August 2008

The Olympics, Another Perspective ...

Isaiah 52:7

那報佳音、傳平安、報好信、傳救恩的、對錫安說、你的神作王了. 這人的腳登山何等佳美





Isaiah 52:7

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How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

seautiful Feet Ministries

I am certain that the Olympics that we have been watching, are very different from the ones that you have seen on TV. First of all, we actually don't have a TV, so we did not get to see them as they happened. However we have been feeling the effects of them for quite some time. It all started, for us, about a year ago, when some very well meaning church groups announced publicly that they were coming to Beijing to evangelize. Complete with Chinese Bibles, and tracks, and the like. Well, what happened next is probably the largest expulsion of missionaries from China since the Japanese war between 1937, and 1945. This account of how it started is an excerpt from the China Aid Organization web site. You can read more from:

http://chinagid.org/2007/07/10/

Citizens from six countries working in Xinjiang, Beijing and Tibet were targeted. Most of those expelled are citizens from the United States, South Korea, Singapore, Canada , Australia , and Israel . They were expelled when they were either working or visiting in Xinjiang, Beijing, Tibet, or Shandong. According to an American who had been working in Xinjiang for 10 years and wants to remain anonymous because of the sensitivity of the topic, over 60 foreign religious workers were expelled from Xinjiang alone. Some of the workers had been serving the local people for 15-18 years before they were asked to leave in the past few months. At least 15 Christian couples from the United States and other countries were expelled from Beijing in the month of May. On May 31, 2007, one Israeli Jewish Christian and an American were arrested and expelled from Linyi City, Shandong province when they worshiped together with 70 House Church leaders. Two American

Christians were expelled from Tibet. On July 1, three American Christians from Indiana were detained in Beijing and then forced to leave China after their US passports were taken away for 3 to 5 days by Chinese security agents.

Isaiah 55:11

So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not RETURN unto me VOID, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

From there it just went from bad to worse. The underground church went farther underground. The borders became tighter and tighter. For the first time in our history, we even had 2 deliveries prevented from being delivered to their destinations, inside China. We were watching China tighten its grip upon its people. A very different picture that was presented on television.

It was interesting for us to hear of the little girl who sang the opening ceremony song, was actually sung by a girl that was deemed "not attractive enough" to be seen on TV. So they had a stand in. The fireworks that were presented on television were also digitally enhanced. Things are really never what they seem in China.

This next excerpt is from **Open Doors**, you can read more from;

http://www.opendoorsusa.org/content/view/710/139/

October Crackdown

More prayer may be requested in coming months. China's Communist Party (CPC) will launch a nationwide crackdown on four "unstable social elements" in October, CAA reported on Monday (August 18).

These elements were listed as illegal Christian house church leaders, petitioners, human rights defenders and political dissidents.

Outlined in a secret government directive passed to CAA, the crackdown is designed to coincide with a new campaign for "20 more years of political and social stability" in China.

In a speech on June 16, Zhou Yongkang, head

of the Political and Legal Committee of the Central Committee of the CPC, called for "extraordinary measures" to be taken against these elements in order to protect the CPC's continuous rule and reform programs.

The Beijing Municipal State Security Bureau has also beContinued ... Contact Info.

gun a new citizen informant initiative, requiring ordinary citizens to report individuals and organizations posing a threat to national security, including those who "engage in activities that endanger state security by utilizing religions," according to CAA.



So as you can see, the Olympics have had a very profound effect on our brothers and sisters. Not a very healthy one. I am certain

they did not show that on television....

And as for the slogan, "One World, One Dream", well we know who is behind that one don't we?

One Day at the Border ...

We had some friends here this week from California that had an interesting experience. They were only here for a week and it is still really tight at the border. I think the first few days of the week brought nothing getting into China. But hopes and spirits remained high. My friend Scott said to me, "Craig, I just prayed, prayed for a miracle to happen". This is their story. They just set off for the border, like all the other

Praise Him ...

That we have an opportunity to help lead worship at LCI's retreat.

For the American teams that have served along side of us in the time leading up to the Olympics. THANKS GUYS!

For the miracles that God continues to do to get even ONE Bible into China.

That we got to keep our flat, for another year.

Praise GOD for George and Ruth, who came from Taiwan, and patiently taught us Mandarin, for a whole week!

times, except Scott expected a miracle. Got to the border and BAM!, got stopped. Scott thought to himself, well that's not the miracle, what's God going to do? Then he watched his wife go by, and BAM!, she got stopped. Then he thought well, that's definitely not the miracle. But as he watched, the guard that stopped his wife was not taking her Bibles, he was talking to her about them. He then left to talk to his peers. Well as he was taking along time to get back, Lauralee just decided to zip up her bag, and continue on in her journey. (A bold choice, I must say.) As she was walking slowly away, she had to walk by the customs desk, and lo and behold, there was the quard that stopped her. He motioned for her to come in. Now if I had been Lauralee, I would have been shaking in my boots. As the quard had been talking to his comrades, he motioned to Lauralee, to leave. I am certain she was very



A MIRACLE....

surprised!
She did, and
walked out
of China
customs
with a full
suitcase of
Bibles.

Our Address in Hong Kong: You may send packages or letters to;

Craig & Deborah Graber
Flat A, 12/F, Block 1
Sheung Shui Centre
Sheung Shui, New Territories
Hong Kong

You may send letters to;

Craig & Deborah Graber PO Box 2022 Jackson WY 83001

Our dear sister in Christ, Becky Murphy, (Hi Becky!) is picking up our mail and sending it to us in Hong Kong twice a month or more as needed.

Please email us at:

Craig and Deborah;

TheGrabers@boxtracker.net

Deborah;

arethereblackholes@yahoo.com

Prayer Requests ...

For our Chinese brothers and sisters who are suffering for the name of Jesus ...

Resources to continue in the work that God has given us here.

Direction from God to know if He wants us to pursue formal Chinese language study.

Resources to come home for JUNE, JULY, and AUGUST 2009.

For the resources to pay for the VW storage for another year, and when we finally get back to it that it will start! (Pray HARD!)

Health things for both Deborah and I ...

That God would give us the opportunity to go to SW China in November, and that He would use us to make new friends.

That China eases its border policies, as it still hasn't calmed down after the Olympics.