



# CHINESE CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES

## CHINA PRAYER LETTER



MARCH 2022

## A New Man

Much has been written about the Chinese Social Credit System (社会信用体系) which continues to be rolled out. Seen by outsiders as draconian, it has a clearly defined aim and is well supported by many in China.

First announced in 2014, it is “an important part of the Socialist market economy system and aims to reinforce the idea that *“keeping trust is glorious and breaking trust is disgraceful,”* according to a 2015 government document. A State Council publication puts it this way:

*“The trustworthy will be allowed to roam everywhere under heaven but the discredited will find it hard to take a single step.”*

It's still not a unified, nationwide system, more a large number of trial projects, but China plans on eventually making it mandatory for everyone. Its purpose can be summarized as the



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

making of a “New Man” in China. A compliant law abiding citizen.

German writer Kai Strittmatter in his book *“We Have Been Harmonized”* describes an interview with an official in Rongcheng - home to the most advanced Social Credit trial. The official said:

*“we want to civilize people. Our aim is to normalize their behavior. When everyone behaves according to the norms, society is automatically stable and harmonious.”*

Strittmatter also meets a key player in the development of the system - Professor Zhang Zheng of prestigious Peking University. He tells Strittmatter:

*“its quite simple. There are two kinds of people - good and bad. Imagine a world where the good ones are rewarded and the bad ones are punished. A world in which those who respect their parents, never jaywalk and pay all their bills on time are rewarded. A world where these people are allowed to buy “soft sleeper” tickets or given easy access to loans and others aren’t. Doesn’t that sound like a fairer - a more harmonious world?”*

Shanghai’s Social Credit trial programme is an app called “Honest Shanghai” which citizens can download voluntarily. It can access 5,198 pieces of information per citizen from 97 public authorities. City official Shao Zhiqing

says, *“it will change the face of China. Above all it will allow us to answer the question - ‘are you a trustworthy citizen?’”*

Back in Beijing an excited Professor Zhang Zheng tells Strittmatter:

*“The goal is to find them out at all times and in all places. With the help of big data, every citizen will get an evaluation stamp that will become their identity and which will ultimately determine how they live their life and what access they have to social resources.”*

The origins of this system could be traced back to a 2013 survey by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. The Shanghai branch found that 90% of those questioned said that anyone in China who was honest and trustworthy was automatically at a disadvantage. Later that year, when Xi Jinping came to power he laid the foundations for the system by tackling systemic corruption, toxic food issues, polluted rivers etc.

Whilst many citizens (maybe too innocently) see merit in the system there is some contrary comment. Well known essayist YouShanDaBu writes:

*“The investigation of the entire population has become a reality. No one has a corner left to hide in. Our only option now is to think the same thought.”*

That is a pretty good description of “The New Man”

# Release Approaching



Alimujiang Yimiti (Alimjan Yimit) is a Chinese Uyghur who converted from Islam to Christianity in 1995. He and his wife, Gulinuer, became leaders of a house church ministry in Kashgar, in the far western Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Being a Christian in a Muslim and communist nation can be doubly perilous.

Because of Alimjan's association with two foreign-owned companies, officials from the State Security Bureau often called him in for interrogations. His house began to be searched and his personal computer was seized. In 2007 Alimjan was accused by the Kashgar Municipal Bureau for Ethnic Religious Affairs of using his business, Xinjiang Jiaerhao Foodstuff Company, as a front for evangelizing to Uyghur people. They ordered his business licence be revoked. At the time, Alim was a project manager for Jirehouse, a British-owned Agricultural Company that was

targeted in a series of closures of foreign companies belonging to Christians in Xinjiang in 2007.

A few months later he was detained on the suspicion of inciting separatism and leaking state secrets. His situation came to the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Council Working Group on Arbitrary Detention who stated that 'the deprivation of liberty of Mr Alimujiang Yimiti is arbitrary, being in contravention of [...] the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' and that he 'is being kept in detention solely for his religious faith'.

A formal arrest finally came on February 28, 2008. According to International

## International Short-Term Teams

Email CCSM at  
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find out what we have on offer.



Christian Concern, “The cause of his arrest follows a conversation he had with an American [Christian] colleague, sharing the experience of his earlier interaction with the authorities. While this was hardly the leaking of state secrets that is alleged by the Chinese authorities, particularly given that Alimjan had no access to classified material, the contents of Alimjan’s earlier conversation with the police were likely made confidential, setting Alimjan up to be scooped up later.”

In 2009 his wife, Guli Nu’er, made an appeal to the international community for assistance in raising her husband’s situation with the Chinese authorities.

And in 2010, CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide) brought Mr Yimiti’s lawyer, Mr Li Baiguang of Beijing Gongxin law firm to Europe to raise international attention on the case.

for inciting separatism and those charges were dropped. But after secret trials, on August 6th, 2009, Alim was sentenced to 15 years in prison for “leaking state secrets” to foreign organizations, the maximum penalty for the charge. On a failed appeal, 5 years deprivation of political rights was added. His wife was permitted visits, for 15 minutes, only once every three months, and in difficult circumstances she has continued to raise her two boys to know the Lord.

Alimjan’s has nearly completed his 15 years of harsh punishment. Many people around the world have been praying for him over the years and we ask that you continue to do so as Alim faces re-entry to society.



# The More Things Change The More They Are The Same



In a 2008 CCSM publication, we quoted from a UK Courier Team Member – just back from another trip across the border. She wrote:

“Silently, the shadowy figures slip through the door and into a large room filled with precious goods, checking behind them to make sure they are not followed. Speedily but carefully they fill bags and suitcases. Helped by the young woman who brought them here, the three men then transfer the goods to a waiting van and speed off into the traffic.”

“A plane lands at midnight in a remote city in the North. The apprehensive group is met by a young woman with a broad smile. Within minutes, a white pick up van is reversing towards them. The bags they are carrying are thrown into the back and the van with its four protectors disappears into the night.”

“A young woman lifts her heavy suitcase onto a luggage scanner at a railway station. Her companions have already gone through safely. The official scanning her luggage becomes suspicious and, indicating she should wait, calls a colleague from

a neighbouring scanner. Fortunately a piece of luggage containing a dagger has been spotted on that scanner and, amidst the general excitement, the young woman whisks her case off and is soon swallowed up by the crowd.”

“A clandestine meeting in an apartment of a large city. Two taxis roll up and five people laden with bags and cases enter the building. A woman opens the door, looks around to see if they are being watched and ushers them in.

Later people come in empty handed but leave carrying bags and cases. They have told the five foreigners amazing stories of fleeing the authorities, living in caves, leaving their homes to plant new churches in far corners of the land.”

The Team Member concluded:

“It is difficult to convey the gratitude expressed by the recipients of

the Bibles and teaching materials we delivered across China. None of us will forget the tears shed by one woman as we left.”

Soon after this was written, courier teams stopped, as Bibles and selected Christian books became more readily available in China. But whilst China has changed dramatically since 2008 some things remain the same or have in some way reverted to what they were.

Today, draconian regulations aimed at bringing all churches under the control of the State, make it nearly impossible to access a hard-copy or on-line Bible without being registered with a state church. Likewise with Christian teaching and books. Those that are available are subject to State censorship and propaganda.

For the millions of Christians ‘outside the system’, and for those who just want greater access to Biblical literature, the CCSM AppSTER MicroSD card is a great, albeit undercover, solution.

With Bibles, quality teaching books, audio, video, worship songs, Sunday School material and preaching all on a tiny MicroSD card, some say it is equivalent to a Christian bookshop on a thumbnail.

As with courier teams of old, delivering this precious resource is a major logistical exercise carrying with it great a degree of risk.

And, it is still received with excited anticipation.

“The more things change, the more they are the same.”

## Loving Care for Unwanted Orphans

There are many facets to our CCSM ministry. One of these is our support of a mercy partner in China that we have been associated with for many years. This wonderful organisation provide loving care and a home, for orphans and abandoned children.

and works in cooperation with Government orphanages to foster babies and toddlers in small family-style homes. They operate differently from the larger orphanages, but compliment their efforts in many ways.



# PRAYER POINTERS

MARCH 2022

## A New Man

Being a Christian, even knowing or having links to a Christian will likely incur demerit points. Pray for good strategies that will allow on - going fellowship, sharing and worship.

Pray that these and similar programmes will meet resistance that will allow a return of freedom of thought and action.

Pray for the Government - asking God to soften hearts and produce a change of direction away from these stifling policies.

## Release Approaching

Pray that the authorities will treat Alimjan with compassion and integrity after his release and that he will be restored immediately to his family.

Pray for relationships in the family, after such a long period of separation.

Pray that Alimjan will receive the fellowship, spiritual support and comfort he needs, both now and upon his release.

Pray for the family's safety, health and welfare.

Pray the Lord of the Harvest will water the seeds that Alimjan has sown while in prison.

## The More Things Change The More They Are The Same

Praise God for the many donkeys who carried precious Bibles across the border. We have no idea of the real impact of their work but we know that Father's hand was on it and has used it to His glory.

Pray for the CCSM workers who fundraise for, purchase, ship into the hands of the copiers in China who then deliver AppSTER MicroSD cards around the country.

Pray for new believers in China who are not sure where to get resource. Give them wisdom and discretion and lead them to where they can safely get help.

# PRAYER POINTERS

## Loving Care for Unwanted Orphans

Pray that this organization will receive adequate funding to maintain and then increase the number of children they can bless.

Pray for the faithful staff, both management and the aiyis.

Pray that the Heavenly Father will give them all they need in the current, very stressful circumstances.

Pray that the adoption pathway will remain open so these children who previously had no hope will have a secure and fruitful life.

## Changing Young Lives Forever

Praise God for this incredible life change programme and for all those who have benefited from it.

Pray for a stream of new sponsors to grow this programme further.

Pray for the staff particular those who go into remote villages to meet the children. Keep the safe and free from any official intervention.

## News from CCSM UK

Pray that there will be encouragement for Christians across China and that new regulations will not cause dismay and fear.

Pray that churches will have wisdom to know how to continue with witness and pastoral care especially if they have done much of this over social media in recent months.

Pray for younger Christians who use social media frequently to look for face to face opportunities and to use printed Bibles and resources.

Pray that we all will actively seek unity together, in our churches and fellowships.



**Chinese Church Support Ministries**

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



There used to be two apartments, however they currently have one with seven children being cared for 24/7 in an environment which simulates that of a regular loving family.

According to the director, “the aim of the programme is to have the children adopted and the apartment concept is to prepare them for a family life they have never known.”

The children have been abandoned for various reasons and most have physical challenges. The organisation employs a devoted group of *ayis* (aunties/childcarers) to look after the children. In this warm and supportive, home environment they receive much more dedicated care than they would in the significantly larger institutions from whence they came.

Since 2010, 46 children have been matched and adopted. Most have gone to North American or European families but a few have been adopted locally.

Whilst Covid has been a huge challenge, their work has continued through their local staff, and oversight from the leaders

of the organisation offshore.

Before Covid they had many volunteers who came and served in various ways to assist the team of *ayis*. Some volunteers were foreigners who were living locally and others came as part of our short-term teams. The number of foreigners living in the city has declined dramatically since the pandemic and unfortunately, again due to the virus, the short-term teams have not been able to come. It is expected they will resume once borders open and it is safe to run them.

Literally hundreds of foreign volunteers over the years have blessed this work and had their own lives changed by the experience. Volunteers who come with specific skills (such as medical, physio, special needs or childcare) are particularly appreciated as they can train the *ayis* and assist with the children’s wellbeing.

The children are family. A ratio of approximately 1 *ayi* to 3 children is maintained during the day. There is also an additional *ayi* preparing the meals for staff and the children. One visiting professional recently said:

“I am very impressed by the standard of care, food and hygiene in the homes. Well done, I know how difficult this is to achieve”.

Our partner organization relies on donations and child sponsorship. Without these, the doors would close.

And above all, this amazing organization, that has adapted to meet the times, values your prayers!

Please contact your local CCSM office if you want to know more, especially about the opportunity to sponsor a child.



## Changing Young Lives Forever

You may have read about our partner organisation in the previous article. This wonderful organisation not only helps babies and young children but also helps children long-term.

This additional aspect of their work has a profound effect on the lives of so many children who are living in poverty and are not able to complete even their normal high school education. They certainly have no hope of continuing to tertiary education.

Our partner had a vision to make a difference and to help kids to do what they could never have dreamed of! The vision was for individual children to be sponsored long-term with a monthly contribution of US\$40.

Some of the sponsors have been involved for many years – often until

the child completes their education and becomes self-supporting. There is regular contact through letters and updates. Some remain in touch long after the sponsorship is no longer required.

The Local Manager explains:

“The children mostly live in rural villages, in counties surrounding the main city we work from. Local government charity officers or local churches introduce us to the families. We visit to assess their situations and ensure the families are truly living in very difficult circumstances. The children are usually in primary or middle school when they join our family.”

In China the education process is very competitive. But of course children

in very poor families are not able to compete without help to simply stay in school. However, not every poor child is a candidate for help. The Manager describes the selection process:

“Our program mentoring team visits children regularly to assess their current situations. To remain in our program a child must meet with our team and continue studying diligently in school. During these mentoring visits our team spend time talking with the kids about their school and family circumstances, any difficulties they may be facing and how to make good long-term life choices. We try to guide them so they realise that while education is important their personal value is not just in their school grade.

One child we help has had a very tough life growing up, we’ll call her Li. A couple has looked after and cared for her as grandparents, when they found her abandoned as a baby girl and brought her home. Grandpa has now died and grandma struggles to care for this young woman as she neared the end of high school. Only through her sponsor’s

help has Li been able to get this far. Li hopes to gain entry to an army university. Sponsorship made it possible for her to continue in school and hopefully we will see her dreams come true soon.”

Li is just one child who has benefited by continued education. Another success story is that of Chen.

“Chen visited us in our China office after he graduated. He joined our family while in high school and then we helped him gain his university education. Now Chen has a secure job at a federal government level and his future, along with that of his future children, is looking completely different. He explained to us that without our help he would probably be a cook, a waiter or unemployable; a long way from his dreams. His elderly mother sat with us, holding the hand of our founder, for nearly half an hour softly repeating xie xie, xie xie; thank you thank you.”

Prayer is the vital ingredient that undergirds this ministry. If you want to know more about how you can help contact your local CCSM office.

## News from CCSM UK



God is  
faithful and  
will keep us firm,  
will strengthen us, will  
protect us until Jesus Christ

returns. We are not just hanging on in our own strength; He is keeping us until the end. This should encourage us, and should give us peace.

Also as Paul writes in the passage below, it should also be the basis for

agreeing with one another and avoiding divisions. We should aim for unity together.

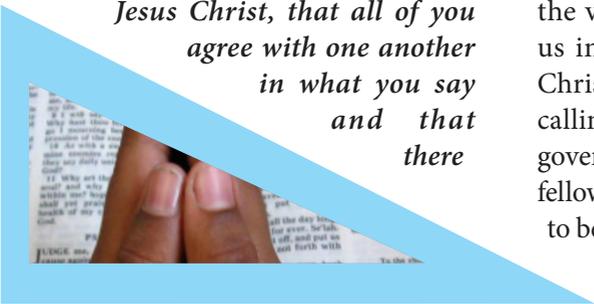
This will then be a fantastic platform for prayer. United prayer, agreeing on God's Word to see 'on earth what is already in heaven'. We can view the current fears and conflict around the world from a place of unity in Christ. Our unity will help to draw people to Christ.

*"Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there*

*be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought."*  
[1 Corinthians 1: 7-10, NIV]

We can pray for China from this place of unity and stand on God's faithfulness. We don't know what this year will bring, but we do know that God is faithful, both in our lives and in the lives of every Christian in China.

The new regulations banning religious content in social media and the internet in China comes into effect this month of March. It appears to be another door closing, and a barrier to Chinese churches witnessing and providing pastoral care. But God – is faithful and we pray that at this time Christians in China will reflect the glory of God in their lives and many will be drawn to Jesus Christ. As the verses above state, God has 'called us into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord'. What God has done by calling us into fellowship with his Son, no government can undo. We pray for that fellowship enjoyed by Chinese Christians to be deepened and enriched and shared across China.



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