



CHINESE CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES CHINA PRAYER LETTER

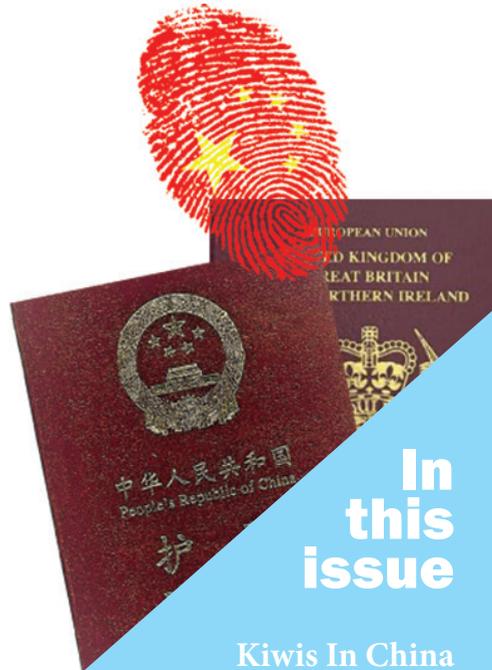


APRIL 2018

Dual Passports

It is simply human nature to 'want to have your cake and eat it too' and many Chinese nationals have applied this notion by obtaining dual citizenship and enjoying the benefits of belonging to two different countries. And the benefits are many; they include access to property ownership, social security, working rights, healthcare and education. In China these benefits are administered under the household registration (Hukou) system. Without citizenship travelling as an alien to China comes with the frustration of visas, in-China travel and accommodation restrictions, residency permits and other inconvenient red tape.

Dual passports conjure up feelings of safety and security. They provide an exit strategy should it ever be needed. Certainly many Hong Kong and Macau residents maintained dual citizenship as an insurance policy during a time of change and uncertainty. Dual passports are a safeguard desired by



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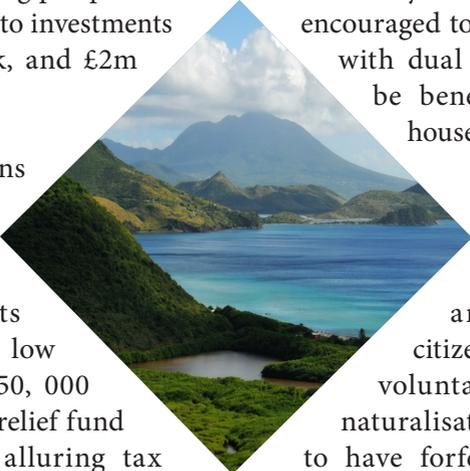
Seeking to serve, strengthen and support the church and the people of China

China's less savoury characters as a means of fleeing the country. Some use them to transfer capital and assets offshore while avoiding taxes or covering up criminal activity.



Around the world, Chinese people have made up a large portion of foreign “buyers” in citizenship-by-investment programmes that give the world’s well-to-do the option to “purchase” their citizenship by investing in that country. The schemes are a way of developing poorer nations or impoverished zones. But wealthy countries like New Zealand, USA and the UK also use it to court rich applicants granting passports and permanent residency to investments of NZ\$3m, US\$500k, and £2m respectively.

Much cheaper options are available in other nations such as the tiny Caribbean islands of St Kitts and Nevis. With a low investment of \$US150, 000 into their hurricane relief fund comes citizenship, alluring tax options, minimal wait-time and visa-free travel through Europe with no



requirement to spend any time on the island or even leave home to make the application!

Since 1980 the People's Republic of China (PRC) has not recognised dual nationality for any Chinese national. Chinese nationals walking on Chinese soil will only be seen as Chinese under the law, regardless of what other passport they can hold up. Only those residing in the Special Administrative Regions (SARs), Macau and Hong Kong, are able to retain other passports.

Dual citizens that have settled abroad and that have not renounced their Chinese household registration, will be stopped from leaving China and required to go back to their hometown to renounce it before they can exit the country. Informants are being encouraged to notify on foreigners with dual passports who may be benefiting from illegal household registration.

PRC nationals that have settled in an alternative country and have gained citizenship there (through voluntary or involuntary naturalisation) are considered to have forfeited their Chinese citizenship. The important thing to note in the previous sentence is the term “settled”. Under the law, nationals residing in China that haven't actually settled in the foreign country where they

have obtained a second citizenship do not lose Chinese nationality. Perhaps this is why a hurricane relief fund in the Caribbean is attracting Chinese supporters!

Certainly in the past resourceful Chinese have taken advantage of loopholes to hold on to their multiple nationalities. Rather than giving up their Chinese passports they have used alternate passports on entry and exit or changed the name on their foreign passport so their original Chinese identity was not traceable at immigration.

However in a wide sweeping attack on corruption and a vigorous commitment

to enforcing its laws, China is moving to close these loopholes. The king hit to those wanting to evade single citizenship law is certainly the rollout of the new biometric passports which premiered in May 2012. By April 2017, China had issued over 100 million biometric ordinary passports. That same year they began scanning and recording the fingerprints of foreign passport holders entering China aged between 14 and 70. If this fingerprint scan, which will be stored on their passport's chip, is a match for a Chinese passport that person will be revealed as a Chinese national. They will likely face the prospect of losing their foreign passport or having their visa cancelled and entry refused.

International Short-Term Teams

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- * English Cultural Exchange
 - * Trekking
 - * Intercession
 - * Medical
 - * Mercy

April 2018:	Cycle Team & Cultural Exchange Teams
June 2018:	Medical Team
July 2018:	Mercy Team & Summer Camps
August 2018:	Medical Team
September 2018:	Trekking & Intercession Teams
October 2018:	Cycle Team & Mercy Team
December 2018:	Cultural Exchange Team



Kiwis in China

In 2017 a NZ couple left for China to do “tentmaking” ministry. This is their brief report. Names and places have been omitted for security reasons.

We left for China at the beginning of 2017 with a sense of excitement and apprehension. We'd been there before, but only for short periods. However we both felt the call to move to “new ground” and away from our comfort zone in NZ. In many ways we didn't know what to expect, but knew a change was needed. We'd made enquiries about teaching English in China, and the only two firm offers came back to the same city, one in a language school and one in a university. From there it was just a matter of deciding which one suited us best. After prayer and counsel the answer became clear- take the university one. That age group we'd been working with in our “ministry” in NZ. So we signed on, with a mere 2 months to pack

up and sort out our NZ affairs.

The first few weeks in China were a time of acclimatisation as we adjusted to life in a big city with unfamiliar culture. Our university “threw us a curve ball” and changed what we'd been told we'd be teaching. We had to press into God for His grace to teach, even having to design one paper from scratch. The local ex-pats have a saying “TIC”- this is China (which essentially means to expect the unexpected). We experienced this many times.

At first we were a little impatient about kingdom matters. “What have you got us here for, Father?” was our frequent prayer. But gradually doors began to open as we met local believers and fitted in to the ex-pat church (which doesn't allow Chinese nationals to attend). By “chance” we discovered an English corner run by a Christian lady. Although not a Christian gathering she always included a question or two that could lead to spiritual conversations. We clearly had to be discerning about what we said, but many interesting conversations were had, and hopefully many seeds sown.

Later we became involved with a small group meeting which taught the bible to local Chinese. Most were either seekers or new believers; most knew virtually nothing about the bible. This meeting was a real blessing as people's eyes were

opened to the message and the love of God. By the end of the year at least two had made firm decisions to follow God. In 2018 our work will be to graft new family members into the vine by linking them with local believers.

Our church involvement started simply with arriving early to help with setting up and packing down afterwards. This progressed to being out front in all weather to welcome church attendees, joining the music team and running the PowerPoint. We have been both blessed and stretched in being of service to both the expat family as well as local believers.

Our role in China has also been in part to support other believing foreigners. Somehow, in various ways, our Father has linked us to ex-pat students (studying in China), who sometimes seem a little “lost” without family around. But we've

also taken under our wings some older people, working as tentmakers, including one 72 year old who decided to leave her comfortable job in America only 2 years ago and make the most of her later years. She's been a blessing to us and we to her as we've shared notes and mutually encouraged one another.

Overall it was an exciting and challenging year. We probably saw more fruit than we expected, and felt very blessed as our Lord opened opportunities. We've now committed to stay another year, and potentially much longer, hoping to build on the foundations laid and experience more of the adventure that serving God in China is.

Prepare To Be Unprepared

A recent conversation with two expat English teachers working in Mainland China provides some helpful tips and advice for those that want to follow in their footsteps...

Sarah (aged 60+) and Debora (mid 20's) are from two different countries and work in different areas in China. However, these two very different women but both encountered similar

situations in their time teaching there.

For the newcomer, the number one thing they stressed was the need to be prepared before arriving at the school or university where you have been hired to teach. “Try and learn as much mandarin as possible before you go. The basic everyday things like, ‘where’s the toilet?’, ‘how much is that?’ Research the culture as much as possible.”

Things are tightening up in every area in China and they have changed the process for obtaining visas for foreigners. Deborah warned about allowing extra time to apply, “There is now a lot more paperwork and a lot more process. For example, you have to have your degrees notarized and provide verified credentials and criminal background checks. There are even more hoops to jump through.”

Before accepting their first job offer, Sarah cautioned that all teachers should research who they are going to work with. “Some of the schools are not good schools to work for. I have been asked by two different schools to work for them. One I do have a good feeling about, the other I don’t. People who work there don’t get paid for two months.” She added that it’s helpful if the prospective teacher can talk to someone that works at that university and thereby gauge how they will be treated.

Both Deborah and Sarah emphasised that teachers should, “come knowing that the culture is so different. You never know until the day before, or two days before, if you need to be somewhere. They don’t tell you in advance when your classes are. You may need to be quite pushy to extricate information if you want to know up front what is going on. Preparation is very difficult.”

The teachers warned that you will need to come willing to be flexible and ready to cope with uncertainty.

Schedules are often changed at the very last minute. Changes of classes, groups, numbers, subjects or locations can be sprung on teachers at any time, taking away the security of knowing you have planned and prepared for your classes.

There is intense competition amongst students in China to succeed and teachers need to be aware of how these pressures can influence their pupils. Sarah mentioned, “Plagiarism is very common here. I was teaching one student who plagiarized a whole essay using a translator. So I gave him a zero. They are hoping to go to a western university. I said, ‘If you get caught plagiarising they’ll kick you out.’”

Another cultural difference they pointed out was in the way management communicated with staff. Deborah noted that, “In China some things are presented as optional but really they are not optional.” Sarah added, “When you show an interest in something...it’s like you are saying yes. That is different from the Western world. If you show an interest it is just an interest.”

Both teachers are continuing to answer the call Christ has put on their lives. They have returned to China after a brief holiday, fresh and ready to start a new term in China. They are prepared to be unprepared... but as Deborah says, “He has blessed me for being there, for obeying.”

PRAYER POINTERS

Dual Passports

Thank the Lord that China has strong security measures to protect its people against crime, corruption and terrorism.

Pray for those that have lost the security of a second passport in recent years and that may be restricted from leaving the country or calling on the protection of their old embassies.

Pray that people will make the right choice if they are put in the position where they must decide which citizenship to relinquish. Ask that he will help them with issues such as dealing with family inheritance.

Kiwis In China

Pray that God will continue to extend and deepen the connections this family has in the community and that he will lead them to places where they can be effective in building the Kingdom of God.

Give thanks to God for divine meetings and friendships that have formed. Ask God to grow the seeds that have been sown.

Thank God that he is connecting workers to be a support and encouragement to each other.

Pray that God will bless and protect the work of this family and others like it in China.

Prepare To Be Unprepared

Praise God that he has led these two women to work in China. Ask God to bless and protect them in their work.

Ask the Father to help new applicants through the process of applying and moving to work in China.

Pray that the Father will help new teachers to adjust to the different styles of management.

Pray that new teachers will be able to cope with the anxiety of being less prepared than they would like.

PRAYER POINTERS

FieldPartner International

Praise God that he has led the way in working cross-culturally and has given us a model to follow.

Thank God for the work of FieldPartner and ask God to bless and guide their work.

Pray that God will call and encourage a bold and Spirit-led new generation to come and work in China

Xi Extends Term

Ask the Father to lead Xi Jinping to the knowledge of truth and salvation.

Ask the Father to place wise and Godly advisors around him and to remove the corrupt and unrighteous.

Pray that the Chinese President will rule with wisdom, compassion, righteousness, justice and fairness.

Thank the Lord for the good things that Xi Jinping has achieved.

FieldPartner

YOUR GUIDE TO CROSSING CULTURES

FieldPartner International Leaders

Brad Thurston | Ross Paterson | Christine Paterson



Chinese Church Support Ministries

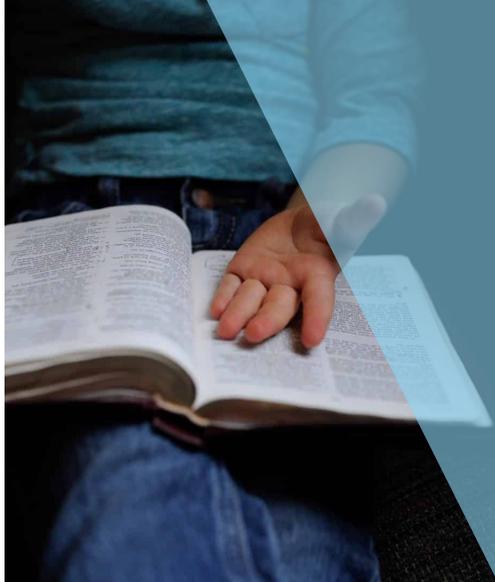
Seeking to serve, strengthen
and support the church and
the people of China

FieldPartner International

If the tug of cross cultural work has led you to contemplate leaving the safety of your homeland, and if China is part of that call, you would be aware that heeding it will bring enormous change to your lifestyle. You will no doubt know to expect culture shock. The emotional, physical and social adaptations can be gruelling. Even for the most intrepid this can be a huge challenge when you begin service on China's Mainland.

If the initial thought of giving up your current lifestyle hasn't put you off then you will want to know how best to prepare. And you will want to know also who you can turn to for advice once you are there. Taking time out for cross-cultural training at a college is not always affordable or convenient. Finding mentors with a depth of knowledge and experience in the area you chose to work can be challenging too.

This is where FieldPartner International could help you (www.fieldpartner.org). FPI is a vital new initiative from Ross and Christine Paterson, (Ross was the founder of AM-CCSM), which we believe will be an in-valuable resource to draw on as part of your journey into cross-cultural work. FieldPartner is an educational website that offers cross-cultural tuition for Christian workers and also



a one-to-one (or-one-to-a-small-group) connection with workers who have years of experience under their belts.

Ross and his wife Christine have spent over 40 years serving the Lord and serving the Church in China. They are looking forward to using the next season of their lives to pass on the knowledge they have gained. "The three of us involved in FieldPartner, quite literally have massive experience. We know what we are talking about, and our burden to do it comes from not having been trained ourselves!" says Ross. "You are living in another culture and it is their place so they call the shots re culture! More and more so as China grows stronger and more influential."

Ross and Christine are privileged to be working alongside another veteran in the field, Brad Thurston. Brad was raised the son of missionary parents in Beirut, Lebanon. After a dramatic



personal experience with Jesus Christ in 1972 Brad went on to minister in the US, East Africa and Europe. He and his wife Jan founded Globe (Mission) Europe in 1990, a German based missionary sending agency. Globe has served more than 200 workers in more than 45 different countries around the world.

The passion behind FieldPartner is the desire to see the next generation of workers mobilised and equipped to succeed, building leaders who can be effective and who can reproduce and multiply the life and character of Jesus regardless of whether it is in church, humanitarian ministries, or even in secular occupations.

Coaching offered by FieldPartner will use online materials and platforms such as Skype and Zoom and will be available to anyone worldwide. Currently the service is offered only in English and includes minimal fees to cover

costs. It offers the perfect course for those wanting to just “stick their toe in the water” and ask what is this all about? Can I be sure of my call? Where do I start? For those who aim to take the plunge it offers training and ongoing mentoring. FieldPartner will be there to encourage, council and inspire, teaching from the example set by Christ himself and from the successes and mistakes of those greatly experienced in the field. FPI also seeks to challenge local churches to understand better the needs of the missionaries they are sending to the front-line, so that they can support them more effectively.

FieldPartner will be able to provide many of the elements previously offered by the Antioch School of Missions which was sadly discontinued due to the high costs of living within China during the 6-12 months training.

Xi Extends Term



The Cultural Revolution was arguably one of the darkest periods of China's history and for Christians it was a time of trial and persecution. Yet, in the lead-up to the Cultural Revolution there were three roadmarkers that alerted observers to what was around the corner.

The first indicator was the growing personality cult of Mao Zedong. The second was the return to immovable adherence to purist socialist ideology. The third was the side-lining of Mao's political opposition through personal criticism in the media and criminal charges against dissidents. Mao's subsequent totalitarian leadership and un-moderated ideological policies led to a period of suffering and repression.

To observers today it seems China is in danger of revisiting its past. Undoubtedly China's current President Xi Jinping is a strong and capable leader. He has been named as the "Core" of the Chinese Communist Party, his "Xi Jinping Thought for the New Era" has been enshrined in the constitution. The Belt Road Initiative is Xi Jinping's personal project. The charisma surrounding Xi has definitely hit cult status.

The Chinese president has also spearheaded a return to stringent "rule of law" and adherence to "socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics for

the new era." The recent revision of the religious laws and the subsequent ongoing crackdown on unregistered house churches is a good example of this.

And like his predecessor Mao, Xi Jinping has effectively managed his critics; some being removed as casualties of the war on corruption, others convicted for inciting subversion. Xi Jinping is comfortable using mass surveillance and strong measures to crush any dissidents and those that do not tow the Party line. Amongst the Christian community we are increasingly hearing of unregistered church members and leaders being called in for questioning and meetings being raided and closed down.

In March this year, a presidential term revision was put forward to China's parliament. The amendment was to do away with the two term limit to presidential and vice presidential power. A term is five years. The item was passed by close to 3000 delegates with only two voting against and three abstaining. The world's media was buzzing with alarmist headlines using words like "Xi Jinping's Power Grab", "Indefinite Rule" and "Dictator for Life." Interestingly, the two term limit was introduced by Mao's successor Deng Xiaoping as a measure to prevent a recurrence of Mao Zedong's consolidation of power.



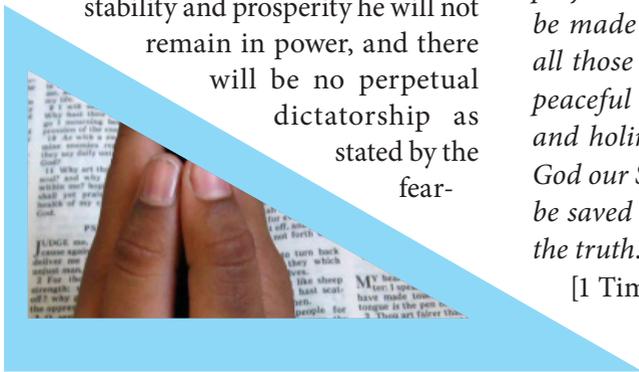
But how you see these events depends largely on the glasses through which you look. Many see the move to extend President Jinping's parliamentary career as a boost for the long term economic stability of China and global security. He is now free to concentrate on advancing his plans to revitalise China and address poverty in the regions. Others say that if he fails in his promises to deliver stability and prosperity he will not remain in power, and there will be no perpetual dictatorship as stated by the fear-

mongers.

Xi Jinping is not Mao. But he is a man who has the responsibility of leading the largest nation on earth. Whether he leans towards despot or hero in the future will no doubt be effected by the prayers of God's people. As it says in the Bible,

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanks-giving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

[1 Timothy 2 : 1-4 NIV]



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