



# CHINESE CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES

## CHINA PRAYER LETTER



OCTOBER 2018

## Update on the Social Credit System

The Social Credit system (社会信用体系 shèhuì xìnyòng tǐxì) continues to be rolled out in China with full nation-wide implementation proposed for 2020. This will coincide with the completed installation of 626 million AI surveillance cameras which will underpin the social credit system.

At this stage, pilot schemes at city level have been operating for some time. One such is in Rongcheng City (population 700,000) in Shandong Province. It is a modern progressive city built for future expansion. Whilst some trial schemes have apparently not worked well the Rongcheng experiment is considered to be a success. Here each citizen starts with 1000 points with deductions for jay walking, smoking on trains, traffic offences (-5 points), frivolous purchases, buying too many video games



In  
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Update on the  
Social Credit System

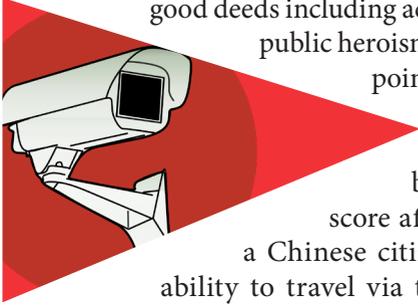
Joyful Ministry

High School  
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One Land, Two Churches

etc. It is also possible to gain points for good deeds including acts of public heroism (30 points).



A bad score affects a Chinese citizen's ability to travel via train or plane and can stop a person getting a job or staying in a nice hotel. It will also influence an individual's ability to access higher levels of education for themselves and their children and their ability to purchase property. A further consequence may be the throttling back of an individual's internet speed....

The basic premise of the Social Credit system in China is to “purify society” (Xi Jinping) and to be “rewarding those who are trustworthy and punishing those who are not.”

According to the system's founding document, released by the State Council in 2014, the scheme should “allow the trustworthy to roam everywhere under heaven while making it hard for the discredited to take a single step.”

According to the Communist Party controlled Global Times, up to the end of April 2018, authorities had blocked individuals from taking 11.14 million flights and 4.25 million high speed train trips.

A report from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute says China's social credit system will begin expanding past China's borders to monitor Chinese citizens wherever they are globally. The system will also start applying to international companies that do business in China. As a result, the social credit system is not just shaping the behaviors of Chinese citizens beyond their border but international companies as well.

## Joyful Ministry

*“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.” [2 Corinthians 8:12]*

A CCSM Team Member, who has previously participated in a variety of CCSM short term trips to China, talks about her latest Medical Team. This time she was joined by her daughter... a young woman with cerebral palsy but who is not afraid to meet any challenge... well almost any!!

Mum writes:

My youngest daughter Joy has repeatedly asked if she could go on a trip with me. She had an interview with the CCSM NZ Director for approval. Everything was fine until she dished up her

unique pre-condition: she'll go if there is a flushing toilet available on site!

How can you blame her for such a basic request? Almost everything in our New Zealand houses are now made-in-China, including flushing loos! How could the Chinese not have such necessities themselves? But, you see, in water-deficient inland China, far away from the prosperous, glossy and advanced modern China, things are very different.

So she decided to wait a little longer. Then my prayer partner decided to join me on the June Medical team. At the same time, it dawned on Joy that if she wanted to join us this time she'd better brace herself to deal with her toilet issues!!

Despite her accounting degree, you might wonder what Joy could offer a one-week mobile medical clinic visiting 3 villages?



Assigned to the pharmacy, she described her first day as a disaster: "Half of the pills I counted were scattered on the floor." Difficulties with her fine motor skills made simple tasks challenging.

On the second day: "The label stickers I put on the prescription bags were all twisted. I just couldn't peel and paste them straight. I am useless. I don't think I will ever come back again."

On the 3rd day, my friend told me Joy's labelling skills were improving dramatically. And she could walk with

# International Short-Term Teams

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

October 2018: Cycle Team & Mercy Team  
December 2018: Cultural Exchange Team  
April 2019: Cultural Exchange; Cycle/Intercession; Mercy;  
Medical; Come, See & Do Youth Leaders Teams

her head up to inspect other divisions as our teams are encouraged to do. Moreover, I hadn't heard a word about her toilet phobia since we arrived!



On the 4th day while I was translating for a family physician from Australia, a rural woman came in for a check-up. The doctor noticed that she was constantly weeping. She tried to find out the reason for her obvious depression and inquired about the patient's family situation. The reply was shocking, "Can you help me to find a Welfare Home for my daughter?"

(A welfare home is primarily for the elderly but also where handicapped young people are sent to live out their days).

The consultation triggered a chain reaction.

Hours later and approved by local authorities, we were taken by one of the local rural doctors to the patient's house. Isolated in a remote corner of a dry plateau, a 20 year old girl with cerebral palsy awaited both Joy and me.

She and her family do not have many visitors, let alone from another part of the world.

Neng-Neng (literally means Able-Able) was so nervous and excited to meet us that she couldn't help but giggle!

Standing in a waist-high wooden frame cage made by a local carpenter, she welcomed Joy with a beaming smile. Her voice was unsteady, but we could see she was an intelligent young lady. Because of her immobility, she had never

been to a school but has learned so much from her caring farmer family as well as from TV.

We shared with each other the common struggles a family with disabled children all go through. Her grandma, still sleeping with her each night in the living-bedroom, sighed that advancing years and her own deteriorating health made lifting Neng-Neng even occasionally, a mission impossible.

Her mother had revealed earlier in tears that keeping Neng-Neng at home would eventually mean her young brother would likely never marry. Who would marry him given the on-going burden of a bed-ridden sister? Hence the broken-hearted S.O.S. for a welfare home!

Joy's academic achievements in New Zealand and the paper round she had done for 7 years were the highlights



let her do some daily self - care chores. “Tough Love” plus rehabilitation are the key to her future growth and the entire family needs to work as a team to carry it out.

of their conversation. Joy’s poor hand coordination and walking difficulties hasn’t stopped her from pursuing life to the fullest.

Joy encouraged Neng-Neng to learn some computer and mobile phone skills, “then you can We-Chat with me!” Since the grannies are major caretakers for Neng-Neng as the parents are busy with farm work, I advised them to let Neng-Neng do whatever she is capable of, and gradually

Throughout the visit, we never mentioned what underlies our belief and where we draw our strength from. The presence of escorting officers made this impossible. Nonetheless, the presence of Joy was sufficient evidence of what love can accomplish.

While I told the parents that giving up their daughter to welfare would only wipe out what they had laboured so hard for,” Joy inspired Neng-Neng with her own motto “Never give up.”

With God’s grace, we believe that Neng-Neng will really become Able-Able!

## High School Cultural Exchange Trip 2018

A group of New Zealand High School students visited China during their recent July holidays. They are all studying Chinese language and culture and went to advance their studies and to share something of their own lives as well .....

One of the team wrote this Report...

A week before the end of Term 2, eight Year 11 and 12 students, two parents and one teacher boarded a twelve-hour

flight to Guangzhou.

The sweltering heat hit us all like a series of pounding waves upon arrival, but before we knew it, we were aboard a high-speed train en route to Guilin, where our host awaited us. We spent a day getting acquainted with our surroundings and visited the local markets before travelling by van to a local minority





village.  
Using our Chinese language and getting to know the locals was incredibly encouraging – they welcomed us with open arms into their lives, community and culture.

In the second village we visited, we cleaned a classroom for the local school and spent lots of time with the two “outside” families who live there. After hiking to another scenic village and back, we stopped by the local primary school and picked up eight kids who had won a competition to spend a couple of days in Guilin with us. We showed them around the tourist attractions of Guilin, even taking bamboo rafts down the beautiful Li River. By the end of our time in Guilin, we had formed a strong bond with our buddies and were sad to see them go back to their village and to move on from the city we had grown to love.

After a short plane ride, we arrived in a very different part of China – the far north west. Our hosts met us at the airport and took us it seemed back in time to a rural regional city, quite unlike what we had seen in the tourist hub of Guilin. During the first evening in the north of China, we prepared gifts packages for elderly which we gave out in the rest homes we visited the following day. For the next three days, we ran an English Camp in the local orphanage before taking the

overnight train to Beijing, where we visited the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Olympic Stadium before flying home to Christchurch to our waiting families, eager to see us again after a life-changing three weeks away.

Some of my team mates wrote:

"Going to the old folk homes was spectacular. We gave out gifts, sang songs and danced with them. They all got involved and to see them smiling and having fun was something that warmed my heart."

"One experience that stands out to me was when we ran a three-day English Camp for orphan kids in Northwest China. The kids were so friendly and welcoming despite the trials they had been through. It was incredible to see God's love present and active halfway across the globe."

"Throughout this trip I've realised how one word, one touch or even one smile can make such a difference in people's lives. This trip has opened my eyes to the world around me. God is working in so many ways in so many places. So going here helped me to understand God so much more."

"One thing that I will never forget is when we visited an orphanage for disabled children. Though we were only there for a short time it was so heart-breaking to see all the abandoned and unwanted children. It was here where I really felt God's heart for these children and I am so grateful that we were able to share some of His love for them."

# PRAYER POINTERS

## Update on the Social Credit System

Pray that this system will be moderated as it is rolled out to avoid unintended consequences.

Pray specifically that it would not be used to punish those who relate to those engaged in any kind of friendship evangelism.

Pray that the vulnerable will be protected including Christian brothers and sisters.

## Joyful Ministry

Praise God for Joy's willingness to face the unknown and its many challenges. Praise God for her example to others especially to Neng-Neng.

Pray for on-going impact on Neng-Neng and her family and a new determination to never give up.

Pray that this whole family will come to know the one of whom our team could not speak.

## High School Cultural Exchange Trip 2018

Praise God for the opportunity for high school students from the West to have experiences like this that will shape their lives and how they see the world.

Pray that the students will keep these special experiences close to their heart and impact friends and family through their accounts and testimonies.

Pray for on-going opportunity to offer programmes like this and open doors to allow an exchange of world view and culture between Chinese and Western youth.



# PRAYER POINTERS

## The Wild West

Pray for the salvation of the Uyghurs. Pray that they look to the God who can deliver them and give them true freedom.

Pray for peace and freedom from oppression for the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

Pray for the Uyghur believers that they will find God's provision and protection in the midst of their struggles.

Thank God that the majesty of His creation that is so magnificently displayed in the Xinjiang region.

Thank God that he has made the Uyghur a unique and special people with a purpose and plan for their lives.

## One Land, Two Churches

Pray that God's children in the Chinese churches will be able to worship their Father unimpeded by traditions. Ask that God will make them hungry for the fullness of the gospel and all He has to offer.

Pray that Chinese believers will be able to worship 'in Spirit and in Truth' (John 4:23-24) as the Bible directs, despite the restrictions to religious freedom.

Pray that God will lead new believers to the right church for them to grow and in their faith.



**Chinese Church Support Ministries**

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

# The Wild West

In 2005 I visited China's far western frontier, the Uyghur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang and fell in love with the old-world charm of the region and its Uyghur people. It was like stepping back in time as we passed donkey carts laden with families delivering their produce to bustling bazars and boy-shepherds minding their flocks of fat-tailed sheep. I have memories of antique tractors pulling trailers



piled high with cotton, and to the region's north, the valley's filled with fruit trees, framed by dramatic snow-capped mountain ranges. I will never forget the grandeur of the Karakorum Highway and the dramatic colours of the peaks which seemed to reach to the sky. Herds of camels grazed in the snow spangled river valley and on the desert plains.



As our party travelled by bus through the vast Taklamakan Desert, the world's third largest desert after the Sahara and the Gobi, we were serenaded by singers playing Uyghur two-stringed guitars.

On the fringes of the desert were oasis villages. Their streets were lined with irrigation ditches, Paulownia trees and mud brick walls. Large decorative twin doors led into compounds with flat-roof dwellings. Uyghur women always dressed well, no matter the occasion, in skirts and the quintessential high heels. The men wore the distinctive square caps called 'doppa'. Their manner was polite and forthright.



There is no mistaking the romantic appeal of this last frontier of China. But for others the region's appeal could also be its plentiful mineral supplies and rich oil resource. Xinjiang has 122 of the 153 minerals found in China. It is also the western gate of China's One Road One Belt, a strategic location through which trade must pass on its way to the newly developed Pakistan sea ports and the markets of Europe.

The Uyghur are of Turkic decent and, at that time, made up around 60% of Xinjiang's population, around 12 million. Their language is also of Turkic origin. They are mainly Sunni Muslim. Twenty years ago, Uyghur were registered as the largest unreached people group in the world.

Throughout China members of the Communist Party (CCP) usually receive the highest-ranking jobs. CCP members are not permitted to adhere to any religion, so the Uyghur Muslim population is disadvantaged, one cause for tension between Han and Uyghur.

I visited Xinjiang again in 2009. Only days before there had been protests that escalated to violent clashes with both Han and Uyghur losing their lives. The subsequent crackdown was severe. A contact told us that few Uyghur families had been untouched by the police and military response. Xinjiang was closed to any outside phone or internet contact for 10 months. And unfortunately, the incident has since been used to brand all Uyghur as terrorists and separatists.

I was saddened to see many traditional Uyghur buildings torn down...they were not considered earthquake proof. Shop signage in the Uyghur language had been changed to Chinese characters and security and mass surveillance had been ramped up.



Since then Uyghur have been forced to have their computer drives scanned and spyware installed on their phones. They are routinely stopped to check it is. Religious expressions, such as headscarves, long beards and Muslim baby names have been banned. Young people under 18 are banned from mosques. The language has been removed from schools and universities, gatherings are not allowed, and all areas of traditional Uyghur life have been affected.

After strategic Han Chinese migration to the area the Uyghur now make up only around 40% of the region's population.

In the last year astounding reports of more than a million Uyghur, mainly men, being interned in 're-education' camps for mass political and cultural indoctrination began to reach global news. The government had implemented a scoring system to grade people's risk. A bad score means automatic internment or even prison. Some Christians are also reported to be in the camps.

When the men are taken the wives lose their family's bread winner. If both parents are taken the children are raised by neighbour or placed in orphanages. Harrowing stories are emerging.

Chinese 'farmer-soldiers' have been offered land in

Xinjiang on the understanding they drop their tools and take up arms if the need arises. CCP members have been sent to stay in Uyghur homes to ‘help’ them learn to appreciate their Han neighbours and Communist Party rule.

The Uyghur’s plight was finally recognised in the UN this year, but any repression of freedom has been categorically denied by the Chinese authorities. They claim it is a ‘war or terrorism’ and Islamic extremism and refute the systematic domination and forced integration of an indigenous culture.

Christians can empathise with the Uyghur. Religious freedom is under attack across China and is currently particularly severe for believers in the Henan region.

I wonder how peace can ever be restored to Xinjiang in this atmosphere? ...Please pray for China’s Wild West.



## One Land, Two Churches

*Part 1 of an article by Robert Menzies, “The Future of the Church in China: Why China’s House Churches will Prevail”. This article was written in 2017, just prior to the persecution of the house churches in 2018.*

If you are a Christian from North America or Europe, when you enter the Holy Trinity Church in Kunming, China, the architecture of this beautiful, stately structure will immediately remind you of home, of traditional churches in the West. It even has a steeple. The atmosphere of quiet reverence will also seem familiar to Western visitors, especially to those with roots in mainline Protestant churches. You will also recognize virtually all of the

hymns. Of course most Westerners will not understand the Mandarin lyrics, but the music will immediately call to mind the well-known verses of these historic songs. The choir will also sing tunes that are comfortably familiar. You will very likely hear a clear, biblical message that reflects a more conservative theology than that found in most mainline pulpits in the West. The closing prayer will be uttered by a member of the TSPM clergy, a select group trained in seminaries modelled after their Western counterparts and appointed to lead virtually every segment of church life. The worship service will almost certainly end without any specific call for response on the part of the members

of the congregation apart from silent prayer. The conclusion will thus mirror the fact that the congregation has little or no opportunity, apart from singing the prescribed hymns, to participate in the service. In short, Christians from mainline churches in the West who visit this church or other urban, TSPM churches in China, will be quite comfortable, for it will all seem very familiar.

When a Westerner participates in a house church service, your experience will be very different. You will likely enter into a city apartment or a village home. You will be greeted by a group of ten to twenty believers, possibly more. When the service starts, you will quickly be surrounded by the sounds of lively, earnest singing. The songs will flow from music quite different than anything that you have ever heard. The lyrics, if you were you able to understand them, would seem equally strange. They highlight themes from what appears to be another world.

Utilizing  
largely  
rural

imagery, the lyrics evoke a world of struggle and persecution, sacrifice and mission, courage and hope. The service will include the sharing of testimonies and prayer requests. This is a time that inevitably culminates in corporate prayer. Everyone is given an opportunity to contribute; everyone is expected to participate. The preaching that follows will center on a passage from the Bible and seek to apply this text to the life of the believers. This biblical message typically will be followed by much discussion. Various members of the church will share what they feel God is saying to them through this message. The service will often conclude with a specific call to action and always with prayer. After the service has concluded, the believers will share a meal and joyful fellowship. In short, it will all seem very different from traditional church services back home. The nature of the music, the structure of the service, the expectation of your participation, the character of the message, the discussion that follows, and the intimacy of the fellowship will all take you by surprise. You will recognize that you are in the presence of believers, but the unique (and, perhaps, if you are astute, the uniquely Chinese) character of what has taken place will be very clear.



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