

“I will fear no more, For you are close.”

Adventures in Missions. Stories from Around Asia- China (Jeff Wong)

Story 1

Anchor: Since 1987, the churches in China has been growing from the originally 17 people to now having 3,600 disciples all over China , of which most of them are underground. And Jeff I know you are the Chairman of the China Mission Council, could you share with us some inspiring stories from the Greater China region ?

Jeff: Definitely, although the churches are underground in China, meaning that disciples cannot openly share their faith in the public, and can only meet in small groups; that does not confine disciples' zeal in evangelizing, it is still on the heart of many disciples to join mission teams to share the gospel to many cities that do not have church set up yet. And God has been doing incredible works in China. I can recall a brother from Xi An, his name is Jason. Xi An is a big city in the northeastern part of China, where the Terracotta Army is located. The father of this brother is a Taoist priest; therefore since becoming a disciple in 2008, he continuously faced persecutions from his family. But despite all the challenges, his family background did not deter him from serving God; he decided to take the leap of faith in joining the mission team to Tian Jin in 2011.

Out of a team of 9, there were only 3 brothers including Jason, but God was with them all along, the mission team had helped to lay a firm foundation for the campus ministry over there. And the church grew to over 34 disciples today. However, because of their devoted evangelism on campus, after their first year of evangelizing, disciples were investigated and interrogated by the Tian Jin police and Jason had to return to Xi An temporarily.

But God's plan is always unexpected, after Jason returned to Xi An, he started dating this sister who helped planting the Xi An church 10 years ago, her name is Esther. Although there is a 15-years difference between the two of them, Jason had complete confidence in leading the dating relationship. And to God be the glory, they got married last year and their first baby will be born this coming July. Jason and Esther's story definitely encourages the soul of many disciples who scarified their youth for God in the mission. What God has prepared for those who love him is always more than we can imagine.

Anchor: Wow, that is really encouraging. Two disciples willing to go anywhere, do anything for evangelism is united in Christ. Young people are always full of zeal.

But Jeff, China is known for being a country with rich history, cultures and traditions, hence, as you mentioned before, disciples face many persecutions because of the lack of understanding from family and society, could you share with us how they break through these challenges?

Story 2

Jeff : Yes, especially in the Chinese community where family unity is particularly important, when most of our Chinese brothers and sisters become disciples, they often face challenges while explaining their faith to their family members, let alone sharing their faith with them. But God has never stopped manifesting his power through the radical transformations of our disciples, saving not only their lives but also their households'. The lives of our disciples are living proofs to their families of God's existence and His love and care for us. Let me share one more story about a brother named Ken:

Ken became a disciple in 2007 in Xi An and since becoming a disciple, he has been sharing his faith to his family. In January 2008, Ken's sister -in- law was ready for delivery, however,

because of the severe snow storm at the time, the transportation system was paralyzed and they could not find a ride to the hospital. And at this very critical and desperate moment, Ken's mother started praying to God on the side of the road, saying "Although I do not know you, but please on behalf of my son, have mercy on us, please help my son." And miraculously, right after Ken's mother finished praying, there came a car, which willingly took them on the highway, and on their way they were able to get on another taxi that took them to the hospital. In the end they arrived the hospital safely and their baby was healthily born. The amazing work of God inspired Ken's mother that there is a God.

And after 6 years, in 2014, Ken's elder brother Lin Tao left his job in another city and moved to Xi An. As Ken has been sharing his faith with his brother consistently, Lin Tao was open to studying the bible with a few married brothers in the ministry. A few brothers helped him to resolve problems in his marriage and to face his sins in his life. He started to humble himself before God and seek God wholeheartedly. After reading the Bible, his heart was softened by the Word and he confessed and apologized to his wife, mending their long-distanced relationship. And at the end of that year, he was baptized into the kingdom, Amen! And because his wife had witnessed the transformation of her husband, she also started coming out to church and started studying the Bible. And to God be the glory, she was baptized earlier this year. Their family has gotten much closer as they started building their family with God's word.

Story 3

Anchor : I know China has always been a popular destination for the one-year challenge, are there any interesting stories to tell?

Jeff : Heinrichs Steve came to IHOP for a One Year Challenge in 2010, after a discouraging period of being in and out of fulltime ministry in the U.S. He decided even though he was "down" he just needed to take a big step of faith in God anyway. The year he came to China, Connie was baptized. Connie had been reached out to by way of another sister, Tina from the Hong Kong Church, who came to China in 2008 to help the mission. Steve and Connie got to know each other better at the first IHOP retreat Connie attended, even before she became a Christian! The next year after Connie was baptized, Steve made the courageous decision to put himself forward to plant another church in China! Connie was the first locally baptized disciple to go on the mission team. After starting the Foshan church, they began dating, and were married in 2014! They now lead the Foshan church together fulltime. The church has now grown to over 20 disciples.

The two photos up here are the two weddings that had: a Western wedding and a traditional Chinese wedding banquet in Connie's hometown!

Story 4

Anchor: Amen, that is awesome. But Jeff, so China is now the engine behind the world's economic growth, and the people in China is getting richer and richer. I am just curious, is it getting harder to baptise people in big cities as the bible also says it is harder for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom?

Jeff: Haha, it is difficult but not impossible, we also have many talented disciples who are very successful in the world, but at the same time are able to glorify God with what have been given to them.

Yan Jie is among the first batch of college graduates after China's reform and development. She became the owner of a well-established construction company in China and her company was involved and responsible for the interior designs of the world's biggest building, that is, the New Century Global Center in Cheng Du. The mall is twice the size of both the previous mall record holder in Dubai and the biggest mall in GuangDong. There is even an indoor beach in the mall that is one kilometer long. Despite all her impressive accomplishments, she never thought she did any of that with her own abilities, but gave all the credits to God. After getting baptized, what she always share with people is 1 Corinthians 13:13 "The greatest of all these is love". Success is never her stumbling block, her humble character and vulnerability towards others are so evident that she was able to help study the bible and baptised two women from different age groups in just two years' time. Both of them come from rural families who are illiterate; one of them is a brother's mom; and the other is a maid who once worked in a couple's home. She is using her life as a testimonial of her firm belief- "The greatest of all these is love".

Story 5

Anchor: God is really moving in China! We know China's economy is taking off and it has become a major player in the global economy. Many has put their hope on materialistic gains, and the Chinese community has become more and more secular, does that have any negative impact on evangelism in China?

Jeff : That is an undeniable truth, nowadays many Chinese believe that economic development, moving into the city from rural area and getting a better job and eventually immigration to the western world are the only way out to having a more fruitful life; but in fact, alongside with the economic development comes with many social problems, which again tells us only the gospel is the only hope and the answer to having an abundant life. To end my sharing I would like to share with you this single brother from GuangZhou called Yan Chao. He grew up in a poor village in Hunan where most of the villagers are infected with AIDS virus because of illegal selling of blood. Both of his parents were infected and passed away subsequently while he was in college. But God never leave his promises unfulfilled, in Psalm 68:6, it says "God sets the lonely in families"; He gave Yan Chao a loving family in the kingdom and he was able to impact more lives because of his life experience. His story was so inspiring that it was featured in a TV show, and I would like to take this time to show a short clip about his story.

(Play Video)

Anchor: That is a moving story, it reminds me how the bible says in John "this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him". Thank you Jeff for all the amazing stories from the Greater China region.

(This story is optional-only when we have time)

Anchor: Since the first mission team started in Hong Kong, it has been nearly 30 years. It is encouraging to see disciple's kids that used to grow up in Kids kingdom maturing and becoming disciples in church. It is even more encouraging to see how they imitate the mission heart of their parents and devoted their lives to the mission as well. Are there any stories to inspire our next generation?

Jeff: Danielle was a kingdom kid who took the One Year Challenge and came to China in 2010. A year later Adrian arrived from the U.S. for a One Year Challenge—on the first day,

he met Danielle at midweek and liked her! After getting to know each other better by serving on the mission together, they started dating and were married in 2013. They led a house church together and were fruitful as a couple, including (in the photo) a campus student named Sam.

Sam is from Dongguan, one of the largest cities in the world where we don't have a church. Adrian and Danielle are preparing to plant a church in that city, Dongguan, in 2017 and are looking for others who will take the One Year Challenge and help them plant this church!



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Adventures - in - Missions - Stories from around Asia

China
Jeff Wong





2016
Asian
Discipleship
Summit
June 16 - 19
WU KUNG DIA CONVENTION CENTER

Jason & Esther





Come Follow Me
2016
Asian
Discipleship
Summit
June 16 - 19
WU MIAM OLA CONVENTION CENTER

Ken with his family





2016
Asian
Discipleship
Summit
June 16 - 19
WALI MUHAMMAD CONVENTION CENTER

Ken with his brother





2016
Asian
Discipleship
Summit
June 16 - 19
WALI MUHAMMAD CONVENTION CENTER

Heinichens





2016
Asian
Discipleship
Summit
June 16 - 19
WALI MUHAMMAD CONVENTION CENTER





2016
Asian
Discipleship
Summit
June 16 - 19
WALI MUSH IDUA CONVENTION CENTER

Yan Jie



Chengdu Global Center

(Asia's Largest Single Building)



2016
Asian
Discipleship
Summit
June 16 - 19
WU HSIANG HSIA CONVENTION CENTER



Paradise Island Ocean Park



2016
Asian
Discipleship
Summit
June 16 - 19
WALI MUHAMMAD CONVENTION CENTER





2016
Asian
Discipleship
Summit
June 16 - 19
WALI MUHAMMAD CONVENTION CENTER





2016
Asian
Discipleship
Summit
June 16 - 19
WALI MUHAMMAD CONVENTION CENTER



Yan Jie study Bible with a woman





2016
Asian
Discipleship
Summit
June 16 - 19
WU KUNG DIA CONVENTION CENTER





2016
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Discipleship
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June 16 - 19
WALI MUHAMMAD CONVENTION CENTER



广东电视台采访-王艳超(Yan Chao)

Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JilgMJQgmc>

Video download link: <http://gofile.me/2lpgC/PPHww9y0k>



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