



Jim and Peggy Price

# Welcome

## April 2017

# LIFECONNECTION MINISTRIES

*Connecting people with Jesus, the Giver of Life*

## Dear Friends,

Peggy and I pray that you are doing well. We would like to take a few minutes to catch you up on what has been going on in our lives since the beginning of the year.

But first, Easter is rapidly approaching, and I'm reminded of our years teaching in China as our students wanted to know the background of the holidays that we celebrate in the west. Yes, they do have Easter in China, but it's more about shopping for new clothes and eating chocolate bunnies. Our students were always curious to find out that Easter is about the resurrection of Christ from the dead, that is, following Good Friday and His death on the cross.

As Peggy and I told the story to our students, they were reminded, in a historical and cultural manner, of what Christians believe. We would craft it like this:



“When Jesus died on the cross, the Bible says that He died for our sins, and every Christian believes in this truth. And because there are approximately 100 million Christians in China, you likely have a relative or friend who is a Christian, and it’s good for you to know what they believe.” As you can see, there is no “preaching,” but just a clear presentation of “what Christians believe,” and if done in the context of “historical and cultural awareness,” it’s totally permissible. Anyway, the Good News of Christ’s death and resurrection is presented, and then we just allow room for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and lives. And that’s what God has been doing in the lives of many of our friends and former students.

January was a wonderful time this year as God replenished our dry land here in the west with copious

amounts of rain in the valley and snow in the mountains. I’m not sure of the exact details, but we haven’t seen moisture like this in over 20 years. Reservoirs are full, but the aquifers still need to be recharged, which may take a few more years of rain like we just experienced. Regardless, we are grateful for the rain He has sent our way.

February was a time for Peggy and me to travel to Thailand where we met most of our ERRC teachers. Those who had gone home over the holidays flew into Chiang Mai from the west, and those who remained in China met us at the retreat center. We had a wonderful time of interaction with our teachers, and I had the privilege of sharing each day on the topic: “Essential Jesus – Understanding his Message, Ministry, and Mission.” And on one of the days, we traveled to see some trained monkeys, tigers, and a King Cobra snake “charming” show. One of the snake handlers even hung a boa constrictor around my neck, and I’m still alive to tell about it! OK – I have pictures, but because I want to focus on our time in China, I will save these pictures for our next newsletter.

March was our time to return to Asia, and this time it was to China where Peggy and I had ten wonderful days to meet with most of our teachers, friends, and former students. We were in four different cities, and enjoyed China’s bullet trains getting us from one destination to another. After leaving Shanghai, we stopped in Tai’an where we had three new teachers just arrive from the US. They had just completed our Orientation in Oakland, and they are now teaching at three different schools in this city. Peggy and I had a wonderful time with each of them individually, and then enjoyed a group dinner before we left.

And then it was on to Beijing where we not only met with many teachers, but also friends and former students. Peggy and I have developed some great relationships with some former school administrators and one individual who is the head of the Foreign Language Department at a prominent university in Beijing, along with his wife who speaks very little English, but non-verbal communication is rich just the same. They have become more than just casual acquaintances, as they have become dear friends. We had some special time with each of them hearing their stories (some of which are pretty sad) and encouraging them by sharing some of the really Good News that is clearly spoken of in the Bible. We find it a privilege and a great joy to have such wonderful friends in China, and look forward to being with them every time we travel to China.

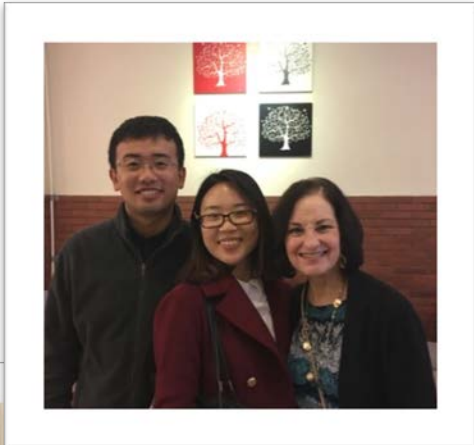
And then we had special time with many of our former students in whose lives the seeds of the Gospel have been planted years ago. They look forward to meeting with us because they know that in the midst of the pressures of their studies and life as a student trying to finish their PhD research and dissertation, they need encouragement that, once again, is found in God's Word. Some of the students that we had back in 2011 are just finishing up their degrees, and many will be graduating this summer. One of my former students is now married with a wonderful new little baby, and one of Peggy's is teaching at a Law University as an associate professor influencing many other law students. So, we are amazed at the gifted students whom we've been privileged to teach and to remain friends with!

I have decided to include quite a few pictures, and have arranged them in groups for easy viewing.

## TEACHERS



# FORMER STUDENTS



# FRIENDS



On Monday, Peggy and I will be taking a “real” vacation together which won’t involve work. Oh how we love going to Thailand and China and spending time with others, but this time, we will be traveling east instead of west, and it will be just the two of us. Thanks to United Air Miles for two free flights, and thanks to a friend who had given us a generous “vacation” gift, we will be celebrating Peggy’s 70th birthday (which was on January 9th) by flying into Rome, then by train to Florence, and finally to Venice where we will embark on a 7-day cruise on Norwegian Cruise Lines (such a great deal we got) to some of the Greek Islands. We will leave on the 10th and return on the 24th. We will be celebrating Easter “at sea,” which we hope will be an unforgettable experience. I will have more to say about our vacation in our next newsletter.

Thanks for being our friends and for praying for us through the years. We are grateful to be serving God here in the US as well as in China. In our next newsletter, we will share more about our trip to Thailand, and our vacation, as well as about our life here in the US.

May the Lord richly bless you in every way.

Sincerely,

*Jim and Peggy Price*



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