



## China News letter February 2019

The handwriting is certainly on the wall for soon-coming violent persecution in China. Conditions there worsen for Christians and also potentially for our foreign teams there.

This month's news from Mike and Polly bring out more clearly what is happening and how it affects them on the ground. It's very well worth reading and thank you for your support for us in China and the various mission teams in China that AMMC is trying to aid. Keep us all in your prayers and thanks so much for your faithful monthly or quarterly donations.

### New Era for Religion in China as Party Tightens Controls



The  
**SON** of **GOD**  
became a **MAN**  
to enable men to  
become **SONS**

**D**ear Friends, Warmest greetings from us to you, we hope that you and your loved ones have had a wonderful start to this new year of 2019, so full of possibility and promise! The future is as bright as the promises of God, which are all "Yes" and "Amen" to all of us as His children. (2Corinthians 1:20)

Here in our beloved China we are about to enter the Chinese New Year season, as February 4th is the start of the 7-day Chinese New Year holiday. According to the Chinese lunar calendar, this is the "Year of the Pig", which for the Chinese means abundance and prosperity. In fact, in Chinese the character for "family" or "home" ("家" pronounced "jia") is composed of a pig 豕 under your roof宀. (Apparently you were prosperous if you owned a pig!) We do pray for you that the Lord continues to bless you with abundance and everything you need this coming year!

Speaking of homes, we have now finished setting up our new apartment (with a much better layout giving us better protection from listening ears), and have already started our Bible classes, praise the Lord! Next week, though, we will have a week break from our classes due to Chinese New Year holidays, which is the most important Chinese holiday, when people go back to their home towns and visit with relatives. It is like a big migration inside the country with up to 400 million or more people travelling.



With Peg



Young man

So we will have some time for prayer and seeking the Lord for our new year during that time. The time around the new year is always a good time for reflection, and in thinking about all that has happened in this country last year, one of the main things we are reminded of, is that we cannot have a false sense of security, and forget that we are guests in a country whose leadership doesn't understand the vital importance of the wonderful message of love and salvation that God wants us to share, and that doesn't approve of us sharing it.

We could see the signs of changes coming last February when religious laws were changed and tightened. By summer, we got news from close friends that several friends and their families, in the province next to ours, were asked to leave on short notice, 3 days or sometimes less. Then by October, things in our city were also affected and several families were asked to leave. We continue to hear about people in our city and other places in the country leaving. It is sad and heart-breaking to see personal friends having to leave, who have given 10 or more years of their lives here and had fruitful ministries. It reminds us of what the Bible says: “..we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth” Hebrews 11:13.



Singing Christmas Carols



Teaching with a slide show

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But this shake-up made us even more aware of the possibility that we might also be asked to leave, so we should be ready for scrutiny and also have contingency plans of what to do and where to go, in case of such an eventuality. It caused us to earnestly seek the Lord for confirmation as to whether it is His highest will for us to continue on living and ministering here for the time being, which He confirmed! And we are more aware of the shortness of time and the urgency for us to do our best to reach more people while we can, and to do our best to train and disciple those who we are already ministering to. So, though the devil tries to scare us, we were driven to the Lord, and instead of retreating, we were renewed in our commitment to stay here, and by His grace we will advance and do more and better! "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." (2Co 2:14)

As we shared before, we need to upgrade our methods, not only spiritually but also in how we do things, and even our equipment, like using phones that are not monitored by the local government, and using tablet computers when we do Bible studies instead of printed copies. (A big, big thank-you to those who helped us with extra donations to get these things!)

So despite the tightening conditions, we still are able to continue with our Bible studies and meeting and befriending new people, and leading them to the Lord. We had a wonderful season of Christmas outreach, though the Lord showed us to do things in different way, with more meetings but with a smaller number of people in each one, and instead of doing all the "Christmas parties" in our home, we went to our friends' homes to have our meetings and through this we met new people that they brought, which perhaps otherwise we would have never met! God is so good! We had 7 different Christmas events this year, and 5 new friends found the Lord! Also, in these smaller meetings, we had more chance of more personal interaction, which brought us even closer to our friends.

We still need to continue to seek for ways to operate more securely and inconspicuously, and make plans for what to do if we had a knock on the door by the authorities during a Bible study, perhaps to switch over to an informal tea time scenario or whatever else might the Lord show us. We need to be more desperate and connected to the Lord in prayer, remembering that the country is passing through tremendous changes and by 2020 the tighter new rules and policies, as well as new technologies like the country-wide system of facial recognition, are scheduled to be fully in place.

We also need to continue to fight fear with faith and trust in the Lord, that if He has called us here, it is His job to keep us here, and to continue to keep moving prayerfully forward to reach and teach new people, and of course continuing to teach our current friends as well.

We are so very thankful for the financial help we receive from our friends and supporters. Visas here are always a bit unstable, and they can change without notice. Mike, being over 65 can't have a work visa, so we are very thankful that I, Polly, can study Chinese and have a student visa, and Mike can have a visa as my spouse. We used to have some private English students, but now we only have one student, and because of the greater scrutiny of foreigners here in general, (they asking foreigners to leave if they are found teaching without a work visa), we are so thankful for the support we have, thank God!



And many, many thanks to you, our precious friends, who help us with your sacrificial gifts!

God knows best and we are so happy to be able to spend nearly all of our time teaching the Bible and evangelizing, thanks to your help, PTL!

So we thank you again for making it possible for us to be here and reach these precious people



In the midst of all the changes in this country, still we felt that this year was the best year yet to find new friends who are eager to know the Lord. More than 35 souls entered the Kingdom this year and many of our friends old and new are growing in the Lord.

One of our long-time friends in another city enrolled and started classes in a very good distance-learning Bible College, as she is preparing for retirement next year, and wants to get ready to do more for God, praise God! She has a heart for God and others, and is a real natural leader. She has helped quite a few of her relatives to know the Lord, plus several of her work colleagues as well.

Another newer friend from where we live now, a college professor, is considering taking this same course as well. She told us that the Lord has changed her life so much, and she wants to reach especially the young people for the Lord, as she said for them to know the Lord is theirs and China's only hope.

We love China and the Chinese people and see great potential in the dynamic people that they are. Many of them have such open hearts that are ready for the Gospel.

We do need your prayers that God can keep the doors here open for the Gospel and that many more will enter into His Kingdom and become co-workers for the Lord.

God bless you, we can't thank you enough for all of your love, help and prayers! We love you and are praying for you too!

With much love and appreciation,

*Mike and Polly*

*God bless you, until next month, Love Jerry*

*A huge thank you.*

*God sees, and he will more than repay!*

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