

Christ the Lord our Righteousness

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TODAY'S CHINA.

After the spread of the virus world-wide, it is fact and reality that we are certainly in a new day, for many now have a very different opinion of this ancient nation - **China**.

Perhaps the first important fact to face about the world's most populous nation is that China **has been** and **still is** today, **a great civilizational power**. Its ancient culture is still its proud possession. When foreigners apprehend this, they then commence to fathom the enormous legacy of history that rests upon every individual Chinese person.

(As a missionary to China I have written this as a request that you have heart for today's Chinese, anywhere and everywhere that you may meet.)

China's civilization has a recorded history of at least 4,000 years. Certainly **it is a civilized nation** but because it does not have a Judeo-Christian foundation, it is in just this that the famous Huntington observation is correct of the possibility of a "clash of civilizations."

Give this a moment's consideration please as to how each and every Chinese born person, sooner or later senses that they have on the one hand, a justifiably deserved pride of happily being born Chinese to be part of this truly great nation. Yet on the other hand, there can be felt weight, even burden of being part of such a civilizational history.

In other world civilizations, many have been formed with Old Testament Bible truth that was originally delivered to Israel and the Jews. Then other nations began building upon that magnificent "truth foundation" found in the New Testament gospels and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Chinese life has for more than 2,000 years been rooted in the excellent moral teachings of Confucius, Mencius, etc. Confucian morals are therefore deeply embedded in all here and passed on from cradle to grave. (These great teachings and morals are not to be confused with Buddhist idolatry that was later introduced from China's southern neighbour, India.)

Ancient civilizational history can be utilized however for nefarious ends by those who will insist that China is historically and culturally **the sole superlative civilization**.

The real fact of the truth is, that all that is missing in today's China is **Christ**.

The gospel is not welcome and for this we covet and value the prayer and consideration of GOD's household of faith. The "**great new firewall**" of utilized AI

technology is operating fully in an all-out controlled resistance and rejection of the preeminent excellence of Jesus Christ as Redeemer, Saviour and Lord, and that **He is** Saviour for all peoples, all races and all nations.

Praise GOD, many of today's Chinese have personally and willingly taken the yoke of Matthew 11:28-30, and who now know sweet, living vibrant experience, that the will of

GOD in Jesus Christ is good, acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2 *“For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to Whom be glory forever. Amen.”* Romans 11:36

Today’s CHINA (and Hong Kong) – what can we say about them to win your interest and concern except that the moment you set foot here, it will be love at first sight! Abundance of GOD’s multi-faceted beauty will take you by surprise. The water, mountains, promenades, sunsets, hiking trails, beaches are all within a stone’s throw of urban centres.

In China and in particular, Hong Kong, we have the very best of readily accessible public transport systems, an MTR that helps you cover many miles in minutes, double-decker buses, (and mini buses) and ferry rides and taxis that can do Formula One’s down narrow streets. (These are all accessible, 24/7.)

But what will surprise you most are the people of China and Hong Kong with whom you may share perhaps limited words but lots of smiles and warmth. An indelible mark will be left on you of their widespread stoic belief in trying to do the right thing in the right way.

As soon as the news of another virus was upon us here (this time not “SARS” but one from Wuhan) – masks, physical distancing measures and the increased need of hand washing hygiene, were immediately put into effect. No one told us by command to do it – we just knew it was best for family and community.

So it is a very real issue that racial prejudice is everywhere and in every civilization. It mutates and speedily spreads by those out-of-touch with GOD’s great truth that we all learnt if we went to a Bible Sunday School. *“Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in GOD’s sight – Jesus shed His blood for all the children – (i.e. people) of the world.*

To be in “the new race” that has appeared upon the earth means to be born anew in Christ and be in the new creation of 2 Corinthians 5:17. How greatly privileged and responsible we therefore are to live this “new race life” for it transcends every earthly race and civilization.

October we have locally completed 8 weeks of what it means to face **“New Testament Discipleship.”** (12 volunteers only but a great spiritual harvest anticipated.)

Inland during October, we completed the month’s project of 5,000 Chinese copies of “Beautiful Grace” by G.C.W., and 10,000 Chinese copies of “Marriage and The Family” by A.J.H.

We are again very thankful for the safety and preservation of every co-worker and distributor throughout China.

Our united love and appreciation for your being co-workers together.

John & Karen Short