A MESSAGE TO US FROM A CHINESE PASTOR IN WUHAN

 This letter was sent to me by a dear sister in South Africa. In comparing this letter to the letter sent out to the Western believers back in the 1980s, it carries the same message. Suffering for His Name’s sake is a gift to us to prepare us to stand firm in the day of great tribulation. (**Philippians 1:29; 3:10-14; II Timothy 4:7-8; I Peter 4:1-2**) We must “fight the good fight of faith to win!”

“JERUSALEM, Israel – The voice of a Chinese pastor living in the epicenter of the deadly coronavirus outbreak is being heard around the world and it's persuading many Christians to stand with him in prayer.

 An anonymous pastor in Wuhan, China penned a letter to the global Church describing what it's like to leave your home not knowing if you'll contract this virus, and if you will live for long if you do. He is one among millions of Chinese citizens on complete lockdown in an attempt to contain the disease.

 While he says China is suffering, he believes something bigger is happening, saying it is time for Christians to proclaim the gospel in a country where their faith is under fire.”

 Yedidah: Yes, something bigger is happening. As reported by Dave Hodges in mid-January, confirmed later on, this is a bio-weapon. It is a DNA-targeting weapon to depopulate China to a great extent. China has 1.8 billion people. The spread of the Good News for decades has created a massive army of saved Chinese people – most likely nearing 200,000,000 at this point, for revival has once again broken out.

 What caused such a surge of salvations in China so many years ago? Why are they so strong in faith? Why so many martyrs in China? President Xi has been increasing the persecution, burning Bibles. They have so few Bibles as it is. It is heartbreaking. Now President XI has confined himself to an underground bunker.

 What is happening is **Revelation 6:7-8** in an advancing stage. “Death” riding this pale horse is physical death of 1/4th of the earth’s people. In that verse, war is mentioned, famine is mentioned, but “death” is a catch-all for death by biological weaponry – pandemic diseases.

**A Letter from a** **Pastor Under Quarantine in Wuhan**:

Brothers and sisters; peace be upon you:

 During these past days the Wuhan pneumonia (virus) has been at the center of my thoughts and life. (I am) always watching the latest news, and always thinking about how our family and the church should face this. As for family, I have gathered masks and foodstuffs and have ventured out of doors as little as possible. When venturing out in public I have worn a mask, but as for the rest, I have placed it in the Lord's hands.

 As for the church, the safety of the congregation, a faithful witness, the possibility that members could contract the illness, has all become a great area of struggle. It is readily apparent that we are facing a test of our faith.

 The situation is so critical, yet (we are) trusting in the Lord's promises, that his thoughts toward us are of peace, and not evil (**Jeremiah. 29:11**), and that he allows for a time of testing, not to destroy us, but to establish us. Therefore, Christians are not only to suffer with the people of this city, but we have a responsibility to pray for those in this city who are fearful, and to bring to them the peace of Christ.

 First, we are to seek the peace of Christ to reign in their hearts (**Hebrews 3:15**). Christ has already given us his peace, but his peace is not to remove us from disaster and death, but rather to have peace in the midst of disaster and death, because Christ has already overcome these things (**John 14:27, 16:33**). Otherwise we have not believed in the gospel of peace (**Ephesians 6:15**), and, with the world, would be terrified of pestilence, and lose hope in the face of death.

 Why do only Christians have this peace? Because of sin, humans deserve the trials and tribulations that come upon them, Jehovah says: the wicked have no peace (**Isaiah 48:22**). We were all sinners, but Christ, because of faith, took our penalty and gave us his peace. Therefore Paul says, who can bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. (**Romans 8:33**). Christians may with the world face the same tribulations, but such tribulations are no longer punishment, but a new opportunity to grow nearer to the Almighty, to purify our souls, and an opportunity to proclaim the gospel.

 In other words, when disaster strikes us, it is but a form of God's love. And, as Paul firmly believed, "who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger or sword? . . .  in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loves us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (**Romans 8:35-39**).

 Spoken for today, Wuhan's pestilence cannot separate us from the love of Christ; this love is in our Lord Jesus Christ. These words are so comforting for us, we have already become one body with Christ. We have a part in his sufferings, and we have a part in his glory, all of Christ's is ours, and our all is Christ's. Therefore, Christ is with us as we face the pestilence in this city; the pestilence cannot harm us. If we die in the pestilence, it is an opportunity to witness to Christ, and even more to enter into his glory.

 Thus, my brothers and sisters, I encourage you to be strong in Christ's love. If we more deeply experience death in this pestilence, understanding the gospel, we may more deeply experience Christ's love, and grow ever nearer to God. Our Lord Jesus through faith experienced an incomparable suffering of death, yet God raised him from the dead, and sat him at his right hand. (**Acts 2:32-36**)

 If in reading these truths you still have no peace, I encourage you to diligently read the above cited scripture and call on the Lord to give you insight until the peace of Christ reigns in your heart. You must know, that this is not just an observable disaster, but even more it is a spiritual struggle. You should first wage a battle for your heart, and secondarily battle for the soul of this city.

 We earnestly hope that you would know that not a sparrow falls without the will of the Father (**Matthew 10:29**). With so many souls facing pestilence, can it be outside God's will? All that we are experiencing, is it not like Abraham facing Sodom, and Jonah facing Nineveh?

 If God, because of a righteous man withheld judgment on Sodom, or because of 120,000 who didn't know their left hand from their right, withheld destruction, what of the city of Wuhan in which we live?  We are clearly the righteous in this city, far more than a single righteous person there are thousands and thousands of us. Yet, may we like Lot be grieved over all those in this city (**1 Peter 2:7**), and like Abraham who earnestly prayed for Sodom (**Genesis 18:23-33**). You see, Jonah with difficulty proclaimed the gospel to Nineveh, and Nineveh repented and was saved. We are this city's Abraham and Jonah. We must pray for God's mercy upon this city, and bring peace upon this city through our prayers and testimony.

 I believe this is the command of God calling those of us living in Wuhan. We are to seek peace for this city, seek peace for those who are afflicted with this illness, seek peace for the medical personnel struggling on the front lines, seek peace for every government official at every level, seek peace for all the people of Wuhan! And we can through online networks guide and comfort our friends and loved ones with the gospel, reminding them that our lives are not in our own hands, and to entrust their lives to God who is faithful and true.

 The past few days I have received many inquiries from foreign pastors. They and the whole church are concerned for this city, even more for us; and confronting this epidemic, seek to serve the city with us.

 Thus, I especially ask them to turn their eyes upon Jesus. And do not be concerned with my welfare, nor be agitated or fearful, but pray in the name of Jesus. Good hearted people are through their actions serving this city, especially the medical personnel who are risking their own lives. If they can take on such worldly responsibilities, how can we not more readily take on spiritual responsibilities!

 If you do not feel a responsibility to pray, ask the Lord for a loving soul, an earnestly prayerful heart; if you are not crying, ask the Lord for tears. Because we surely know that only through the hope of the Lord's mercy will this city be saved. A Wuhan Pastor - January 23, 2020

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 Compare the pastor’s letter (above) with this letter, sent by a Chinese brother to believers in the West in the 1980s. Persecution of believers has increased greatly under President Xi who thinks of himself as another Mao Tse Tung.

 From pages 93-96 of Carl Lawrence’s book *The Church in China – How It Survives and Prospers Under Communism.* This letter is from a truly born-again believer, representing truly born-again believers in China, written to believers in Western nations. It is sobering and numbing to say the least. References to joy and faith may sound foreign to those in Western nations, but soon what they suffer daily will be the same worldwide for all true believers whose faith is rooted in the blood of the Lamb, His resurrection, and in His soon coming!

 I heard recently that another revival has broken out in China as the born again believers are joyfully risking their lives to spread the Good News of the salvation of the Jewish Messiah who died in our place and rose again to give us eternal life. Their faith is strong. Their joy is powerful. The transforming power within the salvation of Yahushua is so great, that people I’ve known have gone from demon possession to being totally free. I saw so much of this in the African “bush.” Our authority builds as we proclaim!

 They are those of **Daniel 11:32**: “Those that know their Elohim will be strong and will act.” I encourage you to read the manual I wrote on faith, entitled Faith Walk. **Habakkuk 2:4**: “THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY HIS FAITH.”

*THE CHURCH IN CHINA* by Carl Lawrence:

Page 93: Carl Lawrence: “A house church leader wrote this letter to the church in the West”

 THE LETTER: “On behalf of the brothers and sisters in China, I send greetings to the members of the body overseas! Today, the church here is being greatly blessed by the lord and the number of people being saved is increasing daily.

 Page 94: “The proverb `When good is one foot high, evil is ten feet high’ is true. But the growth in the life of the church has been promoted, even by the servants of the devil. Wherever the church flourishes there are difficulties. The revival of the church here has grown up in this situation. For if Jesus had not been crucified, none today could be saved; if there were no testing by fire, then true faith would not become apparent, and if there is no training, we could not become instruments used by the Lord. If the rock is not split open, the water of life cannot flow forth, so difficulties are the means for promoting life and revival in the churches.

 Recently the gospel here has once again been greatly promoted because ten brothers and sisters were imprisoned, beaten and bound for preaching the gospel fearlessly. They regarded their sufferings for the Lord more precious than the treasures of Egypt. [Referring to **Hebrews 11** about Moses]

 They started to preach the gospel in the poorest and most barren areas. They preached with tears streaming down, causing the passers-by and street-sellers, Christians and non-Christians, to stand still and listen. Even fortune tellers were moved by the Holy Spirit and burst out crying. Many people hearing the Word forgot their food, their work, or even to return home.

 This went on until evening and still people had not dispersed. The brothers and sisters preached until they were exhausted, but the crowd would not let them leave. When the shops and factories closed, their employees also listened. However, then the authorities made a move and laid hands on them, dragged them away one by one, binding them with ropes and beating them with electric shock-poles. They also slapped their faces with shoes and knocked them unconscious. But, when they came to, they continued to pray, sing, and preach to the bystanders.

 There was one little sister, age 14, and when she revived after having been beaten senseless, she saw that many people were sympathetic to them in their persecution, so she again began to preach. Her words were few and her voice low, but the people could not stop themselves from crying out and then they repented and believed in Jesus.

 Page 95: “When the young girl and her friends were bound and beaten by the authorities, many people noticed a strange expression on their faces, and the crowd saw to their amazement that they were smiling. Their spirit and appearance was so lively and gracious that the people asked them why they did not feel ashamed. They were so young, where did their power came from? They told them so all could hear. Many were led to believe in Jesus by their example.

 At this point, many people who had not accepted the preaching were also influenced and came to watch them. Many people who attended Three-Self churches also came to know Jesus. Those who had not received the truth came to understand.

 When the people in that area saw the young preachers bound and forced to kneel on the ground for more than three days without food or water, and beaten with sticks until their faces were covered with blood, with their hands made black by the ropes, but still praying, singing, and praising the Lord, then, they, too, were cut to the heart and wished to share their persecution and be bound with them and cast into prison. So in this area recently the flame of the gospel has spread everywhere. There has never been a revival here before, but through the persecution, this place has truly the seeds of Life. May everyone who hears of this give thanks and praise for the revival of the church in this area.

 In men’s eyes this is an unfortunate happening, but for Christians it is like a rich banquet. This lesson cannot be learned from books, and this sweetness is not usually tasted by men. This rich life does not exist in a comfortable environment. Where there is no cross, there is no crown. If the spices are not refined to become oil, the fragrance of the perfume cannot flow forth and if grapes are not crushed in the vat, they will not become wine.

 Dear brethren, these saints who have gone down into the furnace [Daniel 3] far from being harmed, have had their faces glorified and their spirits filed with power, and greater authority to preach the Word and a far more abundant life. The Lord will have the final victory in their bodies, making Satan to be (Page 96) ashamed. In fact, finally Satan had no way of making them renounce their faith and they were released.

 God has placed us in these last days to wage war so that the number of those saved will increase through us, and that His will shall be fulfilled through us in this generation. He desires us to advance into glory with Him. So making the most of the very short time left, let us continually do the work of the lord, because there are still many souls who have not been brought home and many lambs wandering in the mountains and high peaks without any to seek and find them.

 May the Lord Jesus place a burden to reach the gospel on each laborer’s heart and give a spirit of prayer to each Christian so each will become a prayer warrior. Let no one in the Lord be lazy or idle. May our spiritual brethren strive even to meet the need of Christian literature because God has placed you in a good environment to fulfill His task. May God give you a heart faithful to death until He comes. All who have such a heart will obtain a great reward. The Lord will come soon. I desire you to come! Dear fellow workers may the Lord give you hearts to pray for each other, so that we may all be faithful in the Lord’s house until that day. Emanuel!”

 Carl Lawrence ends the chapter: “This letter to the church outside China is simply signed `From a weaker member of the Body, May 6, 1982.’

 From my padded pew, in my air-conditioned sanctuary, holding my computerized mailing list, an ad for a new version of the Bible, subscription reminders for three Christian magazines, and several invitations to `giant spiritual rallies,’ I withhold comments—not because of a lack of words, but an inability to speak.”

 Profound! Compare this letter to the one from the Wuhan Pastor. You see the nature of Abba manifested!

 Now the city of GuangZhou is being put under quarantine/lockdown. I remember being there with Brother Samuel Lamb several times. I encourage you to read the biography of a man, a pastor, who became a friend to me, who was under house arrest in GhangZhou, China, who had been in prison for 20 years – the biography of Samuel Lamb, *Bold as a Lamb*. I met with him in his upstairs “church” on several occasions. His impact on my life was great! I have a signed transcript of his second book that I don’t think was ever published. He was a friend of the famous Wang Ming Tao who was in prison for 23 years. They were released about the same time because the government could do nothing to weaken their faith. Upon meeting, they laughed. Samuel said, “Here we are, Mr. Danger and Mr. Danger--the two most dangerous men in China.” That’s what the authorities thought of them – as being dangerous to Communism. I urge you to also read the biography of Wang Ming Tao *Walk the Hard Road*.

 Precious Samuel Lamb, whose real name was Lin Xiangao passed into heaven August 3, 2013 at the age of 88. He predicted that severe persecution was coming to the believers in China. In 1979, Lamb restarted his house church in 35 Da Ma Zhan in Guangzhou after getting out of prison after 20 years.

 

Open Doors: “Of those 88 years, Lamb spent more than 20 in labor camps, [imprisoned for his faith](http://www.charismanews.com/world/40507-chinese-underground-church-leader-samuel-lamb-dies) "during one of the first big waves of persecution in Mao's China," according to Open Doors USA. The main reason Lamb was targeted by the government was his refusal to merge his illegal house church into the Three-Self Patriotic Movement, the state-led Protestant Church. But not even 22 years of forced labor [stopped Lamb's ministry](http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/07/2634582/). After his release in 1979, Lamb restarted his house church, which still exists today and is tolerated by China's government.”

After his death the police came in and closed down his church. Hundreds attended it. Now GuangZhou is under quarantine lockdown because of the coronavirus.

 Those of the House Church Movement, meeting in secret, yet not being secret as individuals, **they now number nearly 200 million**.

 I cry every time I think of these precious ones who risk their lives daily to take the Good News of salvation to the lost. Most of those who even have a Bible only have a New Testament. Many congregations have no place to meet but in the forests, and the pastor may have a Bible, or may not. Yet, from what they have learned from others, they know **John 3:16** and they praise the Savior and spread the Good News.

 I urge you to read the life of Brother Yun--*The Heavenly Man*. He tells his own story, which will give you a good view of “normal” life under persecution. Their stories are not for our entertainment, but for our sobering, to wake up and know what is important in this life, and what is not. About 98% of what we think is important in the Western world is uselessness in view of eternity.

 I’ve worked with many believers in many hard situations. In some places I’ve ministered the people had never heard seen an airplane, or heard of a computer, a TV, or a cell phone. In Africa, those I stayed with lived in mud and cow dung houses. Yet, they had joy few have in the West. Their greatest passion was to share the Good News of salvation. What is really important in our lives? Look around you. Are you a servant of Yahushua or a servant of the lusts of the flesh?

 The Kingdom is coming! It will be giant class room. Those with faith like Abel, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Yitzak, and Ya’cob, never heard of the Torah. Very few have a Bible. There are congregations of upwards of 2,000 people and perhaps the pastor has a Bible. Yet, these walked in faith, knowing and obeying Yahuwah who led them. Abraham’s servant was on his way into Syria to find a bride for Yitzak/Isaac. He made a statement that few in Western believers understand at all: “I, being in the way, Yahuwah led me.” (He may have said “Shaddai,” because that’s the title Abraham know.) But, Abraham met with Yahushua. He knew the Almighty, the Most High!

 Read **Romans 4:17-25** and **Hebrews 11**. Faith is what pleases Yahuwah--faith followed by obedience to what He has told His servants!

 So are those in China, and in other countries where there is severe persecution. They might not know much more than the basics of salvation through the blood of the Lamb and His powerful resurrection, but they live up to all they know, just like Abraham did – our father in faith! I have met with them in secret in Blagoveshchensk, Russia. This city in Russia is across the Amur River from China. The Chinese come across the river to do business. I had the privilege of meeting with a few of them in a warehouse, and hear one teach from a well-worn “New Testament” about the love of Jesus. They just radiated the presence of the Spirit.

 I talked via phone to a Bible teacher with Open Doors Ministry in 1993. He said he had just returned from China. He met with house church leaders. He sat on a mat in a small room. He taught for 8 hours straight. He was very tied, so they brought him a pillow, and told him to sleep. He slept a few hours. When he woke up they were still there waiting for more teaching. Are you that hungry for the Word?

 In the Kingdom these with simple child-like faith will have great reward, and then they will sit down and be taught to observe the Torah! It will be their great delight to learn how to please the King by obeying His instructions and teachings! They will see the Torah as a great honor and privilege because they love the King with all their heart. As they are now – totally not religious – so they will be then!

 All of our head-knowledge, good as it may be, has led a lot of people to become Pharisaical--self-righteous, arrogant, pompous, and even harsh in their judgment of others who don’t think like they do. Yet, their nature is carnal and self-centered. They care nothing about sharing the Good News of salvation with the lost.

 “Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” (**Matthew 18:1-4**)

 Those that know the love of Yahuwah walk in His love, as little children. Of the pompous religious ones Messiah said that the prostitutes and tax collectors would go into the Kingdom before them. He said to us that unless our righteousness is greater than their performance, we won’t enter either. **Habakkuk 2:4**: “The just shall live by his faith.”

 Refer to my manual on faith “Faith Walk,” under the Mikvah of the Spirit.

May we prepare ourselves to embrace this life with simple faith, obeying the Master, loving and sharing the Word with those who are “lost.”

 Read these two letters. Print them out. Share them with those in your congregation, with friends, with family. It’s a good way to witness to the lost also, because of the news of the coronavirus. Most of the world knows about the heinous quarantines inside China. So, giving them this article will introduce them to the Good News also. Spread the Good News to those at work, school, neighbors …

 In His shalom, love, and joy, Yedidah

February 9, 2020