



## GOD IN ANCIENT CHINA - Part 1

Of the world's population of 7.7 billion, almost one in every five is Chinese. That's 1.4 billion souls – each one precious to God. Many Chinese believers report that upon converting to Christianity they face accusation from friends and family that they have forsaken their heritage, culture and family roots. This accusation comes from an underlying belief system that if you're Chinese then you're a follower of Buddhism, Taoism or Confucianism and that Christianity is a western religion. But the truth is quite different and reveals the fascinating history of Chinese civilisation which stretches back to over 2000 years before the birth of Jesus.

**Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism all began shortly before 0BC, but there are very clear historical records about what the Chinese believed before that time.**

For the first 2000 years of their history Chinese people worshipped a singular supreme God – not a multitude of deities. He had sovereignty over the nations and governed all the elements of nature and His name was Shang Di. Later he was called Tian or Shang Tian with the meaning "bigger or higher than everything that is big".

The great Chinese historian Sima Qian (135-86BC) records that the first Emperor, over 2000 years before the birth of



Jesus, built an altar and sacrificed to Shang Di. The practice of sacrifice was performed at the edge of the city and was therefore called the Border Sacrifice. Five days before the ceremony all animals to be sacrificed had

to be inspected to ensure they were first born and without blemish. At the time of sacrifice the Emperor would wash his hands and face in a ceremonial basin, burn incense and sing songs of praise to Shang Di. One of the songs contained these words: "You have promised O God to hear us for You are our Father. Honourable

is Your great name. We praise Your abundant love". We would be happy singing those words in our Christian churches today.

# God in Ancient China - Part 1...

The animals to be sacrificed had to pass through the "Gates of Hell". Thus there was some understanding that the penalty for sin fell upon the animals instead of mankind. The Chinese always understood the importance of blood sacrifices. Only the Emperor could perform the Border Sacrifice, and one of his titles was Son of Heaven. So the Emperor was both king and priest before Shang Di the Most High God.

Like the Israelites, the Chinese would practice this system of sacrifices for hundreds of years without full understanding.

The corrupt emperor Qin Shi Huang (259-210BC) tired of these rituals, abandoned the worship of Shang Di, thus opening the way for Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism to gain a foothold that persists until the present day.

*(Part 2 in next month's report)*

## Nepal Lockdown Report

**In Nepal the Coronavirus is increasing due to an open border with India. Nepal has been in lockdown since early April 2020. The government being more conscious of the border situation has extended the lockdown period by another 20 days. We are doing what we can to help those families who can now neither go to buy nor grow food to survive.**

Though donation of finances has helped greatly, after 45 days of locked down many of the believers in the mountains that usually earn by day and eat in the evening have nothing in their homes. Some of them are surviving with river plants and jungle roots. Now I feel that I am somehow responsible for these our daughter churches to give some things. There is now far greater hunger and desperation after 100 days of lockdown on 1<sup>st</sup> July!

We are continually helping people by giving staple foods and PPE (masks, sanitiser, gloves). These are small tools but very helpful. We have helped 6 churches of 90 families with 25 kg rice bag, 2 litres of cooking oil and 2kg salt for each family in the mountains and for 190 families in nearby Pokhara. We have also helped 7 pastors families in Manhari and 16 other families. We are preparing to reach around 200 families by the end of this month.

We have a very special permission letter from the District Chief Officer to give just foods and medicines, soaps and sanitizers. We have a local pastors team near Pokhara that we can organize to reach and still keep the social distance law.

There are also cave pastors that still need to be reached. These cave pastors travels for days or more to get a sack of rice and some salts. There are 53 churches of the cave pastors and 700 families. We have 9 pastors, most who are graduates of CMTC, in Makawanpur, Chitawan and Hetauda to coordinate the help for the local pastors and churches to reach these districts.

I am very much on standby being connected by phone to these pastors and teams.

Please pray for believers and pastors in the cave areas Chepang people. We have reached them with some masks, washing Dettol, soaps and sanitizers to help them. But now everything has been shutdown for a while. We hope to be able to visit them as soon as possible because they need to be educated about cleaning, as they live in such big family groups.

Now our church services are all in home groups including one at the church.

The Emmanuel School has now been closed for two months. Students of CMTC and Deborah are in the training center as they could not go back to home because of how far they came for training and also because of no transport. So they are staying in their rooms two by two and studying, as they are not even allowed to come out for walking.

Thank you for all that you have done in these days. We account very much value to your giving hearts and open hands.

*Samuel Rai*

***"The Lord foils the plans of the nations; He thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for his inheritance." Psalm 33:10-12 (NIV)***

## CURRENT PROJECTS

### Printing Press for Nepal

Due to many hours of work, the printers are worn out, so we would like to invest in a new printing press to keep up with the growing demand. The total cost of the printing press is \$60,000 and we have committed to help with half that cost. Last year we were given some seed money towards this and received more this year.



**Total commitment: \$30,000**  
**Balance owing: \$5,313**

### Chinese Full Bibles

There is so much need in China for Bibles as the church continues to grow, even in the face of relentless persecution. Hence, we have extended this project to 6000 bibles at \$2.80. Thank you for your faithful support and prayers for our Chinese brethren.

**Total Commitment \$16,800**  
**Balance needed: \$5,034**



**CMTC Bible College**  
 Monthly commitment \$1600

**Nepal Radio Ministry**  
 Monthly commitment \$700

## NEW PROJECTS

### Audio Bibles for North Korea

We recently heard of this testimony and prayer request from a North Korean believer who received an Audio Bible saying that in the midst of the coronavirus, he was greatly comforted by the word of God. "I received hope of living while I was praying, the virus situation in Pyongyang and Sinuiju is more serious than the border area. I think we will all die from starvation or being infected. Both are deadly and cause despair, but after knowing Him, my fear has vanished. We truly thank you again."

We have a unique opportunity through Voice of the Martyrs to help with the provision of Audio Bibles to our brothers and sisters in Christ in North Korea. Our goal is \$5000 towards these.

*Used by Permission of Voice of the Martyrs*



## RESPONSE COUPON

JULY 2020

Name: .....  
 Address: .....  
 ..... Post Code: .....  
 Email: .....  
 Phone or Mobile: .....

**Pakistan (NEW)**  
 Urdu Bibles (URDBBL)                      \$ .....

**North Korea (NEW)**  
 Audio Bibles (NKAUDBBL)                \$.....

**Disaster Relief Fund (COVID19): (DRF)**    \$.....  
**China**  
 China Pastors (CHPSTR)                      \$.....  
 China Full Bibles (CHBBL)                    \$.....

**Nepal**  
 Radio Programme (NEPRAD)                \$.....  
 CMTC Bible College (NPBC)                \$.....  
 Printing Press (NEPPRS)                      \$.....

**Thailand**  
 Tribal Training Centre, Chiang Mai (TTC)    \$.....  
**Where Most Needed: (WMN)**                \$.....

**Please make payments to Mission Outreach Inc BNZ Account #: 02 0466 0034018 00 and specify project. N.B. If no project is specified, funds will be allocated to 'Where Most Needed'**

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## Choose this day whom you will Serve!



**A young woman named Rehema accompanied her father on a business trip from Mbarara district to Mbale district in Uganda earlier this year. They stayed at her paternal aunt's house in Nawuyo village where she started listening to Christian programmes aired on a FM radio station.**

Rehema then reached out to one of her father's business friends, who is Roman Catholic. Rehema explained to Morning Star News about how she converted to Christianity, "She explained to me about Christ and the way of salvation, and I got convicted and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. As they shared Christ with me, I was so overjoyed, and my father heard my joy and woke up, came from his bedroom furiously and started beating me up with blows, slaps and kicks." Rehema goes on to say that her Muslim father was angry and shouted at his 45-year-old sister who was sleeping in another room, stating that he was going to kill his daughter because she converted to Christianity.

The father began burning Rehema until she was shielded by her aunt, who carried her out of the house with the help of a Christian neighbour. Rehema was taken to a Regional Referral hospital where she received treatment for the serious burns all over her body. Rehema and the neighbour did not report the father's assault to the police for fear that he might try to kill her.

This is becoming more commonly reported in the small East African country. In Uganda, Muslims make up approximately 12 percent of the population, with high concentrations in the eastern part of the country. The constitution and other laws provide religious freedom, including the right to propagate one's faith and convert from one faith to another. Despite this, in Muslim majority communities, it can be a serious offense to convert or preach the Christian faith.

Please pray for Rehema to have a speedy recovery and for her faith to remain strong even in the face of such hatred and violence.

*(Modified from report published on 23/5/20)*



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Restricted Nations  
since 1975**

## 2020 TEAMS & EVENTS

### WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

We are delighted to report we will be meeting at our usual venue at 7:30pm on Monday nights again. These are a powerful time of prayer and supplication to the Lord on behalf of our suffering brethren and for NZ and other nations. If you wish to join us at the venue, please email us at: [info@nzmo.org](mailto:info@nzmo.org) for the venue address.



We will also have ZOOM available and will send invites to those on our list. You will need to install the ZOOM App to your device of choice to join us.

### TEAMS & EVENTS

Due to the global impact of Coronavirus, all travel plans for 2020 have been postponed until further notice.

#### CONTACT DETAILS:

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