

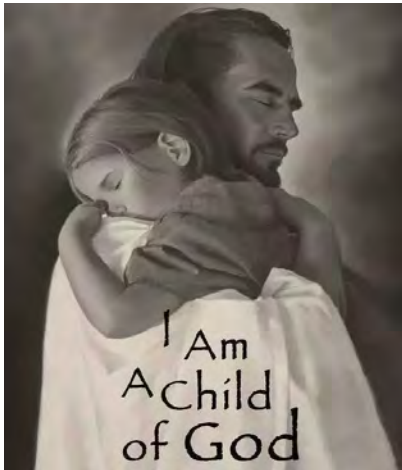
# Our Father in China

Eastern China

November 2017

What's Happening 2

*God is Faithful... We are Precious to God  
We are dearly Loved by God...*



“Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they

may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” ” John 10:7-11

Jesus is “the way, the Truth, and the light” and there is no other way to Heaven, but to surrender our life to Christ. It is a peaceful surrender; a blessed surrender of worries, anger, and things that hold us back from “having life, and having it to the full” as Jesus said to us.

We can have a full life – even in the midst of troubles and unwanted challenges. God is our Strength. God gives us courage and hope. Rely upon God.

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

John 10:27-30

## *Harvest*

I’ve been in China now for 2 months. Such a beautiful country, and beautiful people.

God has miraculously opened many doors, and is building relationships.

I did not give up everything, for nothing...

There are  
1.38 Billion Chinese

6% know God  
94% don’t

The harvest is ripe, but the workers are few, pray for the harvest. God will hear you...

## *Miraculous Meetings...*

I was not going to mention this story at first, it didn't seem interesting enough, but then I started seeing God's powerful hand in this, and it led to many miraculous meetings, and God touching the hearts of Chinese people here on campus.

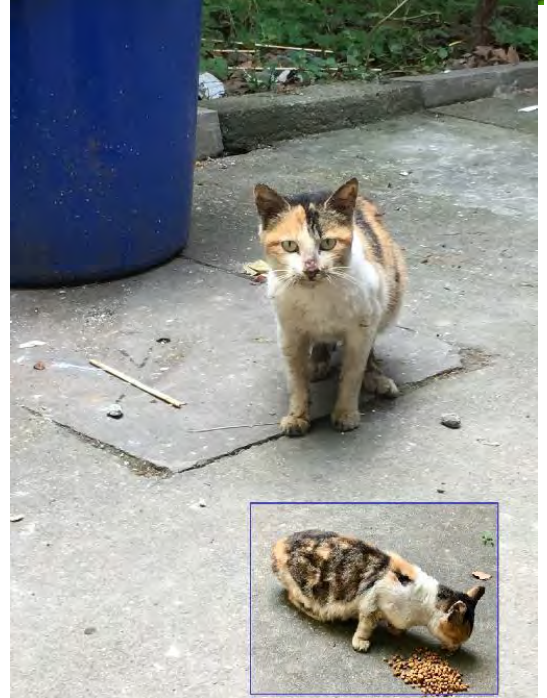
Stray cats? Well that is how it began. As I walked on campus, I noticed many stray cats climbing into garbage cans to get food. Some of them looked very sick, and were probably starving. So I bought some cat food, and started feeding them in a couple points on my daily walks. I taught the cats to come when I whistled, so now it's quite a funny site to see; as I call the cats, they come running!



As I walk, sometimes I see one or two of the cats before the next feeding place, so I tell them to "come" and then I become the pied-piper, as a few cats are trailing behind me.

It's quite funny to witness!

It is common here in China, to have grandparents taking care of the children who are too young to go to school. So every morning I greet them with "Hello. Good Morning" (in Chinese) as I walk, and a second greeting to those who stop to see me and the cats. They smile really big when they hear my greeting, and it brings joy to me as well, to see them smile.



Seeing a foreigner taking care of animals, that no one else is taking care of, has been touching the hearts of my neighbors. I get many "thumbs up" as they stop or pass by, heading to the grocery store. One translated comment was, "It is easy to feed the cats one time, it is a very difficult thing, to feed them every day." Another translated comment was, "You have a very kind heart." I told him, "I am a Christian, and that God has changed me, and helped me have a kind heart." This was translated to him.





One day a woman (Tian) stops with 2 children on a moped-type scooter. The children were so excited, they came running to the cats! The cats scampered away (lol), then slowly returned. One



of the cats likes to play, so I gave the toy I bought to the young girl, and she laughed



and smiled as she played with the cat for 15 to 20 minutes.

I took these

pictures (above) and texted them to a friend of mine. My friend recognized the family, and sends the pictures to the mother (Tian) - who was standing next to me. God was smiling...

**This turned out to be a Christian family who I wanted to meet,** but did not have any opportunity. I was told Tian and her husband lived in the same campus rental area, but I didn't know where they lived, or what they looked like. God planned the meeting time, and the meeting place, around feeding stray cats! Then, within a week after meeting them, they invited me to their son's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday party, and I was blessed to spend time with this family, and another Christian couple. Just the 7 of us shared lunch and some birthday cake.



The miracle continues: On Thanksgiving weekend, my brothers and sisters had planned a party, and all of us invited many friends and neighbors. The day before our party, a woman (Zi) and her son stopped as the cats were eating, and later the son played with one of the cats for quite a while. Seeing God's hand in this, I wanted to invite Zi and her husband, to our Thanksgiving party. The problem is that I don't speak enough Chinese to communicate with her, so how can I invite them?



### How does God resolve this problem?

#### Guess who shows up...

My new friend Tian, on the Moped! She stopped for only a minute - just to say "Hi" to me. And as it turns out, Tian and Zi live in the same building, just two floor apart, and they already know each other! So Tian invited Zi and her husband to join our party (the next day), and we were excited to see them come. Thank You Jesus!

This was the first time Zi's family joined our Sunday party, and heard about God and His love for them. They had plans in the afternoon, so could not join the afternoon Thanksgiving party, but God was giving them an opportunity to hear of His love for them. And to strengthen the relationship between Tian and Zi. It was a beautiful thing to see. God's love in action.



A simple, kind act is touching many hearts here – and establishing relationships. Among this Chinese neighborhood, a “foreigner” stands out, and my actions get noticed. Compassion is seen. Friendliness opens doors. Relationships are building. God is here, and these people need God. We all need God.



Everyday people stop to see the stray cats, and the children get excited. The cats are starting to look healthy, and their fur has become beautiful. It takes only 40 to 60 minutes a day. Soon I will learn enough Chinese to talk with my neighbors, and deepen the relationship that is being built now.



God touches hearts, and He brings them to us to help them, and to love them. How wonderful the past 2 months have been. Such an answer to our many requests to our Father.

Thank you!



Security guard gives me a “thumbs up”

As Christians we too stand out – we are different. Let’s all reach out to those God has put in our paths – Work – Church – Home – Visiting with friends - Running errands – all the things we do. Let’s slow down, and take hold of the “God Opportunities” and make the most of them. You are loved so much by Christ our Lord – that He endured torture and the painful death on a cross – so we could be forgiven and spend eternity with Him and His Father. God loves us that much. Let’s share the “Good News” and share what God has done to change us, and strengthen us...

## *Scripture Corner*

**"You are the light of the World.** A town built on a hill can not be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl, instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." Matthew 5: 14 & 15

**"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you Always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28: 19 & 20

Be guided by God... "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, **where He prayed.**" Mark 1:35

## *We can make a difference*

We are blessed to have the Living Word of God

We are blessed to have good pastors and teachers

We are blessed to have talented musicians to lead us in Worshipping God

Our Calling from Jesus is critical to this world - We are the light of the world, and we are called to make disciples.

"Let's change our City to Change the World" - GCF

## *Life Lessons...*

**"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."** Ephesians 4:29

These words from Paul have such rich meaning, and can transform our life and the lives of those we speak with. Speaking "Only what is helpful for building others up." Let's practice this - speaking only what builds others up, what is helpful to the situation. I'm in... are you in?

**"The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit."** Proverbs 15:4  
**"The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."** Proverbs 12:18

Our tongue can bring healing, and can become a "tree of life" that will nourish and provide for others the encouragement we all need. The tongue of the wise brings healing.

“The tongue has power of life and death;  
make friends with it and enjoy its fruits.” Proverbs 15:1

Our words hold the power of life and death. Let's bring LIFE to our world.  
Let's plant Hope, Compassion and Love into others that God has placed into our lives.

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this:  
Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,  
because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”  
James 1:19-20

In our quickness to speak, words come out that can never be taken back. They have been heard, and they do have an impact. Pause for a minute, and let God speak through you. My damaged voice has helped me to “pause” and forced me to do this. I am thankful to God for 13 years with a “slow to speak” voice.

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.” Proverbs 15:1-2

A gentle answer, threaded with Wisdom from God is what the world needs. What we need.

“For the words that the mouth utters come from the overflowing of the heart.  
A good man produces good from the store of good within himself.  
An evil man from the evil within produces evil.

I tell you this, there is not a thoughtless word that comes from men's lips  
but they will have to account for it on the day of judgement.  
For out of your own mouth you will be acquitted,  
out of your own mouth you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:34-38

Forgiveness, patience and love is what the people in our lives need. I am not where I want to be with this, but God continues to change me, and change my heart. To look at ourselves – our behavior, our words, and our actions can truly help us to be the men and women that God IS creating us to be. Don't give up – just give in to what God is speaking to your heart.

We are dearly loved by Jesus. Loved enough that He would give up His life, so we could be with Him, His Father, the Holy Spirit, and all the Christians of the World – to live in a true paradise forever. Living in joy, peace, totally loved... Let's tell those in our lives about this. Good News? Absolutely!

“Enter His gates with Thanksgiving and  
His courts with Praise! Give thanks to  
Him and praise His Name. For the Lord is  
good and HIS LOVE endures forever; His  
Faithfulness continues through all  
generations.” Psalm 100:4 & 5







## *Upcoming Needs*

In China, rent is paid in 3 month payments,  
My rent will cost \$1,730 due on 1/1/18

Together we can share the Good News

## *Requests...*

- Spiritual growth for my 5 student friends
- Courage & strength for my brothers and sisters.
- For my relationships here to grow, and to keep my "state-side" relationships strong and healthy



**This Christmas, would you consider  
giving a gift?**