

Our Father in China

Eastern China

March 2021

What's Happening 9

I miss you...

My dear friends and family, I miss you. I miss you very much.

Most likely we met at church – either Greenville Christian Fellowship, or Austin Chinese Church, (or an Ignite Bible study). Or maybe we were colleagues at either Flextronics or KCST. I have such wonderful memories of our times together.

In whatever manner our paths crossed, I am very thankful to have met you, and had you (face to face) in my life. You have blessed my path, my life, and Father has used you in many ways to teach me about His love, and His faithfulness, and to help my faith grow. I am blessed.

With a mixture of joy and sadness, I left North Carolina in September of 2017, and moved to China (3 ½ years ago). You were so precious to me, that before I left I made a 3,400 mile trip to visit most of you – travelling from NC to TX to KY to CT where I met with my family, and then flew to China. I spent 25 days to greet as many as I could, before I left America – not knowing when I could return. I am very grateful to Father for letting me take this trip, before my life's direction changed so dramatically.

In my life, Father has given me the ability to endure “fearful adventure”, and this has helped me as I transitioned to living here. Father also has grown in me a deep Faith and Trust in Him, and this was also needed to follow the path He had set before me.

So, I followed Him as He called to me, giving me the opportunity to be His child in China, and help spread the good news. The other purpose seems to be helping Christians here to grow their Faith, and Trust in Dad. I have been trusting Him in difficult times, and growing closer to Him, even when I didn't understand why painful things happened to me. Lately I've been told that friends were watching me endure difficulty, without losing my faith and trust in Dad, and this has touched their hearts, and helped them to grow closer to Father.

Blessed

I've been in China now for 3 ½ years. Such wonderful people, but many have little hope...

God has miraculously opened many doors.

There are
1.38 Billion Chinese

Only 1% know God
99% don't

(my research before showed
6% Christian, but this turned out
to be mostly government
controlled churches)

Pray for the harvest.
God will hear you...

Father's blessing in 2020

YuQing and I met online in January of 2016. Then over a 12-month period, we visited each other 3 times. Moved by the HS, I moved to China in September of 2017, and we began dating in the same city. As we spent time together, it became more and more obvious that Father had put us together, and was blessing our ministry to others. So, in October of 2020, Yuqing and I got married. Her loving aunt walked with her down the aisle to me!



We had 75 people join us for our wedding celebration



This selfie was taken
when we first met in
May of 2016



"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care of itself, each day has enough trouble of it's own. Matthew 3:33-34

(written in Chinese on our picture)

Sharing our lives with others...



Having fun with some of our Christian family



Homemade
Pizza



Our Christmas 2020 Outreach.

Fun, games, testimonies from my wife and another Chinese Christian. Lots of love. 22 people came, and I bought extra folding chairs for the celebration. Smile



We enjoy sharing our lives, especially with our young friends!

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! Psalm 133:1 NIV



I bought an oven, so I could cook
some American food for friends

YuQing and Larry



Be devoted to one another in love.
Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:10



Prayer is very important to YuQing and I



Let us FOCUS on things of God

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” Colossians 3:1-4 NIV

This is another goal of mine in 2021. To keep my focus on things above. It's so easy to get caught up with our lives, things we can see. But to keep our focus on Dad's plans, this is where our treasure is, this is where joy infuses our life. We died... Our life is now “hidden with Christ in God”. How do we apply this?

“And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:15-21 NIV

It's really an honor for us, to be an Ambassador for Christ. I don't think I would have chosen me for the role of an ambassador or a missionary. Doesn't God see our failures? Our character flaws? But we are ambassadors for Christ. We can make a difference in the lives of others – every single day of our life. Father has promised not to abandon us. To walk with us. That was a promise. You needed to hear this...

“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

St. Paul said this to the Corinthians:

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” 2 Corinthians 4:7-9 NIV”

I can really relate to Paul, can you? Hard pressed on every side, perplexed, persecuted and occasionally struck down. Be we are not crushed, not in despair, we are definitely not abandoned by Father, and we are not destroyed. Father will never abandon us!

Hard things hit us at times, mostly without warning. But none of these things surprises our Father. He knows. He has plans for us, and we need to seek him, and ask Him what to do next. This is a lesson that He has for me this year. Drop to your knees Larry, and seek Him, seek Him, seek Him, and the wisdom from the Holy Spirit will flow and flow. Thank you Lord.

St. Paul said this to the Romans:

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and*

character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” Romans 5:1-5 NIV

Paul talks about “glory in our sufferings” because they produce perseverance, character, and hope in JC. And Paul reminds us that Dad’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the HS, who has been given to us. The HS lives in us, and gives us strength and wisdom. I need this so much, to be faithful and successful in the tasks Father has for me. How about you?

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NIV

We should “fix our eyes” not on what is seen – our difficulties, trials, and pain; but on the “unseen”. What would that be? The strength and love of our Father. Seeking His wisdom and His plans for us, and trusting that our troubles will be used of God – teaching us, giving us wisdom and eventually strength and courage as we walk through these troubles. This is an eternal glory – our character getting better, our patience growing, our perseverance growing, and our faith and trust in Dad growing. This has been my life since I moved here. Troubles and difficulties – leading to growth in Faith and perseverance. It’s not easy, but it was necessary.



**My wife – Praising God during
our troubles in Zhuhai**

“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

Paul is telling us that our troubles happen so we can receive comfort from the “God of all comfort” and so that we can learn to comfort others. This too has been my life here, to endure hardship and to comfort others as they endure troubles, letting them know the good news too. Has this been happening with you as well? COVID-19 sure brought troubles to America and China. Companies closing, lay-offs, forced to stay inside, depression, marriage troubles as couples endure all the hardship from this pandemic. So many other troubles too, all causing anxiety, emotional pain, and financial pain. Where to turn? How to endure? Turn to Father. Prayer. Spend time in the Word. Also text your Christian friends. Call them. Make video calls with family. Relationships are a treasure, but keep Christ first in your life. Turn to Him first.

“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.” Colossians 3:12-14 NIV

This is one of my favorite scriptures... I need to apply this to my life. I wish to be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, patient, and forgiving. This is the meaning of "true love" to treat our family and friends this way. Open your heart to this scripture. Let it soak in deeply. I am doing this. It is my goal this year to apply this scripture, more and more in my life here. But it's difficult for me to apply when troubles happen, and easy to apply when life is easy. You too?

Pray for each other

St. Paul said this to the Colossians, and **I feel this way about you:**

".... we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will, through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Colossians 1:9-14 NIV

Prayer is so powerful. My wife and I have setup a prayer room, and we pray there, and on our couch. Seeking Father for you, our other friends, family, and neighbors. We pray! Father's presence is strong in our home, and we need His protection. Our enemy (satan) has a strong-hold here in China; and we are under constant attack, especially on Saturday, as he wants to disrupt the meeting that happens on Sunday in our home.



And with regards to that, I am so happy to say, and honored to say that our house is being used by our brothers and sisters. We sing here, worship, watch the teacher online, discuss many things, and we cook and enjoy lunch together. We also study a book together. This started in early July of 2020 (9 months ago), as the COVID pandemic in China had subsided. We had been meeting online, because of the health concerns, about spreading this horrible virus.

"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

So please email me back with your prayer requests, and if you could, send a picture of your family so I can put that on the wall as a special reminder to pray for you and your family. I have a few pictures, but not that many.

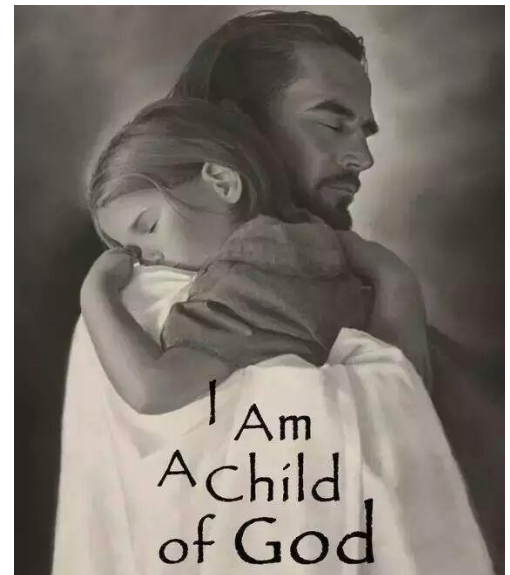
I need your help...

“Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.” Matthew 10:41-42 NIV

Last year was an expensive year for me. A trip to Zhuhai was especially expensive, but needed, to comply with the VISA regulations. So many regulations had changed due to COVID-19 that the trip took 17 days, waiting for the updated VISA, and some other difficulties. But the difficulties came with some joy as well... My girlfriend and I got engaged on that trip, and we had some nice time together. Thank you Lord. I had bought an engagement ring about a 1 ½ prior to the trip, as I wanted to buy one from America. So the trip was also filled with joy.

In 2020 my income was very low, and I ended up borrowing \$9,400 to pay for my rent, food and other expenses. A wedding gift from my mom lowered my debt to \$5,400, and that was such a treasure. But I really need some help. I wasn’t sure if I should tell anyone about this, I was reluctant, but I decided I should. We are brothers and sisters, we are family, and so I need to tell you, I need some help from you.

“Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”
2 Corinthians 8:13-15 NIV



I think Paul worded this very well, in his second letter to the Corinthians. We shouldn’t relieve others in a way that would cause us to be “hard pressed”. But some of us are in a time of “plenty” and Paul’s teaching is about **equality**, sharing with brothers and sisters who are in a time of “need” when we are in a time of plenty. When I was working as an engineer, I was in a time of “plenty” and so I gave to others. Sharing what I had, and still saving some for the future.

As a body of believers, we should be different from the world. We should look to the needs of others, trusting that Father will provide for our future. God watches how we manage the money He gives to us. To see if we can be trusted to manage the “things of great worth” in Heaven. We now belong to Christ, and we are different than those around us.

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with

everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"
2 Corinthians 9:10-15 NIV

If you are in a season of "plenty" at this time, please ask Father if you can contribute a small amount to the work my wife and I are doing. A commitment of \$25 a month, or \$50 a month will really help me. Please don't think of this as a "forever" commitment, just think of this as a 2021 commitment to help us. You can donate and get a "tax deduction" by going to Globalimpactresources.org and look for Larry. Thank you so much for your help.



Upcoming Needs

In China, rent is paid in 3 month payments,
On 4/1/21 my rent is due,
and will cost \$1,730

Let's share the Good News together

Prayer Requests...

- Please pray for our new marriage relationship to be stable, and grow
- Please pray for our family group, for our Faith to grow together, in Jesus. For our understanding of the Gospel to grow, and to share with others. We are the light in a dark place. Pray for us.
- Please pray for wisdom from our Father, to use our time wisely, and to clearly hear from Him.
- Please pray that my ability to learn Chinese will get better, I am struggling to learn, and forgetting new words too quickly. I need Dad's help.

If this newsletter will bless someone in your life, please don't hesitate to send it to them ☺