



China Connection Narrates

CHINA CHRONICLES

Vol. XX, No. 1, Winter 2010 458 S. Pasadena Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105 TEL (626) 793-3737 FAX (626) 793-3362



20 YEARS IN CHINA: SEEING THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE!

By Kathy Call, Founder/Director

*Strangely, I find it difficult to talk about what China Connection has done in China. That's because I know – without a shadow of any doubt – that it is God who works through us. At the same time, I also need to communicate to you what we, **together**, have made possible in China, through the grace of God. So, bear with me, as I seek to describe "God with us" in China for these 20 years. Now . . . to the story of "Immanuel" in China.*

In the photo above, you've already met Dr. Zhang and his family. He's a top government health leader who is in charge of all Leprosy Villages in Jiangsu Province. It is he who recently unlocked for me some important ways in which we have already made a difference in China.

1. Leprosy Villages: Dr. Zhang always comes with us to visit these ugly, hidden places. A marvelous 40-year-old doctor, he's been in charge of all leprosy work in large Jiangsu Province for 20 years. Amity, our China-partner, works with him and introduced us.

I teasingly call Zhang "The Italian" because he's so passionate about all he does -- and because he always talks with his hands whizzing in all directions!

When we started working in Jiangsu, I saw that their 39 "Leprosy Villages" were in desperate shape. I was so touched with the people's needs that we immediately sponsored the rebuilding of the living quarters in the

Leprosy Village near Huaiyin/Huai'an.

We provided a "Helper-Nurse" for the 28 leprosy victims there. We rebuilt the kitchen and added two tiled showers and "indoor toilets." We also helped Dr. Zhang train hundreds of doctors to diagnose and treat new leprosy patients in their villages. Meanwhile, Huai'an Hospital agreed to help treat leprosy victims – a brave and helpful step forward for them, and for us!

Meanwhile, we began visiting other leprosy compounds where many have been confined for 40 years, even after the active bacillus has been treated. We sponsored cataract surgeries to allow leprosy patients to see again . . . and surgeries to allow them to walk again in various ways, even with prostheses.

And then a couple of years ago -- all of a sudden -- the government decided to help the village in Chuzhou after

Please turn to page 2

Continued from page 1

one of our donors helpfully built an important cement roadway there to allow village personnel access to food markets even in the flood season. Those in wheel chairs use this roadway with great joy as they now have a place to exercise. They're like little kids in their enormous excitement.

We've visited several Leprosy Villages by now. There was one Village where I told officials that I didn't want to help "because it is presently so hopeless."

Well, not many months later, the government began to help them, too.

Now, remember that Dr. Zhang has worked with these Leprosy Villages here for **20 years**, and China Connection has spent several of our 20 years here.

In this time, Dr. Zhang and I have become great friends. He has even cooked dinner for me (all my favorite foods) at his home. His wife, also a doctor, works with STD diseases for the Jiangsu Provincial Center for Disease Control. They have an adorable six-year-old son called "Joe."

As we were parting ways in October, Dr. Zhang took me aside and said to me with some emotion:

"Chairman Mao told us that, 'A single spark can ignite a prairie fire.'

"Kathy, **YOU** are that spark! Sometimes it takes **someone from the outside** to come and get the government's attention!"

In surprise I responded: "No, **YOU** are that spark; I just blow a little on the flames you create!"

Do you hear the influence that China Connection is having?

2. Deep Water Wells: I can't imagine how many deep water well systems we have brought to poor rural villages in northern Jiangsu. Our first was in 1991. By working

Please turn to page 3



“within the system,” China Connection can provide villagers their first **clean** water, their first clean **running** water, for **less than \$2 per person**. What a bargain to meet their greatest physical need!

Villagers receiving their first clean water are incredibly grateful! My friends in Huai’an County tell me that, by now, everybody up here knows and respects Kathy Call and China Connection, so they always televise our “Love Your Neighbor” visits.

Well, guess what? We’ve now worked ourselves out of a job. There are only a couple of small water well projects remaining up here. And again, guess what? China’s **government** has now decided to put in the deep water wells for the few remaining villagers.

Do you hear the influence that China Connection is having?

And there’s another surprise!

3. Book of Sermons: Believe it or not, even the China-published book of my first 20 China-sermons is now being used as a **textbook** in courses at the national seminary of China in Nanjing. I hear that it is proving especially helpful in teaching their students **how** to read the Bible.

Already five years of students at Nanjing Seminary have received these books. Jiangsu Bible School students are now receiving them, as are their “pastors-in-training” counterparts at the Henan Bible School.

As a result of this book, one New Testament Professor at Nanjing Seminary tells me he has already changed his preaching style, and his students are excited about a new way of preaching that allows the Scripture to come alive for their audiences.

Now, surprisingly, a second book of 22 more sermons is being translated for possible publication. How strange that our little sermons are somehow helping to prepare future preachers for the Church of China!

Do you see again the influence that China Connection is having in China?

To all of this, we respond with extreme gratitude to **God** who has done the impossible in each of these ways! None of these could ever have happened without **God and his hovering influence!** **Of this we are very certain.**

We wanted to share with you these startling developments for your encouragement. Obviously, you and your prayers and your donations have made -- and are making -- an enormous difference in China!

Soli Dei Gloria!



“Fourth Church” -- God’s Surprise!

I’ve become accustomed to preaching two or three times each year at the Huaiyin/Huai’an Church (photo above) where 4,000 attentive believers lean forward to catch every word from my lips, or rather, from my able translator’s lips.

Rev. Xinyi An of the Jiangsu CCC/TSPM had again carefully arranged for permission for this foreigner (me) to preach here, or so I thought!

I prepared a sermon for them, which turned out to be more for **me!** And herein lies the surprise.

When I got to China, I learned that I would not be preaching in my favorite church. That Sunday had been “taken” by a visiting new group. A group from the USA! A group whose church is about 15 miles from China Connection here in California!

So, that church’s pastor would be preaching at “my” church. His assistant pastor would be preaching in church two. And since pastor An -- a fine and much-beloved pastor -- was traveling with this group, he would also be preaching in the third church in the area.

“What about **me?**” I mused, not too righteously.

“You will be preaching somewhere else!”

Now, I **love** to preach anywhere. But I especially love a couple of dear churches where we have good rapport with the worshipers. Huai’an is one of them. There, I can build on what we’ve already experienced together. Alas, alas, alas!

I eventually reached the point where I prayed, “Lord, I can’t preach tomorrow while I’m ‘frustrated.’ Please help me!” And instantly, the “me, myself, and I” left me. Also instantly, I recalled the lovely sermon I was to preach: “God’s Steadfast Love Endures Forever.” I really got the point! How good it is to confess our sins! (Of course, how much better it would have been not to have needed to

Please turn to page 4

confess such a sin!)

“Okay, Lord,” I fervently prayed, “Let’s think about how to meet a new congregation.” I prepared!

When I arrived at “Fourth Church” (as I forever will call it), I chuckled with enormous surprise.

As you see by the photo, Fourth Church is huge! It was packed with people – 2,000 of them on the main floor and three-sided balcony. I instantly felt at home. And I continued to feel this. In fact, Fourth Church is a sister church to the 4,100 seat church where I usually preach. So, it didn’t surprise me too much when they responded in much the same way. What dear people they were!

Ms. Zhang, pastor of Huai’an church, came along to officiate because, as yet, Fourth Church does not have a pastor of their own. It’s now under lay leadership.

I had suggested that they read Psalm 136 responsively, with the pastor reading the first part of each verse and the

congregation reading the last part of which is always: “For his steadfast love endures forever!” By now, even I was learning this.

Ms. Zhang later said in wonderment: “Did you hear how the refrain kept on getting louder and louder?” I preached well, despite my earlier foibles. God does come to our rescue, mercifully.

As I left, worshiper after worshiper approached me, saying, “Oh, may God bless you!” And they kindly patted me on the arms. I was deeply touched.

Next time, I’ll be glad to preach at “Fifth Church,” if there is one.

But just imagine **four** great, large churches in Huaiyin / Huai’an! And there may be many more that I don’t know about. In fact, as we travel in northern Jiangsu, we keep running into more and more churches. The only reason I’d be willing to share my uncharacteristic struggle here is simply to underline the fact that Christianity is surely growing . . . and taking root here. (Fortunately, it’s taking better root in me, too!)



I want to share this letter with you!

Dear Kathy,

Warmest greetings from Nanjing, China!

I have just returned from Nanyang City, **Henan Province**. I was invited by Nanyang Christian Council to teach for four days in their Bible Training Center in Nanyang, a county city in Henan province.

Today there are more than 500,000 Christians in the registered churches in the city, and there are about the same number in the Christians in the unregistered churches in the city. Yet there are only six pastors who are working here (three of whom are older than age 70). So, the lack the educated ministers here is their greatest challenge right now because many heresies threaten the churches.

Because of this emergency, the Christian Council of Nanyang has set up a Bible Training Center. Its purpose is to train lay people to serve these churches. In 2006, the city Christian Council rented an old factory as a campus for this Training Center.

Believers here are mostly farmers. So, the students of the Training Center are largely farmers too. Students each spend 200 yuan (about US\$30 each **month**) to spend a year studying the Bible and basic theology. Local churches can offer them little financial support, and the farmer-students themselves are also too poor. Thus, this crucial Training Center struggles to support its students.

Already some 250 students have graduated from the Training Center. They are now the “backbone” of the churches here in Nanyang.

I was so moved by the loving spirit of the students. Despite the economic situation, the students are so eager to learn! Right now, more than 90 students are studying here. During the time I was teaching there, many lay-persons also came to attend the class.

I brought **100 copies of your sermons collection** as my teaching textbook! (I am teaching them **how** to read the Gospel!) But 100 copies were not enough because of the extra attendees.

I have included some pictures showing you student life here. Please pray for the Training Center! I really hope you may soon visit this city of one million Christians.

Thanks again for your love to the churches in China!

Ruomin LIU
Nanjing Union Theological Seminary
Associate Professor of New Testament, Systematic Theology

At yearend we sent \$10,000 in scholarships!

CHINA'S CHURCH MASTERS INTERNET

Amity News Service, Janice Wickeri

With China's Internet now at 300 million users, China's Church grabs this opportunity to make available vital resources for Christian living.

For example, the China Christian Council offers an extensive website (www.ccctspm.org) with helpful resources for all believers:

- Spreading China's church news
- Viewing basic Church documents
- Looking up Scriptural references
- Listening to sacred music
- Hearing sermons
- Introducing the Christian faith
- Offering sample prayers
- Reading devotional materials

The CCC website also offers readers an online bookstore for ordering the following:

- Bibles in various versions
- Bible Commentaries
- Hymnals
- Devotional books
- Reference books
- DVDs of several titles
- Children's DVD's and books
- Music CDs

"Window" web users can even download the Bible in several versions -- the commonly used old 1919 version, and Today's Chinese version. In English: the Good News Bible and the NRSC. A recent edition of the Chinese Bible includes a CD-ROM. Even a "Talking Bible" is available.

CHINA CONNECTION

458 S. Pasadena Avenue - Pasadena, CA 91105 - (626) 793-3737

www.chinaconnection.org

kathycall@chinaconnection.org

mrussell@chinaconnection.org

All checks should be made out to "China Connection" for a U. S. tax deductible receipt. We reserve the right to use 5% of designated funds to maintain our viability as a service organization. 2008 Audit available.

China Connection Board of Directors: Dr. Gilbert Ashor; Ms. Kathy Call (Founder/Director); Mr. Merlin W. Call; Mrs. Elizabeth R. Hulme; Mrs. Sarah (Sally) V. Morrison; Dr. William Pannell; Rev. Frank Wang.

China Connection Consultant: Dr. Philip Wickeri, former Overseas Director of the Amity Foundation.

China Connection Board of Reference: Dr. G. Thompson Brown; Dr. Gary W. Demarest; Dr. Arthur F. Glasser; Dr. Vernon Grounds; Dr. Samuel H. Moffett; Dr. David K. Winter.



China Connection News Exchange

Taken from China's English paper, CHINA TODAY.

Girl, 17, with Disabled Parents Inspires a Movement: A 17-year-old high school girl rides her [bi]cycle to school and back, 30 km each way, everyday to prepare lunch for her paralyzed mother and ill father in Zibo, Shandong Province.

Hou Yu's father was diagnosed with the last stage of lung cancer. Her mother has been paralyzed for nearly two decades since a work-place accident.

Moved by Hou's dedication toward her ill parents, her teachers have started collecting money from other students so that her family can make ends meet during this tough phase of life.

College Student Detained Helping a Drunk: A college student was detained on suspicion of hurting a drunk man when all he tried to do was help him up from a street in Chongqing.

An eyewitness told police that a middle-aged man, who had clearly had too many drinks, fell down in the street. When a college student tried to help him up, the intoxicated man screamed that the student had pushed him.

Police initially arrested the student but then released him after investigations confirmed he was only trying to help.

63-year old Man Shows Meaning of Family: A 63-year old man in Guandong Province has been taking care of his paralyzed wife and blind mother for decades. Every day Yao Yusheng cooks for his 96-year-old mother who lost her vision three decades ago, and for his 60-year-old wife who suffers from polio.

He said: "Whatever their condition might be, they're **family**. **Family** means: no one gets left behind!"

Farmer Repays Friend after 50 Years: A man In Shengzhou, Zhejiang Province, sent an old friend 3,000 yuan [\$441] as a token of thanks for once lending him 30 yuan some 50 years ago.

Zheng Zhangrui, 79, a farmer, borrowed the money from Yu Yutu, now 76, then a primary school teacher in 1959. Due to financial troubles, Zheng did not contact Yu till last week when he sent the latter a letter along with the hefty sum.

In his letter to Yu, Zheng said wryly: "Prices have gone up a great deal in the past 50 years!"

Goodness "Happens" Everywhere!