



# CHINESE CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES

## CHINA PRAYER LETTER



JUNE 2020

## Arthur Jackson & the Manchuria Plague

Arthur Jackson grew up in Cheshire, England. At age 15, he heard tragic stories of the massacre of thousands of Christians during China's Boxer Rebellion. A year later he made a decision to dedicate his life to Christ and went on to take up medicine with the intention of using it as a platform into missions.

In 1910-11, northeast China (known then as Manchuria) was ravaged by a deadly epidemic. Unproven rumours said it originated from tarbagan, a species of marmot, and the men who hunted them for food. That winter the disease presented on the Siberian side of the border where it had occurred before. But this time, the Siberian railway had been constructed, and the plague was able to travel. It reached the Chinese part of Harbin City in Heilongjiang



In  
this  
issue

Arthur Jackson and  
the Manchuria Plague

The Korean Minority

Sitting Alone

Chinese Missionaries and the  
Present Pandemic Crisis

Project Pearl

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



Province in November and by the end of the year the reports were terrible. More than 200 people were dying every day. It was so virulent that victims would pass away within 24hrs of showing symptoms. By January cases were being reported in Moukden city (now Shenyang).

A bureau was set up with government, police, and hospitals co-ordinating to contain the epidemic. The Rev. Dugald Christie CMG, a Scottish missionary, and founder of the Shengjing Clinic and Moukden Medical College was asked to become an Honorary Medical Adviser to the Government to help with the fight.

Only 2 months before,  
Arthur Jackson,  
now a

doctor aged 26, had arrived in China. Rev. Christie said, “After a distinguished career at home he had been appointed to our college staff to which work he was very specially fitted, both professionally and personally. He was a Cambridge graduate in Arts and Medicine, had taken the diploma of Tropical Medicine, had wide experience in home hospital, and was of exceptional ability. Personally, he won the hearts of all with whom he came in contact. We have known many new missionaries, but none who became popular with the Chinese so rapidly.”

Like Covid-19, the epidemic struck at the time of the Chinese New Year holiday when thousands of migrant workers were returning south to Tianjin. Authorities moved to close railways. But the very last train to leave on the Moukden-Peking line before the closure, arrived in Shanhaiguan with two passengers dead. It was immediately turned back to Moukden, with its 478 souls.

Jackson volunteered to isolate, contain, and assist the stranded travellers at the station six miles out of town. Quarantine stations had not yet been finished so Jackson had to quickly secure buildings to separate the infected and dying, the suspected cases, and those that been in close contact.

Rev. Christie described the scene, “Inspection of the men was done in the open air, all having to turn out twice a day. More than one poor wretch, unwilling to own to the illness he felt creeping over him, struggled into

line with the rest, only to collapse at the doctor's feet, and be carried away to die.” “On the Tuesday Dr. Jackson went to live at the station, in order to be close to his work; and morning, noon, and night was unremitting in his efforts to save from contamination those who still had a chance of escape.”

“In five days seventy died. Panic seized the remainder, the military cordon was not very strict, and a number escaped one night, carrying infection into the city. But by that time the worst was over. There was one inn with no deaths; and its sixty occupants were liberated... being first shaven and bathed, provided



by Government with new clothes, and having their train fare returned by the railway. Next day the remaining coolies, who were not yet out of danger, were removed to a roomy compound in an airy situation eight miles outside the city, from which most of them were liberated later on. The battle at the station was won, but the same day Dr. Jackson was taken ill.” He isolated himself and within 24 hours passed away.

The plague took 43,942 lives overall with not one authenticated recovery. Harbin was worst hit with 9,000 out of a population of 80,000 lost to the pestilence. Undoubtedly, Jackson’s efforts in those eight days saved untold lives in the city of Moukden. Jackson was mourned as a hero by the Chinese who saw the heart of Jesus in his selfless sacrifice.

*Source: Christie, Thirty Years in Moukden*

# International Short-Term Teams

Email CCSM at  
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# The Korean Minority

More than 2.5 million Koreans live mainly in the north-eastern part of China, in the provinces of Heilongjiang and Liaoning, with the largest concentrations being in Jilin Province in the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture and the Changbai Korean Autonomous County.

This is the home of Changbai Mountain Crater Lake (on the North Korean border), the place where, according to myth, Korean civilization began in 2333 B.C. The story goes that there was a meeting between Hwanung (son of God) and a bear and a tiger. Hwang told the beasts that if they desired to become human, they had to pass a test---stay in a cave for 100 days and eat only garlic. The tiger failed but the bear passed the test and was transformed into a woman, who mated with Hwaung and produced Tan'gun, the progenitor and first kind of the Korean people.

Koreans - known as Chaoxian in China - have played a significant role in Chinese history. Gao Xianzhi, son of a captured Korean general, rose to become a great commander in the Tang army. The Sui Dynasty (AD 589-618) fell soon after three disastrous and costly military campaigns in North Korea. The Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) also fell, partly because the country was bankrupt after defending Korea from the Japanese.

Korean migrants arrived in China in waves, driven by oppressive landlords (late 1600s), famine (1869) and



Japanese annexation of their homeland (1910). Japan then seized the Manchurian provinces driving more Koreans to settle in China. But, in turn, the Chinese Koreans played an important role in kicking out the Japanese in 1945.

China's Koreans quickly recovered after the war. Having a common language with increasingly wealthy South Korea gave them a strong business advantage. Although Korean is their first language, many are bilingual. They use the ingeniously simple Korean phonetic alphabet as well as Chinese characters. By 1958 the Korean Chinese had achieved universal secondary education and according to the 2000 census the number that attained university qualifications was far above the national average. China's Koreans are influenced in culture and dialect by the popular South Korean entertainment industry.

Today around 30% of the Korean Chinese Minority are Christian, 25% are Buddhists and about 30% practice ethnic religions. Among the Christians its estimated that 14% are evangelical. This high uptake of the gospel is no doubt due to outreach from South Korean Christians who enjoy freedom

of belief. Numerous Korean Bibles have been smuggled into China from abroad in recent years, especially from South Korea and Hong Kong, in addition to the limited number of Korean language Bibles printed at the Nanjing Amity Printing Company which are now only available through the TSPM churches.

Chinese Korean missionaries are quietly engaged helping their desperately poor North Korean neighbours. Some are businessmen able to visit North Korea and gain opportunities to witness, others reach out to North Koreans who are in China legally after being granted visas to visit relatives. They provide the visitors with free room and board and share the gospel. However, at least 10 front-line missionaries having died mysteriously in recent years.

In 2019 there were reports from the north-eastern provinces that police were repeatedly raiding TSPM services and destroying any books, Bibles, posters,



and material without a Chinese ISBN Number (but even fans decorated with scripture have been taken). Persecution watchdog Bitter Winter reported that in Jilin Province alone, at least 162 house church venues were shut down and that the local government had issued multiple documents to intensify crackdowns on Christian groups, in particular those house churches that are associated with South Korea.

## Sitting Alone

The Covid pandemic still has many countries in lockdown and some parents have found this time alone with their children has been a challenge. They are watching China's progress as it reopens its schools and campuses.

Thankfully, as Covid-19 began to spread across China in mid to late January, schools there were already closed or were beginning to close, for the Chinese

New Year holiday. Since then the students have spent months studying online at home in isolation. On the 9th of March, Qinghai was the first province to reopen its middle and senior high schools for senior students only. Other provinces gradually followed suit over the following months but schools in



Hubei Province (and its capital Wuhan City) did not return till the 6th May. Beijing and Shanghai also cautiously waited till mid-May. Students in other grades, and primary schools returned to their campuses later in May with kindergartens and special education schools last to open. However, Hubei province had longer to wait for its start date.

Senior students came back ready to prepare for exams. Middle school seniors will have their graduate exams in late June and senior high school students will face the gruelling ‘make-or-break’ Gaokao, (college entry exam) in early July – a month later than usual.

In an effort to be fair to students who had limited bandwidth or suitable devices, and who were unable to access digital content during the lockdown, the Ministry of Education prohibited schools from introducing new curriculum before the new semester started.

After such a long time in confinement, most children were overjoyed to see their friends again ‘in the flesh’ but any normal expressions of friendship had to be contained. They were unable to greet each other with a hug, to whisper secrets or share a table in the food hall. Strict social distancing and Covid safety measures are in place. Even smiles are hidden behind a mask.

The government has allocated thermometers, disinfectant, and face masks to the schools. Parents were

asked to collect their children by car or to walk, and to avoid busy transport like subways. At school entrances digital codes are scanned to show the student is not a risk and body temperatures are regularly monitored. Temporary quarantine rooms have been established on campus and children who show a fever are quickly taken away by ambulance. To avoid large gatherings the school principals made their opening ceremony speeches via broadcast or video and class sizes have been reduced to help prevent cross-infection. Some teachers have set up audio visuals that allow them to instruct classes in more than one room. And the end of the school day is staggered so that students can leave in batches.

Restrictions extend to boarding schools’ dorms and even off-campus areas. Some canteens look more like examination rooms, with only one student allowed per table, all facing one direction while other dining halls have set up dividers between tables. Arrows on the floor mark the direction students should walk and the distance they must keep from their fellow pupils.

How to do exercise safely has caused some debate after the death of two boys wearing masks while running. Although their deaths were not conclusively linked to the masks, it did lead several regional governments to notify schools that masks are not required for P.E. classes. In some regions, there is deliberation as to whether the physical education component of the high school entrance exams should go ahead.

# PRAYER POINTERS

## Arthur Jackson and the Manchuria Plague

Thank God for sending workers of such high quality to China. Pray that the good seeds they sowed with their lives will bear a harvest.

Pray that Chinese and Westerners will not be drawn into further division by the media and corrupt politicians.

Pray for the leaders who must make decisions on behalf of schools, hospitals, and communities during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

## The Korean Minority 朝鲜族

Thank God for the seeds that have been sown among the Chinese Koreans and for the hearts that have been open to receive the gospel.

Pray that they will withstand the persecution and be encouraged to continue sharing the gospel with their neighbours, the Han, the Manchu, and the Mongols.

Thank God for the brave witness of the Korean Chinese to their neighbours in North Korea and those that have contributed Bibles, prayer and time and funds.

## Sitting Alone

Pray for the young people who are dealing with the heavy burden of exams, amidst constant daily reminders of the danger of Covid infection.

Pray for the children who are struggling to cope with the strict social distancing and the degree of isolation it brings.

Pray for this generation that they will not be isolated from the full truth of the gospel message.



# PRAYER POINTERS

## Chinese Missionaries and the Present Pandemic Crisis

Pray for the Chinese missionaries who are on the field but concerned particularly for their families in view of the danger of Covid-19 infection in some of the countries in which they live and serve.

Pray for the sending churches in China, that the Lord will sustain the vision to send out missionaries from China even under current pressures.

Pray for FieldPartner and those who work with them to be enabled to provide on-line materials in this current situation that really will prepare those who will go out in the future.

## Project Pearl

Praise God because He reigns, and He is able to much more than we can imagine.

Pray that in times of difficulty, we will continue to magnify the Lord, looking not at our persecutor, but rather at our rescuer and provider.

Pray that our Father will see the hunger of Chinese believers who have been cut off from fellowship and from access to the Bible. Pray that He will not leave his children without food.



**Chinese Church Support Ministries**

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

# Chinese Missionaries and the Present Pandemic Crisis

A few years ago, there was much talk of the Back To Jerusalem movement, promising significant numbers of missionaries coming out of China who would take the gospel through the nations between China and Jerusalem and finally back to Jerusalem itself. The current reality, whilst showing significant evidence of the first generation who have left China, yet at the same time shows an enforced delay in that vision.

Firstly, because of the persecution of the Chinese church inside of China over the last two years, which though it differs very much from area to area, still has significant impact on the sending out of missionaries. Three Chinese missionaries that the FieldPartner team met in Egypt a few months ago have already been forced to go back to China, because their sending church has experienced a significant drop in income by being broken up and cannot support them anymore.

Secondly, the Covid-19 crisis has placed significant pressures on missionaries working outside of China, not the least in countries like Egypt. If they return to



their own countries, they face a serious problem – needing to be self-isolated in a hotel for 14 days at their own expense.

But even in spite of the struggle, the FieldPartner team is convinced that this is a significant opportunity for training Chinese missionaries.

A widely experienced leader with whom we are working commented: “Currently, only 1 or 2 Chinese sending agencies have any structure to help to train mission leaders” which needs to happen if they are in turn to train new missionary arrivals from China.

So, we see this Covid-19 pause as a huge opportunity for training of both

those groups, mission leaders and new recruits. We are working with another organisation to start a webinar type leadership programme, involving five major cross-cultural training topics this year in two different cities in the Middle East and north Africa. As part of that FieldPartner is working to put extended training on those topics online, so that the webinars flow out of on-line studies which have already been done on those five topics.

Many readers will know that the Chinese word for crisis involves two different characters, one of which represents



‘danger’ and the other of which represents ‘opportunity’. That is how we see this pandemic crisis. It has brought a huge cost worldwide in every sense, but it is also an opportunity to train those who will go out in the next wave of Chinese missionaries to carry the good news of Jesus Christ to little reached nations and peoples.

*[www.fieldpartner.org](http://www.fieldpartner.org)*

## Project Pearl



At times when darkness sets in and a situation seems without hope, it is wise to look back and remember what God has done in the past. With God nothing is impossible.

In 1981, the infant church in China had just been through the Cultural Revolution. It was beginning to re-establish but lacked church buildings and bibles as they had all been destroyed.

Only a few hidden copies of the Bible remained. Those that owned them

dared not carry them with them, so when groups met together in secret it was difficult to teach and train disciples. Some believers and pastors would cycle long distances to copy pages from a friend’s bible. The believers became hungry for the Word, wanting to read the Bible for themselves. They began to cry out in prayer.

One sister from central China recalled, “It bothered me when I met other Christians who lacked biblical understanding. One group I met carry around small vials of oil so they will be ready when they bridegroom comes – like the five wise virgins in one of Jesus’ stories. I prayed with tears for hours asking God to



provide bibles for these believers.”

Some bibles were being smuggled in, but this could not meet the insatiable demand. In December 1979, Chinese house church leaders contacted Open Doors leader, Brother Andrew, with a seemingly impossible request...they wanted one million bibles. And what’s more – they wanted them all in one delivery, and at one time!

The challenges seemed insurmountable: “How were they going to transport a million bibles weighing 232 tonnes without being seen? If they went by sea, how would they get the \$500,000 needed to acquire the boat? “Where could they find a crew willing to risk their lives?

God not only gave them faith to accept the challenge but provided all their needs. The captain, William K “Bill” Tinsley, recalled “I personally saw miracle after miracle for Project Pearl to

be accomplished.”

Money came in, 20 crewmen were found and trained, and an ocean-going tugboat named Michael was purchased. A semi-submersible barge, named “Gabriella”, was purpose-built in the Philippines to allow the bibles to be quietly and quickly moved onto Z-boats and ferried to the beach. The boxes of bibles were loaded in Hong Kong wrapped in waterproof plastic.

Chinese church leaders relayed the message, “Prepare 18 bowls of rice, 21 cups of tea” This meant that on the 18th June, at 9.00pm (21:00) the tugboat needed to be at the delivery point. The destination - a cove, 200 miles up the coast near Shantou (Santow), in Guangdong Province.

On the way the navigation system failed, and they passed naval gunboats, yet Michael safely reached the cove.



10,000 volunteers were ready waiting on the beach and in two hours they unloaded the precious cargo. In two more, the bibles were off the beach and on their way to nearly every province in China. Only a few boxes remained behind the treeline by the time public security officers

arrived on the scene. They tried unsuccessfully to burn them, then threw them into the ocean where they floated around the point into a river. Swimmers and fishermen recovered them and sold them to believers outside the town's official church and others were stowed away to sell privately. The PSB had begun to arrest people but still these bibles from the water found their way into believer's hands.



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