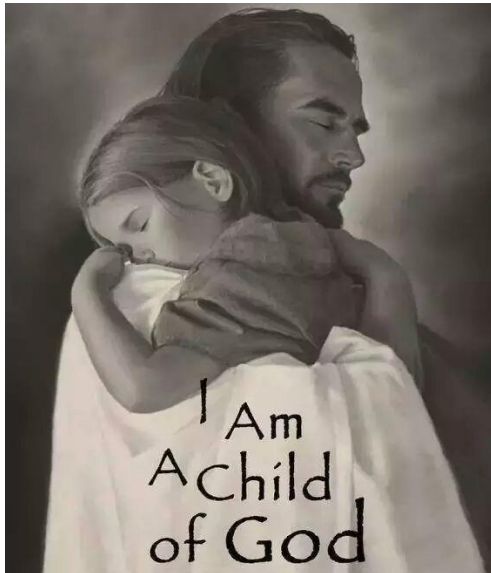


Our Father in China

Eastern China

March to July 2018

What's Happening 5



*“Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”
Psalm 46:10*

Be Still... God says to our hearts.

Be Still.... Trust in Me...

Be Still: During the last month, Father has been speaking this to me. To be still. Calling me to get closer to Him. Calling me to read His Word more. Calling me to chat with Him more and more. It's quite an Honor that the Creator of the Universe gives to us - to chat with Him. He calls each of us "His children". It's truly amazing, when you really think about this. How the God of the universe wants to have a close relationship with each of us. It's an honor. But it's also our choice. We can say no with our actions. Where has the day gone? We ask. We need to "*intentionally*" put Him into our day. (Smile) Then we are blessed.

Trust Me: When He says "Be still" to us, He is also saying "Trust Me". To trust Him with **all** aspects of our life. Trust Him to supply the money we need. Trust Him to be with us through physical pain, emotional pain, or the plethora of difficulties we face in this fallen world. Don't walk alone... He is there.

Praises...

- My lungs have recovered from the mold infection - Thank You Jesus!! Thank you for your prayers!!
- My relationships here have grown considerably! As our Sunday party moved to a new place, there was much work to do. As I helped, this brought me into deeper relationships with my brothers. I am very grateful to God.
- God provided the funds for my 3 month rent payment (7/1).
- God answered prayers for my roommate, Xinyu. He has met all the requirements to study in Germany, and is working on his student Visa now. He will be moving there in about 6 weeks.

God is preparing you - yes, preparing you for your future here on Earth, but also preparing you for your future role in Heaven. He is lovingly preparing us for our role in eternity, for our time with Him and our brothers and sisters. The difficulties we face, can change us for the good, and improve our character -

depending on how we act during these difficulties. God wants to change us, and grow our level of patience, compassion, kindness, and love for others. As we submit to God, He lovingly changes us. It's a beautiful thing. To be changed, and grow in the wisdom of our Precious Lord. To be more like Him, every month; every year.

[“But seek First His Kingdom, and His Righteousness, and all these things \(needs\) will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of it's own.” Matthew 6:33-34](#)

This scripture resonates in my thoughts. I've quoted this scripture before in my updates, because it's such an important scripture for the family of Christ. Put His kingdom, His priorities first in your life, Jesus says. Followed by a promise – what others seek, will be given to you as well. Telling us not to “seek the hand of God” that gives to us, but to seek HIM. Then Jesus promises the blessing – all these things will be given to you as well.

And then Jesus adds, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow”. In my life, I've had so many worries – sapping energy and emotional strength. I think we all do this. As I grew in my faith, I started worrying less and less. My joy increased. The peace in my heart grew. Worrying affects so much in our body, and in our thoughts. Meditate on this scripture. Ask God to change you. Ask Him how to apply His words in your life. Take time to Be Still. He loves you!! His plans are the best for you! Trust Him...

God Loves the Chinese

There are
1.38 Billion Chinese

6% know God
94% don't

Please join me in
praying for these
beautiful people. God
will hear you...

*Truly He is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.”
Psalm 62:1-2*

10 Months into the Journey...

I've been in China now for 10 months. Such an amazing change to my life, leading to growth in my faith in God, and my love for the Chinese people. God's Presence is richly here. His love is here. His blessings are upon us, as we serve Him; as we love His children. But only 6% know about the love of God.

Many are experiencing “hopelessness”. People are working long hours to earn, and save money. In the city where I live, the average monthly salary is \$807. This comes to \$9,700 per year. The average cost of a 1,000 ft² condo is \$415,000 (most homes are condo's in China; very few American type homes). The cost to rent a 2 bedroom condo is about \$5,000 per year, plus the expense of food, utilities, clothing, phone & transportation. So how does a person save for a house, a car, or education for their children? This causes a lot of stress, and some of their “hopeless” feeling.

There is also a lot of pressure from people's parents to get married, and have children. The people here love grandchildren. It's really wonderful to see. But the downside is that they put a lot of pressure on their children, to get married and have children. Again, stress leading to feelings of hopelessness.

I highlight these few things, to give you a glimpse of the struggles here. I can not imagine living without the love and comfort of our Precious Lord and Savior. We can make a difference. Pray for the Chinese to come to know and understand the love of God. For them to have joy and peace in their hearts. To have sins forgiven, and a deep walk with our Lord Jesus. To be embraced by His love and comfort.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

Scripture Corner

"The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger, and rich in love."

Psalms 145:8 NIV

"Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:5-7 NIV

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV

Life Lessons... Trusting God with our Treasure

The year was 1983. I had graduated from college with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. From one of the top 10 ranked colleges for this degree – Ohio State University. Big man? Little pride there?

So here I was, working at K-Mart. (lol) Selling electronics. God was teaching me patience, as I had been praying for. So many “unreasonable” customers showed up that week. Enough to get the attention of my coworkers, who brought this to my attention. Lol. God was working in my heart. Too much pride there... too little patience. God was working, as I had asked Him too. (Smile)

One year later, I moved to Indiana for a job. Not a job using my degree, but still a good job. With too much pride, I upset the manager by not showing enough respect to him, and I got fired. God was teaching me. Thank You Jesus.

“Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers,
fear God, honor the emperor.” 1 Peter 2:17 NIV

As I looked for a new job I found two job openings, but neither would use my degree, and both were of low pay. But God had changed me. I was thankful; grateful; and I sought His decision about which job I should take. Now I was “Trusting God with my Treasure”, specifically my career as a Chemical Engineer. I had laid it in His hands now, and was willing to follow His plan for my life. Peace was now in my heart.

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.” Jeremiah 17:7 NIV

One of these two job opportunities had the *potential* to move into an engineering position, the other did not. In my prayers about this, God asked me to take the second job, the one without engineering opportunities. So I followed His leading, and gave my “treasure” to Him; and walked forward.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.
“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV

My thoughts and my conclusion was – there was no engineering future in the electronics manufacturing job. But God said to take that one, so I obeyed and accepted that job.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”
Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

So I worked hard at this job. I sat with others, in the soldering repair area, and we chatted and repaired the solder joints. With my excitement about the Lord, I could not hold it in. I mentioned scripture, and how God loved them. They listened, but looked down upon me, for being a young man, Christian, with little future. I had also talked about going to Ohio State University, but I didn't mention my degree. I think they assumed I had dropped out of college.

So what happened? Three months later, I got a call from the HR Manager at the company I worked for. He wanted to setup an interview for me at their headquarters, about a 45 minute drive from where I worked. After the interview, they offered me an engineering position, for much higher pay, at their headquarters location. In one day I went from repairing solder joints, to an engineer supporting the soldering operations at multiple locations - including the one I had previously worked at.

On my first visit back to the site I had first worked at, I got such a warm welcome from my coworkers. It was so warm and loud, I got embarrassed, due to the commotion. Lol. Now my testimony about Jesus and His love for them, was lifted up. I was now respected due to my new position, but truly I was the same person; no higher, no lower. But God had lifted me up, when the time was right. And my gentleness, patience, and love for my coworkers had brought fruit to the kingdom.

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:6-7 NIV

Throughout my years, I have practiced this same lesson - giving my treasure, my hopes, and my dreams to God. When God asked me if I wanted to help His children in China, I quickly said “yes”. Then God had me wait 5 years to start this calling, as He said to me, year after year: “Be still, and know that I AM God”. Trust me. And then He said, “Prepare to go”.

This year I wanted to teach English to children, and earn an income. As opportunities opened, the door would close as I tried to enter. I then realized that it was the hand of God that was closing the doors, so I gave my desire to God, and stopped pursuing it. As I waited, drawing closer to God, I was blessed and my relationship with Him grew ever stronger. I waited 5 months for His approval, for His door to open. Waiting for the BEST Plan. And now the door has opened, thank You Lord.

He is Perfect. His plans are Perfect. His timing is Perfect. We serve a loving, compassionate, and powerful God. And we can talk with Him, anytime we want. No waiting area. No tickets to wait our turn. He calls us His children, and He says, “If you know how to give good gifts to your children...”

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

Matthew 7:9-11 NIV

So Trust God with Your Treasure



Thank you my friends for listening to me.

I hope these words bring a blessing to you;
and bring peace to you in any
hardship you are facing,
or any hardship you will face in the future.

God is with us...



Prayer Requests...

- That our family of believers will continue to draw close to each other. That our relationships will become deeper. That we truly learn how to comfort and encourage each other. How to love each other.
- For Father to protect us.
- For my English teaching to bring glory to God.
- For me to see with God's eyes, and love with His heart.
- For the tuition to study Chinese at NUCM.

Upcoming Needs

August 2018: \$2,800 – I am applying to a Chinese university, to learn the Chinese language and culture. This is a 9 month course, from September to June.

I will also be applying for a student Visa.

Please pray for this, and help as you can.

Thanks... Larry