Entering Into a New Era for China

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changing lives through PRAYER
Precious in His Sight

In one of the back pews of a church, Chuck Lenhart leaned over to me and tried his best to whisper, “The hot dirt of it all. When you can taste the dirt in your mouth. God I love it. I miss China, bro!” At least I think that’s what he said. I was too busy nodding my head, trying not to laugh and appearing as though I could hear the guest speaker as she mapped out the almond buds of Israel on a white board up front. “You know what I mean, bro? I’ve got to get back over.” I looked, and Chuck had tears on his cheeks. Something you will often see when Chuck Lenhart speaks of China.

I think he really does love the hot dirt of it all. He is a missionary, the crazy group of people that my parents raised me to love and respect. Pioneers who can’t think to do anything else but go to the worst places on earth to talk about the best things of God with villagers who otherwise would never know.

Chuck was just out of his teenage years when he purchased a roundtrip ticket to China. He sold the return ticket and spent the next twenty years reaching Chinese minorities with Jesus. He and his wife Wendy raised their boys in the Yunnan province, planting fellowships all over the place. They did it. They were among that amazing group who heard from God for China, sold everything they had, and gave their lives for a nation. And they have been blessed for it, enjoying the fruit of ministry and now witnessing their two sons, Jared and Christopher, serving Jesus in ministry. China has been blessed for it too.

Today China is filling with newfound prosperity. The dirt roads are rapidly vanishing from the countryside. Another generation of leaders is taking the baton, and those emerging are fiercely grabbing the reigns of the information age with an unimaginable zeal to find truth. As people of truth, Christian men and women are finding highly influential platforms to serve the needs of the nation.

As SEAPC China moves confidently forward in the season, we ask you again to pray. The team that brought us through the challenges and successes of the Touching Hearts in Tibet project has increased and embraced the SEAPC CARE project, a partnership with the Beijing Autism Association to develop standards for autism in China. This ten-year commitment will not only bring light and truth to a generation but will place training centers for autism in each province.

I’m laughing as I write this to you now, because my mental picture of this project’s success comes when its programs reach the “hot dirt of it all,” deep in the countryside of China, where a three-year-old boy or girl is now struggling to communicate with mom and dad and an opportunity for the Church to bring truth and healing for autism is arising.

As you read this, I pray that God calls you to put down the mess and the mundane around you for something more, I pray that He calls you to the nations, and I pray that you respond to that call and go! The people who tell you that you can’t are always people who didn’t. But the people who did go still cry tears of joy, passion, and amazement when they think of what God did through them.

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Finding Peace

This is a Chinese and Tibetan mixed family. The mother is local Tibetan from Lhasa and the father is from Guizhou province. I met this sister two years ago. Her name is Da Zhen. She spent her childhood in Guizhou, and learned about the Christian faith from her uncle. But after she came back to Tibet, she went 30 years without receiving any further Christian teachings, until she met us.

This sister had a failed marriage and later she and her child went to stay with her mother and grandmother, because her father died many years ago. Since the beginning of this year, a lot of difficult things have happened in her family. Her grandma died first, and then her older brother’s diabetes continued to get worse. Her sister-in-law left her brother with their child, but her brother couldn’t get out of bed. Her mother has to take care of him. Then, her uncle’s cancer came back again. During those hard times, she felt helpless and weak. She also felt the coldness from the Buddhists. When we met her and started to visit her family, we prayed for them and offered the help that they needed. She felt that she went back to her childhood, going to church with her uncle. There she enjoyed the peace and love from above.

She said that her brother was sick for many years and no monk came to visit them unless they were paid to come. But children of God are different. They are willing to care for the sick and the poor. When they are hungry, we feed them. When they are thirsty, we offer water. When they have no place to stay, we host them. When they are naked, we clothe them. When they are sick, we care for them. When we do all those things, God’s love will burn inside them. The Holy Spirit will open their hearts and eyes; they will see who the real God is.

Now Da Zhen and her brother have accepted Jesus. I am taking this sister and her uncle’s family to Chengdu for treatment. May God heal this family spiritually and physically!

Living with Autism

Yin Jie is a seven-year-old boy with autism who lives in Beijing. He is non-verbal and his family couldn’t afford to send him to a private school, so he stayed at home with his mother all day long. He has a very loving Christian mother, and his father is the only breadwinner in the family. The first time we met him was last year, when Kim had a lecture for parents in the mother’s church. The leaders in the church really have a burden for his family, so they started to organize some volunteers to visit the family once a week.

Then we met him again in the beginning of February this year. Bill, Tina, Caryn, and Courtney came to Beijing and we spent a few hours ministering to three families of children with autism. Yin Jie’s father was there too, though at the time he was still searching for God.

In May, Matt came to Beijing and he was able to visit this family this time. We were so honored to walk into his house and spend time with his family. Yin Jie is a cute boy who doesn’t know how to communicate with his parents. When he wanted his father’s attention and didn’t know the right way to ask for it, he threw his father’s cell phone on the floor and broke it. Matt gave the father a love offering for a new phone, which really touched his heart.

That same day, Yin Jie’s father confessed that Jesus is his Lord and Savior. A few days later his church had Bible study for the husband and wife, while Yin Jie was quietly listening to the church hymns for the first time. Lydia, the group leader, said that it is a miracle that he could sit quietly the whole time while the parents are studying the word of God. God is also fixing their marriage relationship. Praise God for all He has done and all He will be doing among those afflicted souls.
Turn on the Lights

It wasn’t exactly an obstacle course, just a new room in a new place far away from home. Three of us were sleeping in one room, but the beds were far enough apart that our snores did not move the sheets on the neighbor’s bed. It was tight, but not cramped.

When nature called at 2:30 a.m., I found my way from horizontal to vertical and wiggled my feet to see if they were in communication with the rest of my body. Having secured my bearings a bit, I left the stability of the nightstand. That stand had become the challenge of the night. I had it in my hand. That phone was the reservoir of several water bottles, and the night stand. That stand had become the challenge of the night.

After the flood, God proclaimed that four laws would govern the earth: seed time and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night. I think of the last as the governor of light and darkness. The light dispels the darkness. The dawn dispels the night. The only way for dark to reemerge is for light to be extinguished. While light is measurable, darkness has no metric for it is secondary to and measurable only in terms of light.

When many times have we stubbed our toes because we did not light a light in the darkness? And, how many of our young people today cannot find their way home because no one left a light on in the window? How much time is spent searching for cell phones? And, how many are hobbled by the pain of stumbling over an obscure obstacle?

Jesus came, the Light in the midst of darkness. He lit the way for man, with all his stubbed toes and pressures, to come to the Father of Light. He shone in the darkness, but the darkness could not comprehend what this was about. So far from God, they had become accustomed to the darkness. They hid behind race, religion, and self-righteousness.

North India is a dark place. The city of Srinagar is under lockdown, with armored vehicles and heavily armed patrols at every corner. The Kashmiris, with a liberal sprinkling of Pakistanis and Afghans, live at the Indian army as they convoy through the city streets. It is to this place that we are called to be salt and light. Jesus said to the disciples, “You are the light of the world!” (Matthew 5:14) Our Isaiah promise this month is, “If you extend your soul to the hungry to satisfy the afflicted souls, then your light shall dawn in darkness and your darkness shall be as noonday!” (Isaiah 58:10)

So, as with every light, we need to know the switch that lights the light to show us the way and to make the way clear to others. Jesus gives us the switch as recorded in Matthew 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

As a first step to the “good works and glorify your Father in heavens” part, we have established the SEAPC scholarship fund. This fund will serve all the nations in which we function; but, for Kashmir we are believing for 10 one thousand dollar scholarships to send 10 Muslim children to school. According to Malala Yousafzai, the Taliban do not like education and do not like girls to get an education, and especially do not like Christians to reach out to youth through education. Looks pretty dark to me. So here we go. Turn on the light and watch the roaches head for the corners.

We just took our first Chinese team to India. Imagine that, reconciliation between Chinese and Indians. If we can shine the light and help these people to stop stubbing their toes over culture issues, then there will be a sweeping wave of the Holy Spirit over the entire Indian Sub-continent. Two-thirds of the world (China and India) will be in active Holy Spirit, vibrant church mode.

But the Isaiah promise includes room for mistakes, “And your darkness shall be as the noonday.” (Isaiah 58:10). When we stub our toe, when the bed is too hard and the people too tough, when the thrill of being there has worn off and the hard days come, the Lord will still make us brighter than the surroundings. He will be glorified, for in our weakness His great strength is shown.

Thank you for making all this possible through your prayers and faithful giving. We are on the cusp of the dawning of a new day. Posed with purpose we pray with power to proclaim the plan of an awesome God to break forth in noonday light.

Written by
Mark Geppert

POWER PRAYER

Prayer keeps the light bright. Prayer points that will unlock these people. Prayer helps the disciples. “You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14) We are the lamps that have gone out of it because the place is 99 percent Muslim. Some worried for our wellbeing as the Muslims have burned churches and beheaded pastors. But, the Lord simply said, “Turn on the lights.” It took the government 48 hours to approve us.

So, here we are: registered, shining, and seeking the Lord for the pressure points that will unlock these people. Prayer keeps the light bright. Prayer changes people, people change nations.

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Written by
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“Hey,” I hadn’t felt him land.

“Hey,” he shouted in my ear with a little jump. “I found it.” Now he was fluttering to tell me his big news.

“I found a ‘Nother!”’ He was so happy.

“I flew and flew around the world. I saw something that looked like a ‘Nother’ in Australia, but it turned out to be an Emu. It is all big and doesn’t even fly.

“I flew and flew to Indonesia. I saw something that I thought was a ‘Nother’ but it was a ‘Neagle.’ Actually not at all like the Neagle I saw before so I thought it might be a ‘Nother’ Neagle’ but it wasn’t.

“It was a Javan Hawk Eagle ‘cause it lives on the island of Java and looks like a Hawk-Eagle combo.

“I flew to Nepal and really thought I had found a ‘Nother’ but again was introduced to a bird that doesn’t fly. ‘Nothers’ fly and soar and are beautiful. This Nepali bird looks like a peacock, but is a Monal.

“A Monal?” I asked to give him a chance to breathe. I’d never heard of it.

“Well,” he said, “I am not surprised that you didn’t know and do not feel too bad about it because very few people have ever seen a Monal.”

“So where did you find the ‘Nother’?” I asked.

“Well,” he continued with a big smile and puffed out chest, “I caught an updraft along the Himalayas and rode it among the Eagles and Asian Crows. We soared together and had a most wonderful time looking down on snowcapped peaks and little villages. It is so very colorful this time of year.

“We cleared Nepal and saw Shimla, India, where we have friends. We decided to stop for a drink of water. I had a sip of water and piece of popcorn on the Mall and then caught another up draft and regained altitude to ride the currents to Srinagar, Kashmir.

“It was there that I heard the sound of a ‘Nother.’

“Dropping down to tree level, I caught a glimpse of a ‘Nother’ catching flies in its beak. ‘Nothers’ eat flies. They like fresh food. Its beak was blue and its eyes were too. I was sure it was a ‘nother’ for I had heard of a very rare bird that was not an Emu, and not a Monal, not a Neagle and not a Hawk, but a ‘Nother.’

“What is he?” I asked a cawing crow.

“A nother type of bird,” said he. “I flew and saw that long tail,” I said to the crow.

“Yep, he’s a nother,” said the crow to me. “The feathers are white as white can be and the tail as long as a squirrel. He soars and soars high in the air. He eats only fresh flies and drinks only from bubbly creeks of fresh snow water. He is a nother kind of bird.”

“I thought he was a flycatcher.” I asked the crow. “He looks like a flycatcher to me.”

“What is he?” I asked a cawing crow.

“Friends, are you the flycatcher?” I asked.

“Friend,” he said, “and seeing a fly, he darted away.

“So, you see,” said Ferd to me. “I found a nother.”

If you extend your soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday.
We have now walked among the youth of a nation, crisscrossing daily from state to state in order to stand publicly on every major college campus for the purpose of prayer. I’m happy to report to you that public prayer and saying the name of Jesus is not only lawful but also very much welcomed on the grounds of college campuses today.

I have now witnessed firsthand the power of prayer to bring students, professors, provosts, and administrators to tears. Those tears turn dry ground into fertile soil for the future. Revival, the magnificent new life that so many are desperate for in this nation, will surely spring forth from those grounds. Each tear carries compassion and purpose. Not one tear ever shed on this earth was in vain. This nation has now wept before God in prayer with a purpose in hope to see its past forgotten and its future re-written in Christ.

A gentle smile, a kind word, an offer of prayer, and the simple Gospel of Jesus has changed the lives of many. They’d say, “You have no idea what I’m going through right now.” As one lady said, “We needed this so badly!” My favorite quote came from the young lady directing the visitors center at our nation’s very first state university, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She said, “We only had one student at UNC the first year and he walked 386 miles (621 km) to attend.” I asked, “What did he study?” She responded, “I don’t know for sure but by the second semester, he had helped to build a chapel.”

And the truth remains for the nation that our greatness cannot be restored by the works of our hands, nor was it ever given but through prayer built on the cornerstone of our faith. That faith causes us to take action. Those actions glorify God, influence others, and cause us to prosper. Together we have prayed; now let the glory of God fill this nation.

We are grateful for those who joined us globally to pray through our partners at Every Home for Christ, Awakening America Alliance, The Billy Graham Library, Generals International, and National Church. Because of these partnerships, more than 200,000 people have joined in through prayer.

Where Have The Children Gone?, written by my father, Pastor Mark Geppert, in response to several requests by parents, professors, and friends was distributed nationwide and has now been translated for Chinese and Spanish readers. This free, 30-day prayer guide prepares parents and leaders to understand the words our students are learning in their college years and helps us to prepare our hearts with the words we need to speak into their lives.

If you know of a parent, pastor, or youth leader in need of this resource, we want to make it available to you without charge. Please contact our office for requests.

Let Grace abound and unity spread, as a year of revival grows in this nation.

America! America! God shed His grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.
Relief in the North

During the fall of 2014, the heaviest rains in 50 years began to fall on Kashmir. This rain caused flooding that killed 420 people in more than 2,000 villages and the city of Srinagar, India. Because of the flooding, we have been working with All Saints Church in Srinagar to bring relief to people affected by the flooding. Recently, we were in Srinagar serving with Pastor Sunny to distribute blankets made by local Pittsburgh churches, school supplies from a wonderful family in Malaysia, money for building materials, and food to families that are still suffering from the flooding.

Pastor Sunny is the pastor of All Saints Church and it was flooded by over 14 feet of dirty, muddy water. The church and parsonage walls are almost dried out after two years. When I first visited this church, I felt like I was walking into a disaster zone. Mud lines were still on the walls, all the song books and Bibles were soaked with mud, and the members of the church were losing hope. But, after one year, the walls and church have been cleaned and painted. On Sunday during my time there, the church was filled with people sitting on all the chairs and all over the floor. We were there with a team from Malaysia, Mexico, and the United States to bring the blessing of the Lord and encouragement in the Holy Spirit. What a wonderful time of ministry in Northern India. This fellowship of believers is on the front line with the world of Islam and they need our prayers and support.

While we were there in Kashmir, rebels in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir ambushed a convoy of Indian paramilitary soldiers, killing at least two and injuring four others. The rebels have been fighting against Indian rule since 1989. More than 68,000 people have been killed in the uprising and the subsequent Indian military crackdown. This part of the world desperately needs our prayers and ministry teams to proclaim that “Jesus is Lord” and to encourage the believers to stand.

Written by Bill Richardson

Chai and a Big Heart

Yudavheer is not a big man but has a very big heart and a smile so big that you just have to smile back. He and his family had a tea stall on the side of the road. Each morning they would make their delicious hot brew and sell it to the many truckers who knew that this was the best place in town to get your chai. The rest of the day Yudavheer would walk for miles praying, ministering, and sharing the love of Jesus. He is a humble, poor man, yet very rich in the love of God.

Yudavheer is from Nepal, and last year he was visiting his home there when the devastating earthquake struck, killing hundreds of people. Yudavheer had a heart attack during this earthquake. Through donations from 5 Rivers, he was able to receive life-saving heart surgery, and he is now ministering in North India.

Recently, the Indian government began to widen the road and the humble little tea stall was torn down. Now, he and his family live in a tent along with many others who have been displaced. The tent is a bunch of sticks woven together with a blue tarp stretched over them. This is now their home, but this little man with a big heart has not stopped smiling or loving.

During my last trip to North India I was able to visit Yudavheer in this small “shanty” town. As we sat in his tent, people began to come. People he had spoken to, people he had prayed for, people he had shared Jesus with. They came out of the bright sunlight to sit on the dirt floor in the shadows of the tent, and they began to worship. Jesus is building His church in the middle of this place that many would consider to be the lowest of the low. It was a great honor to sit with these beautiful, humble people, loving the same Jesus together.

Since Yudavheer’s tea stall was torn down, 5 Rivers was able to purchase a three-wheeled pedal cart for him. Now he has gone mobile, taking his chai, his smile, and the love of Jesus all over the village. Please pray for this humble man and his family as God uses him to build His church in a place that many would never go.

For more information on our ministry please visit 5riversinternational.org.

Written by Dan Taylor
Breaking Ground

For several years, the kids at this home have been waiting. They have waited patiently and prayed fervently. Now, God’s timing has come and the kids at the Kampong Cham children’s home are getting the new dormitory that they have desperately needed.

In response to the need in the community, a hastily constructed home was built to provide for the orphaned and abandoned children in the area. Because of the haste, the effects of weather and time, and so many children, the original wooden structure has fallen into disrepair. Temporary repairs were made within the last couple of years to extend its functionality until a more permanent solution could be decided upon and provided.

Now, new land has been purchased and a building is under construction. The children will be able to move into their home in the near future. They are seeing their dreams and prayers become reality as they watch their future home rise up from the dirt. They are excited. We hear that they like to often go to the site in their spare time and see if they can help in any way. I can imagine them dreaming about what their bedroom is going to look like or how much more room they will have.

It takes a team to make this happen. Without the donations of many individuals, businesses, churches, and foundations, this would not be possible. You’ve already heard about the group in Canada that has been raising funds for this home. The newest partner for this home is the Transparent Fish Fund/Ping & Amy Chao Family Foundation. We are blessed by this partnership and look forward to continuing to work with them. They are a great blessing to many people. You can check them out at www.tfshfund.org and www.chaofoundation.org.

This is just one home. Construction is also underway in Pailin and Preah Vihear. In Takao, we have been stalled a bit. These children are also waiting patiently and praying fervently. I am confident that their prayers will break through and construction will resume.

As these homes are being finished, the team is looking ahead to the next locations where children’s homes are needed. The provinces where the next homes will be built are Oddar Meanchey, Koh Kong, and Kratie. Kratie will be the start of our entrance into the northeastern portion of the country. Oddar Meanchey is the final province in the northwest and Koh Kong is the final province in the southwest where homes are still needed. Once these three homes are completed, that will leave eight provinces remaining to complete our goal of having a children’s home in each province, providing for approximately 1,000 at-risk children at any given time.

Once the homes are built, the children will come. They are already out there, waiting. They are going to need prayer and financial support through child sponsorship. We will need sponsors to match up with these children to provide for their needs. The sponsors are out there, they just need to be connected. Do you know anyone to connect as a sponsor for a child in Cambodia or for one in Myanmar, Nepal, or India? Are you being led to sponsor a child?

Okay, we’ve got the location and we’ve got the sponsors, what about the people who are caring for the children every day? Loving, Christian staff are needed at each home. Much prayer is needed to bring the right house parents, caregivers, cooks, and agriculturalists to each home.

There are over 60,000 at-risk children in Cambodia. It takes a team to help these children and we are just a small part of that team. Thank you for being another part of the team through your prayers and support for SEAPC.

Written by Tina Tomes
There are great frontiers of vast humanity who are yet without the Savior. They live in war-torn northern Myanmar, they live on the Inner Mongolian grasslands, they dwell in the deep valley gorges of the Himalayas, they are the frontiers that are oft-forgotten, and by and large they are unengaged by the church. These frontiers of humanity without Christ await us. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the unbeatable, unbreakable, unstoppable love letter to all humanity. The heroin addict awaits it, the little orphaned child in the gutter awaits it, the terminally ill await it, and those who have never heard it await the Good News, to come and to bring change, and deliverance!

The light of Christ is shining on the frontiers God is giving us. In the capital city of Hohhot in Inner Mongolia, God has set a platform for us to present the gospel to the Mahakala Motorcycle Brotherhood. Mahakala is the Tibetan Buddhist hell god depicted in their club logo. Those who worship Mahakala revere him as lord/protector, and specifically the primary Wisdom Protector of the Himalayas, and Tibetan Buddhism. My son Jared and his buddy Isaac Roscher are going into Inner Mongolia to spend time with this group of hardcore Harley riders.

Pray for Jared and Isaac as they meet up with these gnarly Inner Mongolian Harley riders. Jared made contact with these people through WeChat, a popular Skype-like program that millions of people in China use to communicate. Pray that God would give us cultural keys that we can relate the gospel to. Pray the Holy Spirit would open the minds of their understanding. Pray that every Mahakala member would be saved.
A Testimony of Surrender

My name is Macchi Viravongsa. I was born in 1995 in the capital city of Vientiane in Lao P.D.R. My father is Phonithip Viravongs and my mother is Vongvaly Virasongsa. I have one older brother, and his name is Bobby. I was born in 1995 in the capital city of Vientiane in Lao P.D.R. My father is Phonithip Viravongs and my mother is Vongvaly Virasongsa. I have one older brother, and his name is Bobby. In 2006 my mother was converted to Christ, but I was so young at that time I didn't understand anything except following her to church. I didn't understand what worship really was, and I didn't know about the Holy Spirit or the word of God, but I could see what they did. I remember one time there was a pastor who prayed for me, and before he prayed he spoke in tongues, and I was laughing because I didn't understand what he was doing. When I look back today, because I now understand, I want to say “Sorry, Lord!” When I grew up I had many friends and I didn't care about God. That is, I knew Him but I didn't have any sort of relationship with Him. In 2008, I had a boyfriend and I started to hang around with friends all the time—I loved going to the club and drinking alcohol, and I partied a lot because I enjoyed it. I lived like this until 2011, when I realized that all of these things couldn't satisfy me. Every time I sinned against the Lord, the Holy Spirit would convict me, because I served in the church as an interpreter. I felt so guilty, because no one knew that I was hiding all of these things. At age 15, I prayed to the Lord, telling Him that I wanted to get rid of this but I couldn't do it by myself, because I tried many times but I always failed.

Throughout my childhood, I saw my parents argue all the time, and because of this, I wanted to come closer to Jesus. I was serious with the Lord in my prayers that I wanted Jesus to change my family. In 2011, the Lord brought me to Bible school in Singapore. Two weeks before I went to Singapore I felt the Holy Spirit change me, and I woke up with no worldly desires. I met Jesus during my time in Singapore, and I started to have a relationship with Him, and came to know who He really is, and He cleansed me. I have never felt such incredible love in my life! I cried out almost every day. I knew many people gained different things, and I gained a relationship with Jesus.

My name is Im Chan Oudom, and I work as an HR Manager at SEAPC-Cambodia. I have been working in this position for a year and half. My internship with SEAPC-US defintely gave me a better understanding of my skill sets and where they could take me. More importantly, I've come to meet a lot of amazing people from all over the world who are working so hard to help people in Cambodia.

This training allowed me to get closer to God. Every day during the internship, we started with devotions with many awesome speakers. Every day was a new day that encouraged me to get closer to God, and now I talk to God all the time.

I was also encouraged by the SEAPC-US staff. They are all kind and gentle, and they love each other and the Lord very much. They inspired me to love the Lord and know he will make a way for me. One of the classes in the training inspired me to keep a journal every day, to record how God was working in my life. Every time I become depressed or disappointed, I open it and my burdens disappear. I always enjoyed writing, and felt that I was pretty good at it. Writing takes practice and I simply was not practicing enough.

After a year of practicing writing, I am now writing for the SEAPC-Cambodia website and newsletter. This position keeps me writing something new every week, and I can say that my writing has improved drastically from when I began writing in my journal, to now writing encouraging articles to many people around the world through many different platforms, including Facebook and the website.

Through my internship, I also learned a little bit about accounting and administration. It helps me to budget my finances well. Last year I worked in Kompong Thom province as part of a team with four other interns, and we did very well. Through that experience, I learned about how to become a punctual and flexible person who can work well in all circumstances.

Last but not least I would like to thank God for the sponsors, who always help me and others to reach our goals. I also would like to say thanks to SEAPC-US for the bottom of my heart. They have been a great help and guidance to me. I am thankful to Matthews, Tina, Tony, Jessica, Carli, Cathy, Dan, and Fiona, who always help me and guide me well. Now I am so happy with what I am doing. I help people who are facing the same challenges that I used to face. Right now I am praying for more training that will lead me to develop my skills well. I am praying that God will open the way for me to travel to America again to learn from people successful in their fields.
When the Lord Calls

At the young age of 15, sitting around a campfire at Camp Jumonville in rural Pennsylvania, I heard a message about taking the gospel to the world. Our camp counselor encouraged us to pray for the Father to use each one of us to share the hope of Christ when we went down from the mountain and returned home. My young heart prayed to the Father and said, “Here I am Lord, send me.” Several years later at a conference a Messianic Jewish man was selling rings. One of the rings had Hebrew writing on it that said two words, “send me.” I bought the ring. He prayed a prayer of blessing on the ring and placed it on my finger.

Approximately five years later I attended a prayer walking seminar and learned to pray for my community and was asked to go and pray for China. It wasn’t an easy decision for me to leave my comfort zone to travel to another country, for one purpose, to pray. I wrestled with the thought of just praying for China in the comfort of my home or church, but the Father brought to mind the prayer I prayed years before: “Here I am Lord, send me.” Frightened and excited, I traveled for the first time out of the country. As I traveled to China to pray, something was placed on my heart for the first time. I felt a call to return to China. I traveled for the first time out of the country, for the purpose of my calling to be made clear. I needed to become prepared to fulfill the calling.

I was working with children with autism at an Intermediate Unit in Pennsylvania. After a few years of working with children with autism, Pastor Mark Geppert asked, “When are you going to take the ministry of working with children with autism to the world?”

This question totally took me by surprise. I was busy taking college courses and working, and there was very little thinking of using the gift teaching on a global scale. I thought of working with children with autism as a “job” rather than a ministry. That thinking was totally out of line with what God had been preparing me to do.

Pastor Mark introduced me to some precious sisters, Sandi Anderson and Andrea Moriarty, both of whom are mothers of children with autism. He gave me a phone number to call and the three of us quickly became friends and prayer partners. We prayed almost every weekend for God to open doors in China so that families with children with autism could receive hope. The ladies and I had never met because I lived in Pennsylvania and they lived in California, but we developed a bond of friendship through intercession. We believed that the Father would be faithful and answer our prayers. We believed in the promise of Matthew 7:7-8 which says, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” We asked that a door would be opened in China to minister to children and families with children with autism.

A year later I traveled with a small team, including Sandi and her son Joel, and spoke words of hope to the mothers and fathers of children with autism, thereby beginning the first of several trainings. We prayed for the families that we met and the call became stronger to continue. Daniel and Gail, our SEAPC friends from China, purchased a figurine of a Chinese door that could be opened and shut. Daniel said to me that he felt that the Father said, “The door has been opened to you in China.” These words were confirmation that China was the place where I was able to keep the promise that I made to the Father years ago. The promise that I would be obedient and go where he would send me.

I discovered that some callings take a great deal of preparation before you can walk into that which the Father has opened to you. After 12 years of training and preparation I was ready to fulfill the call. It may have taken years but it was so worth it.

The Lord continues to teach me how to lay hands on children with autism for healing, and how to pray for the families and to believe great things. When prayer is applied to your day-to-day work, God can turn it into something amazing. Praying for the Father to “send me” was one of the most exciting answers to prayer I have ever received. There are amazing things happening in China. A program for Board Certified Behavior Analyst credentialing is being established through the help of Dr. Walter and Stephanie Chung from Cairn University. Cairn is a Christian University committed to building the kingdom of God. SEAPC is partnering with Cairn University to begin offering online classes at an affordable price that will improve the quality of teaching of children with autism in China. Our prayer is applied to your day-to-day work. We pray for family members interested in receiving the certification to teach in China or to open up schools where children and families can receive treatment.

As I write this I am preparing to do training for teachers of children with autism in Beijing. While in China, relationships with the local church body are being established so that the church family can minister to and support the families. Dr. Jia told us of the shame and embarrassment parents feel from having a child with autism in China. She said that it is going to take time for parents to look at their child in a positive light.

It is time for all of us to look at individuals with autism as being fearfully and wonderfully made. Each with unique and wonderful gifts that they can bring to us. I met a young man with autism at a concert that a small group of individuals with autism got on to be interviewed. The individuals were extremely talented in the area of music. Their parents beamed with pride as their young adult children sang and played their instruments.

One of the young men had a great interest in learning to speak English. He sat next to me at lunch after the concert and he had pictures of the sky on his phone. Using fluent English, he said, “I love the sky. I take pictures of it.” I didn’t realize how many pictures of the sky I had on my phone until he asked to see them. We had found something so common to share and he said, “I feel happy looking at your sky pictures. I said, “I feel happy looking at your sky pictures. We are happy together!” With a beaming smile he replied, “Yeah, I like to feel happy!” I said, “So do I. Let’s be happy together.” Full of excitement, he responded, “Great idea!”

So we sat side by side looking at our pictures of the sky feeling happy to be together. I felt happiness and peace in my heart knowing that I was where God had sent me and with people he had sent me to minister to. The ironic thing is this young man ministered to me. He caused me to stop and look at the beauty of the sky and to feel joy.

I encourage you to take time and look up at the sky. Pray and ask the Father where He can send and use you for His glory. I pray that you will find joy in the calling.

Written by Kim Bennett
Pray for China

HAVE MERCY
O Lord, you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Here I pray for China, please give your people mercy and soften their hearts. Give them a chance to repent their sins. Therefore, when you see what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, you have compassion and do not bring upon them the destruction you had threatened.
— Jieling Quinn

TRANSFORM
We pray that God greatly multiplies our autism efforts in China to transform the lives of affected children, their families and communities for generations to come.
— David & Cori Peng

BLESS
Father God, we ask you to bless China and open the hearts of the people to know Jesus. We pray for the CARE project and ask you to bless all the teachers and all the students. We ask you to bring many people to your son Jesus through this project.
— Peter Chandra
If you extend your soul to the hungry
And satisfy the afflicted soul,
Then your light shall dawn in the darkness,
And your darkness shall be as the noonday.

Isaiah 58:10