



# CHINESE CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES

## CHINA PRAYER LETTER



AUGUST 2021

## When God calls...

*When God calls you to mission he may want you to do something you had never imagined or feel qualified to do. But if you know it's His voice, then you can trust him fully. He will never disappoint! ....*

The gently spoken elderly couple on the main street had an anxious moment as a town official approached.

They were, as usual, handing out gospel tracts and thought they were about to be asked to leave. They were surprised when the official said the he was always happy to see them and that they were an asset to the busy town centre!

They thought that the reaction might have been different in another city where they had previously spent eight years running foster homes!



**In  
this  
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When God  
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Intrigue Not  
Abandonment

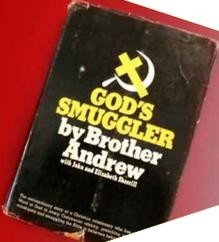
Xu Xiaohong 徐晓鸿  
- The Patriot

DNA Dynamics  
Choosing Wisely

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

They have fond memories of that ancient city perched high in the Chinese Himalayas.

As an engineer in a local New Zealand canning company, Jeff and his wife had never thought too much about China.



Then Jennifer read "God's Smuggler". After

that she was fixed on smuggling Bibles into China. Jeff was not so keen. He was not much interested in mission and suggested they send a donation instead!!

But God changed his heart and he, Jennifer and five others ended up doing multiple trips across the border from Hong Kong with their precious cargo. The next year they were back, this time with 13 helpers and then 9 more the following year. Thousands of Bibles delivered to hungry believers.

By now they knew that God had squarely laid China on their hearts. They both resigned their jobs and at the age of 63 and 60 respectively began a two and a half year Chinese language study programme at Chengdu University. No easy task.

On campus, they met a lady from

Europe who was hoping to open a home for a small group of orphan children. The couple knew, without a doubt, that God had arranged this meeting. Their Holy Spirit-led pathway forward was clear.

And so it turned out that Jeff and Jennifer, with a working knowledge of Chinese, arrived in a Himalayan city in the late 1990's. Before long, with the help of local officials, the Home of Love came into being and 7 orphaned children aged from 7 to 11 joined their household.

Whilst they had to control their evangelistic instincts in public, their home (later homes) provided a secure caring environment with a strong Christian influence. Many of the children became followers of Jesus.

Of course there were challenges but God was in control. Visas, finance, Christian helpers, relationships with the Government – none of these ever became an issue. The story of the Homes of Love is inspiring with many testimonies of young lives changed – but more of that another time.

The lesson of this story is that when God knocks on your door don't be surprised if He comes with a challenge. You may think you are too old, unqualified or even have no interest. God has never been concerned about the first two and He has His ways of dealing with the third. Ask Jeff and Jennifer!

*Jeff and Jennifer, now well into their 80s, continue to share the Gospel in their home town. They retain a great love for China and its people. They stay in touch with many of their China children. Having helped establish CCSM in New Zealand they continue to be prayer warriors and faithful supporters of our Ministry. They are a true blessing.*

*(Please note: for reasons of privacy, names have been altered).*

## Intrigue Not Abandonment

Twelve years after the One Child Policy was introduced, China began allowing international adoptions in 1991. At that time, orphanages were unable to cope with the number of girls and disabled being brought to them, many abandoned by town markets, church steps or other drop-off locations. By the time the policy changed to allow two children in 2015, there were around 120,000 babies adopted internationally. 81,600 were adopted to America between 1999 to 2018.

As these children, mostly girls, grew up in their new homelands, many believed

they had been abandoned. A typical assumption was that being female babies, they were not valued - they could not carry on a family bloodline, they could not fulfil the male's duties to the family's ancestors, or be a competent bread winner for parents in their old age.

These presumptions were shaken in 2019 with the release in America of an award-winning documentary, "One Child Nation". It showed the error in the over simplistic narrative of callous abandonment.

## International Short-Term Teams

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

The documentary revealed that the policy had unintentionally provided an environment that proliferated child trafficking. State orphanages charged a fee of up to 40,000 yuan to foreigners who adopted a child, and it was this fee that opened an opportunity for orphanages and corrupt family planning officials to turn a profit from women who had become pregnant with an ‘illegal’ second child. Officials knowingly allowed women to carry pregnancies to term and then pressured them to relinquish their baby under threat of a fine. The penalty for a second or subsequent child was around 10,000 yuan and was beyond the means of many families. The family planning officials told the mother that their baby would be adopted locally, but instead the baby was delivered to a complicit orphanage and the official received a payment.

Orphanages placed a ‘finding ad’, sometimes months later, fabricating that the child had been abandoned. The required ads reported where and when a baby had been found, the gender, the orphanage who was caring for them, and the baby’s photo. When foreigners came to adopt the child, this was the ‘finding story’ they were given.

Other unscrupulous agents also contributed to the trafficking industry, snatching babies for the orphanage trade. Sometimes it was relatives who pressured parents to give up a child so the family could have a male heir. There were cases of a twin being taken because they ‘violated’ the one child policy. And in other cases financial circumstances changed meaning the fine could not be paid and the child was taken.

In any of these events a simple assumption that the child was unwanted would be wrong.



# Xu Xiaohong 徐晓鸿 -The Patriot



We have already looked at two key gentlemen in China's Protestant Church leadership, Gu Mengfei and Rev. Wu Wei. The resonant themes in their public addresses are 'unity' and 'peace' respectively. But for Rev. Xu Xiaohong, Chairman of the Three Self Patriotic Churches of China, the booming message in his public narrative is 'patriotism'. He firmly believes it is the duty of the church to "love the Communist Party of China, love the great motherland, and love the socialist system" and in his words, this is the only way Christianity can really adapt to socialist society.

To his admirers, Xu Xiaohong is a leader who works tirelessly to keep the church safe and respectable, maintaining unity in the ecclesia, promoting harmony between church, society and the atheist state authorities.

Xu was born in 1964, hailing from Mengjin City in Henan Province. During his tertiary education and early career he was most certainly influenced

by the late Bishop Ding Guangxun (also known as K.H. Ting), who was both a prior Chairman of TSPM and President of the China Christian Council, and also Principal of Nanjing Union Theological Seminary which Xu attended attaining his Master in Ministry. It was Ding who coined the phrase 'Sinicization' of the church, a concept which Xu now actively pursues.

Another Ding concept was 'theological reconstruction 神学思想建设'. However Bishop Ding's efforts in the 1990s to promote a theology of "justification through love" was not well received. Xu describes *his* brand of theological reconstruction as a 'renewal in thinking', and theology that has "a biblical basis, absorbing the essence of church tradition, joining Chinese culture to our church's experience on the Three-Self path, in a language contemporary Chinese Christians can understand."

In 2013, he voiced concern over the "chaotic" state of the Church, especially in rural areas, bemoaning heresies, resurgence of denominations,

foreign interference and lack of unity. Particularly concerning to him, was theological conservatism, which he said was derived from the missionaries, and that hampered the rural churches from embracing theological reconstruction. He lamented, “What Chinese believers accepted was that through faith in Jesus Christ, the believer could obtain spiritual riches. They cared more for the spiritual life than for the material life. Many Christians had contempt for this world and material life while waiting for the next, or adopted the utilitarian view that ‘prayers would be answered.’” He complained that, “They set faith and reason, intellect and spirit, the material world and the spiritual world in opposition.”

Since then, Xu has actioned his theological reconstruction through education and courses for religious leaders and clerics and lay leaders. And now, beginning earlier this year, training has become a requirement to acquire a clergy card, without which no church member can preach or teach.

Xu Xiaohong has his share of opponents. Like Ding, he is viewed by many as an instrument of the Party. In the past, witnesses claimed to have seen Bishop Ding’s Party membership card, and few would be surprised if Xu was discovered to hold one. Critics are sceptical that the intent of ‘theological reconstruction’ is to teach correct doctrine. They suspect its purpose is

rather to manipulate and modify it, to eliminate elements of Christian faith that the Party regard as incompatible with their goals and ideology.

In 2016, at a meeting of the Protestant Lianghui, Chen Zongrong, deputy director of the State Administration of Religious Affairs asked the two councils to, “study, publicize and implement the “Regulations on Religious Affairs”, establish a law-abiding concept, enhance self-management capabilities, take actions and use initiative to resolutely resist infiltration of Christianity from abroad, and assist in the management of private Christian gathering points in accordance with the law; and focus on strengthening the self-construction of the two organizations.”

Xu is the consummate lianghui careerist. He has worked as president of the National Council of the YMCA, climbing through the ranks of both the Shaanxi CCC and TSPM and the National TSPM, working as Dean of Shaanxi Bible School and General Secretary of Baoji CC. And now, as Chairman of the National TSPM, he also represents the church at the China People’s Political Consultative Congress.

It was there, in a speech in 2019 that he spoke of the independent (underground) Christians, stating, “For individual black sheep who, under the banner of Christianity, participate in subverting national security, we firmly support the country to bring them to justice.”

# PRAYER POINTERS

AUGUST 2021

## When God Calls...

- Pray that many will hear the call to China and respond without hesitation.
- Lift up Jeff and Jennifer as they continue to serve as He leads.

Pray for the Chinese orphans like those who lived in the Homes of Love. Pray that Government programmes would grow so that all disadvantaged children are able to have a chance in life.

## Intrigue Not Abandonment

Praise God for the miracle of life.  
He says He knitted us together in our mother's womb. (Psalm 139: 13-18)

Pray for healing and comfort in the lives of those that have been painfully separated from parents or a child.

Pray that adoptees and birthparents may find a way to be reunited, even so long after these events, and that truth will finally vindicate them.



# PRAYER POINTERS

## **Xu Xiaohong 徐晓鸿- The Patriot**

Praise our Almighty God that He institutes rulers and leaders. He rules over all things seen and unseen. (Col 1:16)

Ask the Father to search our hearts that we can come to Him without bitterness, “being anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made to God.” (Philippians 4:6 NKJV)

Pray for Xu Xiaohong, that he will have an encounter with Him who is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have pre-eminence. (1 Col 1:18)

## **DNA Dynamics**

Praise God for we are fearfully and wonderfully made and the Word tells us He knew us before we were born.

Thank the Father that He waits for us to search for Him and that he promises that those that search with all their heart will find Him (Jer 29:13).

Praise Him that we are restored into His family through Jesus Christ.

Pray that children and birth parents will be reunited.

Pray especially that those that know Christ will be able to share the good news with their birth family.

## **Choosing Wisely**

Pray for Christians in positions of influence. They are on the spiritual front lines.

Pray for wisdom, discernment and spiritual maturity in our Christian leaders, especially those who teach. (James 3:1 ESV).

Pray for unity in the Chinese church (John 17: 14-20)



**Chinese Church Support Ministries**

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

# DNA Dynamics



There is no way to imagine the deep and enduring pain of a parent who has lost a child. China has more than its share of such divided families. In recent years in Xinjiang, China's most western province, thousands of Uyghur children have been removed from their families and placed in orphanages. It's likely they will never see their parents again. Between 1979 and 2015 countless families throughout China had babies torn from their arms by the unforgiving Family Planning Policies.

During that period, 120,000 mainly healthy babies ended up being adopted overseas. And still today, around 10,000 children are abandoned each year – these ones are mainly disabled and tragically many were given up for financial reasons. Without a doubt this dark topic is one most Chinese would prefer not to discuss and hope to forget.

## Good Out of Bad

In 2019 the controversial documentary, One Child Nation, brought the topic briefly back to the surface. Although mention of the documentary and its nomination for an Oscar were heavily censored in China, some savvy Chinese managed to view it. Moreover, a 2019 TED talk by the producer evaded the censors. Before being pushed back under the cyber carpet it managed to provoke

online dialogue around propaganda and political ethics but more than that - the ensuing discussion raised some awareness of efforts both in the East and West to help reunite families using DNA profiling.

Without the help of DNA, adoptees searches for their birth parents were frequently disappointed by a cold trail as the information needed to trace their origins was either false, insufficient or did not exist. But in recent decades technology has surged in the area of DNA profiling and now China boasts the largest DNA database in the world. Boy's and men's blood samples have been collected in a nationwide campaign, asserted to be for crime fighting.

## Not all DNA Tests are Comparable

But DNA tests are not all alike. Those tests commonly advertised on television, aimed at people wanting to know more about their wider genetic heritage, and marketed by the like of Ancestry.com, MyHeritage, LivingDNA, 23andMe and FamilyTree, are ideal for genealogical insights but are not



the same as the test favoured by forensic investigators.

In addition there are a variety of tests which are suited to solving various questions. Some are better for identifying male relatives, some give a broad overview of genetic linkages – for example locations and family names that share similar DNA markers. Others can identify immediate family members precisely at a cheaper price, but cannot map distant relatives.

Having a test result is one thing, placing it in the right database to yield a match to a lost parent or child is quite another. For American adoptees, if their test is held in the USA database of 23andMe, it can be sent to the Chinese database, WeGene, to search for a match. And for birth parents in China wanting to widen their search to America, GedMatch is a USA based company that can accept tests from WeGene. Gedmatch is also an umbrella database holding test results from many other genealogy companies, and is therefore a wise choice. Of course some searchers will have to overcome the challenge of working with foreign language websites.

By far the largest DNA database in China, is the state-run CODIS database. The CODIS test, ironically, was developed by the FBI. It uses only a subset of STR DNA markers and is suited to forensic work. The broader DNA tests used by the companies mentioned above are incompatible with data in a CODIS database, so adoptees are recommended to obtain a CODIS test in order to take advantage of this enormous database. To gain access adoptees can use the free services of BabyComeHome, a Chinese organisation staffed by volunteers.

### **Where to Start?**

It would be advised not to rush in to the search process without first preparing, and serious consideration should be given to taking on the assistance of a China focused search company such as MyTaproot or Research-China.org. They have years of experience in gathering information to assist a search, and know how best to utilize the DNA technology out there. There are also social media groups such as asiaadoptiondna, ChinaFamilyTies, and websites such as ChinasChildrenInternational.org that can help searchers on their journey.

# Choosing Wisely

A while back, CCSM reported that the tremendously popular crowdfunded series “The Chosen” was being subtitled into Chinese and was in process of being overdubbed for Chinese viewers.

The Chosen series itself has been very well produced and is a credit to its creator Dallas Jenkins’ skills and talent. It has not been unfaithful to the Biblical accounts of Christ’s life. But did you know that the series is becoming more than a series? Filmmaker Dallas Jenkins and his wife are producing a Bible study guide, devotionals and other materials that can be used in conjunction with watching the various episodes.

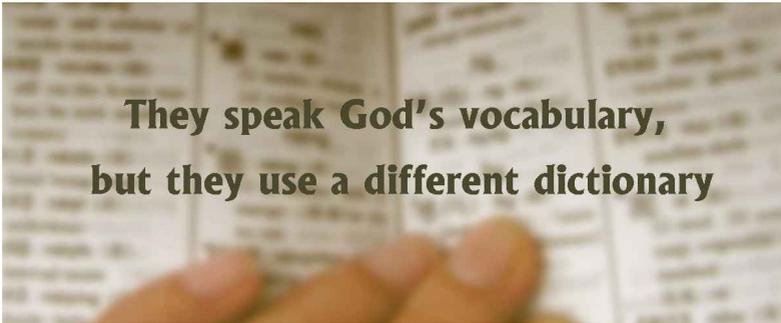
Since then, some information has come to our attention that we feel needs to be shared, especially as we have already highly recommended The Chosen. The production is associated with the Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS, also known as Mormonism) through its distributor,

VidAngel, which is an LDS owned enterprise.

By identifying this business relationship we are by no means implying that Dallas Jenkins is Mormon. However, Dallas has defended the relationship with the LDS enterprise in an interview, stating “We love the same Jesus... I’ll sink and swim on that statement.”

We would like to point out to those that are not aware, the LDS Doctrines of Salvation state that there is ‘no salvation’ without accepting Joseph Smith as a prophet of God. This extrabiblical ‘prophet’ received his revelation from Moroni, an angel that supposedly became human. Our God clearly warns against this kind of revelation in Galatians 1: 6-8, and any research into the LDS shows it to be a cult that both adds to and subverts the Word of God. God warns about adding to his words in the Book of Revelation ch.22 v.18.





## They speak God's vocabulary, but they use a different dictionary

Moreover, the Mormon Compendium of the Gospel identifies the Lord Jesus Christ as Satan's 'spiritual brother'. Clearly this is a different Jesus!

Jenkins called on a Catholic priest, a Messianic Rabbi from Fusion Ministries and a group of ecumenical priests and experts to act as consultants in the creation of The Chosen.



Ecumenism is actively  
being promoted by  
the Chinese  
State

Church and the World Council of Churches. Unfortunately 'unity' attained by ecumenism must, by nature, depend on omitting or compromising in areas of conflicting doctrine. It caters to the lowest common denominator at the expense of necessary truth.

It is wise therefore, in these times, to act with caution and discernment when choosing teaching material, remembering that a "soft gospel" is not the gospel. May the Chinese that view these shows, many hearing about him for the first time, find disciple makers that defend the whole truth and nothing but the truth.



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