



CHINESE CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES

CHINA PRAYER LETTER



NOVEMBER 2019

A Kingdom Across Borders

“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”
Proverbs 19:21

A testimony from Africa...

"I gave my life to Christ in 1990 and received a call to China Missions during my undergraduate days in 1994.

By 2009, my wife and I had launched a full-time ministry in my African nation with the core mandates of reaching the Chinese, Interceding for China, mobilizing for China Missions and Training for China Missions. We had an unusual burden and passion for Chinese souls. We launched an aggressive prayer mobilisation for China missions across different campuses and cities in our country.

With help from a China-



**In
this
issue**

A Kingdom
Across Borders

The Wakhi People

Business Culture

Lame Huang

The Highway to Change

News from CCSM UK

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

focused mission organisation we made plans for my wife and I to move to China for mission work. We secured a fully furnished apartment and made the necessary arrangement to study Chinese language within the country.

Then the news came. The Chinese Embassy denied our visa application. It was like a thunderbolt. The decision was quickly appealed and then we were promised a conditional visa subject to certain conditions which we felt we could not, and would not, comply with.

We were deeply disappointed. Is this the end of our missionary vision? If God is truly calling us, why can't He force the doors open for us? What happens to our decades of preparation for this?

The mission organisation continued to pray for us. We also declared days of fasting and prayer, sending the prayer requests to all the intercessory groups that we know around our country. The verdict ended the same: No entry to China. It was a bitter pill for us all in the ministry to swallow.

After recovering from the disappointment, I went before the Lord in prayer. He then gave me a word from the book of Isaiah 52:12 KJV "For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the

God of Israel will be your reward."

With this reassurance, we continued interceding for China and mobilising intercessors for the salvation of the Chinese. We do this three times every day: 9am-10am, 12noon-1pm and 3pm-4pm. We also continued to raise prayer altars for salvation of the Chinese in different campuses and cities of the country.

Not long after, the Lord spoke to our hearts to begin to reach out to the Diaspora Chinese in African countries. It was then we had the understanding that we were not called to reach China, but rather we were called to reach the Chinese. We now have a mission school where we train missionaries in Africa on Chinese Language and Diaspora Missions Skills. Every year, we reach about 9 campuses through conferences on finishing the Great Commission, where we recruit young and vibrant campus fellowship brethren for China missions work.

Currently, the first set of graduates have begun a 3-month internship and practical field experience in a different African nation with another of our mission partners. By the first quarter of 2020, our trained missionaries will be entering Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and Sierra Leone for full time missionary work among the Diaspora Chinese in those countries.

Though we couldn't enter China then, now we can see the wisdom of God at work!

The Wakhi People

The Wakhi and Sarikoli people in China are of Indo-European origin. Their skin is olive-to-fair and many have blue, grey or green eyes and light-coloured hair. Together, they are classified under the official Tajik Minority but are often referred to as “Mountain Tajiks”.

Nearly all Chinese Tajiks claim to be Shi’a Imani Nizari Ismailis, a Muslim sect who follow the Aga Khan IV as their 49th Imām. Compared to the surrounding Sunni adherents, mainly Kyrgyz and Uyghur, the Wakhi Ismailis follow a less outwardly strict observance of Islam. They are non-the-less devout. Their traditional homes feature 5 supporting wooden pillars signifying key Ismaili Muslim figures. Other supporting cross beams may also be named after Islamic characters such as Isa.

An estimated 100,000 Wakhi inhabit Northern Pakistan, the Wakhan Corridor in Afghanistan, Western China and parts of Tajikistan. Around 20,000 live in China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in the Kashghar prefecture, (Taxkorgan Tajik



Autonomous County, and the counties of Yarkand, Poskam and Karghelik) and Hotan prefecture (Guma county). The largest population is concentrated in and around Dafdar township which lies on the Taghdumbash Pamir, along the China-Pakistan Friendship Highway, close to the Pakistan border. These Wakhi arrived here as refugees from Afghanistan in the early 20th century and were given permission to found the settlement. Wakhi are now restricted from visiting kin across the borders.

They are known as peaceful, welcoming and honest people, usually living in extended or joint family households

International Short-Term Teams

Email CCSM at
teams@amccsm.org to
find out what we have on offer.

with communities built on strengthening relationships. Wakhi have a rich culture including greeting rituals that vary according to gender and status, clothing colours that indicate emotion, distinct head gear and beautiful embroidery. Their songs and folklore are particularly important as they have no written language. The eagle holds special significance to the Tajiks and a popular dance accompanied by a hand drum and eagle bone flute simulates the flight of an eagle. They are also famed for their polo-like *buz kashi* sport, played with a sand-filled goat carcass.

The Wakhi and Sarikoli have traditionally used Uyghur, the language of the majority group in the XUAR region, to communicate but since around 2010 Mandarin has become the language used in schools and for public facilities. Beyond middle school, students must board in Kashgar, Urumqi, or other cities in Xinjiang or Inland China to pursue higher education.

Prior to the 10th century their ancestors practiced folk religions, Zoroastrianism and Buddhism. Remnants of these traditions are in evidence today. An example would be the use of amulets containing paper written on by a Muslim cleric for healing, or to ward off evil spirits.

Wakhi are considered unreached. Work is underway in Moscow to translate the Gospel of Luke into the Wakhi language and audio recording portions have been produced.

They have practiced semi nomadic subsistence agriculture growing wheat, barley, peas and apricots combined with seasonal utilization of the Pamir pastures for livestock production (sheep, goats and yak). Under socialism, rural communes have been established and recent projects like specialized yak breeding stations are increasing production and changing traditional farming techniques for Wakhi farmers. Wakhi have not had a history of being traders, businessmen or merchants.

As the old ways are facing pressure to change, education is becoming increasingly important for the next generation.



Left: Tashdumbash Pamir

Business Culture



Doing business in a foreign country is not for the faint-hearted. Taking time to understand the culture can avoid losing favour at the negotiating table.

China's business scene is formal so wear conservative suits and avoid bright colours. It is best to schedule an appointment between April-June or September-October. Consider many Chinese take a break between 12:00 and 2:00 pm, during which almost everything stops from working – from lifts to phone services. When you have agreed on a time, never be late!

Chinese enter a meeting room, or are seated at a restaurant table, in hierarchical order so, wait your turn. Allow your Chinese counterparts to initiate any handshakes. It is usual to address people with a title followed by their last name.

Small talk is considered particularly important before starting a meeting. And if the meeting is at a restaurant, don't discuss business until after the meal. Always remain composed and attentive without showing too much emotion or excitement. Rather, use use kind words, politeness or a faint smile. Watch your body language; putting your hands in your mouth, biting your nails, removing food from your teeth are considered rude.

Being well prepared is crucial to making a good impression in China. Presentation materials should be only in black and white. Again, no bright colours!

Strong negative answers are considered impolite, so find alternatives (“I’ll think about it”/“maybe”/“we’ll see”) instead of a blunt “no”. Similarly, if your Chinese counterparts say “Not a big issue” or “The problem is not serious”, they usually mean that there still are problems or that the problems are serious.

Be ready to exchange business cards. Have one side in English and the other in Chinese. Include your professional title and if your business is the oldest, largest or has some other distinction, include that on the card. Remember, gold is the colour of prestige and prosperity. Pass it to them using two hands and ensure the Chinese side is facing the recipient. When you receive your card make sure to examine it for a few moments.

Don't give gifts as this will be considered bribery, which is illegal.

When the meeting is finished, you are expected to leave before your Chinese counterparts.

If you are invited for drinks there will be pressure to go, as building a personal relationship (“guanxi”) during business is very important.

Always expect the unexpected. Often

Lame Huang

In his forties Huang Detang, an uneducated farmer, came to believe the gospel. But then he developed painful, debilitating boils on his feet preventing him from working. The locals gave him the nickname, ‘Lame Huang.’

Huang cried out to Jesus and in a dream the Lord told him: “You must truly believe in Me, and I will heal you. You must witness for Me. Huang thanked Jesus and promised that once he could walk again, he would share the gospel widely.

But the Lord said: “A verbal promise is not enough. You must write a contract of indenture by which you offer yourself up as My servant.”

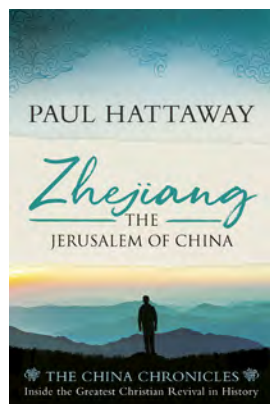
Huang didn’t know what a contract of indenture was or how to write one. He again cried out for God’s mercy and help, and received another dream, in which the Lord showed him how to word the contract. Huang wrote:

“I, Huang Detang, sign this indenture by which I offer myself up forever. Because of my own uselessness, I have boils on my feet. They are very

negotiations extend beyond agreed deadlines. Be gracious, and do not mention the deadlines.

Chinese prefer to establish a strong relationship before closing a deal.

*(Sourced from
<https://www.todaytranslations.com>)*



painful, and I have nowhere to turn. I can only ask my gracious Savior, my Lord Jesus, to be merciful to me, a great sinner.

I now receive the precious Blood of the Lord as the ransom price which has redeemed me from death to life, and I know that the Lord will heal my feet, take my soul to the heavenly kingdom forever, and I will become a child of God with honor and glory.

Because I have nothing to repay the grace of God, I will most gladly dedicate my body and soul to Him. After my dedication, I am totally at the disposal

PRAYER POINTERS

A Kingdom Across Borders

Praise the Lord of the Harvest that he knows where to send his workers.

Pray he will send out many more workers to the harvest fields, that the Chinese will hear and be saved.

Pray for the Lord's blessing, protection and multiplication of this work that has begun in Africa.

Pray that more Christians become passionate for the Great Commission and the salvation of the Chinese people.

The Wakhi

Pray that God will send workers to the Wakhi people, and that God will open opportunities for them to do business and earn a living in the region.

Pray that Han students studying at inland universities will seek to learn about the Wakhi, will befriend these students living so far from home, and will share with them about their Jesus.

Pray that even righteous people will understand the need for salvation.

Praise God for the grandeur and beauty of this mountain region. Thank Him for the unique and beautiful Wakhi people.

Business Culture

Pray that Christian businesspeople will be able to build good and successful relationships with Chinese.

Thank God that there are still many opportunities for foreigners to do business in China and to demonstrate the power of doing things God's way.

Pray that more people will look to see the opportunities to work or do business in China.

Pray for God's protection and blessing on Christian businesspeople as they stand on His word and bring Christian principles into the workplace.

PRAYER POINTERS

Lame Huang

Thank You Lord that you freely chose to redeem us, and we have been forgiven the debt of our sin because you have paid the price with your blood.

Lord help us to be steadfast, grateful, willing and obedient like Huang Detang.

Lord give us the strength to follow you to the end and not be disheartened when trials and troubles come against us.

The Highway to Change

Thank God for the positive changes that the Karakorum Highway and China Pakistan Economic Highway is bringing to the region in the form of better access to health care, jobs and facilities.

Pray for those that have been unfairly detained, forced into labour, separated from families and coerced to accept work contracts.

Pray that Chinese Christians will be able to see the opportunities offered by the China Pakistan Friendship Highway and that God will open doors for them to come to the region.

Pray for a successful outcome to end the re-education camps. God is able to do so much more than we can imagine.

News from CCSM UK

Pray for Christians in China facing opposition and suffering as a result of this opposition.

Pray that Christians will know the reality of God's presence as they stay true to their faith.

Pray that children will have a hunger for God and a desire to know more about the beliefs that are being denied to them.

Pray that Christians will "shine like stars" and draw non-believers to Christ by their faith and integrity.

Pray that CCSM will be able to equip and encourage a growing number of faithful praying and serving people.



Chinese Church Support Ministries

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

of the Lord. No matter where I am sent, I will go.

Whether it is to the east, south, west or north, whether it is climbing mountains or crossing seas, cold or hot, whether I am hungry or thirsty, or if I suffer want and persecution, I will follow the Lord to the end and not be disheartened. No one in my family or among relatives and friends will be able to pose any obstacles or cause me to go back on my promise.

This indenture is the common wish of both parties and neither of them raises any objection. I sign it as evidence of my willingness. Huang Detang.”

Soonafter, the boils on Huang’s feet were healed!

In the subsequent years, each point in Huang’s contract was sorely tested. In

many instances, God prompted him to do things that made no rational sense, but Huang obeyed the guidance of the Holy Spirit and remained true to his pledge, even when it resulted in great personal hardship.

From the 1950s to the 1970s he ministered during the darkest days of Communist persecution, and was arrested and tortured by the authorities on several occasions. God took Huang at his word and stretched his faith by sending him on dangerous adventures that resulted in thousands of people hearing the gospel.

Read more about Huang’s life, as he faithfully worked out his contract, in ‘ZHEJIANG - The Jerusalem of China’ – the third book in series ‘The China Chronicles’ by Paul Hattaway.

Source: Asia Harvest (www.asiaharvest.org)

The Highway to Change

Cutting a highway through the Karakorum mountains was a phenomenal feat of Chinese tenacity and engineering. Many Chinese lives were lost in its construction, but in 1986, after 20 years, the Karakoram Highway (KKH) was opened.

Beginning at Kashgar City, the KKH is the northern end of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a major element of the multi-billion dollar “Belt and Road Initiative”. The corridor will eventually be a system of railways,





roads, and pipelines. Its flagship will be the China Pakistan Friendship Highway leading to the newly opened Gwadar deepwater port situated at the mouth of the Persian Gulf. There will be three substitute highway routes through Pakistan: western, eastern and central.

Although it is now open through to Gwadar, many segments of road are still to be upgraded and some options are still being finalised. Providing an alternative to the Karakorum Highway, which closes about three times a year due to heavy snowfall and landslides has been an important consideration. In 2010 a massive rockslide dammed the Hunza Valley forming a 19km lake, completely cutting of all traffic. Engineers tunnelled through the mountains to circumnavigate the lake.

When CPEC is completed, it will provide an alternative trade route that will significantly shorten delivery time and costs to China's key markets. Currently around 40% of China's trade is transported through the South China Sea. Ships must pass through

the Strait of Malacca, which China sees as a bottleneck putting trade at risk of geopolitical disputes and pirate incidences.

Currently, a Shanghai factory shipping a 40ft container to Hamburg, Germany could knock 2 weeks from its delivery time if the factory moved to Kashgar and used the CPEC. But a container trucked 4 days from Kashgar to Gwadar port before shipping, costs \$880 more than a container shipped from Shanghai via the South China Sea.* Completing the railway phase of the CPEC corridor will bring this cost down and be a complete gamechanger for Kashgar. Moreover, a Free Trade Zone is being established at Gwadar and is expected to be a major trade hub in the future.

Lower wages in the region are also luring factories away from the more developed eastern regions. SupChina posted an article by Darren Byler on October 11th, 2019 explaining that since 2018 the state has been offering subsidies to build factories and ship from Xinjiang. The article also told the story of 're-education

camp' detainees who were assigned work in newly built factories at industrial parks built in or adjacent the camps. They were paid a fraction of the minimum wage. Once released, detainee Gulzira Auelkhan said she was told that if she did not sign a one-year work contract she would be returned to the camp. The state has made it clear that refusing "poverty alleviation" schemes is regarded as a sign of resistance and religious extremism and will result in reinternment.

One thing is certain and that is change is coming fast. China has implemented a "pairing assistance" model whereby 19 affluent Chinese provinces and municipalities are required to support the development of Xinjiang. Taxkorgan City and the wider Tajik Autonomous County have been assigned to the affluent East-

coast city Shenzhen, a successful Special Economic Zone. The scheme targeted 0.3% to 0.6% of the city's annual budget to be spent in Taxkorgan County along with deployment of Shenzhen's skills and resources for industry development, social services and targeted poverty alleviation projects to benefit the region. Tourism of Taxkorgan's dramatic mountain scenery and rich cultural environment is being developed. And the county seat, Taxkorgan City is being developed as a Border Trade Zone. Industry, hoteliers and merchants from other regions are investing in the region in anticipation.

**Figures taken from Khalid Mehmood Alam, Xuemei Li, and Saranjam Baig, "Impact of Transport Cost and Travel Time on Trade under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," Journal of Advanced Transportation, vol. 2019, Article ID 7178507, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2019/7178507>.*

News from CCSM UK



The pressure on Christians in China is increasing. I had a conversation with a Chinese young man in the UK who has just completed his PhD and after several years in the UK is looking for a job. He is looking in the UK and in China.

He recently applied for a job in China, was interviewed and given an offer for the job. Then he received a short questionnaire which included a question about any

religious beliefs. He replied indicating he is a Christian. He then was told the job offer was withdrawn, he no longer can have the job.

This is an example of pressure on students, teachers, civil servants, government officials and others to either deny they are a Christian or to lose promotion, job prospects and their preferred university place.

How would you react?

This comes alongside local churches being forced to close, children banned

from attending church and schools teaching that religious involvement is anti-communist, anti-Chinese and will harm their education. This systematic opposition and pressure is not going away, and appears to be becoming the “new normal”.

What can you and I do? We can pray. Let us join with our brothers and sisters in China, as Paul urged his readers to do: “I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.” [Romans 15: 30]

You can pray at home on your own, you can pray with others in your home, you can encourage your church to pray regularly for China, you can join a prayer group that has a heart for China. You can join one of our Intercession teams and pray while walking in China. Bring a friend.

Joining our Mercy
and Medical
Teams is a

practical way of showing support and meeting needs in China. Being part of a team that talks, teaches, runs summer camps demonstrates love and concern through being present in China.

Money – can be used as a blessing. The Literature work we do relies on donations to supply books and SD cards. Money enables us to continue producing the Prayer Letters and actively going to speak and share about what God is doing in China.

Despite the many Christians in China and the growth of the church, there still remain many millions who do not know Jesus Christ and do not meet a Christian, see a church or get to read a Bible. Pray that the Kingdom of God will grow, expand and have extraordinary impact across China.

For His glory and His honour.

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