flickering Flames Of Asia*
 Book 61: *The Giants Among Us*
 Book 62: *Dead Preachers*
 Book 63: *New Creation*
 Book 64: *Character For Christ*
 Book 65: *The Power Of Many As One*
 Book 66: *The Last High Priest*
 Book 67: *Survivors*
 Book 68: *Change For Growth*
 Book 69: *Building Eternal Relationships*
 Book 70: *Inscriptions I: Living The Word Of God*
 Book 71: *Disciples Of Divinity*
 Book 72: *Fasting*
 Book 73: *The Gospel Of God's Heart*
 Book 74: *Inscriptions II: Implementing Gospel Living*
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 Book 76: *Escape From Religion*
 Book 77: *Rise And Fall Of Civilizations*
 Book 78: *In Search Of The First Love*
 Book 79: *Gospel Restoration*
 Book 80: *Solutions To The Problem*
 Book 81: *Tethered To Christ Through The Gospel*
 Book 82: *The Gospel According To Hebrews*
 Book 83: *Gospel Teacher*
 Book 84: *Gospel Teacher In Times Of Turmoil*
 Book 85: *The Incarnational Journey Of God*
 Book 86: *Angels*
 Book 87: *Beginner's Road Map For Gospel Living Into Eternal Life*
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 Book 99: *Faith Is The Victory*
 Book 100: *Passage To China*

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ABBREVIATIONS

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis - **Gn**, Exodus - **Ex**, Leviticus - **Lv**, Numbers - **Nm**, Deuteronomy - **Dt**, Joshua - **Ja**, Judges - **Jg**, Ruth - **Rt**, 1 Samuel - **1 Sm**, 2 Samuel - **2 Sm**, 1 Kings - **1 Kg**, 2 Kings - **2 Kg**, 1 Chronicles - **1 Ch**, 2 Chronicles - **2 Ch**, Ezra - **Er**, Nehemiah - **Ne**, Esther - **Et**, Job - **Jb**, Psalms - **Ps**, Proverbs - **Pv**, Ecclesiastes - **Ec**, Song of Solomon - **Ss**, Isaiah - **Is**, Jeremiah - **Jr**, Lamentations - **Lm**, Ezekiel - **Ez**, Daniel - **Dn**, Hosea - **Hs**, Joel - **Jl**, Amos - **Am**, Obadiah - **Ob**, Jonah - **Jh**, Micah - **Mc**, Nahum - **Nh**, Habakkuk - **Hk**, Zephaniah - **Zp**, Haggai - **Hg**, Zechariah - **Zc**, Malachi - **Ml**

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew - **Mt**, Mark - **Mk**, Luke - **Lk**, John - **Jn**, Acts - **At**, Romans - **Rm**, 1 Corinthians - **1 Co**, 2 Corinthians - **2 Co**, Galatians - **Gl**, Ephesians - **Ep**, Philippians - **Ph**, Colossians - **Cl**, 1 Thessalonians - **1 Th**, 2 Thessalonians - **2 Th**, 1 Timothy - **1 Tm**, 2 Timothy - **2 Tm**, Titus - **Ti**, Philemon - **Pl**, Hebrews - **Hb**, James - **Js**, 1 Peter - **1 Pt**, 2 Peter - **2 Pt**, 1 John - **1 Jn**, 2 John - **2 Jn**, 3 John - **3 Jn**, Jude - **Jd**, Revelation - **Rv**