

Dear ones,

Thank you so much for your interest in helping us reach the precious people of China, it truly is a mission field full of uniquely receptive people, despite all of the restrictions placed on evangelization here.

We also would like to thank all of you who helped Mike graduate and get his university degree in Chinese last year in June. It was an amazing journey and we are so thankful for your support and prayers for him. It is such a big advantage to be able to speak the language more fluently!

We had hoped to be able to continue on in the city Mike graduated from University, but tighter visa conditions made it difficult to continue living there. After much desperate prayer about our next step, God

led us to move to China's interior. We are presently living in the southwest region, close to the borders of Burma, Laos and Vietnam.

It's in a mountainous area, a very colorful region that has the largest population of 26 of the 56 ethnic minorities of China, which gives the region a very different culture and ethnic mixture. There is more of a Southeast Asian culture here, with less of the Han Chinese influence which is generally predominant in China. ("These ethnic minorities live together over vast areas in the region while some live in individual concentrated communities in small areas. The residences of the ethnic minorities are various and characteristic; their clothes are colorful and distinctive; many of them have their own languages and writings.")



Some of the many minority ethnic groups in our new location.

It is a poorer area than the coastal area we lived in before, which was more open to the West and Western ideas. Our last city was very famous for promoting education, and housed one of the best universities of the nation, which Mike graduated from. Education makes a visible difference in people's lives, and for us, we feel privileged to share our spiritual riches, which brings a "spiritual education" that transforms the heart, soul and spirit of the people.

We can see by the common people's physical appearances here, that their lives are much tougher than in other places. A 45 year old person often looks 20 years older than their actual age. Every time we move cities we have a small culture shock. We need to constantly look to the Lord to help us overlook the external circumstances in which we find ourselves

surrounded by, and look deeper into the need of the people's heart for His love and Truth.

However, since arriving here in the end of March, we have experienced the Lord's love and blessings in so many ways, we are very happy we came, we truly feel we are in the will of God here.

Actually, even just a few days before we left our last city, the Lord led us to meet several new friends, we had a little Bible study with them together and all 4 of them very eagerly prayed for the Lord to come into their hearts.

One of them was a man in his 30's who had just quit his job to come help his family with different problems. He was in search for more meaning in his life, we just met him close by our home and promptly started a friendship. One of the Lord's setups! Now he



Bible study with new friends just before changing cities.

has the Light of the world to guide him, and we are sending him Christian material via email.

Then, on our 4 hour flight to our new city, the man sitting together with us on the plane flooded Mike with many questions about Christianity and science etc. Thank the Lord we were able to



A deep conversation on the airplane!

answer his questions to his satisfaction, share our own testimony, and lead him to receive the Lord as Savior (all in Chinese, by His grace!).

That was so very encouraging to us, to feel the Lord's blessing and presence with us, as it is always a step of faith to move to another province and situation, with so many unknowns and obstacles to face.

As we mentioned before, there is a great hunger for spiritual truth here in China right now, we truly believe it is "China's hour".

Now after arriving in our new city, the Lord is already leading us to meet special people who are ready to receive His love and truth!

In our first week here, we met a very sweet and searching Buddhist woman who we talked with



So happy to receive the Lord!

for a couple of hours, we were able to explain a lot about the Lord and she was so happy to receive Him, Thank the Lord!

On Easter day, in a small gathering with some friends, we met a very special young man, B., a university student. The Lord had already been working in his life and he was so full of deep



A university student with many searching questions.

questions, he saw so clearly how empty life was without the Lord, and was so thankful to be able to receive Him. (We have included some photos of some of these new friends.) What a great day to receive the Lord of Lords!

Recently we began our first weekly Bible study in our new place, with a Chinese couple who were so thankful to be able to study the Word with us in Chinese, as the husband (a university professor of Chinese) doesn't speak English. They belong to a Chinese church and lead a cell group, so what they study with us, they will pass on to others, praise God.

We are thankful for your prayers for us, for the progress of our work here, for protection and that we can reach all those He has for us here, as new beginnings always have their own challenges. For example, to get our visas here we had to go through an interview, which was not pleasant at all, other Christians that we've met here had the same experience, of being yelled at and intimidated during the interview, with a great emphasis made of not being allowed to proselytize with the threat of being immediately deported if found doing so.

So, we do appreciate your prayers that the doors for China can continue to stay open, as we feel that the political atmosphere of the country is changing.

Thank you again for your prayers and support!

Love and prayers,

*Mike and Polly*