

# Summer 2011 ...

## Summer 2011



### 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。

### 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!

CRAIG AND DEBORAH GRABER  
4A, 2/F WA SHAN TSUEN, MIDDLE SECTION,  
SHEUNG SHUI, NEW TERRITORIES,  
HONG KONG SAR

# Beautiful Feet Ministries

Well, summer 2011 has been kind of crazy around here. We started with a 2 week trip to Japan, in July. To demonstrate the software I am writing for New Life League, Japan. (The Bible Printing Press) So they could get a "hands on" experience for the users. It is a difficult thing to write software on such a large scale, and it is even more difficult when it is for a different culture, and in a different language. But we were glad that we had positive feedback. And are planning completion and installation in January 2012.

Some wonderful miracles have happened this summer. LCI reached 1.5 + ,million Bibles delivered. I have no idea how many ton's that is but we are praying for 2.0 million.

We have had a donation from a dear brother for the plane tickets for our trip home in the summer of 2012. We are planning a road trip in the VW to visit all of you , and are truly looking forward to it. But more on that later.

My knee continues to heal, and improve weekly. (Total Knee replacement, Oct, 2010) It is a wonderful thing to be free from debilitating pain, and the medicines that go along with it. It was difficult ( still is ) to wean yourself off of the med's that go along with extreme pain. But God is Good, and has been there every day for me. He always is.

What's happening in China? Well To explain that I am including an article from "The Weekly Standard, Volume 1, September 1995",

that explains China better than I can.

## Rule by Thieves ...

*Capital punishment has been imposed - at various times and places - for the offenses of murder, treason, or heresy, whether political or religious. What about cigarette smuggling? There are lots of smokers in China, and the manufacture and sale of cigarettes is a major source of revenue. Let us consider the following headline on page 1 of the May 30, 1994, issue of China Daily, an official English-language newspaper published in Beijing:*

*4 cigarette smugglers executed*

*Corruption and crime have been major issues in China for the past decade or so. On May 26, 1994, China Daily printed a related front-page story: "Government cracks down on financial corruption." Crackdowns will not work; not even capital punishment can stop corruption in China.*

*A year later, on June 26, 1995, cigarette smuggling had not yet been stamped out, according to a story in the Business Weekly Supplement of China Daily. Under the headline, "State raises checkpoints on the tobacco road," we read "Violators will face severe punishments." The nature of the punishments is not specified. Let us not think, however, that China may be getting soft. Another headline, the same day, announces, "34 drug traffickers executed."*

*After Communism comes kleptocracy - rule by thieves. China's wealth is increasing rapidly. The adjective most frequently used to describe the Chinese economy is "overheated." Yet China's booming surge toward prosperity is being threatened by corruption, which increases and increases despite draconian punishments.*

*Chairman Mao could not be corrupted. The greatest monsters in human history have been incorruptible. Hitler, in 1944, when faced with the choice between supplying his beleaguered soldiers or transporting Jews to death camps, chose to give priority to the Final Solution. Not even the possibility of victory could tempt him from doing what he thought right. Similarly, Chairman Mao was so committed to the insane policies of the Great Leap Forward that he allowed between 20 and 60 million people, most of them peasants, to die during the years 1959-61. Mao closed the universities during the Cultural Revolution despite the fact that he knew he needed scientists to build his atomic weapons. Mao's loyalty to the Marxist dream of equality, where people would "raise cattle in the*

morning [and] criticize after dinner," outweighed China's need to defend itself.

When Mao died, however, corruption took over. This always happens when the crazy, wicked leaders who create totalitarian states are followed by the sane, wicked leaders who inevitably succeed them. The Communist Party, which Mao had created, was in a position to monopolize corruption.

But what good is corruption in a world of poverty? China's leaders wanted to have a rich country to exploit, one that was worth exploiting. Deng Xiaoping therefore invented Marxist capitalism - a system where one worships Marx's teachings while ignoring them. The advantage of Marxist capitalism is that it provides a rationale for the continuing absolute power of the Communist Party while at the same time letting the country get rich.

As the economy becomes more capitalist, however, outsiders - those not in the Party - move into positions where they may participate in the corruption of the state. An honest society, unfortunately, is not available as an alternative. Chairman Mao destroyed traditional values, and there is no legal system apart from the Communist Party. There is no democracy, which could create a legitimate system that spoke with the authority of the people. There are no human rights, so there need be no human responsibilities. There is no liberty, so there can be no room for moral choices. Societies emerging from Communism are always corrupt because they have to be. The framework for a system based on law does not exist. Russia is no longer Communist; China is. Both, however, are kleptocracies.

China might have become an exception to this rule. During Beijing Spring, between April 15 and June 4, 1989, China became an honest and a responsible state. Trucks carrying food and beverages to Tiananmen Square kept passing by. Feeding the million demonstrators in Beijing was a task that required organization and a great deal of effort. A city-wide drop in crime, accidents and fires was reported. Had the Democracy Movement not been crushed, China would not have become a kleptocracy.

In a country with no politics there is no way for ordinary people to make their views known and no avenue for change from the bottom. There is no possible connection between talking about politics and doing something about it. All innovations come from the top and are transmitted and enforced through the hierarchical structure of the Party. New directives coming from the Party leaders can change life quite abruptly, which makes Chinese society extremely unstable.

After World War II, victorious Americans forced democracy down the throats of West Germany and Japan. That was a very undemocratic thing to do, but Germany and Japan now enjoy the stability and prosperity that only democracy can bring. The world is a safer place because they are democratic.

Stalin and Mao brought nothing but instability to their people. No one knew when the laws would change retroactively, since the law in a totalitarian state is unknowable. No one knew when a new campaign would be launched against some unsuspecting and harmless group, like land-owning peasants or teachers. No one knew when violent fighting would break out, as happened during Mao's Cultural Revolution, when rival groups of Red Guards killed each other for the greater glory of Chairman Mao.

Stability means that governments can change legally

and in an orderly fashion. It means that disagreement is viewed as a constructive way to exchange ideas. Only democracy can bring stability. Corruption and instability go together. Dictatorships resort to severe punishments because they have to. Sooner or later, the dictator falls, and chaos surfaces. There is no legal process to choose a new leader.

Perhaps trade, wealth and openness will lead China to create an orderly, stable society after the death of Deng Xiaoping. Perhaps. But the execution of four cigarette smugglers is not a sign of order.

### Proverbs 11:10-11:11

When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness.

By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown.

It hasn't changed much, there are areas in China that are opening up a bit, but there are just as many that are closing to westerners. As far as we can tell, local mainland cigarette, and drug smugglers are still executed. Although it is not talked about much.

China recently implemented a "3 strikes, your OUT" Policy. The locals that are caught smuggling get a total of 3 times. Each time they are caught, their material is held longer (of course that means a larger fine), and on the 3rd time, they are simply arrested. This is an advertised policy, and I personally have not seen it implemented yet. Also, so far as I can tell it is only applied to locals. We have had several occasions where there was a "hold" placed on our material, and we could not retrieve it for 8 days! It cost's 1.5 RMB per kilo of material, per day. So if you have an average suitcase of Bibles, that weighs 40 kilos, then the fine is  $1.5 \times 40 \times 8 = 480$  RMB, or about \$80.00 US Dollars to retrieve our material. But fortunately, that is the exception, not the rule. God is good, and keeps His kids in China fed. A steady stream of Bibles continues...

Some people recently have asked us if China still needs Bibles. I have included an interview from Asia Harvest, with Paul Hathaway from July 2011. I could not say it any better ...

## Bible Shortage in China ...

### Resolving Bible shortage not easy when printing Scriptures is illegal

posted by Rob Kerby, Senior Editor | 5:53am Sunday August 14, 2011

The following interview with Asia Harvest director is Paul Hattaway from the organization's May and July 2011 newsletters.

**Asia Harvest:** Are Bibles still needed in China?

**Paul Hattaway:** Many Chinese church leaders are telling us the need is greater now than at any time since the 1980s. There is a growing emergency in China because of the lack of God's Word among the rural house churches. If this need is not rebalanced soon, I fear it will have dire consequences for the revival that has been burning so brightly in China for the last 30 years.

**AH:** If there is such an urgent need for Bibles in China now, how come so few Christians around the world are aware of it?

**Paul:** There are several main reasons for this. The first is that providing Bibles for China (and many other countries) seems "out of fashion" in many churches today. Someone recently told a friend that helping get Bibles to China's Christians is "so 1990s!"

It seems to no longer be the "in thing." If providing God's Word to hungry believers who can't access it is no longer a priority, may the Lord have mercy on us!

Another misconception is that many people believe China is now a rich country, so they no longer need our help. One American Christian recently told us, "We owe China billions of dollars, so they can take care of themselves."

The first thing to say is that the Chinese government owning American debt does not mean the average person in China benefits in any way! About 90% of China's house church Christians live in rural areas of the country, often thousands of miles away from the glistening skyscrapers of modern cities like Beijing and Shanghai. The revival in China at the moment is burning brightest in remote provinces like Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Gansu and Qinghai. Thousands of people in these regions are coming to Christ daily, and they are among the poorest of the poor in China.

I wish I could take people who think China is now swimming in wealth to some of the areas we go. They would get the shock of their lives! The average annual US income at \$47,000 per person. China's is just \$3,200 per year, but there is a massive division between what those in major cities and those in the countryside earn.

Many of the Christians we provide Bibles to are among the poorest people in China. They are burdened by grinding poverty and struggling to survive on just a few hundred dollars a year. For most, even if they were able to access a Bible, they would struggle to afford one.

**AH:** Most Christians have heard that Bibles are now legally printed inside China, so hasn't that taken care of the need?

**Paul:** For years there has been a concerted attempt by the government-approved church to convince the world that Bibles are now freely available in China. They have successfully launched a global offensive via Christian radio, television and magazines to announce the "good news" that China no longer needs Bibles. Government church leaders in China—home to one-fifth of the world's population—say this with a straight face and many Christians foolishly believe them.

The propaganda campaign has been so successful that we regularly receive letters and emails from around the world, informing us that we are so out of touch we haven't realized that China is now "awash with Bibles."

It is true that for many years the government has allowed the printing of a limited number of Bibles in China. These are all produced at the Amity Press in the city of Nanjing, and each Bible has an official permit number. I am thankful for every one of them!

These official Bibles are printed primarily for members of the state-sanctioned churches in China, known as the 'Three-Self Patriotic Movement.' There are approximately 20 million Christians in these churches. It is usually not difficult for Christians living in most major urban centers to buy a Bible at one of these churches. However, if you want to buy more than five or ten Bibles you will probably find it difficult, and questions may be asked about who they are for.

For the last 23 years we have been serving the unregistered house churches in China, who number more than 50 million believers. I can tell you that it simply isn't true that the official Bibles are freely available inside China for all Christians. It would be wonderful if it were true, but it is not the case.

Each of the house church networks we serve have verified needs of hundreds of thousands of Bibles just to provide God's Word to their new converts!

**AH:** The Amity Press, which prints Bibles with government permission in China, report to have printed tens of millions of Bibles in China since its inception. Surely many of these find their way to the house churches too?

**Paul:** The numbers of Bibles reportedly produced by Amity Press are impressive. What they fail to mention, for some strange reason, is that two-thirds of the Bibles they print in China are for EXPORT! Amity Press has become one of the largest commercial printers in the world, and two-thirds of the Bibles they produce are in other languages and are exported out of China. If you have a look at an English NIV Bible, for example, don't be surprised if it says it was printed in China.

The bottom line is that the Chinese Bibles that do remain inside the country are for distribution among members of the Three-Self churches. The more than 50 million house church Christians struggle to pick up more than a few crumbs that fall from the table of the registered church.

My heart breaks for these believers, and the way they have been neglected by much of the Body of Christ. More and more mission groups are signing up to work with the Three-Self Church in China, because it is safer for them to do so. What about the 50 million precious followers of Jesus among the "illegal" and despised unregistered house churches? Should we just ignore them and let them waste away without access to God's Word?

Although they wouldn't say so publicly, I know how painful it is to house church leaders when yet another big-name Western Christian comes to China and saddles up with the government. One world-famous preacher, convinced he was an expert after a week



or two in China, even had the audacity to rebuke the house churches for their refusal to register with the Communist government.

Such statements show a complete ignorance and disrespect for our brothers and sisters who have suffered so much for their faith and the principles they have taken a stand for. After 50 years of persecution, the house church Christians in China do not need further wounds at the hands of ill-informed Christians from other nations.

We are not ashamed to say how privileged we are to serve the illegal and increasingly-neglected house churches of China. We aim, by God's grace, to provide as many Bibles to our dear brothers and sisters as the Lord grants us the resources to print and deliver.

**AH:** What do you say to those Christians who say we must obey the laws of the land, and the laws of China right now say you can not print Bibles except through the Amity Press?

**Paul:** I agree that we should always obey the laws of governments and those in authority, as long as those laws do not go against the higher law of God. Jesus commanded us to go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all of mankind.

About 60 countries in the world today do not allow missionaries and are hostile to the message of Christ. Should we obey the laws of the land and forget about the hundreds of millions of people who live in those countries? Should we let them go to hell without hearing about Jesus?

Was Daniel misguided when he refused to obey the law of the land to bow before an idol? Were Peter and John sinning when they defied orders to stop telling people about Jesus? Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we can not help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19-20).

I suspect many Christians today use the "obey the laws of the land" verse as a self-righteous excuse for doing nothing.

Jesus commanded us to feed those who are hungry, and in China today there are multitudes of His children spiritually starving because of a lack of God's Word.



## Love and Blessings,

### Praise Him ...

- † For HE is coming soon ...
- † For the work He is doing in all of us that know Him
- † That He will not give us more than He gives us grace for...
- † That the presses in Japan are working and that Bibles are still being printed.
- † Because He knows us and we know HIM.
- † For HE is Good, ALL the time !
- † Look UP, for your redemption draws near!

### Prayer Requests ...

- For our Japanese brothers and sisters who are recovering from the earthquake. Pray that God would strengthen their faith and that He would give them boldness to share the Gospel with the suffering people around them.
- For our Thursday Night Worship time we have started in our home. That it be a Joyful noise to the Lord.
- Please continue to pray for Craig as he writes the software for Japan that it will be what is needed. That God will lead, direct and inspire this work.
- That the Lord would continue to increase the numbers of Bibles going into China.
- Health things for both Deborah and I ...
- Pray for our walk with the Lord that we would grow closer to him every day and that our hearts would be soft towards Him...
- For continued growth at LCI with new long term co-workers.
- For the Peace of Jerusalem!

## Contact Information

Our Address in Hong Kong:

You may send packages or letters to ;

**Craig & Deborah Graber**  
4A, 2/F Wa Shan Tsuen  
Middle Section,  
Sheung Shui, NT  
Hong Kong SAR

Please send cards and donations to ;

**Beautiful Feet Ministries**  
PO Box 1816  
Pinedale WY 82941

Our mail is being handled by Pinedale Properties in Pinedale Wyoming.

You can email us at;

**Craig and Deborah;**  
[TheGrabers@boxtracker.net](mailto:TheGrabers@boxtracker.net)

**Craig**

[CSGraber@boxtracker.net](mailto:CSGraber@boxtracker.net)

**Deborah;**

[iknowtheplans@gmail.com](mailto:iknowtheplans@gmail.com)