



Christ is Risen

'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?' Luke 24:32

For most of our teachers in China, Easter and Christmas provide wonderful opportunities to share openly something of the meaning and significance of these great Christian festivals. Sometimes it is possible to show videos such as the Jesus film or Miracle Maker, at other times passages from the Bible can be used as reading material. For many students this may be the first time they have really heard the true meaning of what Jesus has done for them, and they may be profoundly moved. Sometimes it may be a first step on the way to faith, at other times it can be as if a veil is lifted and that their hearts do burn within them as they come to a deeper understanding, perhaps followed by a decision to commit themselves to follow Jesus from that day on. What a privilege it is for our teachers to have such opportunities to share, but also how important it is that these young believers have those to stand alongside them in their journey of faith, to disciple them, encourage them and help them discern the Lord's will for their lives. Praise the Lord that His word never returns empty and that He who began a good work will bring it to completion.

One of our teachers shares about springtime in China

Spring (or even summer) has come very suddenly! It's very warm and the pink plum blossom trees are in bloom, and strawberries are being sold in baskets on the street. It all feels much brighter! A few weeks ago a few of us were coming back on a bus along the highway when suddenly we looked out of the windows in amazement. There was a city, gleaming in the sunshine, high rise buildings and the TV tower shining, low buildings on the streets in between, the big pagoda out on the edge of the city with fields stretching away to the east.... It was our city on a clear day! We hardly recognized it! Normally you can barely see the TV tower even when it's a couple of hundred meters away, everything is covered in a smoggy gloom, and you would never really know the fields are there because it all looks equally grey. All of us on the bus reached for our cameras – it looked like a gleaming metropolis, like flying into New York maybe.

Breakthrough

It's been a really good time over the Easter weekend. The week before I gave some seasonal lessons, and then on the

Spring time in China

'See! The winter is past; The rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth The season of singing has come' SS 2:11,12

Saturday evening a group came round to watch a film. It was a great evening, and at the end one girl, A, leaned forward, very excited, and said, 'This evening I think I have found the answer,' and she went on to say incredible things. And the next day a friend of hers took her to meet some like-minded friends, so now I'm really hoping for great things.

Another teacher tells of the response to his Easter lessons

Although unseen at the time, it's clear that Father was working during the two weeks of Easter lessons that I taught. I had been much bolder in talking about the 'good news' and what Easter means to us. Following these lessons, one very enthusiastic student went to the campus library to find a Bible there. He didn't find one in Chinese but did find one in English! So he has now spent many afternoons in the library recently. Since then a handful of students (teachers from the countryside) have been coming to our home once a week to find out more about the Christian faith. It was a real joy when two weeks ago four out of the five students bought a Bible (Chinese/English) for themselves.

Praise God for the opportunities to sow truth into the hearts of these students

A student's testimony

After watching the film Jesus of Nazareth, one girl, S, made a decision to follow Christ. In her own words she shares what this has meant to her.

'Before I was a Christian, my life was empty and full with loneliness and worrying, and meanwhile I was also a sinner. I always worried about things. It's you – the greatest Father saved me and gave me a brand-new life. You let my life is full with hope and love, let my heart is full with joy, no more worrying and disappointment. You clean my heart and purify my soul. You forgive my sin, you make my life meaningful. Especially after baptize. I hope I'm much closer to you from Bible. I learned so many miracles you did. You make so many wonderful feelings that I just cannot put them in words. I give myself to you and I'm willing to do everything planned in God's will, never regret, you are the most one I want to follow. I want to live in the way that you planned for me. I worship you, my Lord, the Father of my new life.'

A Traumatic Life

S has had a traumatic life as her English teacher explains.

Her family lived in a village and that means they don't have much. She has an older sister who works in one of the towns now and a 14 year old brother. A few years ago her old Grandmother accidentally set fire to the house when she was cooking and everything they had burned to the ground. S was the only one at home with her grandmother and had to hold her back from running into the fire. Grandmother knew what a terrible

thing she had done and wanted to die. They lived with some relations for a short time and then put together a very rough building for her brother (who was only 9 or 10) to live in. Her older sister is not interested in further education and found a low paying job in another town, her parents moved to another city where they work in construction to make a living to support the boy at home and send S to college. Construction workers live in the mess of the site as the building goes up... sleeping on the cement, cooking in a pot over a fire outdoors and doing all that is necessary until the building is finished, then they go on to the next one. The women work as hard as the men.

Responsibilities

For the past 4 years S has seen her parents once. She goes home for each Spring Festival to take care of her brother and be a family to him before she returns to college. Her brother goes to school each day, comes home to his homework and to prepare his own food and has been doing this for about 4 years now.

It is a tremendous effort for her family to support themselves, send money to their son and provide for S' education. S in turn will be responsible for her brother's education and her parents in their old age, they provide for her education now, and she is to provide their livelihood in the future. S loves her parents so much and realizes very well what they are doing to pay her tuition. She is mature for her age yet loves to be hugged. She misses her mother very much.

Please pray for S that her new found faith will flourish and her family circumstances improve.

Pressure on Students

The situation for students in China has suddenly become very high-pressured, especially for those in their 3rd years (a degree is normally a 4 year course). They are 20/21 years old with just over a year before they leave university and already they have to make a decision about whether to look for a job or sit the postgraduate study entrance exam. There are not enough jobs in China. In an effort to ease the situation now, the authorities are putting pressure on them to stay on and do further study for 3 years, an expense and cost of time that many families cannot really afford. And of course, the fear is that at the end of the 3 years there will be no greater abundance of jobs. Fear and indecision are rife.



Please pray for these students that they will be given wisdom and peace of mind in the decisions they make.

If you would like to hear testimonies from current teachers then please join us at our Annual China day on 16th July on the Wirral

To support the work and for further details and information about opportunities, please contact

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