

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

A co-worker after her ninth trip in to China in one day!



I think that's a record!!

Isaiah 52:7

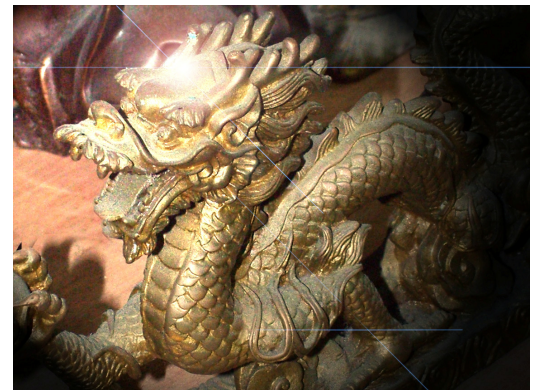
How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Note of Thanks; Grace and Peace to you all, from He who is able to give us that Peace that surpasses all understanding. I wanted to take the time to thank you all for your prayers for my father. He had been in a trained care facility healing from surgery, 09/15/2008. His kidneys had failed him earlier this year. He had been having difficult time with infections, especially after his last surgery. It was decided earlier that week that he was to be taken off life support, and made "comfortable". He lapsed very quickly, and 09/18/2008 at 2:00 Am EST. My father went to our Father. Thank you all for the many payers offered up on his behalf We Love You..



kind offer, and run for a quick bite. We proceeded to go to our favorite Chinese restaurant (The Northern Dumpling,) and had a most relaxing lunch. Well, we were pleasantly filled, and started to wander back to our hotel. We did not notice anything strange until we got off on our floor, the 13th. Deborah said, Craig, this is not our floor, there are all those people standing in the doorway, and there are all those police over there! I grabbed Deborah's hand and knew it was our room, and waltzed right in to find a room full of Chinese Police. BUSTED!

All of the ladies were crying, and Deborah went to comfort them, and I meant to find out what was going on, although I already knew.



A Day With The Dragon...

Well with all of the many divers kinds of things that we do to deliver Bibles from Hong Kong to to the underground church in China, .In our whole history, nothing quite like this has ever happened. Always we realized that the things we were doing were really not possible, except for our God. In fact every single day Deborah and I say to our selves "this should not work". BUT for GOD...

Well this story should bring you to a point where all you can say is BUT for GOD...

It was a fine October morning in Southeast Asia, more specifically in the city of Shenzhen. (the Chinese City just North of Hong Kong SAR.) We were checked into our hotel as we do sometimes to prepare to be the receiving end of Chinese Bible's, in fact we had been there a couple of days, and the morning was good. We were having teams get through with lots of product, and by the late afternoon, we had about a half a ton. PRAISE THE LORD! (It is after all only Him that allows us to cross with the precious cargo). We had some lovely American ladies on our team bring a pile of precious cargo, and they asked if there was anything they could do for us. Well as Deborah and I never get out of the Hotel all week (One must always stay with the Bibles.) We decided to accept the ladies

We had been raided. The Dragon had Landed .

The Police asked the Ladies to remove themselves to the back bedroom and wait, as we would be interrogated 1 at a time, starting with me. The first questions came quickly about who I was and what exactly were we doing. Well I told them I was a Christian Missionary, and we were taking these Bibles to our brothers and sisters in China, who were CRYING for them. It took me about a half and hour to convince them That I was not selling them, and we were giving them away for FREE to anyone who would ask. (They told me later the next day that If they had thought that I had been making money at this I would have been arrested IMMEDIATELY.) I surely Believed them.

Well the next question was where we received these Bibles. That was easy. You can actually buy Chinese Bibles anywhere in Hong Kong, so I named all of the places that they were able to buy some and ask the if they wanted me to get them some. They did not seem to. So the questioning continued with where we were going to deliver these. I said there was a man named

A Day With The Dragon Continued.....

Mickey that picked them up from us every morning, and when they happened to ask for the number, I accidentally on purpose deleted it. Woops Huh? Well they said has he called you today, so we can look at you phone's incoming calls? Well I explained that my phone didn't remember them when I crossed into china, and I changed SIM Cards, so Rats, they were kind of out luck there as well. I asked what was going to happen to our Bibles, and the head policeman that was there said that it was out of his jurisdiction, and he was going to call his superiors. So About a half an hour went by, and two plainclothes officials showed up, with a small brown book in their hands, and as I remember it looked like it had a price tag on the back. They proceeded to read to us in Chinese something we of course did not understand. There was an interpreter there and we did not really understand her much better. But the moral of the story is that it is illegal in China to import foreign printed material and to give it away to the folks that want them. Bibles are not illegal, if you own ONE for personal use, but obviously this half ton of Bibles was more than we could use for personal use, so it must be illegal. At this point I was not going to argue with them. You know there aren't any guns in China, only the police have them. But, they can shoot you, without much difficulty. Well after all our Bibles were carted off, they decided that they got enough information from me, so they did not have to question the ladies any longer. They released the ladies to go back to Hong Kong, if they would come back the next day, as the police had decided they were going to take us on a special (propaganda) tour.

Now lets go back to what was happening with the ladies and the rest of the team in Hong Kong while Craig was being interrogated. All through this experience the peace of God was over us in that we knew that He was with us. When we were asked to leave and wait in the bed room for our turns to be interrogated the five of us took the chance to pray. We prayed for wisdom in the interviews and praised God that we had no knowledge of where the books were going. We asked for peace for the people in Hong Kong as we knew they would be greatly worried for us. And we thanked God that He had stopped the teams that were on their way to the hotel before they got there. As we prayed verses kept coming to mind to remind us that God was in control.

After we were done praying we got to talking about how we all got to china. One of the ladies had been questioned by her unbelieving husband if her God was big enough to protect her if she got in to trouble. Another one had an adopted daughter from China and was hoping to return to China with her some day.

We all found it funny that I had said just the day before that "Nothing exciting ever happens to me because I spend most of my time in hotels." :)

We were all unsure if we would get out of this with our visas or if there would be more serious consequences.

Meanwhile back in Hong Kong, through texts and short phone calls, the team had learned that there were POLICE at our hotel room. They did a quick check to see where all the team members were and there were two teams out and in route to the hotel with no way to contact them. We were in danger of adding another nine people to the situation at the hotel. By God's grace one of the team members in Hong Kong was able to catch up with the first team and turn them around before they got to the hotel.

But when the count came in, Hong Kong was still missing five people who were headed for the hotel. These five had all been stopped at the border by customs and they only had 8 books among them. So they decided to send one of their team to the hotel with the books and the rest would go back to Hong Kong. They did not know of the situation at the hotel, but the man that was chosen to go on said that he had a bad feeling about going to the hotel and that they should not go to the hotel but they should all go back to Hong Kong.

When they got back to the office in Hong Kong they found out that the hotel had been raided and that they would have walked in to a room of Chinese police. GOD IS GOOD!!!

John 16:33

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Dinner With The Dragon...

The next day, as had been prearranged, the police were at our door at 10:00 to take us on a tour of Shenzhen's Three Self Churches. (This is the officially recognized state church in China.)

Our first stop was the Three Self Catholic Church. We were met by the "Father" and he showed us a round the church. He was sure to tell us that he had led masses that President Bush had attended as well as other important people from all over the world.



We were told that the church building was built by the government less than 10 years ago and that the government was in the process of building another. We were told of an active

Dinner With The Dragon Continued.....

church, full of life and vigor, but what we saw was a completely different story.

There were no Bibles in any of the pews, the "Father" told us that they do not emphasize the study of the Word but that the way you come to the scriptures is not to take them literally. A couple of us asked if we could buy a Bible from them before we left, and we were told of course we could. The "Father" then turned to a Chinese girl and told her (in Chinese) that they did not have any there, and that she should go and get some. Soon she returned and told him that there were not any all. All of this exchange had been missed by most of the group so as they were showing us to the door, we asked again, if we could buy some Bibles.

This made the "father" look rather uncomfortable, but he was fast to re-gather himself and gave us the only two Bibles in the church, the Pastors Bible and the Alter Bible. Imagine that, one of the largest 3 self churches in Shenzhen, China, and they only had two Bibles.

From there we were taken to the Protestant Three Self Church. This church is quite large and is also new. We were met by two ladies with the largest set of keys I have seen in my life. Every door was locked and barred. There were two sanctuaries, as well as a school of some kind. We were told that the church had an attendance of 6,000 people on Sundays. And that they had a book store. We noted that there were Bibles in the pews as well as hymnals. We asked if we could buy some Bibles and they said we could. This proved true. There was a small book store in the basement where we were allowed to buy some Bibles. (We found out later that one of our co-workers had gone to this church and had looked in to buying Bibles in bulk but that he was not allowed to without first registering with the government and stating their use.)



Here we are at the Protestant Three Self Church

After this we were taken out for lunch, all courtesy of the Shenzhen Police Department. We went to an extremely nice Chinese seafood restaurant. Where we were taken to our own VIP

room with a private bathroom attached. Then the food started flowing in, and seemed like it wouldn't stop.

We spent most of the meal chatting with "Tony" (the top police officer from the night before) about his family and work. All throughout the day hints were being thrown at us that we should just come to visit China, but not to come just to bring Bibles.

Isaiah 6:8

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

During dinner one of the ladies said that this was going to be the most memorable trip to China she had ever had, to which Tony responded that he could have made it a much more MEMORABLE trip, by giving us dark wet places to stay! And we all knew he was not joking.

Tony told Craig that he should not take Bibles to China "under the table" but that he should find a way to work with the Chinese government. But when Craig asked how he could do that, Tony could not tell him, or even give a hint. (We have already tried by the way, for 7 years, negotiations broke off last year).

When dinner was done we were all taken back to the hotel and told we were still welcome in China, there was going to be no effect to our visas and we were still free to come and go.

So what did God do in all this? We are still finding out. Like a pebble dropped into a still pond, and the ripples reverberate out and on and on

God proved that when you pray, things happen. In a time when Deborah and I should have gone to jail, and had our Chinese visas removed, never to return to China. God showed us that He is not done with us in China, (WE STILL HAVE VISA'S) He proved that He can still direct His people, and that HE IS SOVEREIGN.

**WE KNOW THAT GOD HAS OVER COME THE WORLD...
EVEN CHINESE POLICE!!!**



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What's Next?

What's Next you ask? A very good question. Here is how it seems to be laying out at present. We believe that God is prompting us to move into China, and enroll in school for a 1 to 2 year intensive language study. One in which we could learn the basics of Mandarin reading and writing. We Are EXCITED. In fact we are overjoyed. We have tried to pick the language up here as we work, but living in Hong Kong, and working in China makes it very difficult (They are 2 different languages.) We have been praying FERVENTLY for the opportunity to present itself where we could move legally inside China, and study for a season before returning to HK to live, and continue in our efforts at feeding the Chinese Church.

There have been so many times that God could have used us in different ways but we simply could not communicate with the Chinese people.

Please pray for us as this will undoubtedly effect our support, all though in what way we are not quite sure yet. For tuition, we are willing to be "tentmakers", and teach English on the side. Obviously, the less we have to teach the sooner we can be finished with our Mandarin Studies. We can have 20 hour week with classes for 44 weeks, or 30 hour week of classes for 44 weeks, but if we have to teach at all it would not fit in a 30 hour a week class schedule.

When we come home this summer it will be our goal to raise the tuition for the school in Shenyang, China. Lord willing we are planning to take a train up to the school over Christmas this year to have a look around. It seems that God has already picked the school for us though, so we wont argue...

We have some projects here we are committed to finishing before we leave for home next summer, and whether we get to start in the September 2009 semester, or March 2010 largely depends on whether we are able to finish projects up. Some of you remember that I am working on a manufacturing order tracking database for our friends at New Life League Japan, (Our Bible Printers) and we would like to see that up and running before we start such a large project as intensive language study. It would seem that after the run in with the Chinese Police, and we STILL have our Chinese Visa's, that God is not finished with us in China Just Yet.

For those of you who have supported us all these years here in China we thank you, and God bless you. Please consider partnering with us in this new continuing endeavor. We have been blessed by your gifts. If you haven't partnered with us yet, please prayerfully consider it. Remember that we are a 501 c 3, and your gifts are 100% tax deductible.

We want to hear from you on this. Please pray, and write encouragement, discouragement, or whatever the Lord Leads. Please Email, we are looking for the Body of Christ to give us direction.

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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;

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Praise Him ...

My father is with our Father.

We got caught with a half ton of Chinese Bibles inside China, and God Allowed us to keep our Visa's.

Thank you for Praying for us!

Deborah's sister Esther is coming to spend two weeks with us!

We got to see a little of what it's like for Christians under persecution.

Prayer Requests ...

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

For our plans at come home JUNE, JULY, and AUGUST 2009. Churches to Speak at, Places to Stay.

Health things for both Deborah and I ...

For the software Craig is writing. That it would come together quickly and affectively.

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

That the 1/2 ton of the Bible the police took from us this week would make it into believers hands.

Ask that we would know God's leading for language study. And continued work in China.

That we would grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ!