

SINCE 1975

Mission Outreach



MONTHLY REPORT

nzmo.org

AUGUST 2023

‘Not Without Witness’

Acts 14:16-17 “In bygone generations God allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He did not leave himself without a witness.”

Historical accounts indicate that the earliest Chinese people knew about a global flood that wiped out almost all of mankind. For thousands of years the Chinese worshipped the one true creator God known as ‘Shangdi’ and amazingly there was no idolatry! Sadly, this purity was lost when Emperor Wu Yi who reigned from 1147-1112 BC, lead the people into spiritual darkness and idolatry.

Around the time of Jesus birth, there was a chief Chinese astronomer named Liu Xiang (see drawing) who was also a high-ranking official in the imperial court in Xi’an, who mysteriously disappeared for over two years, after he and his team discovered a unique star which they called the ‘King Star’.



At that time, a journey along the Silk Road from Shaanxi to Judea would have taken one to two years and as a high ranking official, he would have most likely had the best horses and camels and numerous soldiers for protection.

This supports the belief that the Chinese were represented among the Magi who travelled to Bethlehem, which a Nestorian church leader also claimed: “the Magi returning from Bethlehem brought the first news of the Saviour to China.” Matthew 2:3 records that King Herod and all Jerusalem were disturbed when they heard of the Magi visiting the city. It is unlikely the whole city would be concerned if it was just three men as merchants often visited the city. However, a large group would have caught everyone’s attention especially ones from so far away like China.

Many Chinese Christians are thrilled to think that their race may have been among the first worshippers of Jesus Christ!

The remarkable chain of events did not stop there as 13 months after the ‘King Star’ appeared, a special comet appeared in the sky over China for 70 days during the time that may correlate with Jesus birth in Jerusalem. Thirty-three years later, a total eclipse is detailed in Chinese history around the same time that Jesus died and darkness fell upon the land for three hours.

In this issue

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- Page 1: ‘Not Without Witness’
- Page 2: ‘Not Without Witness’...
- Page 3: Projects in Focus
- Page 4: Prayer Calendar

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'Not Without Witness...'



According to the Chinese classic, 'History of the Latter Han Dynasty' it is recorded: 'in the summer, fourth month of the year ... the sun and moon were eclipsed. The sins of all people are now on one man. The emperor now proclaims pardon to all under heaven.' Another note in the imperial records of the time simply stated: 'the Man from Heaven died.'

How the Chinese thousands of miles away knew that the sins of all people had fallen upon one man defies human comprehension and explanations! The best way to understand such things may be to simply accept that **God 'did not leave Himself without witness.'**

God's Witness in Chinese Writing

The origins of Chinese characters dates back thousands of years with each word or character made up of smaller pictographs or radicals that have individual meaning. In recent decades, scholars have examined many of the characters and found uncanny parallels with events recorded in the bible.

Could it be that God, in His infinite wisdom, chose to preserve a testimony of His great acts within the very structure of the Chinese language?

For example, the character '**to create**' consists of several components including dust, mud, speech and walking and the radical for speech consists of characters for life and mouth. These are so similar to the account of creation in *Genesis 2:7* 'Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.'

The Chinese characters for Devil include Man, Garden or field and secret or private. These indicate a strong connection to the biblical account of Adam and Eve in the garden and privately or secretly being tempted.

Boat: The flood that wiped out all of humanity except eight people would likely have been fresh in the minds of the earliest Chinese and flood accounts persist among many of China's ethnic groups. The full Chinese character for boat consisted of three components with characters for vessel, eight and mouth which is also used to signify people. *2Peter 2:5* "and He did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness and seven others."

Righteousness: God delivered the Israelites from Egypt and from the angel of death by commanding them to sacrifice a lamb and apply the blood to the doorposts of their homes. (*Exodus 12:1-3*). Then in the wilderness of Sinai, He gave them instructions for sacrificing animal to atone for sin (*Lev 16:15-16*). This concept appears to have come into the Chinese language as the traditional character for 'righteousness' consists of four components – sheep, I or me, hand and spear. According to this ancient concept, righteousness is obtained by a person being covered by a sheep (or lamb) that has been slain by their own hand.

Although much of Chinese history remains a mystery, our creator God 'did not leave himself without a witness' among this nation, as it's history also reveals how they interacted with God which eventually lead to the greatest revival in Christian history over the course of the last 50 years. Hallelujah, Our God Reigns!

You can buy a copy of 'Shaanxi: The Cradle of Chinese Civilization' from: <https://www.asiaharvest.org/Shaanxi-a-new-book-by-paul-hattaway>

Please pray for NZ as we see Chinese history repeating itself in our own precious nation today where New Zealand has turned from the light of God to darkness and idolatry.

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ... For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, ... which is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor.3:6, 9-10a, 11b (NIV)

PEARL 22

Myanmar Bibles

We are very excited to be able to add this new Pearl 22 Project of bibles for Myanmar. We have heard many are coming to Jesus in this nation and there is a great need for bibles to help grow the new believers. Price per bible is \$4.50, and our initial goal is for 40,000 bibles.

Pearl 22 Project Goal: 40,000 Balance: 36,528

Uganda Bibles

The need for Bibles in Uganda is greater than ever and bring encouragement, give instruction, direction and transformation for individuals, couples, families and communities. What an honour to be able to meet this need. Price per bible is currently \$8.00.



Pearl 22 Project Goal: 25,000 Balance: 21,675

Chinese Bibles

Project Pearl in 1981 was significant for Eddie and the many others who helped with this epic delivery of Chinese bibles. Despite the Communist Party significantly reducing the quota of printed Bibles and closing down Bible websites and apps, we believe God will make a way where there is no way. Price per bible is \$4.50.



Pearl 22 Project Goal: 100,000 Balance: 86,900

India Bibles: Telugu & Hindi

The church in this nation is growing rapidly, as fear and persecution have opened the door for the Lord's people to reach out and share the gospel of Jesus. The cost per bible is \$3.50.

Pearl 22 Project Goal: 50,000 Balance: 43,630

Nepal NT with Questions & Answers

We completed our first promotion of this New Testament in June this year, but the need continues as Ps Samuel plans for crusades, Body Builders for Christ (BBC) discipleship training and new believers. Hence, we have reinstated this Pearl 22 Bible Project. Our new goal is 15,000 Balance: 14,112



OTHER PROJECTS:

Emmanuel School Student Sponsorship, Nepal

Sponsorship has begun with 9 students now sponsored! Thank you so much to those who have stepped up to make a difference to families and communities!



Since 2013 Emmanuel School in Pokhara gives children of poor lower caste families in Pokhara an opportunity to receive an education. Many suffer not only from poverty but discrimination from society on a daily basis. Sponsoring a student in Emmanuel School will make a difference to them, their family and their community. Monthly cost to sponsor one student is \$60. For more information email: wendy@nzmo.org

Go or Give so someone else can go

We are planning trips for 2024 to encourage, impart, bless and empower our Brethren overseas. Please consider joining us next year. For more information contact Neil via email: neil@nzmo.org or if you are unable to go, perhaps consider giving so someone else can go.

RESPONSE COUPON

AUGUST 2023

Name:

Address:

.....Post Code:.....

Email:

Phone or Mobile:

Pearl 22:

Myanmar Bibles NEW (MYPRL22) \$.....

Chinese Bibles (CHPRL22) \$.....

Uganda Bibles (UGPRL22) \$.....

India Bibles (INDPRL22) \$.....

Nepal NT with Questions & Answers (NTQA) \$.....

Pearl 22 Where Most Needed (PRL22WMN) \$.....

Nepal Radio Programme (NEPRAD) \$.....

Nepal CMTC Bible College (NPBC) \$.....

Nepal Student Sponsorship (STUDSPON) \$.....

Tibetan Leaders Support (TIBLDRAH) \$.....

China Pastors (CHPSTR) \$.....

'To Catch the Wind' Book (EDBOOK) \$.....

Gift for someone to Go (GIVE2GO) \$.....

Where Most Needed: (WMN) \$.....

Payments can be made from our website at: nzmo.org or via online banking to our BNZ bank Account number: 02 0466 0034018 00. Please specify your preferred project or funds will be allocated to 'Where Most Needed'.

PEARL 22

1 Pray for breakthrough to many nations where there are currently restrictions. Pray for the impossible to be made possible. Pray for strategies for the gospel such as medical clinics and gospel radio and other undercover strategies for Bible distribution. Pray for miracles of restoration from sickness, death and poverty.

2 As the Word of God goes out into the nations, pray its power would bring life to many, especially in nations ravaged by war. Breathe on project Pearl 22 for its fulfilment and beyond. Ask God to do a work that is beyond man.

INDIA

3 Give praise to God for the legacy of the gospel in this nation. Pray that the stories of God's faithfulness to ordinary people would be told and remembered as a testimony and as the spirit of prophecy to see the wells of salvation open up like this again.

4 Pray for continued favour, blessing, wisdom and protection for Pastor E as she carries on the work. Pray for a new level of grace and intimacy with Jesus that will have even greater impact.

5&6 Release grace and peace on Pastor E's family in New Zealand.

GLOBAL

7 As the spiritual realm stirs and manifests on the earth with political turmoil, praise our unstoppable God who is advancing His Kingdom and manifesting with righteousness. Agree for the subduing of the enemy's plans.

8 Where there are elections, pray that whoever is elected would be a man or woman of peace and consider the rights of people to worship God.

NEPAL

9 Pray for many who have lost property and loved ones to recent flooding and landslides. Pray that displaced people would get the help they need, including finding the Saviour. Bless the efforts of aid teams showing God's love. Pray that people may trust in Jesus who puts things back together.

10 Pray for Samuel and Mangali for a beautiful refreshment in the Lord, and a renewed passion and zeal with the strong empowerment of Holy Spirit.

11 Pray for the families of 9 students of Emmanuel school that are now sponsored. Pray that this small help would encourage and minister hope to them. Pray that more families can receive this blessing.

UGANDA

12&13 Continue to uphold Pastor John and Ruth who often face opposition. Declare the blood of Jesus over them and break the power of the enemy. Rejoice that the enemy feels threatened - the Kingdom of God is taking ground.

14 Pray for protection on the church of Uganda, that it grow in knowledge of truth to keep away false teaching. Pray for more people to get a Bible and be established in its truth.

15 Pray for the dream of a radio station for Matuga to become a reality, to spread the gospel and the Word across the airwaves.

SUDAN

16 Pray a great Holy Spirit fire sweep across Sudan. Pray that in despair, people would call out to the great living God, turning their hearts to Him. Pray for supernatural visitations in dreams and visions of Jesus. Herald the time for peace and prosperity through surrender to the Lord. Declare an end to bitterness and the turning of a new page for this nation. Raise a testimony of what God has done.

ISRAEL

17 Pray the will of God be done amongst the Jewish people. Pray God defend His people, the apple of His eye. Pray they are enabled to lift their eyes and see their Messiah has come. Ask that before the final time there would come such a flood of joy in truly knowing their Messiah.

PERSECUTED CHURCH

18 Pray that the eyes of the saints be lifted up in visions and revelations of the Lord. Pray the train of His robe fill the temple of His saints, and that His Word would quicken to them.

19&20 Ask God to raise up more Christians to be champions of the Word in communist and Muslim nations. Pray for grace, the gift of faith and passionate love for the Lord to see His Kingdom come to earth.

21 Pray terrorists are brought to their knees all around the world with 'Damascus Road' encounters with Jesus.

IRAN

22 Praise God for a government spy posing as a new Christian coming under conviction to then genuinely repent and follow Jesus. Pray for continued discernment of God's people to follow the promptings of Holy Spirit. Pray for conviction to come on all who seek to persecute Christ.

MYANMAR

23 Pray for grace on these believers to rejoice in suffering, and know the fruit of perseverance and hope. Pray for love, joy and peace around their homes. Ask God to strengthen and unite the Body through this.

24 Pray that Myanmar would know the power of God. Pray that signs and wonders would confirm the preaching of the Word.

UKRAINE

25 Praise God for how He is moving in Ukraine, through the food packages, New Testaments and encounters with Him, setting what was luke-warm on fire. Praise God for the good amidst the suffering. Release a fresh blessing over the people. Pray that God would hear the cry of many grieving, and they would turn to Him.

26&27 Pray missiles would not hit mark and that evil intent would come to nothing. Pray that what was meant for harm would be turned for God's purposes. Pray that people would sleep safely in their beds, having encounters with their Heavenly Father. Pray for an end to aggression in Jesus' name, and for peace.

28 Prophecy the expansion of the church, unsuppressed by war, and faithful to the Word.

GLOBAL CHURCH

29 As walls of division are broken down, pray for the church to rise strong in the Lord in unity, and complete His purposes on the earth.

USA

30 Pray for divine appointments for Warren where key people will repent before their Lord and have a domino effect on the nation.

NEW ZEALAND

31 Speak blessing over MO supporters & families, businesses & homes. Pray they prosper in all areas - relationships, family, church, and work.



Weekly Prayer Meeting:

Join us on Monday nights to pray for the nations at 'The Sanctuary' 159 Durham St, Tauranga at 7:30pm or via ZOOM. Email: alan@nzmo.org for an invite.

Legacy Giving:

A bequest to Mission Outreach in your will is a way to leave a lasting impact of eternal value - contact wendy@nzmo.org for more information.