



CCSM
Chinese Church
Support Ministries
中国教会支援使团

China Prayer Letter

NOVEMBER 2025



Singles' Day
-光棍节,
guāng gùn
jié,



also known as Double 11 (双11, *shuāng shíyī*), originated in the early 1990s at Nanjing University, where a group of single male students decided to celebrate their status. November 11th, was chosen for its representation of singlehood (11/11). The numeral "1" symbolizes a bare stick, a term in Chinese slang for an unmarried man. Over the years, this day has transformed into a cultural phenomenon, initially celebrated by young men but now embraced by both genders.

Although not an official public holiday, Singles' Day has become a major shopping festival, comparable to Black Friday in the United States. It features extensive online and offline sales, with major e-commerce platforms like Alibaba's Tmall and JD.com offering significant discounts. The event has grown exponentially since Alibaba first promoted it in 2009, leading to record-breaking

sales figures. For instance, in 2021, world-wide sales reached approximately \$139 billion.

The day is marked by a 24-hour shopping frenzy, where consumers indulge in self-gifting and purchasing items across various sectors, including fashion, electronics, and food. The event has also sparked a trend of live-streaming sales and pre-sale promotions, further enhancing its appeal to younger consumers.

While Singles' Day celebrates singlehood, it has, ironically, become a day for couples to get married, with many choosing this date for their weddings. Blind date parties and social events are also common, reflecting the dual nature of the holiday as both a celebration of independence and a quest for companionship.

IN THIS ISSUE:

SINGLES DAY

PRAYER
DEVOTIONAL

BULLYING – A WAVE
OF ONLINE ANGER IN
CHINA

ONE CHILD POLICY

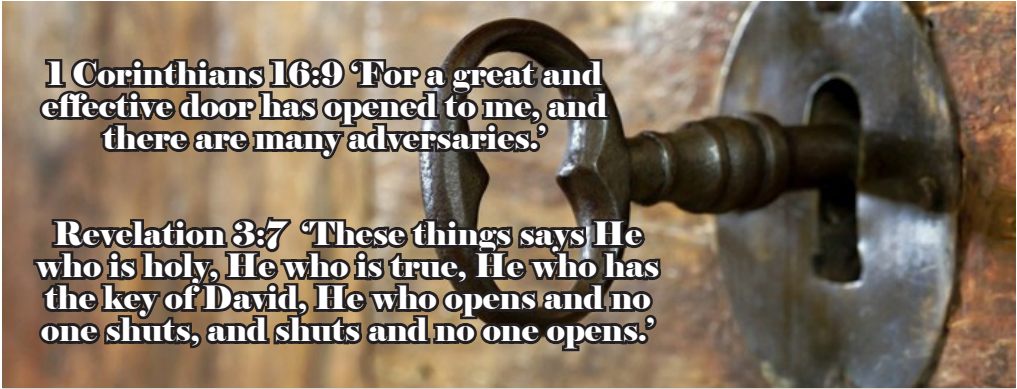
JOHN AND BETTY
STAM'S SHORT LIVES

"FOOD IS HEAVEN"

"DOWNSTREAM"
CONSEQUENCES

FURTHER UPDATE
ZION CHURCH
ARRESTS IN XI'AN





1 Corinthians 16:9 'For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.'

Revelation 3:7 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens.'

When I reflect upon these two scriptures I can see how we, Antioch Missions - Chinese Church Support Ministries, in a sense, can relate to them. We can see the effectual open doors that God has placed before us over the many years, but we can also see that over the years AM-CCSM has had its fair share of adversaries (challenges, opposition) as well! In 2020, when Covid occurred, many doors were shut inside of China for us, but we were confident that as doors closed, others opened. Just a quick bit of history relating to AM-CCSM! AM-CCSM began in 1986, initially focusing

on raising awareness of the needs of the Chinese church and facilitating prayer support from the West. A key aspect of our early work was distributing Christian literature and Bibles, as well as providing foundational teaching materials, in response to requests from Chinese house church leaders. Programs focused on orphans, disadvantaged children, and other vulnerable populations were developed. CCSM mobilised many long-term missionaries as well as a wide variety of short-term teams into China. The ministry was founded by Ross Paterson and, his initial mandate

inspired by a Chinese house church leader, was to be a "reporter" for the church in China, raising awareness and intercessory prayer in the West. Our ethos was and still is today "Ordinary people making a difference". We are still in collaboration with Chinese church leaders and believers, providing resources and support, and in particular in stimulating fervent urgent prayer, while always respecting the unique context of the Chinese church. Why do I mention all of this? Simply that as you pray and intercede through this Ministry update would you please keep all of that in mind!

Lord, as we pray for and through this China Prayer Letter, would You provide more open doors in the way of opportunities, favour and guidance.

Lord, we pray that you will bring down any adversaries that would try to hinder these open doors.

Let us hold on, as the scripture says in Revelation 7:8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name."



BULLYING - A WAVE OF ONLINE ANGER IN CHINA



The 14-year-old schoolgirl kneeling while being bullied; The girl's parents begging police to handle their daughter's case. (Image: Social media)

Youth bullying is a growing international problem. China is not immune but publicity about it locally has been quite heavily censored. Until now. A recent incident in Sichuan province where a 14 old girl was viciously attacked by three other minors has broken the censorship shackles. The parents of the victim, who is hearing impaired, pleaded with the authorities for justice and were not happy that the attackers were sent short-term to a corrective school.

Others came out online in support saying that not enough was being done to

punish bullying in China.

The incident prompted a wave of public anger online and protests erupted outside the local government offices in Jiangyou. The protest turned violent, and the police were accused of a disproportionately violent response.

Protests in China are not uncommon, but they are usually quickly shut down and censored on state-run media and the internet.

A lawyer based in Shanghai said in an online post, reported by the BBC, that this incident has highlighted an ongoing legal dilemma for Chinese officials.

"The penalty for causing minor injuries is too mild, while the physical and mental trauma suffered by victims is

overlooked by the law, which leads to a significant imbalance in the protection of their rights," he wrote on the Chinese social media platform Weibo.

Bullying in China has clearly become a major concern, especially in schools where physical, verbal, and cyberbullying incidents have intensified in recent years. Cases involving violent assaults among students have gone viral. Despite government sponsored nationwide anti-bullying campaigns, legal protections remain limited, with few laws addressing peer-on-peer abuse. Victims often face long-term psychological trauma, while perpetrators under 14, rarely face serious consequences. Cultural norms and lack of awareness contribute to underreporting. Authorities are now pushing for stricter enforcement and mental health support to curb this troubling trend and foster safer learning environments.



Thousands protest school bullying

ONE CHILD POLICY

- some lesser known consequences

Chairman Mao, from early in his rule, encouraged women to have as many children as possible. The newly established PRC needed a big army and a large labour force. The birth rate in China climbed dramatically – an average family in 1950 was just four but by 1964 had climbed to seven. Women with big families were singled out for praise and called “heroine mums”.

But by the early '70's, China's population was growing at an unsustainable rate. Deng Xiaoping, soon after taking over from Mao, issued instructions to the State Population Council: “Bring the population down. I don't care how you do it.” The One Child Policy was born.

Implemented in 1979, it was a draconian population control measure that was brutally

policed. (See Daughters of the Bamboo Grove, China Prayer Letter September 2025). The documentary “One Child Nation” (available on Amazon Prime) shows in graphic detail the human consequences and the wounds that are still unhealed.

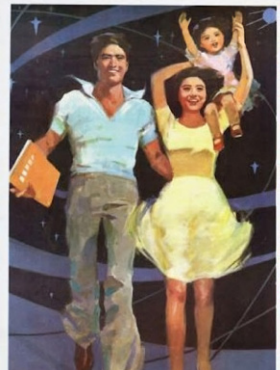
But based on its stated objective, from the government's point of view, it was highly successful. Estimates suggest the policy prevented between 250 to 400 million births, easing pressure on housing, education, healthcare, and food supply.

The negative consequences of the One Child Policy are well known. A shrinking workforce, aging population, the “4-2-1 phenomenon” (four grandparents, two parents one child) placing immense pressure on

that single generation to provide financial support, housing and caregiving are all now issues which the government is scrambling to address. Not to mention the immense social cost.

Yet when it was legally abandoned in 2015, the Communist Party announced:

“The One Child Policy has made the country more powerful, the people more prosperous, and the world more peaceful.”



There are several other economic and social outcomes of the One Child Policy that are not so well known.

Savings.

It has increased the saving rate of Chinese families. The Chinese have always been good savers but the saving rate as a share of disposable income over the last 20 years is 30%. This compares with the OECD average of 10 % with some member countries 5% or less. The high level of Chinese household saving can be attributed, at least in part, to the simple fact that one child costs less to bring up than two! Young friends of CCSM in China confirm that, whilst no longer law, many couples have decided for economic reasons that they will have just one child – regardless of state inducements.

Savings also increased because of the 4-2-1 scenario where parents can rely on just one child for support in their old age.

A highly educated generation.

Research confirms that the fewer the children the greater the investment per child. Only-children are allocated a much higher percentage than a family with two or more children. Chinese parents spend a lot on their children's education. On average, 25% of their spending is allocated to educating one child. The average American household spend just 5% per child. This is at least partly to compensate for having just one child and needing to make sure he or she is highly educated to offset the lack of other children. Tutoring companies benefitted from this with most Chinese children getting extra lessons outside of school until the Government ordered a complete shutdown of



tutorial classes for Chinese school children. (The Double Reduction Policy – 双减 – 2021)

A Golden Age for Chinese women.

It is estimated that on average, between 1980 and 2010, 118 boys were born for every 100 girls. Prior to 1980 the ratio was 108 to 100. There has always been an historical preference in China for boys over girls, and this was exacerbated by the One Child Policy. This was especially so in rural areas where sons were needed to help with the physical work and ultrasound technology allowed a degree of sex selection (now illegal). Since the One Child Policy was relaxed, the gender ratio has dropped – in 2017 it was 111 to 100.

Under the One Child Policy, a daughter did not have favoured brothers to compete with for educational resources. Today, daughters are better educated than sons. Studies show that girls receive more years of schooling than boys. In 1978, 24% of university students were women. By 2009, half were women. Today, daughters contribute to the care of their parents just as much as sons.

Whilst there are some positive outcomes of the One Child Policy, history is likely to judge it as a massive human rights violation producing long-term negative consequences.



JOHN AND BETTY STAM'S SHORT LIVES

John Stam and Betty Stam were American missionaries to China with the China Inland Mission (CIM). They paid the ultimate sacrifice to take the Gospel to the Chinese people.

Betty Stam's parents were missionaries to China and she grew up in what is now called Qingdao. On returning to the West she attended the Keswick convention in England in 1925. There, the verse, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21) impacted her deeply. It was to be prophetic.

Before CIM appointed her for service, Betty wrote: "I want something really worthwhile to live for. ***Like most young people, I want to invest this one life of mine as wisely as possible, in the place that yields profits to the world and me.***"

While a student at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago she met John Stam. When John was chosen to give the graduation speech to the Moody Class of 1932, he gave the following stirring challenge:

"Shall we beat a retreat and turn back from our high calling in Jesus or dare we advance at God's command in the face of the impossible? Let us remind ourselves that the Great Commission was never qualified by clauses calling for advance only if funds were plentiful and no hardship or self-denial was involved. On the contrary, we are told to expect tribulation and even persecution, but with it victory in Christ."

Betty returned to China as a single missionary in 1931 and John arrived in 1932. With the approval of CIM, they married in 1933. In September 1934 Helen Priscilla was born and they

moved together to their mission station at Jingde in Anhui Province.

Within a few short weeks, on the morning of December 6th, they received a surprising message that the Communists were within 4 miles of the city having crossed the mountains on little used trails.

The Communists quickly came to where the Stams were staying and broke open the gates to the compound. John Stam



Helen Priscilla Stam was found in an abandoned farmhouse two days after her parents' deaths.

calmly opened the door and invited them in where Betty served them tea. The Communists arrested John and took him to the city prison. Betty and Helen were later taken to be with John in the prison.

Betty was allowed to tend to Helen, but she hid her daughter in the room inside a sleeping bag. One can only imagine their thoughts and prayers during that long night. The next day John and Betty were marched down the streets to be executed. John Stam was ordered to kneel and was beheaded. Betty was killed moments later. Thus, John and Betty Stam became the 73rd and 74th martyrs of the China Inland Mission.

A local pastor searched for their baby daughter and by accident eventually discovered her, still sleeping in the little hut where the parents had

been held on their final night on earth. She was later adopted by a missionary family. The same pastor recovered the two bodies, and they were later buried. Their gravestones stated the faith by which they lived and died.

“John Cornelius Stam, January 18, 1907, “That Christ may be glorified whether by life or by death.” Philippians 1:20
“Elisabeth Scott Stam, February 22, 1906, “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21

The Stam's death inspired an increase in number of people offering themselves for missionary service



Baby Helen with Chinese schoolgirls in Jinan

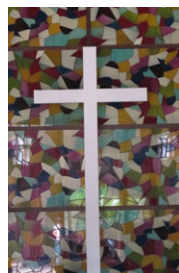
in China. “At Moody Bible Institute 700 students and at Wilson College 200 students consecrated themselves to God’s service, vowing to be faithful unto death.”

There are no guarantees in missionary service except these two – that the faithful missionary will receive a “well done, thou good and faithful servant” in the presence of the Lord; and the assurance that the blood of the martyrs is never, ever in vain.

Delving deeper into scripture to enrich our prayer for China

Psalms 5:3 NIV: “In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.”

Other translations say after praying, “I will **LOOK UP**”. That’s called “importunity.” Persistent prayer. Not praying once but keeping on praying and still looking up for the answer. Sometimes it takes time for the enemy to be beaten. Persist in prevailing prayer for China.





“FOOD IS HEAVEN”

The popular Chinese saying, “To people, food is heaven,” encapsulates the importance of food and eating in the everyday life of Chinese people.

At a typical Chinese banquet, the host usually orders an excess of dishes as a demonstration of their generosity, and hospitality. The result is often lots of leftovers.

A 2015 research paper estimated that Chinese restaurants discarded 18 million tonnes of food annually. Typically, one third of banquet dishes were not eaten. What has made this worse is that as the middle-class has expanded, there has been a switch away from the grain-based diet to a more meat heavy diet which creates an increased sustainability challenge.

China is not alone in facing a food leftover problem. The UK brought in a new law in 2025 requiring all businesses to separate food waste from general waste. Most other western countries have similar strategies. But

China, since 2012, have been tackling the issue at source – the dinner table.

On April 22, 2012, Earth Day, members of a civic group began posting images of their empty

plates on Weibo, urging others to act against food waste. Their online call later evolved into a nationwide “Empty the Plate Campaign,” which was widely reported by many media outlets, including the state-funded People’s Daily. Chinese youth responded to this campaign. Restaurants introduced smaller portion options and provided takeaway containers 打包 (dǎbāo) as standard.

The Chinese government has also taken action to address sustainability challenges, calling it as a food security issue. In 2021, it enacted the Anti-Food Waste Law.

Under the law, restaurants and food content creators can be fined if they encourage excessive ordering or promote binge-eating. Businesses are required to provide reminders against food waste, while media platforms face penalties for hosting videos that glorify overconsumption.

The Government has also since 2022 addressed

the problem of wastage at the production stage of food supply – often the consequence of overproduction.

The Chinese State Council issued a comprehensive action plan in 2024, aiming to reduce loss rates of grain through the whole production process to below the international average level by 2027.

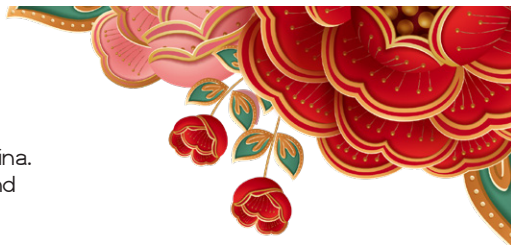
In the Christian environment, there is a much more responsible attitude to avoiding food wastage. The Editor’s observation is that any leftover food is packaged and sent home or given to those who need it most. Our partner organisation, who run a canteen-based support programme in a remote region of China, have built an amazing work based on meeting the needs of poor and hungry children orphaned after a major natural disaster. You can be sure that in that canteen, no food is wasted!



Prayer Points

NOVEMBER 2025

Join us in prayer for the church of China.
Cut out this month's prayer points and
keep them in your Bible.



PRAYER POINTS #1

SINGLES DAY

Praise God that whilst singleness is the focus on 11th November, more and more young people are using the occasion to seek marriage.

Pray for the revival of marriage in China as a desirable and God appointed state.

Pray that there will be a restoration of an equal birth ratio male to female and that the stress of finding a lifetime partner will be reduced.

PRAYER POINTS #2

BULLYING – A WAVE OF ONLINE ANGER IN CHINA

Pray for the children in China who face many unique challenges without having to deal with schoolyard bullying.

Pray that the government initiatives, in response to parental concern, will be wholehearted and not token.

Pray that social media in China will be able to continue to highlight issues such as bullying and be a voice of the people that was previously stifled.

PRAYER POINTS #3

ONE CHILD POLICY

Pray for peace for those in China still traumatized by the One Child Policy.

Pray especially for the government officials, some of whom were coopted and forced to carry out brutal actions against offending families.

Pray that as China transitions back to childbirth based on parents' decisions not government decrees, that having children will again be regarded as a privilege and a blessing for "heroic mums"!

[Chinese Church Support Ministries - YouTube](#)



CCSM has a YouTube channel which has short video clips highlighting prayer needs for China. In addition, a new promotional video (click image to view)



Prayer Points

NOVEMBER 2025

"With every prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and to this end be alert, with all perseverance and requests for all the saints." [Eph 6:18, NET]

PRAYER POINTS #4

JOHN AND BETTY STAM'S SHORT LIVES

Thank God for these early inspirational missionaries who "loved not their lives unto death."

Pray that almost 100 years on their story is still a powerful testimony to those who God is calling to the harvest field.

Pray for the new breed of Chinese missionaries reaching out to minorities within China and to neighbouring nations. Lord protect them and give them the courage to stand against increasing persecution.

PRAYER POINTS #5

"FOOD IS HEAVEN"

Thank God for our partner organisation's long-time programme feeding the hungry! Praise God for the incredible downstream stories of recipients coming to Christ.

Pray that everyone would have a right attitude to food wastage, mindful that there will always be people who can use what we might see as leftovers.

Praise God for the example Jesus gave us, in that having fed the 5000 he sent his disciples to collect the scraps.

PRAYER POINTS #6

"DOWNSTREAM" CONSEQUENCES

Pray for this project, that it will benefit China and be all it is promoted to be.

Pray for those in China negatively impacted by this project. May there be fair compensation for those displaced.

Pray for China's relationships with India given a long history of border disputes and territorial claims.



SERVING, SUPPORTING & STRENGTHENING THE
CHURCH AND PEOPLE OF CHINA



"DOWNSTREAM" CONSEQUENCES

China has begun construction of the world's largest hydropower dam, located in the Tibet Autonomous Region.

On 19 July 2025, China's Premier Li Qiang formally announced the ground-breaking on the Lower Yarlung Tsangpo Hydropower Project (the LYT project). The 1.2 trillion yuan (US\$168 billion) project comprises five cascade hydropower stations, expected to generate 300 billion kilowatt-hours annually - a figure nearly triple that of China's previous mega project, the Three Gorges Dam. When completed, this output will rival the annual electricity output of the United Kingdom. The project represents one of China's most ambitious infrastructure projects so far and is one of the most expensive infrastructure projects in history.

The planned project flows through the Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon, recognized as earth's deepest canyon system. Four 20-kilometer tunnels will be dug through Namcha Barwa mountain to divert the Yarlung Tsangpo river. The water will flow through the tunnels to a lower

elevation to generate electricity and then will be returned to the river. There are two question marks over the project. Firstly, India is a downstream nation that relies on the river. While China assures that the project will not impede water flow, India is concerned about potential impacts on water supply and flooding. The dam could significantly reduce water flow in the Siang River, threatening traditional livelihoods and agricultural practices. At the same time, local leaders have warned that sudden releases of water from the dam could cause catastrophic flooding, endangering lives, property, and cultural heritage in the Siang belt - "a water bomb."

Secondly, the project is located in a seismically active region, thus posing serious risks to downstream Indian Assam.

The political process that authorised the project sheds light on

the changes taking place in China. The previous mega project, the Three Gorges Project, was the subject of intense debate throughout the 1980s over its design, feasibility, and potential environmental and social impacts. When the Seventh National People's Congress voted on the Three Gorges Project on 3rd April 1992, 177 of the 2,633 deputies voted against it and 664 abstained. This significant level of dissent and abstention - unusual in China's typically rubber-stamp legislature - reflected the depth of concern and controversy surrounding that project, even within the political establishment.

In contrast, the LYT project - with an investment cost five times greater than the Three Gorges Project, in a far more environmentally fragile and politically sensitive area - is moving ahead without a vote in the national legislature. It was simply decided and moved along within China's bureaucratic

process. Unlike the Three Gorges Project, there has been little public awareness or discussion about the LYT project outside of hydropower industry circles.

Building the dam will not be easy. "Despite China's strong capabilities in hydropower development after building thousands of dams in past decades,

the LYT project presents several technical challenges without proven capabilities, including dam-building on unstable ground, constructing long tunnels through mountainous terrain, and operating in a cold and low-oxygen environment."

But this is China, so expect success!



Further update Zion Church arrests in Xi'an

Last month, we updated the situation with the Zion Church in Xi'an. On May 16th, 10 of the leadership team were arrested in a raid including the Senior Pastor Gao Quanfu and his wife.

Since then most have been released with the charges changed from "following superstitious practices" to "fraud", (based on the church practice of tithing.) As of 1st October, the senior pastor remains

in prison and his wife previously released has been re-arrested. There has been local fundraising by the Zion Church to support the families of those imprisoned with people able to donate via a QR code. Many believers from the wider faith community were using this to support the brothers and sisters. The police have tried to close this down, but we understand from local sources that many are still giving regardless.



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