

OPERATION CHINA

PRAYER WARRIOR REPORT

CHINA DISCOVERY TOUR REPORT
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JULY 29, 2002
BEIJING, KUNMING, AND XIAN

THE REPORT

This newsletter will attempt to describe the results of the recent trip to China by my team. We prepared many weeks for this experience. Part of our preparation was to enlist at least 20 prayer warriors who would daily pray for us. Rachel and I appreciate each one of you and you can be assured that your prayers were answered.

In planning this trip I was fortunate to be able to work with Chad and Leslie Segraves. Chad and Leslie have been serving in China for the last year as English teachers at a university in Xian. They served as our hosts, teachers, travel guides, and link to the Chinese people. Without their assistance

this trip would not have been possible.

As I attempt to report to you on this trip please be aware of several things. I cannot use real names for the Chinese people. Security was one of our greatest concerns on the trip and the security of the Chinese believers is very fragile. The government is actively seeking to imprison those who are overt about their Christianity. I will describe this in more detail later.

Our purpose in going to China was four-fold. 1) To intensely pray for the breaking of the strongholds and barriers to the gospel in China by prayerwalking. These strongholds take various forms from demon-based

religions to emperor worship. 2) To encourage the Chinese believers. 3) To cultivate relationships with unbelievers and introduce them to the gospel. 4) To study and pray for the numerous people groups, provinces, and diverse culture of China all of which make the gospel very difficult to spread.

Our work began with a trip to The Great Wall, about one hour by bus ride from Beijing. We spent the day studying this cultural icon and its significance to the Chinese people. It was built as a geographical shelter but it has become a spiritual road block. The Great Wall symbolizes the isolation of 99% of the Chinese people from the Gospel and the

“THE GREAT WALL SYMBOLIZES ISOLATION.....”

archaic customs that continue to bind the people to the past. As we walked along the wall we prayed that this stronghold would be pierced by the gospel. We then shared in communion and the singing of hymns, much to the curiosity of the hundreds of

tourists. We were fortunate to share this experience with six Chinese believers from Xian and Beijing who joined our group for our trip to the Great Wall. They were greatly encouraged by our fellowship. That evening we spent two hours studying

numerous provinces and people groups from the books [Operation China](#) and [Operation World](#). We learned what people groups made up the population of each province, how many believers exists in each people group and the struggles of the gospel.

READ ABOUT. . .

- *Prayerwalking around a city wall in Xian*
- *Communion and hymn singing on The Great Wall*
- *Encountering demonic spirits in a Buddhist temple*
- *Burning sensitive documents on an apartment building roof*
- *Jogging in Beijing*
- *Emperor Worship*
- *Encouraging Chinese believers*
- *Cultivating relationships with unbelievers*
- *Intense study and prayer times nightly*
- *Cultural experiences we'll never forget*
- *Intense spiritual warfare*
- *Speaking in code to avoid suspicion in public*
- *Shredding documents in the airport*
- *Standing in line with 100,000 to see Mao's body*
- *Psalm 96: "Let the nations hear and worship God"*

“THE BIBLE IS NOT TRANSLATED.....”

Most of us did not realize that China consists of over 200 people groups, each with their own identity, customs, and language. In most cases, the Bible is not translated in their language and there exists no active effort to do so or reach the people for Christ. If any believers have existed they have most likely been murdered, imprisoned, or persecuted for their beliefs.

As many of you know, my recreational hobby is running. On day

two, I got up very early and took a 4 mile run through the streets of Beijing. It was an incredible experience of sight, sound, smell, and dangerous traffic. I saw some incredible scenes in the backstreet neighborhoods and was able to pray for the people as I passed them by. I learned many things about the daily life of the average Beijing citizen and saw things not visible on the main thoroughfares. In case you were wondering, it was very safe and extremely interesting. I

received many looks of curiosity.

On day two we journeyed to downtown Beijing to Tiananmen Square, the largest public square in the world. This was an awesome experience as there were several hundred thousand people on the square this day. Obviously, the opportunity to pray for them was special, and we did so. Mao's tomb is located on the north end of the square and we stood in line for one hour to spend fifteen



Communion and hymn singing on The Great Wall

“THE LINE WAS A MILE LONG.....”

seconds walking past his dead corpse. The line was approximately one mile long, eight abreast. The Chinese people worship Mao and many laid flowers on at his casket. Guards were steadily removing bins full of flowers the people brought. Many were even crying at the experience. We realized what a terrible stronghold this emperor worship is for the people. We desperately

wanted to tell them that the One we worship has risen from the dead. We toured the Great Hall Of The People and the Forbidden City. Each place represented a different barrier to the gospel. Again that evening we continued an intense study and prayer time for different provinces and people groups.

Day 3 was Sunday and we went to a TSPM

church for worship. The TSPM church is the official “state” church. Its pastors are trained in the “state seminary” and are paid by the state to “preach”. The TSPM church is an attempt to show the world that the communist state is “tolerant” to religion and allows “religious freedom”. The service was very traditional with hymns, a choir, and a sermon. We were given

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KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN ?

headphones to listen to the English interpretation. Regrettably, the message was very shallow and pointless. However, the church was overflowing with people, and there was even an overflow area where worshippers watched on closed circuit TV. We are told that many sincere believers attend these churches and do have genuine worship. However, the

atmosphere is very controlled. After church we ate a quick meal at Kentucky Fried Chicken, the most prolific American food chain in China, and sped to the airport for our four hour flight to Kunming.

After arriving in Kunming, checking into our hotel, and eating dinner, we gathered again for an intense study and prayer time.

However, the first few minutes of our time was spent discussing security. We were told not to talk on the elevators and in public places. We even had to turn on the television in the hotel room to create alternate “noise” while we studied and prayed. This was somewhat scary. An American missionary named “Peter” spoke to our group and he brought



Sunday lunch at KFC

“WE COULDN'T TALK ON ELEVATORS.....”

with him a Chinese friend named “Joshua”. “Peter” told of his work among the people groups and we in- tently listened as he told of persecution and arrests of many of the believers in this area. Then, “Joshua” shared a story that shook us all. “Joshua” and his wife had come to visit “Peter” on holi- day several days ago. “Joshua” told us the story of his HC (house church). HC’s are the underground church in China where the actual gospel is preached and

souls are won to Christ. It is the movement that is spawn- ing 20,000 converts every day to Christ. However, HC’s are very dangerous places, always subject to raids and arrests. Three days after “Joshua” left on holi- day, his HC was raided. Many of the leaders were arrested and all of their equipment, materials, and resources were confiscated and destroyed. “Joshua” cried many tears as he told us of the loss of friends and family. He was distraught

over the destruction of his duplicating equipment, Bible study tapes and materials, and resources. After we laid hands on him and prayed for him, his family, his safety, and the HC, he thanked us for the encouragement. He said that he has never felt so alone in his life. He does not know what he will find when he returns. Please pray for Joshua, his safety, and bold- ness to continue his HC.

The next day, we drove just outside of Kun- ming (population, 6 mil-



These twins were happy to have their picture made in Beijing

“CHURCH WAS RAIDED AND LEADERSHIP ARRESTED”

lion), to a minority park. This park was an attempt by the government to display the numerous people groups in this province, their cus- toms, and lifestyle. While in the park, we studied from our books the spiritual needs of each group and then prayerwalked through their displays and mini-villages. The province in which Kun- ming is located is the most diverse of any in China with

more people groups in resi- dence than any other. Our prayerwalking experience lasted all day. As we con- cluded with the last people group we were shocked to hear a young Chinese man with a guitar begin to play and sing hymns. It was obvi- ous that he was a believer and was very bold to sing and play these songs. All the tourist in the village who were believers joined us as

we sat and shared in this wonderful impromptu wor- ship, albeit prohibited by the government. Again that evening, we continued our intense study and prayer time for the people of China.

As I reflected on the trip to this point there were several insights that were prominent: 1) The entire country is under spiri- tual bondage 2) There is incredible spiritual warfare

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“COUNTRY IS UNDER SPIRITUAL BONDAGE.....”

going on all around 3) Em- peror worship is prominent (worshipping the dead). 4) Darwinism (evolution) and atheism are rampant. 5) Discipleship is a way of life for the Chinese church and new Christians. 6) Our greatest assistance to the Chinese church is through prayer and spiritual support, combating the very evil they face.

The next morning was set aside to visit an an- cient Buddhist temple. This temple is very prominent and was full of worshippers. The haze of burning incense was in the air. We watched as old women bowed and kissed the Buddha. We saw them rub the Buddha with their hands and then rub their body parts seeking to be “healed” of various physi-

cal ailments. Our purpose was to prayerwalk through and around the temple seek- ing to break the stronghold of this evil religion. The temple was full of paintings of demonic beings trampling on naked people. This was very representative of the demonic force of Buddhism and evil it represents. We felt the presence of demonic beings and were warned to

“WE WERE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE

not enter the temple without a prayer partner. Spiritual warfare was fierce, but our group persevered in praying through this experience.

Kunming was a wonderful city, tropical, green and lush. We enjoyed the cool temperatures, foliage, and beautiful gardens. However, it was time to once again get on the airplane and fly several hours to Xian, in central China.

After checking into our hotel we boarded taxis to a children's home where

children of state prisoners are housed. This was a heart rending experience as we interfaced with children who have only have each other. We were especially touched by a five year old girl whose father killed her mother and then himself died in prison. The little girl was practically blind from malnourishment during pregnancy. However, she was healthy, happy, and loved in this environment. She freely gave us hugs and sang us a song. Later the whole group of

children sang for us including a surprise Chinese version of “Jesus Loves the Little Children”. We then sang it back to them in English. We were all very touched.

Xian is the ancient capital of the earliest dynasties. It is a modern, yet ancient city with an ancient wall that separates the old city from the new. While there we visited the Terracotta Soldier park where, in 1974, this vast historical treasure was discovered in a farmer's field by a well dig-



The orphanage at Xian. Children's parents are in prison.

“IT REPRESENTED THE VOID OF CHRIST....”

ger. In 600 AD the emperor Xin (Chin), for whom the country is named, manipulated the construction of over 6,000 full-size clay warriors, horses, chariots, and weapons and had them buried around his tomb. The purpose was to give him protection in the afterlife due to his reign of terror while he was alive. Although this vast treasure was impressive, it represented

the void of Christ in the country and the lack of freedom in Christ. Thousands of Chinese people were there reveling in this historical treasure to their past. We prayed for removal of this barrier to the Gospel.

On this day we welcomed four Chinese non-believers (college students) to our group experience. They joined our group as tour leaders and we spent

the day building relationships with them with the hope of sharing the Gospel. Several of us went to their university dorm rooms and spent the afternoon playing ping pong and basketball. I found myself to be the tallest basketball player on my team and my ability to out-jump them was something sports fantasies are made of. However, I led my team to a loss and subsequent conversation



Chinese food, family style, complete with chop sticks!

“SOMETHING SPORTS FANTASIES ARE MADE OF....”

about great American athletes, of which I am not. The time was well spent. At the conclusion of the day we were able to share the Gospel and present two of these students with Chinese Bibles and other resources. They hugged us and expressed their genuine appreciation. We believe a seed was planted in very fertile soil. The evening was spent in

study and prayer.

The last day in Xian brought an opportunity to walk around the old city wall in Xian and pray for the city. The city wall is unique in that the wall is reinforced by a moat. However, between the moat and the wall is a wonderful walking park with paved sidewalks and various exercise and play stations with benches and shaded

areas. All along this multi-mile walk there were hundreds of Chinese. There would be some exercising, some playing musical instruments and singing, some reading, and others just casually enjoying the atmosphere. It made for a wonderful atmosphere for prayer walking. Our prayerwalking took most of the morning and was followed by a visit



The entrance to the Forbidden City with chairman Mao's picture overhead

CHINESE MASSAGE HOUSE? IS THIS MISSIONS?

to the top of the city wall for pictures and sightseeing. After another KFC lunch we headed back to the hotel for some much needed rest for a few hours.

Our hosts, Chad and Leslie, had a special treat planned for our afternoon. On our last day our special cultural surprise was a visit to a real Chinese massage house. Our entire team enjoyed a full 70 minute body massage complete with hot tea. Of course, we laughed and cried as our

aching muscles were squeezed with Chinese perfection. It was a treat that we will all remember. That evening we enjoyed our last Chinese dinner and fellowship time with Chad and Leslie. An intense time of study and prayer ended the day.

Since Chad and Leslie were moving back to the states two days after our team's departure, several of our team went to their apartment and helped them pack, which included our

delivery of four trunks back to the states along with our own luggage. One of our duties was to burn a large stack of sensitive documents in a clay pot on the roof of their apartment building. Now picture this. Here we are in a campus apartment building owned by the communist government, on the roof burning sensitive documents after dark. For those of you who were praying that day, you prayed us through getting in serious trouble. Matt Bailey and



Sunday worship service, time of prayer

“ON THE ROOF BURNING SENSITIVE PAPERS”

Scott Guinter were the ones who had this hazardous duty. Our other experience with sensitive information came at the airport the first day. As we were standing in the customs line of the Beijing airport I quizzed team members about Bible studies we had been required to complete. Upon finding that some had brought these with them, we got out of line, found a trash can, and began

to shred these documents. Here we are in the Beijing airport standing around a trash can tearing up sensitive documents. Another answered prayer for security. By the way, customs waived us through and never opened our bags, which contained at least one Bible each and other Christian literature, which was illegal. Answered prayer!

The long road back

to Memphis began early the next morning. We left for the Xian airport with plenty of time to spare (2 hours). However, a downtown traffic jam delayed our arrival at the airport with only 5 minutes to get checked in and board the plane. After some praying and scrambling with Chinese authorities, we walked into the plane, they closed the door and we took off for Beijing. Had we



God's precious Chinese children

“28 HOURS OF FLYING.....”

missed this flight, we might still be sitting in the Xian airport. That began a long 28 hour day of flying to Memphis. Our loved ones were waiting at the Memphis airport at 10 PM the next night to welcome home the weary travelers. Most of us are still, today, trying to get adjusted to the time change (13 hours difference), and get our nights and days back

on schedule.

Reflecting on this trip has brought a myriad of emotion. My biggest impression of our total experience was the spiritual warfare that we engaged in. China is not friendly territory, from a spiritual perspective. We sensed the evil of satan at every turn. I liken it to World War II, when people in the states

rationed gas, worked in factories, and bought war bonds, while young men and women actually went overseas and fought on the front lines, some in hand-to-hand combat with the enemy. That's how I viewed our experience in China. We went to the front lines and encountered hand-to-hand combat with satan over the hearts and souls of the Chi-



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nese people.

The Chinese church has its own plan to reach China for Christ. They don't need Americans to come to China on mission trips and build churches. They don't need us to bring doctors and dentists and conduct medical missions. They don't even need us to do door-to-door evangelism. What they need is our prayerful support to combat Satan and breakdown the strongholds that bind the hearts of Chi-



THE TEAM

Left to right, bottom row: Ling, Chad Seagraves, Leslie Seagraves, Mountain, Matt Bailey, Ron Chandler,

Middle Row: Rachel Chandler, Jean Singletary

Top row: Chuck Singletary, Tammy Faulk, Faye Schmidle, Brian Raycher, Scott Guinter, Shu, Craig Schmidle, and Chang

“THE SPIRIT OF DEMONS WAS EVERYWHERE.....”

nese. These strongholds are Satanism, atheism, emperor worship, political slavery, national pride, language and geography. I believe our team was extremely effective in accomplishing the four purposes stated earlier. Our success was entirely dependent upon your prayerful support. You can be sure that there was an eternal impact made on the country of China.

So, Rachel and I, and our whole team offer to you our sincere thanks for your prayerful support. I hope you were blessed by your participation in this mission effort. You can see a full photo journal of this

trip by visiting my web site, www.romchandler.com. Look for the camera icon on the right of the screen to go to the photo page.

We shall never be the same as we were before this trip. Our lives are forever changed.

With our love and appreciation in Christ,
Ron Chandler
Rachel Chandler
The Team



A beautiful 5 year old girl at the orphanage. She was almost blind from malnourishment during pregnancy