

Our Father in China

Eastern China

Aug. to Oct. 2018

What's Happening 6

One Year into the Journey...



We enjoy meeting together on Sunday's to have a "party" like you do in America. Recently, two of these parties have been shut down in the city I live in, and we hear rumors about the same thing happening in many places here. Please chat with Dad about this. It's become very serious. I can't share much more.

My presence here is something I want to mention. America is the "paradise" of most of the young adults here, and leaving America to come here has made an impact in the group I interact with. In our discussions, my brothers are starting to understand how IMPORTANT their FAITH is to our Father, and how critical it is in their life. It's really wonderful to see the depth of their Faith growing.

Serving God: In China, doing manual labor is "looked down upon" as lower class work, and so most of the men here do not have any tools, nor do they know how to use them. We moved our party to a new building, and this change created the need for mechanical and electrical work to be done. So a group text was sent out by the pastor: "Who has a drill?" My girlfriend answered the text, and when she told me about this, I volunteered to install the projector and the screen.

I've been in Mainland China now for one year. God has been blessing us, here in China. I know many brothers and sisters now, and enjoy serving our Father with them.

Praises...

- We are experiencing many visitors coming to our Sunday parties!! Three came this weekend, 5 last weekend
- We had 4 people get baptized.
- I received my 11 month student Visa, so I don't need to leave China every 2 months. Such a blessing.
- Xinyu got his German student visa, and moved to Germany two months ago. He will be studying Political Science at Bamberg University.
- God has placed Christians in Xinyu's life, and he is now going to Bible Studies in Bamberg. He is not a Christian yet, please continue to pray for him. He was my roommate for a year.

So as I brought some of my tools to our new meeting place, many questions came out. “Why do you have so many tools?” My answer was, “I have so few tools because I could not bring the tools I had in America here. Too heavy, too many.” And then with a surprised look they asked, “What was your job in America?” Maybe they were thinking I was a construction worker, working with tools. I told them that I was an Engineer, but most men in America like to have tools and work on their own house, instead of hiring someone to do the “simple” work.

Then, as they saw this 59 year old, gray haired man, climbing on a ladder to drill holes in the ceiling and install a projector – the young men wanted to help me, but didn’t know what to do. So I taught them how to use the tools, and we installed the projector together, and then we ran the wires along the ceiling. We also installed new power outlets, and did some other work. It was a God event ☺

This also helped motivate many others to serve God by working in various ways on tasks that needed to be done in our new home. I don’t think it would have been as motivating to have a “young” man from America doing this – but seeing this old guy, wearing a back brace and working hard was just what God had planned for them to see. Smile.

I wonder sometimes why my “calling to China” came at age 52 and my “permission to go” came at age 58. I’m a child of God with diabetes, back trouble from a car accident, I struggle with depression at times, why did Father call this old guy, with physical disabilities? Why wouldn’t Father call him when he was 23 and strong, just a baby Christian but healthy?

And then I am reminded of what Paul said...

“Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called.
Not many of you were wise by human standards;
not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.
But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise;
God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.
God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things;
and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,
so that no one may boast before him.”
1 Corinthians 1:26-29 NIV

God chooses the foolish? God chooses the weak? God chooses those who are rejected and despised? God chooses those who have no power or authority? Those who are not significant? Hardly noticed?

So an old man left America. Weak. Body not so healthy. No money. No power or authority... No one really noticed, someone not very significant. But an old man left America in obedience to his loving Father. And now I am where my Father wants me to be. Serving Father in a foreign land. And no it’s not easy, it’s very difficult, but this brings joy knowing that I’m in the center of His will for my life, not my will.

So let me bring this home for you... Are you weak? Do you have health problems? Maybe you don’t have much confidence? “How can Father use me?” – you say... I am too weak. I can not make a difference. Let the “strong” and “courageous” be called by Father.

A little further in his letter, Paul says....

“And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NIV

Can I restate a couple of his words? “No eloquence or wisdom” and “In weakness with great fear and trembling”... This man was profoundly used by God, an amazing chosen instrument – we all know his influence on the world during his life. He wrote so much of the New Testament with his letters to the churches.

Here he is saying “In weakness with great fear and trembling”. Wow.

So I ask you – Are you Weak? Do you tremble when you think of God speaking through you?? Maybe you think you are too old? Is your body “less than perfect”? Are you a mother with “no time”? Are you unemployed? Are you too young and inexperienced? What is it that stops you? What do you fear?

“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

Let’s RISE UP my brothers and sisters, casting our worries and anxieties to Him. Let’s serve our loving Father – just as we are! Let’s pray for those that Father has placed in our lives, and let’s see what HE can do, through us. We are the light and salt to those God places in our path. We are different.

Do you own a phone? Text scripture to others. The “YouVersion” Bible APP makes it so easy to select and send a scripture that touches your heart – to send it to others. Seconds... Just an “I’m with you” text will mean so much to someone who is in the middle of a painful time in their life. Small things can have a very significant impact in the lives of others. Especially to those facing difficulties.

Let’s live together, and reach out to those that God is placing in your life, and my life.

Was I scared to come here? Yes. Did I have many fears and worries? Yes. I think “courage” is doing what Father wants us to do – in spite of our fears – not in the “absence” of fears – but in spite of them. That’s true courage. That’s true obedience.

Our walk here on Earth is short – and our time in Heaven will be infinite... Let’s bring others closer to Father, and embrace them as we walk on this Earth. God is with us! God is with YOU!

"Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory
and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all."
1 Chronicles 29:11 NIV

Scripture Corner

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

So Trust God with Your
Life... Give your time to Him.

Let's rise up together!



Thank you my friends for listening to me.

I hope these words bring a blessing to you;
and bring courage and strength to step out in
Faith. Let's continue to reach out to others.

God is with us...



Prayer Requests...

- That our Father would bring many Chinese into His family.
- For Father to protect us.
- For my ability to learn the Chinese language. It's very difficult for me.
- For me to see with God's eyes, and love with His heart.
- For Xinyu to come to know the love of our Father. For Father to open his eyes.
- For WuTong and ChenLan to come to know His love for them.

