

# Our Father in China

Eastern China

Dec 2017 & Jan 2018

What's Happening 3

## **Earnestly seek God... Thirst for God Dwell in His Presence...**

*“You God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.”*

*Psalm 63:1*

Psalm 63 was written by King David, when he was in the desert of Judah. David spent many years in different desert places, when he was being pursued by King Saul, fleeing for his life.



Here are some of the deserts David lived in, that are mentioned in the book of 1 Samuel:

**Desert of Ziph** (23:14), **Desert of Maon** (23:24),  
and the **Desert of En Gedi** (24:1).

King David was intimately familiar with desert life, and the need and pursuit of water. Here David talks of how he seeks God, thirsts for God, and longs for God - and equates it with the need and pursuit of water - where there is “no water”.

This really speaks to my heart. How critical it is for us to seek God - every day. To long for God, as one who longs for water - living in a place where there is no water.

I think this is an important challenge for us - to earnestly seek God in this way. Draw close to God, and He will draw close to you.

## *Blessed*

I've been in China now for 4 months. I am awestruck by the Love that God has shown to me. He is Faithful. Thank You Jesus.

God is miraculously opening doors, and building relationships. I did not give up everything, for nothing... I gave up nothing, for everything...

There are  
1.38 Billion Chinese

6% know God  
94% don't

*“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?” Psalm 42:1-2*

Are we too busy? Is God as important to us, as He was to King David? Are we comfortable where we live, not living in a desert – and so we go to the flowing water in our home, to get a drink? This is a new year. Let's pursue God in this way. Let's dwell with God and Seek God.

“God looks down from heaven on all mankind  
to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.”

Psalm 53:2

## *Teaching English*

God has given me a few months to adjust to living in China. New bacteria, germs and virus' and so I got sick a few times. I am sick as I write this, with some unknown virus in my lungs. This time of sickness was expected by me, as I moved here. God is with me, God is with you. He loves us!

God has provided Christian brothers and sisters for me, starving cats for me to feed, and neighbors who needed to see the Love of God, in a foreigner. God has miraculously opened doors. Xie xie Yesu!

And then one day, my roommate was in a taxi, going to play basketball with his alumni friends. The driver of the taxi owns a company who teaches English and Math to children, and uses his luxury car as a taxi sometimes just for “fun” as he says. Lol. My roommate and he talk, and 3 days later I have an interview and a job offer. I also had another interview and job offer (to teach English to children) the day before. Both of these opportunities, God has brought to me. It was amazing to see, and this really touched the heart of my roommate – to see how God brought both of these about.



So on Monday 1/29/18, I taught my first class to 7 children, and another cool thing? They met me at the door, with the temperature being 23°F outside, and said in English, “WELCOME TEACHER”. It was such a wonderful greeting, and a great way to start teaching children, here in China!



Now I can share the love of Christ with children, as I help them learn English.



Regular school classes in China are large, so personal attention is not common here. These classes I teach will be about 5 to 7 students, and I can spend some quality time with each one of them. Teaching and encouraging, as I love to do. ☺

# Making a Snowman, is that God's work??



# SNOW

The amount of snow we get in this city is comparable to North Carolina. It's typical to get 3 or 4 snowstorms per winter, with each one dropping 2" to 3" of snow.

So what happened? The first storm in early January gave us 10 inches of snow!! Lol. Then 3 weeks later, we get our second snow storm, and we got 8 inches of snow!! (this was a week ago).



So I needed warm boots. I do a lot of walking in this city, and feeding stray cats also gives me the opportunity to walk as I go to the 7 locations where I leave food for them.

After worship two weekends ago, 11 of us decided to go for a walk and take some pictures, as this snow storm left the area very beautiful. So off we went.

Taking pictures at the historic post office building, and lots of memorable photos at many places along our walk.



It was a really good time of laughter, fellowship, encouraging each other, and taking some memorable pictures of a rare snowfall. God's presence was very strong, among us. Yes, God was working in our hearts. Strengthening our relationships, and our love for each other.

## *Scripture Corner*

**"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**

**Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**

**And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**

**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.**

**And be thankful."**

**Colossians 3:12-15 NIV**

**"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you." James 4:7 & 8a**

**"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.**

**Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1-2**

## *We can make a difference*

**"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will."**

**Romans 12:2**

**Are we conforming?  
Do we look like everyone else in this world?  
Have we compromised?  
Let's conform to  
HIS IMAGE**

**And draw close to God  
Fully submitting to Him**

**"Jesus told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."**

**Luke 10:2**

## *Life Lessons...*

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

John 15:5-8

To truly live with Peace in our hearts, and experience peace permeating our life, we need to "dwell in" and be connected to God, to Jesus, all the time. This is how God created us - with a "God size hole" that only He can fill. God wants us to have a full life, not an empty life... He said this as recorded in John:

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;  
I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10*

Jesus gave us peace. It is within our reach, but the business of the day can steal our peace. He says to "not let your hearts be troubled" and not to be afraid. So He is telling us that we must control our hearts, not focusing on things that cause fear, and trouble in our hearts. Focus on God. Seek God. Dwell with God.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27*

We also must have our focus on others. What are they going through? How can I help them? God wants us to have "spiritual zeal" and be devoted to helping each other, honoring others, and also a devotion to seeking and knowing Him. It's a huge blessing to others, and to ourselves when we live like this.

*"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." Romans 12:10-11*

*"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

Ephesians 4:1-3

Be completely humble, gentle, and patient? Doesn't God know who is in our life? Is this really possible? Kind of funny when we say it like this. I am still in the furnace of God's lessons on patience. I simply give a peaceful surrender to God, and the circumstances He has placed me in, and then my peace returns...

**God's Promise**

*"However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" – the things God has prepared for those who love him –" 1 Corinthians 2:9*



### *Requests...*

- Spiritual growth for the men studying the word with me. My spiritual growth too.
- My body to heal from the cold/flu sickness.
- For my relationships here to grow, and to keep my “state-side” relationships strong and healthy

“Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.” Psalm 105:1