



# CHINESE CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES

## CHINA PRAYER LETTER



JULY 2020

## Hong Kong Security Law

In June 2019, over a million protestors took to the streets of Hong Kong. They were protesting against an Extradition Law that, if adopted, would permit certain Hong Kong defendants to be taken for trial in mainland China's courts. 3000 Hong Kong lawyers also held a march in silent protest. The proposed law was eventually retracted but concerns were increasing that China would no longer honour the treaty that had accorded 50 years of autonomy to Hong Kong. The protests developed into an enduring pro-democracy protest movement and a year later the city and was still experiencing disruptions. Both China and Hong Kong were suffering the economic effects.

By May 28, 2020 China's National People's Congress (NPC) had lost patience, and



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circumvented the Hong Kong Legislative Council (LegCo) to pass a resolution authorising its standing committee to draft a national security law for Hong Kong.

This new law creates new crimes relating to separatism, subversion of state power and terrorism. Any “separatist, subversive, infiltrative or destructive activities” connected to foreign or overseas forces were to be punished. In order to “supervise and guide” Hong Kong in its enforcement of the new law a mainland security agency was to be set up in the city.

Hong Kong citizens are now waiting to see how the new laws will affect things like the right to a jury trial, freedom of speech, and uncensored internet.

Sensitivities were further strained by the untimely introduction of a National Anthem Ordinance which came into effect on June 12th. Students are to be instructed in the history and spirit of the national anthem of China and the etiquette to use when playing and singing the anthem. Misuse or public acts with an intent to insult the national anthem

are to be punished. Offenders’ social media and public statements will be used to investigate whether they deliberately sang out of tune, used the wrong lyrics or assumed a disrespectful stance.

Time will tell if China’s gunboat diplomacy can restore peace to the island region. Winning hearts and minds will be another challenge entirely. Given the fact that many political dissidents and religious fugitives are now fearful of arrest Britain has offered visas to 300,000 Hong Kongers. Certainly, religious freedom activists are worried that the national security law will undermine their ability to advocate without fear of retaliation. Under the 1984 Joint Sino-British Declaration, Britain was to retain a watching brief, sanctioned by the international treaty lodged with the UN. However, any debate at the United Nations Security Council regarding infraction of the treaty have been blocked by China. Few other nations are willing to voice an opinion.

The USA has revoked the special status and favourable trading terms that were allotted to Hong Kong as a separate autonomous region. It has also determined to sanction officials who undermine Hong Kong’s freedom.

There is much work to do to restore calm in Hong Kong, a great need for leaders with a steady hand, great diplomacy and a heart for the people.



# Chokehold on Publishers



In late 2019, the company that distributes around over 80% of Hong Kong books and reading material relocated its main warehouse out of Hong Kong to Guangzhou Province in mainland China. This move to Nansha, a special economic zone, means publications written and printed in Hong Kong will need to pass through China's customs checks not once, but twice, before returning to bookstores in Hong Kong or Macau.

Now publishers using the services of SUP Publishing Logistics (Hong Kong) Limited 香港聯合書刊物流有限公司 will need to self-censor material in order for it to pass through Chinese customs.

Publications that contain views or information disagreeable to Beijing's policies will be rejected. This includes writings that:

Contravene the basic principles in

China's constitution; jeopardise national unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity; damage national reputation and interests; attack the Chinese Communist Party or defame the People's Republic of China; jeopardise social morality and the nation's excellent culture and traditions.

As part of a much larger integrated publishing group, which some might call a small empire, SUP Publishing Logistics is able to offer its users great opportunities. In addition to competitive distribution costs, publishers using this distributor will have a greater chance of getting their books, journals, and magazines into stores, or being invited to promote their books at book fairs. Clients that don't use its affiliates, or that work with competitors, have a greater chance of being side-lined.

## International Short-Term Teams



Email CCSM at [teams@amccsm.org](mailto:teams@amccsm.org) to find out what we have on offer.

This is because SUP Publishing Logistics is a distribution arm of Sino United Publishing (Holdings) Limited 聯合出版(集團)有限公司, referred to as “SUP”. Its operations cover publishing (including educational publishing), distribution, printing, RFID packaging design, art business and cultural exchanges. It has over 30 subsidiaries and affiliated agencies throughout Hong Kong and Macao, mainland China, Singapore, Malaysia, as well as in USA, Canada and Europe. And it owns 51 retail bookstores in Hong Kong including the Commercial Press, Joint Publishing, and Chunghwa bookstore chains. This equates to half of the stores in Hong Kong.

The company has its head office in Hong Kong, but looking a little deeper, it can be seen that SUP is in fact owned by New Culture Development (HK) which is owned by Guangdong New Culture Development – a company wholly

controlled by the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in Hong Kong and that works with the United Front.

Increasingly, standalone bookstores may be the only place where publications dealing with sensitive subjects can be found. And these may struggle to offer competitive pricing next to the SUP monopoly. Free speech is not yet illegal in Hong Kong, but it is certainly in the grips of a chokehold.

How religious material is handled by China’s customs officers will be reflected by its availability in Hong Kong stores. Publications containing reports about persecution of Christians and the church in the mainland are likely to be rejected, making this news only available through narrower sources to smaller audiences.

## The Chosen

The Chosen is a multi-series drama based on the true stories of the gospels of Jesus Christ. The first season’s episodes have been provided free of charge over Youtube and through the publisher VidAngel’s own streaming and mobile apps. The shows were met with phenomenal success, rapidly going viral.

What is particularly amazing is that the series has not been funded by Hollywood

giants but instead is entirely crowdfunded with the concept of “Paying-it Forward”. Those that watch the show, if they so wish, can donate to its production so that others can watch it too and more episodes can be produced. In fact, season one saw The Chosen become the highest crowdfunded media project to date, and it looks as if the show will continue to operate on this model. The goal for season two is to raise US\$10 million.

The project was created, produced and is directed by American filmmaker Dallas Jenkins. Viewers all over the world have been moved by the show and impressed by its quality. Maria, a viewer in New Zealand said, “The thing that really touched me about this series was that the characters were portrayed as ‘real’ people. They were all a little imperfect or even downright flawed or damaged. You were able to really connect with the disciples and with Jesus. The actors are brilliant. Jesus did an awesome job!”

The show has done so well that according to Wikipedia it has been awarded a 100% score by Rotten Tomato’s critics, and 99% from their audiences.

The Chosen has a universal message: Jesus is the Christ. It is about His life and the life of those He touched and changed. It is the story of a charismatic fisherman drowning in debt. A troubled woman wrestling with real demons. A kind, gifted young man ostracized by his family and his people for working as a publican. In this ground-breaking show, we see Jesus reaching these people as He embarks on His ministry to change the world.

Maria added, “I enjoyed the producer’s dialogue before and after the show, he talked with actors and showed behind the scenes action on the filmset.”

Chinese viewers will soon be able to watch and listen to the show in their own language. “The Chosen” is underway



with dubbed versions of the show. This requires skilled lip-syncing and careful selection of artists to match the characters. The result will be the audience feels s if the character is speaking in their own language. Jesus is acted by Jonathan Roumie and his Chinese voice will be dubbed by Lingyun Wu 吴凌云. Mary Magdalene/Lilith 玛利亚 (莉莉丝) is dubbed by Lu Zhang张璐, Simon西蒙 by Xiucheng Zhang张秀程, Andrew安德烈 by Xuefeng Xia 夏雪峰 and Matthew马太 by Wentao Chang常文涛.

The amazing fan club driving the series’ success has already provided subtitles in Simplified and Traditional Chinese through VidAngel’s easy to use

translation platform. Translations provided are cross checked by other contributors and the best translations selected. There are still many other languages spoken in China awaiting subtitles, such as Mongolian, Tibetan and Uyghur. You are invited to contribute at [translate.vidangel.com](http://translate.vidangel.com).

The Chosen's production team have asked for the prayer support of the wider Christian community as they work on the Chinese version of the project. They said, "We need Prayers! Prayers for all people involved in the project and for the project itself!"

## Hakka (客家)



The Hakka people are a social, cultural and economic subethnic group within the Han people of China. They can be identified by a common language and by traditions they have acquired through their common shared experiences.

Most notable in the Hakka experience is a history of flight and resettlement. In their first migration, at the 4th century fall of the Western Jin dynasty, refugees fled invading tribesmen attacking their homes in the Yellow River Valley. They went south to Hubei, southern Henan, and central Jiangxi. A second migration

was driven by the chaos of the late Tang dynasty in the 9th and early 10th century. It took them further south into Jiangxi, Fujian, and Guangdong.

The third wave of migration was caused by Genghis Khan's conquering Mongol armies descending from the north in the 12th century. Supporters of the Southern Song dynasty fled southward pushing the Hakka living in Jiangxi and southwestern Fujian further into Guangdong. By the end of the Yuan dynasty (1368), northern and eastern Guangdong were exclusively Hakka.

Yet more upheaval took place in the mid-1600s with the Qing (Manchu) conquest, another invasion coming from the north. As the Ming Dynasty was being eliminated, opportunities were created for Hakka to move into areas depopulated by the conflict. Sichuan had been particularly ravaged by the war and Hakka resettled in the province. They also expanded into Hunan, Hubei, Guangxi, central and

# PRAYER POINTERS

## Hong Kong Security Law

Pray for peace to return to Hong Kong. Pray that fear, anxiety, and hate will be diffused.

Pray that people of God will be raised up with wisdom to positions of influence where they will be able help diffuse this volatile situation.

Pray that the new laws will not be applied with a heavy hand.

Pray that God's labourers in Hong Kong will be kept from harm. Pray for those that are required to leave.

## Chokehold on Publishers

Thank God that blockchain technology is allowing the Chinese people to regain trust in charities and to be confident in their giving.

Praise God that many in desperate need will now have a greater chance of receiving help.

Pray that God's name will be glorified through those that work in His service and that He will provide for all their needs.

## The Chosen

Praise God that he has brought such a team of talented people together. Pray that the series will continue to correctly portray His gospel and will accurately depict the heart of Jesus Christ to the world.

Pray for protection over all people working on the project.

Pray for willing translators who can accurately translate the words of the series into every language around the world and within China. Pray that it will also bring awareness of the Bible translation work still to be done.

Pray that The Chosen will be accessible to people on the Mainland.



# PRAYER POINTERS

## Hakka (客家)

Pray that China will remain a country of peace and that the Hakka will never again be subjected to war and flight.

Pray that the Hakka people will open their hearts to the gospel and will come to know the Prince of Peace.

Many strong leaders have come from the Hakka people. Pray that God will raise up strong Hakka leaders for His Kingdom.

## e-RMB

Thank God that as police increasingly come to grips with blockchain many evil practices such as drug trafficking, bribery, corruption and human trafficking will be prevented by this technology.

Pray that those who have been hidden in the dark will have their crimes brought to light by this technology, especially those who have abused their power.

As it becomes more difficult for the church to give into Kingdom building activities, pray that God will help believers to find new and creative ways to work around this.

## News From CCSM UK

Please pray that we and Christians in China will not 'lose heart' and that our lives will be a testimony to God's faithfulness

Please pray for the children and young people of China as they face extra challenges in getting a good education

Please pray for the Christian children and young people, that they will have a strong relationship with God that gives them peace and trust in Him

Please pray that China will again open to allow workers, visitors and those who want to serve to travel there.



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coastal areas of Guangdong, southern Guizhou and offshore to Taiwan.

But movement causes friction and by the mid-1800s conflicts between Hakka and Guangdong's Yue (the local people) had increased, and in Fujian and Taiwan they clashed with Min. Hakka had migrated in groups, forming largely unassimilated enclaves. Unlike other Chinese, they shunned such practices as foot binding. Hakka had a heavy involvement in the Taiping Rebellion and the subsequent Qing retribution was merciless and devastating. Hakka fled again to Southern Guangdong, Hainan Island, Hong Kong and overseas to many other countries, especially in Southeast Asia.

The Chinese characters for Hakka (客家) mean "guest families". This was meant in the same vein as "gypsy". Because they spent much of their history in flight, often as roaming farm labourers, they were unable to collect wealth. Historically, to be Hakka meant to be very poor, but this is certainly no longer true. What remains as part of their culture is their thriftiness.

The Hakka language also reflects their history; taking characteristics from both Cantonese (spoken in the southern province of Guangdong) and Mandarin, the language of northern and central China. Hakka food is very



salty, a vestige of times when food preservation was necessary for travel. It tends to contain a lot of protein and tofu.

Hakka are famous for their "tulou" buildings, which can house a whole community. They are circular or rectangle in shape and are built around a central courtyard. Most are 3 to 4 stories high, with some giant tulou having up to 6 stories. The walls are very thick, with windows only on the top story, thus the buildings doubled as both a village and a fort. Within the structure families were assigned rooms horizontally, so that each allotment was equal.

Today, China has a strong policy of assimilation and most people strongly value unity. Hakka will usually identify as Han Chinese (which in fact they are) and will often prefer not to claim a separate identity as Hakka.



## e-RMB

Bitcoin, Ethereum and Litecoin are examples of cryptocurrencies that use blockchain technology. They are not backed by central governments, are not linked to gold standards and do not come under any national or central authorities. Crypto currencies can be traded without a middleman, making overseas purchases much simpler. Because they are not tied to regulated banks, transactions can be made anonymously. The virtual “coins” each have a unique ID number and are tied to the owner’s unique wallet ID. However, a transaction can be completed without giving your name.

On one hand, cryptocurrencies are immune to government interference but on the other hand this gives them less protection against illegal activities, scams and volatile trading prices.

China did try, unsuccessfully, to shut down cryptocurrency trading in China.

In September 2017 they banned all initial coin offerings (ICO) in

China effectively closing the Shanghai based BTCC bitcoin exchange. Later in 2019 the People’s Bank of China (PBOC) issued a statement that “it would block access to all domestic and foreign cryptocurrency exchanges and ICO websites.” China has forbidden China-based financial institutions from any dealing and funding in cryptocurrency linked activities. Even so, owning crypto currency is not illegal and trading has continued with many enterprising Chinese simply switching to foreign exchanges.

In recent years China has been working on its own sovereign national digital currency called DCEP (Digital Currency Electronic Payment) and now a pilot trial has been launched in Shenzhen, Suzhou, Xiong’an New Area and Chengdu enlisting some of the major banks and selected retailers and restaurants.

The new virtual yuan is

centrally managed by the PBOC. They issue the digital yuan to commercial banks and other commercial operating agencies without using blockchain but thereafter lenders and other agencies can use blockchain technology to distribute it to the public.

The public download POBC-authorized virtual 'wallets' on their devices (in the pilot this is provided within their bank app). The wallet is linked to a bank account and card which can be used at ATMs to transfer or make payments. The money from the linked bank account is converted into digital cash on a one-to-one basis. There will also be an option that does not require a bank account to hold and conduct transactions in the digital renminbi.

The advantage of the DCEP system over existing payment platforms is that the system does not require an internet connection at the time of transaction. A function called "touch and touch" allows payment or transfer just by bringing two phones together, leaving no payment record with a third party or the banking system. The technology makes use of smart contracts (blockchain), encryption and tracking, making money laundering and tax evasion virtually impossible. If the pilot is successful, the use of China's e-RMB will be progressively expanded into all areas of the economy.

Once cash is finally removed from society and all currency is trading through digital yuan, China's regulatory authorities will have great power to scrutinise how money is used by its citizens.

## News from CCSM UK



Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, **we do not lose heart.**

*"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore, **we do not lose heart.** Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."* [2 Corinthians 4:1, 15-18 NIV]

God tells us not to lose heart – because we are in danger of losing heart! I hear

many voices saying they have had enough of being locked in, of being

unable to see family, of hearing so many conflicting stories about the danger of Covid-19 and how to deal with it. Believers want to meet in church and travel around the world to serve – yet they can't. But God says 'do not lose heart'. It is by God's mercy we have any ministry, it is by God's grace we have the blessings we still have. He will determine how his kingdom will grow. So 'do not lose heart'. We look to God and fix our eyes on him, and bring all our 'light and momentary troubles' to him, so that we can see from his perspective and 'not lose heart'!

We know that our brothers and sisters in China face challenges to meet, with restrictions even on the registered churches.  
The Covid-19

responses in schools have left young people with extra challenges to get those important grades to reach university and on top of that for those who are believers they still face persecution for following Jesus. We share some of these challenges but we also do not share all their hardships.

As we look forward we hope to send Teams again but we know there is increased surveillance and less workers in China to connect with. But we 'do not lose heart'! So please continue to pray, to give as you are led. We can still provide the Prayer Letter every month, we can still send SD cards into China with all those resources on them and we can still support the Mercy work and Medical work that continues in China.

Richest Blessings,  
**Martyn Wells**  
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