



PASTOR WORKER REPORT
SPRING 2024

CHINA



A WORD FROM DALE

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills—from whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2

Life in China is unpredictable at best and perilous at worst. Our Chinese national pastors continue to try to navigate this society steeped in tradition based on a host of unwarranted beliefs and unknown rationale while reaching and changing hearts one by one.

Introducing a countercultural idea such as the gospel is a continuous uphill climb. It is nothing short of a daily battle in service to the King. Even if a new believer’s heart is changed, the struggle to balance the lifelong way of thinking is like slamming oneself against an unmoving wall with sharp spikes again and again, only to do it again the next day. Also, for the seekers, it is too easy to give up on the new ideas of grace before roots take hold.

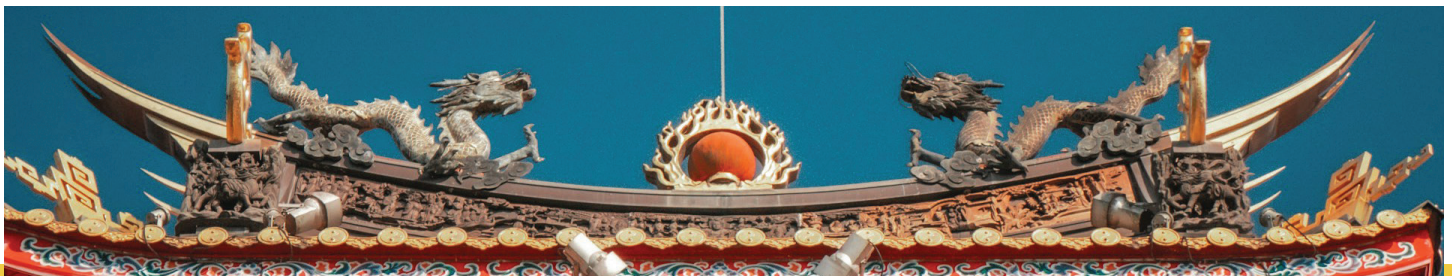
We are so thankful for His mercy and strength in the lives of our Chinese pastors, which has brought them to a position of unmoving faith in Him. However, they get tired—so tired—of the endless labor. Please hold them up in prayer daily as they fight the good fight.

Reports we get from the different areas of the country are diverse. Some areas experience great victories, some stagnate and look for a spark of growth, and some are about to lose hope. Families struggle. Finances are tight. Security in one area is loose, while security in another area fills the workers with fear of incarceration. Communities are gripped by the realities of a changing China. Nevertheless, He is ever present, the sustainer of all that is good, and the Hope in our lives.

While we see life in China becoming more difficult for all people, our pastors are seeing great opportunities to share about where true hope comes from. That can only happen when we lift our eyes up to the Lord and see that He is our hope.

In 1 Thessalonians 1:3, Paul says, “...remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” Please pray that our dear brothers and sisters will be able to withstand the trials and persecution. Just as Paul called on the Thessalonians to remember the work because of faith in Christ, they are laboring because of love and their hope in His promises.

~D, OTAN China Ministry Manager





Crowded Beijing Market

NEW CHURCHES, SECURITY CHALLENGES, AND SUPPORT NEEDS

Updates and prayer requests from our pastors and leaders in China

Pastor E: Hello, OTAN friends. I recently returned to China after traveling in the US where I presented OTAN's work and mission at several churches. In China, I oversee the ministry of a local church as well as serving as the contact for other national pastors and leaders. I am the main travel agent and translator for the OTAN ministry managers and others who travel and train throughout the country. I will also be starting a new Bible study with young adults. It's a busy but rewarding life, and I am growing and equipping myself with what is needed. If your church would like a visit/presentation from me on my next trip to the US, please contact the OTAN office.

Prayer requests for Pastor E: Pray for my safety while I travel and teach, pray for wisdom as my wife and I raise our two children, and pray for the additional \$800 of monthly support that I need.

Pastor T: Greetings, brothers and sisters. My wife and I recently joined OTAN. We are being sent out from our home place in Hunan to plant a new church in the southern part of Hunan. We plan to start a small food stand to help with funding for our living and to become part of the community. This way, we will be able to meet people in this new place. OTAN will be working with us to help us develop both a discipleship and a church planting plan.

Prayer requests for Pastor T: Pray for our upcoming move and integration into a new town, for our new business, and for us to find safe community contacts.

OTAN China Ministry Managers: All of our house church pastors have asked for leadership training for small group leaders. With the persecution that has occurred over the past few years, their churches have either been broken into many smaller groups or they are dividing themselves into small groups to avoid discovery. These smaller groups must have sound leadership. *Please pray for boldness and safety as we travel around the country to train these new leaders.*



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CONTACT OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS

The pastors and church workers we partner with are grateful for your prayers and financial support. God is using your investment to further the gospel and strengthen the body of Christ around the world. If you have questions or want to know more about our outreach in China, we'd love to connect with you.



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