

Bringing Hope

We spent three weeks bringing hope to parents in Kunming and Dali. Two large cities in the southern part of China. See the map on the back page to visualize this.

Without a doubt the highlight of the trip was being asked to meet with and talk to people over a meal or after a seminar. It was absolutely amazing to hear their stories. The broken hearts of parents talking about the broken lives of their kids.

We heard from them that parents do not set up consequences. This cultural fact is related to China's one child policy. The child is supposed to provide for his parents when they are old. Parents retire at 55-60. The child they raised is their Social Security and Retirement. The parent's fear that if they set up boundaries with consequences the child may rebel. Over and over we heard, "If my child rebel's what will happen to me in my old age?"



We talked to Li Ming who is struggling to know how to help her son make better choices. She has been trying to help him by: Getting him out of debt to the local mob, getting him a job, and giving him money to help with his rent. Unfortunately her son got a girl pregnant, he persuaded her to get an abortion, ditched the job and is using the money for drugs. She came to us asking what she could do.

Song Hu has a 14-year-old son. Two years ago the son persuaded his friends in school to pick a fight with another group of boys. One of the boys that he fought with was seriously hurt. That young man ended up in the hospital and almost died. The parents sued Song for the medical bills. Then he found out there was a contract out on the life of his son. His son had picked a fight with the son of the leader of the local mob. As a result Song moved his family from Beijing to Dali.



Song Hu and many others in the seminars began to understand why they were having problems with their children – the boundaries they set had no consequences. The gratitude for the material, the encouragement and the hope they expressed for a new life was evident in their questions and the conversations during and after each session.



We saw how parents, who truly love their child, would make mistakes that would grow into a space between the needs of their child and how the parent was responding to those needs.

Over time the space would grow larger and larger until it felt impossible to bridge the gap.



And by ourselves it would be impossible. But the third session of the seminar we were teaching a way to connect with God and bridge that gap!

Hou Lu: During this “Connecting with God” section shared how God had expressed His love and care for her. She was overcome with peace and joy. She had never sensed God’s presence before. She had received hope from the Lord. God was there for her as she parented her child.

He is refining people through His love by bringing hope to their lives!

Thank you for allowing us to work for you in the lives of so many people from such diverse backgrounds. It has been a pleasure to be your hands and feet as together we have taken the Good News to people who had no hope.



In His grip,

John
John

Emra Expressions

December, 2013
Volume 34, Issue 12

Merry Christmas!

John and I wanted to take this time to share with you the hope we are feeling as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.



Every Christmas John and I ask the Lord to show us something new about the story of His birth. This year it has been the wise men.

Tradition tells about Three Wise Men who came from the east, following a star. They wanted to find the newborn King of the Jews and worship him. After their long journey they finally arrived in Jerusalem and began to ask around. The spiritual leaders of the time were not even aware of His arrival. As they searched the scriptures they eventually found the answers.

From the discovery of what God's Word said about the coming of the Messiah the wise men found Christ and worshiped him.

The key to this story for me is how the wise men responded to the knowledge of Christ's birth. I see the wise men responding with hope as they looked for a new King.

Our trip to China reminded me of this. We discovered many, many people with wide-open hearts looking for "something more". Something more than what they were experiencing in everyday life. Hope.

This year has been one of seeing "hope" in individual lives that had none. Hope for more than what they had. Hope for peace, for belonging, for love. A hope that comes from a heart that is searching and finally finds Jesus and begins worshiping Him.

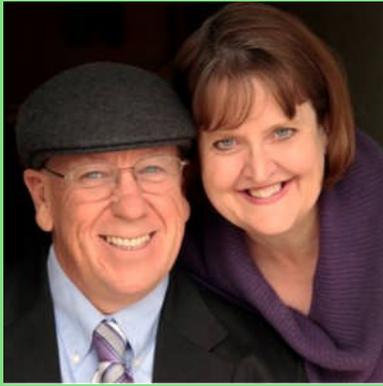
We pray your Christmas is filled with this "hope".

Your support, prayers and friendship means the world to us. Because of you we have been able to bring the "hope" of Christ to those seeking Him.

Sincerely,

Sheryl
Sheryl





Affiliate Staff with Life Is Full Of Choices

John and Sally Childress are taking Life Is Full Of Choices to Europe. They have been invited to work with All Souls Church in London, England creating a Biblically Based Program to deal with addictions.

Pray for them as they continue to raise the funds needed to move to London.

Tamara John is using the principles of Life Is Full Of Choices to help the people she lives with and ministers to at the trailer park in Huntington Beach.

Pray that her ministry would continue to bear fruit.

For more information about these people and their ministries visit our website: www.LifeIsFullOfChoices.org



We are including with this letter a statement of your giving for this past year. Please check our records to make sure they agree with yours. If you have been giving through your Church or Campus Crusade your receipt will come from that organization.

If there is no statement we do not have a record of giving for you for 2013.

Thank You for Praying:

Praise God the people who we trained in the different seminars were willing to look at Biblical truth and see their culture through that truth. We are very grateful for your prayers.

For the interpreters in China. We changed interpreters every session and sometimes in the middle of a session. Your prayers made these changes work.

Please Pray for:

The affect that the seminars will have in the lives of those who attended while we were in China.

Safety as we travel and open hearts as we teach in Texas and Arkansas January – March 2014.

Pray for finances. Our ability to do this ministry depends on Gods provision and your willingness.