



October 5, 2011

Dear Friends of World Link Ministries,

Rejoice! The Lord is King of creation! Whatever else may be suggested, the reality is that God rules and will not relinquish the throne. Though for a little while we may endure momentary light affliction, our destiny is the eternal weight of glory. I pray you are living in light of that everlasting reality today!

I am writing you from China, where I just had the privilege of leading a successful young businessman to Christ.

Liu has what most people crave, but considered his life “hopeless”

Liu has a lot of things. He drives an expensive German car and has a tremendous amount of money in a country where the vast majority of people have very little. Liu has traveled to exciting parts of the world and has experienced more of the “good life” than most of his peers. You would think that, even if he hasn’t arrived at his desired port, he would be optimistic enough to hope for the best. But when I met Liu a couple of nights ago, he was blunt and pessimistic. Early in our conversation, after a drive to the restaurant in his very nice sports car, he declared that while he had a lot, he was “running on empty.” He had, in his own words, “Absolutely no hope.”

Over dinner we began to explore the reasons for his feelings of hopelessness. As we talked, I shared with him the total frustration that the wealthiest king of all time felt, enough to declare that life was absolutely empty and meaningless! Solomon discovered, I told Liu, that despite success and pleasure, there was nothing that could bring him lasting satisfaction. Liu identified with Solomon’s predicament!

**Is it any wonder that a person with money, but without Christ,
would feel empty and hopeless?**

Everything I said to Liu was totally new to him. He came to Solomon’s *Book of Ecclesiastes* without the slightest bias! I must tell you that even mature Christians often have a hard time understanding rhyme or reason in Ecclesiastes, and I wanted to make a point to Liu that he could relate to, but not lose him along the way!

Our dinner together was the usual abundant Chinese style. But the real food that Liu needed to digest was spiritual. He needed to process all that he was hearing, which was entirely new to him.

Before risking losing Liu with too much information, I came right out and told him that Solomon discovered that if all of your focus is “under the sun,” on the horizontal plane, then you will be absolutely frustrated by the weird twists and turns of life!

I told Liu, as directly as I knew how, that it is *only when you introduce God’s perspective to your life that you can be filled with hope and expect a wonderful outcome.*

Like most of us, Liu brought a lot of baggage to Jesus

On my follow-up conversation with Liu he told me about a long list of *experiences* that needed to be sorted out. There were *feelings*, there were experiments with *other powers*, there were *broken relationships* that seemed like irreparable losses. It was clear to me that Liu had a significant need for ongoing counseling.

But . . . despite all of the complex needs of Liu's life . . . there was clearly one foundational necessity: Liu needed to start over. Not just in the sense of a new relationship, or a new way of life. His need went much deeper. **He needed to be born again!** The ultimate new start!

As I shared the words of Jesus from John 3, they jumped out to Liu. And after pouring out his life story, he suddenly understood the significance of the new birth! I told him, "Liu, the bottom line is that if you have only one birth you will have to die twice. But if you have two births you only have to die once!"

Ever the businessman, the moment the words reached his ears, Liu shot back: "***That's a good deal!!***" He was ready to act. He was ready to ask Jesus to be His Savior. He was ready to be born again!

Jesus calls us to 'make disciples,' not simply converts!

Liu will discover a lot more about his new life in Christ when he begins our discipleship program in two days. He is looking forward to it, and knows he has so much to learn. So much to overcome. So much to trust God for.

My experience with Liu was the perfect embodiment of my visit to China. We met and talked with our ministry partners. We saw the Accelerated Church Planting trainees up close, and they were a great joy to our hearts. What a blessing it is to see how God calls champions to Himself! We are thrilled that they are ready to reach and disciple men and women like Liu!

100 Church Plants in two years

Our Accelerated Church Planting program will spread out over four or five areas and launch 100 church plants in its first phase. The training in preparation for this expansion of God's Kingdom has been going on for several months now. Those being trained are amazingly talented, intelligent and gifted. And, they are committed to serving God despite official government opposition.

In one of the training sessions with the team, I did my best to drive home the *all-important* issue of the quality of the Christianity we are imparting. There are many distorted and erratic interpretations of Christianity in the world today. And with the dispersed and often secretive nature of the Chinese church, there are many aberrations of Christianity to avoid. We are committed to living the Christian life according to God's specifications!



Our goal, like the Apostle Paul's, is authentic Christian living

Our team in China is in the process of rendering an authentic Christianity for the growing church. In China a lot of the activity centers around social events. And social events can be fertile fields for evangelism and even discipleship, but they can also be diverting, even compromising, if not rooted in a biblical worldview.

As Paul wrote to the struggling Corinthian church, “Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved...” (1 Cor. 15:1-2).

So I urged my friends here in China to live and reproduce a healthy and strong application of *biblical* Christianity. As my beloved mentor and professor, Dr. Howard Hendricks, drilled into us: “*If it doesn't work in your life, don't export it!*”

Accelerated Church Planting equips people to live the Great Commission

The certain joy of our Accelerated Church Planting ministry is that we are empowering nationals who are living out their faith amid adverse conditions. They are experienced in persecution and experienced in putting God's priorities ahead of the government's – and even ahead of their own priorities. The remarkable evangelistic effort which is taking place today throughout all of Asia is resulting in a magnificent, eternal harvest. It is exciting to be a part of what God is doing!

It is our prayer that you may also see a fruitful, God-satisfying, authentic rendition of Christianity in your life and in your church. May we be a worthy generation to pass on Christianity to the next generation in the most pristine and productive way possible.

We are grateful for your partnership because **you are a vital part of God's work!** We ask for your prayers, for your continued support, and your growth in the Lord. He calls us all to grow in Him as we remain steadfast in our faith. God is more than enough – and we will never, in life or eternity, exhaust the reservoir of His capacity to sustain us and empower us to grow up in Him.

Will you help us reach the goal of 100 New Churches in two years?

Please pray with us for these dear laborers in this vast land. We can't reach more than 1 billion people by ourselves, but we can reach a great many with your prayerful support. Please pray with us for these wonderful faith champions in China that the Lord will direct their steps to every one of the ones He has for Himself.

Because China's economy is growing so rapidly, and the cost of city life with it, the cost for our Accelerated Church Planting team is more than in many other places we serve, but still a very affordable \$100 per month per person.



We believe that each church planter that we support will plant four churches over the next two years. So we need to find support for 25 church planters to reach our goal of 100 new churches in the next two years.

Will you come alongside us to be a part of this Accelerated Church Planting team in China? Your monthly gift of \$100 will help plant four churches in the next two years. Praise God for such an opportunity!

Your monthly gift of just \$25, when combined with others, will help plant one new church in the next two years. Even that is remarkable!

Or, God may be leading you to make a one-time gift right now. Every dollar counts; our Lord will multiply your gift through our dedicated group of disciple-makers! You will be helping plant another new church in China!

May the Lord bless you in your pursuits and may you be filled with the hope of glory. Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Resolute in the Harvest,

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Because of the sensitive nature of ministry in China I have not used last names or identified our team members. But I wish you could meet each one. They are a remarkable group of passionate believers. *Your support of them and our work is critical right now.* By God's grace, you will meet them in heaven!