

the future of CHINA



RAY BRUBAKER

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God's News Behind the News
Box 10475
St. Petersburg, FL. 33713

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RAY BRUBAKER - COMMENTATOR
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China Today



Congressman George Hansen of Idaho said he was horrified when the announcement was made, "Red China will be recognized, and Free China abandoned."

Dr. C. Adrian Rogers, pastor of the Historic Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee, addressed an annual convention of the National Association of Evangelicals meeting in Orlando, Florida.

Rogers expressed this same sentiment by asserting:

"I want to tell you something, ladies and gentlemen." I don't know about your politics and I love my President and I pray for him. But it grieved me to the heart to see that Communist dictator come over here and have us roll out the red carpet to him and treat him like royalty when I think of the MILLIONS of Christians that have been slaughtered."

During the convention, the NAE went on record as showing concern for the future of Taiwan by issuing the following statement:

"The National Association of Evangelicals is concerned about the security of the 17 million people on Taiwan, and more particularly, about the preservation of religious freedom that now exists in that society. The association calls on the conscience of world opinion to respect the right of the people of Taiwan to have the privilege of exercising human liberties; the Congress and the President of the United States to preserve the human rights of the people of Taiwan; the Congress and the President to protect American citizens and missionaries in Taiwan; the Church in America to pray for and identify with our fellow Christians in Taiwan that religious freedom and spiritual oppor-

tunity be preserved.”

We're reminded of the grim warning given by Alexander Solzhenitsyn who warned of the danger of aligning with Red China. He made a forecast as to the hideous end result should America ally itself with Red China in order to oppose the Soviet Union. He spoke of it as “a doomed alliance with evil,” which grants the United States a respite, “but when at a later date China with its billion people would turn around armed with American weapons. America itself would fall prey to a genocide similar to the one perpetrated in Cambodia.”

Robert Stiff, local newspaper editor, was one of twenty American editors invited to the Republic of China. He gave God's News Behind the News his assessment of individual freedom within the Republic of China:



Henri Cartier-Bresson—Magnum

Chinese workers watching television at exhibit in Peking

“It's difficult to know what the Chinese people know about what's really going on in their country. The press is completely controlled. It's an organ of the government. Absolutely no freedom there. They have some television. They have about a million television sets, most of them in commune halls and places like that where a lot of people see them at one time. And it's all completely controlled. Nothing is put out to the public that the government doesn't want put out. So if you see something in the paper, you know it wasn't there by accident. It's there because the government thought it was a good idea that it be put there...”

Stiff went on to relate that it was his observation that the establishment of diplomatic relations could very well work to the advantage of the evangelical community:

“Normalization of relations between the United States and China, I think is a very good thing for the west. I think there was absolutely no way to spread the Christian word in China when it was such a closed country. Normalization of relations has opened it up so that a lot of Chinese students are and will be

in this country studying in our universities, learning our ways, and, of course, our Christian ways. And we will have more and more travelers going to China so that they will be exposed to other ideas and they've not been exposed while it was so completely closed off to foreign influences. And I think this is possibly the very best thing that could happen to Christians. There's no way it could have worked before but now it has a possibility of working and I think we all need to rejoice in that..."

While the President's startling announcement caught the nation by surprise, he did make it clear that recognition of China was not to be interpreted as giving the Soviet Union the cold shoulder.

However, the President did turn his back on Taiwan by acknowledging that there is one China, and "Taiwan is part of China."

How long Taiwan will remain free remains the unanswered question.

Even the National Conference of Christians and Jews called on Mr. Carter to give "concrete, specific and uncompromising assurances" to bar a military takeover of Taiwan by Communist China."

In a mailgram sent to the White House, Dr. David Hyatt declared: "Seventeen million human beings are a lot of people to leave stranded as possible victims of Red Chinese aggression." He stated further, "In view of your splendid and praiseworthy commitment to worldwide human rights, this matter deserves your utmost consideration."

Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, General Minister and President of the Christian Church, likewise issued a statement to Vice Premier Ten Hsiao-ping of China during his visit to the United States:

"We hope that the expression of religious faith will be increasingly acceptable and that any who suffer imprisonment or other disability because of faith in God will be able to return to a normal life in the new Chinese society. We hope that when our people visit China, they will be able to enter into contact with all kinds of people. Including persons with religious faith and especially those members of churches who find their constructive role in China today as Christians."

The Chinese Vice Premier, attending a luncheon of businessmen in Atlanta, declared: "Peace is not secured by prayer alone." One would surely wonder just what does a Chinese Communist know about prayer?

One reporter who visited China since U.S. recognition, declared that once-thriving churches there have been converted to ramshackle homes or perhaps a warehouse.

She described the people of China as saying, "There is no God" or that there is no "life after death." When she quoted TIME magazine where the Vice Premier mentioned having an encounter with God, her guide showed a look of disbelief, saying: "You must be joking."

TIME did quote Teng as saying: "The day I meet God is when

I will graduate and who knows how many grades I will get from God."

The question is being asked, Will normalization of relations with China open the door for missionary activity there?

Already some Jesuit priests are reportedly returning to China.

Of this we can be sure, the climate is ripe for a spiritual invasion.

Harry Liu of the Pocket Testament League knows of many stories which would indicate that there is a spiritual awakening in China. Here is one such story related to us by Mr. Liu:

"It is forbidden to witness for Christ in China right now. I just heard it from the refugees that just came out from China. They said there was a factory in Peking, a factory with many people working there, and the manager and his wife are very, very strong communists (otherwise they don't get that kind of job) and they persecute the Christians. There is just a small group of Christians in the factory. They are very faithful. They're diligent in their work. They are very fine. But because they believe in God, in Christ, they've been persecuted. But they pray, they pray for the manager and his wife, and they pray that God will save their precious souls and they have no hate--just love--love them with the love of God. One day, the manager's wife got very, very sick. She kind of went to sleep and she had a dream. She dreamed she was in a terrible place and there was a lovely place in the yonder, and there were some people there. The people there were the Christians in her factory and she said, 'Oh, that's great!' She was so afraid because she was in a terrible place. Then she woke up and told her husband, 'Please, quick! Go find those Christians who work in our factory and bring them here!' So her husband (since he was the manager, he could order the workers) said, 'Come'--so they came, and the manager's wife told them about the dream and wanted to know how to get to that wonderful place in her dream. So the Christians said, 'Why, that's the Father's House, and that's what the Bible says--In my father's house are many mansions--and the Bible says that the Lord Jesus says--I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father but by me. So if you want to go to that wonderful, beautiful place, just put your trust in Christ. Ask Him to forgive your sins and become a new creature ...and right there, that manager's wife came to know the Lord, and her husband, also. Then, just like Saul of Tarsus, they turned around and became the Apostle Paul and witnessed for Christ. Isn't that wonderful! God is able to do wonderful things. Praise His Holy Name!"

Rev. Philip Hogan, Executive Director of Foreign Missions for the Assemblies of God, said after his visit to China that he found the country "materially improved but spiritually impoverished."

According to the Rev. Franklin Woo, a former missionary, any missionary activity lies in the unforeseeable future.

The new constitution of the People's Republic of China states that "citizens enjoy the freedom to believe in religion and to propagate atheism."

A Catholic priest has commented: "Read that constitutional clause carefully. They don't mind if anyone believes in Catholicism or any other religion, but they don't want anyone practicing it." He went on to observe, "The constitution only guarantees atheists the right to propagate their beliefs."

Among the gifts offered the Chinese Vice Premier when in the U.S., we are told, was a Gideon Bible in Chinese. But this was politely refused.

So the land of the rising sun remains in pagan darkness so long as the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ is rejected.

In the Bible, John referred to Jesus as the "true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." (John 1:9)

Said John of Jesus, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

The Chinese practice cremation for they do not believe in life after death except for the few that may believe in ancestral worship.

A Chinese guide was asked, "If there is no soul and no life after death, are there funerals?"

The guide related how some peasants keep the body in a coffin in the home for three days and then there is a ceremony and burial. Others put the body behind a screen in the home with a picture of the deceased out front. Again there is a brief ceremony and cremation.

With religion "dead" or "dying," it is believed the time may be ripe for the evangelization of China.

A spiritual vacuum has been created which Dr. Pak Chue Chan believes will work to the advantage of evangelicals:



DEFACED BUDDHA IN HANGCHOW TEMPLE

“In spite of what Mao Tse Tung had done in his 28 years of controlling China, (it was absolutely controlled) he had destroyed all the idol temples. No more idols in China now--they even dug up all the bones of the graves so they cannot worship their ancestors. The people have nothing to worship, no churches, no temples, and no idols and no ancestors, so really it created vacuums in 900 million hearts in there. So we may condemn Mao for such action, but God can use Mao, for the gospel of Jesus Christ could be advanced in China in the future.....

We feel that if the Lord tarries, we hope that in the next generation it would be great opportunity to go into China, to stimulate Chinese Christians to commit themselves and to offer themselves to evangelize China by the Chinese and not hope on foreign missionaries to go there like two or three centuries ago to help evangelize China. I think the burden of evangelization now is falling upon those two or three million underground Christians.”

Indeed our Lord Himself testified, saying, “The gospel must be preached into all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come.”

For many decades the focal point of Christian missionary activity was China. More money was spent on China, and more missionaries sent there than anywhere else.

Who does not recall the name of J. Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission?

In 1949, for example, there were 110 Protestant missions in China. There were 6,200 missionaries working there. Churches and chapels numbered 19,500. There were several hundred schools and hospitals.

One such hospital was operated by Dr. Chan. He commented on his work and what had happened during those hectic days of the Revolution:

“During the period from 1925 to 1949, I was working as a surgeon at civil hospitals and I found that we have no interference by Chiang Kai-shek’s government. We have even preached the gospel in our hospital. We have also employed a Bible woman to visit patients from bed to bed, room to room and then it was a very pleasant year. So when in 1949, Mao Tse-tung and his government came and controlled Canton, the place where I was working. Of course, I knew beforehand and I got out eight months before the communists came to control the city, and then I went to Hong Kong. I left the Fok Ling hospital and went to a successor, Dr. Wong, who ran it. Then we had communication with him by letter, by telephone and then in succeeding years great persecution came to him, came to the hospital. ...finally they caught him, exiled him to other places, and they even took my hospital and the hospital was closed into the communist control. From then on, they used the hospital for some other purposes other than medical and surgical and that was the aim of my hospital.”

One missionary has testified: “We lost China because we did not give them the Gospel in writing.” When these Chinese did learn to read they were given the writings of Mao Tse-tung in a red Testament rather than the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Living Bible, because by that time the Communists had taken

over China.

Now that we have recognized Red China, will there come opportunity for the Gospel to again penetrate the mainland of some 900 million Chinese?

There are some men like Paul Freed of Trans World Radio who believe China can be reached now by radio.

In China, the per capita income is \$373 a year. That doesn't leave much extra money for things besides food and clothing.

However, it is said that Chinese girls decline to marry until their fiancées acquire what they call "Three rounds and sound." By that they mean--a bicycle, a watch, a sewing machine, and a radio.

Radio may be one of the ways of reaching China, and Dr. Freed is out to do just that. Attending a luncheon during a recent NAE Convention, Dr. Freed declared: "There is absolutely no other way to reach the majority of the 900 million people of China than by radio. I believe we have an opportunity to touch them such as we've never had before."

Adds Dr. Freed:

"I am convinced that Christian broadcasters should use the teaching of English with Bible stories and the principle of repetition on radio to reach the masses of China. Of course, this should be in addition to carefully produced Chinese programs but a very important addition and radios are available. I had the opportunity of going to seven different homes in China and in every one of them I found a radio set."

A new policy of liberation seems to be in force in China. A man working for the Peking television station testified: "There has been a liberation of the mind, a spiritual reawakening."

Those are unusual words to come out of China. As NEWSWEEK correspondent, James Pringle, commented: "The use of the word 'spiritual' was striking; it did not come from the Maoist vocabulary..."

Many are hoping and praying that there will come a spiritual awakening in China.

We have seen Coca Cola being introduced to the people of China. And the Rev. C. Richard Shumaker asks: "Where Coca Cola goes, can the Christian message be far behind?"

Shumaker goes on to note: "If the liberalization policy of China's new leaders continue, we may find that the Church, once obliterated, now will be tolerated."

He added: "Our own government relationships with China may have some long-time effect on religious freedom."

Some see the Chinese as ripe for the gospel. Since all major religions have been declared useless, it may be the glorious hour for the gospel and we had better take advantage of it.

One who visited China remarked that there were many kindnesses shown. This tourist stated: "The Chinese are more Christlike in their daily actions than many Christians I have known."

The Chinese are known for their good family relationships. Divorce is almost unknown. Peking's divorce rate stands at three percent. Young people in China who saw a Japanese film which told of prostitution were shocked. They did not know such

society evils existed.

However, that's not enough to save a person. We must surrender our lives to Jesus Christ if we would be saved.

Says this traveler to Red China, "Can God be completely out of mind if a guide puts her arms around you, says goodbye, and then says softly, 'May you have a blessed life?'"

Well, Jesus came to give us that blessed life. He said, "I am come that ye might have life, and have it more abundantly."

May we ask, Do you have this life today? Have you ever stopped long enough to consider your soul's salvation?

I would suppose there are many in China as elsewhere who are so busy that they don't take time to think of eternity and where they will spend it.

So let's take a moment right now to make certain of our soul's destiny. This is something you can do and must do if you would have the "blessed life, even "eternal life."

Pray this prayer, "Lord Jesus, Your Word says, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. So I believe that you died for me, and rose again, and one day you will come again for all who have trusted in you, and are living for you. Help me to live for you and ever to be ready when you come. Amen."

Indeed, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

China in Prophecy



Henri Cartier-Bresson, Magnum

Victor Petrov, author of the book, CHINA, EMERGING WORLD POWER, once declared, "That day apparently is approaching when China will definitely become a member of that small but exclusive group commonly known as the Great World Powers."

However, one government official comments: "You can talk of China as one of the major powers on the globe today but if the term "superpower" means anything, it still applies only to the United States and the Soviet Union."

Robert Stiff, newspaper editor from St. Petersburg, Florida, traveled to China at the invitation of Peking's leadership and he gave God's News Behind the News his impressions of that country:

"Well, my trip to China was with a group of American Editors. There were 20 of us. It was really one of the high points in my professional life. I knew very little about China until I knew I was going and then I hurriedly read a lot of books but still wasn't prepared for what I saw which was a big chunk of China's billion people. I saw a country that's changing very rapidly after the cultural revolution and the gang of four, dropping the Bamboo Curtain, welcoming foreigners, welcoming

foreign ideas which they had not done before, and it's a country in a hurry to catch up with the rest of the world and I was very impressed with that."

This new acceptance of Western ideas is interesting in light of the statement made some time ago by a Paris diplomat who asserted that "The Chinese are now open and forthcoming; the slogans, polemics and jargon have disappeared from their conversation. It's a 180 degree change from the old days."

With the United States' new-found acceptance of China, we again asked Editor Robert Stiff if normalization of relations between the U.S. and China has created friction between Sino/Soviet factions, and here was his reply:

"They were, of course, very friendly with the Russians until 1960 when Nikita Krushchev pulled everyone out. All the advisors were sent back to the Soviet Union. They've been against the Soviets and the Americans all during the time since 1960 that Mao was in charge, but now there are more modern leaders there. They are more pragmatic. They realize that political ideology is not enough. They need help from more developed countries and they really detest the Soviet Union. We in this country have an idea that because they're both communists, they probably get along well. That's not necessarily true. They don't get along at all. The invasion of China into Vietnam, for instance, both of them Communist nations. It serves to remind us that Communism is not monolithic. Just because a country is communist does not mean it's friendly with every other communist country.

Indeed one might very well question a Democratic/Communist alliance when a Sino/Soviet axis has proved to be burdensome to Peking.

The Soviets and Americans along with the rest of the world should pay heed to China's strides. Not so much from a diplomatic standpoint as from a military standpoint.

It was Senator Stuart Symington who once noted: "I was very surprised how close (China) is to becoming a superpower from the standpoint of missiles."

Of course, China, along with the rest of the world is dwarfed in a nuclear comparison between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Is China really a viable military threat to the United States at this time? Here again is Robert Stiff:

"China's no military threat at all and when Ten Chao Ping was in this country meeting with President Carter, he talked about Gemini so much, and that's kind of a code word that just infuriates the Soviet Union because they are against countries that are expansionist in nature and they consider the Soviets to be expansionists. They do not think the United States is any more, although we were once called Geminists also. So they're really content to stay home and solve their problems pretty much. They don't have a lot of soldiers on foreign soil or people in other countries trying to foment unrest as the Soviet Union does. They have not gone the way of the Soviets with sending Cubans to Angola and, you know, sort of proxy fighting."

Despite the fact that China poses no serious threats in the way of nuclear confrontation, their sheer masses present an almost insolvable problem.

And what is that problem?

In a television documentary on Red China, the Chinese themselves were quoted as saying that they could amass an army of 200 million militiamen. Think of it!

As a matter of fact, Mao Tse Tung has made plain his policy of revolution. In his book, PROBLEMS OF WAR AND STRATEGY, Tun writes: "The seizure of power by armed force, the settlement of the issue by war, is the central task in the highest form of revolution." And noted Mao, "Political power grows out the barrel of a gun."

That the Maoist philosophy still pervades the national philosophy of China is obvious. At least, according to the observation of Dr. Paul Freed of Trans World Radio, who comments:

"The first thing in China to capture our attention were the immense double portraits of Chairman Mao Tse Tung and Chairman Hwa Kuo Fung. Everywhere we saw billboards and signs and continuously heard the Communist party philosophy and party line slogans interspersed with marshall-type music. The fact began to grip me that the Mao Tse Tung philosophy totally permeated every phase of life. It literally is life itself from the cradle to the grave."

An article in THE PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL continues this thought, saying, "The cult of Maoism maintains its strength by a constant barrage of ideological teaching. God is the state. Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin are the prophets. Mao is the saviour, and his teachings replace the Bible."

And what of those who do not conform to the regimentation of Maoism?

One such person was Nora Lam who, while an Assistant Professor of law at a Chinese university, suffered much for her faith.

"I really find out when you come to the end of the road that you really will make up your mind whether you really want to be a Christian or you just say you are a Christian. And I thank God I made my choice--that I want to follow Jesus. They really got mad at me. So they took me out to a place where they normally kill many, many people. Which they kill one more is nothing and when they tied my hands up and blindfolded me--literally the bullets shot out from the gun. But the beautiful part was none had hit me. They went over, went around, and went under but God's power had protected me. That was the turning point of my life."

According to government reports, over 60 million perished in the days during and following the Revolution.

Another who fled China as a result of the spreading of Communism was Mrs. Pak Chue Chan who describes her special ministry to, and exodus from, China:

"Yes, I have spent about forty years in China and Hong Kong, that is, I should say in the Orient, doing missionary work. I arrived in Canton in January of 1938. It was during the Japanese war. I went out under the auspices of the South China boat mission to minister to the boat people. I lived on a houseboat. On this houseboat I had a church, and a school and clinic--all on this boat. We had very good opportunities and found the boat people most responsive to the gospel. Of course, it was rather

difficult during the Japanese War and my first term ended up by fleeing as a refugee to West China, flying the hump and coming back to America. Went back in '46 with the war over, and we looked forward to having good opportunities of preaching the gospel. However, the Communist war began. So from '46 until '49, we saw the Communists coming down from North China. We had a few brushes with them. At one time they threatened to bomb our Gospel boat and to kill all the Chinese and Americans on it if we didn't leave that village. But we felt led of the Lord to stay there and we did. We were able to stay in China until August of 1949, just before the Communists took over. Most of the missionaries had to leave at that time. Those who didn't, eventually ended up in prisons, or house arrest or, of course, many of them lost their lives as well. We came out to Hong Kong and carried on the same work. We were able to move some of our Gospel boats down the Pearl River to Hong Kong and carried on the boat work among the boat people in Hong Kong."

It is interesting to note an incident in France where Red Chinese guards sought to prevent the escape of one of their number seeking to defect to the West. If Red China is such a great place to live, why would one of their number seek to escape?

Rev. Reid Jepson, Vice President of Public Ministries of the Far East Broadcasting Company, tells the story of one such guard that did escape:

"We have with us, for instance in California now, a young man, 29 years of age, Elim Fu by name, an artist who swam for five hours to get out of Communist China. There he had been a Red Guard. He had been active in the revolution in '66 and '67. Elim swam for five hours without touching ground and thought he was dying but he finally landed on freedom's shore outside of Hong Kong. Through recommendations of his mother who had heard our programs apparently over the Iron Curtain, he looked up our studio and he was led to Christ. That is a case where a man said he remembered, ten years before he escaped, that he had heard a broadcast about love and about God out of Hong Kong."

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT some years ago did a feature story in which the question was asked, "Will a 'thaw' in China mean a comeback for Christianity?"

We asked Dr. Pak Chue Chan, founder of Fok Ling Hospital in Canton, China, now residing in the United States, what his opinion was on the opportunities available in spreading the gospel as a result of diplomatic relations between the United States and China. Here was his reply:

"I want to inform the public that after recognition of these two great countries, we feel the public expects too much. They thought there would be a lot of trade between the two countries--buy billions of dollars--and the merchants rush over there and they want to get rich--even Coca Cola. Then we feel that they expect that the Gospel will open a wide open door and then we could invite, let's say now, Billy Graham or other great preachers to go to China, hold a meeting like in America, and we fear you will be disappointed. Because we must know that only a crack open. The door only a crack, not even wide open. So, you know a crack door you can get a table or chair into it

or a little chicken. Maybe a little mouse or a cat can get into it. So I fear that it takes time. Don't you expect too much of it."

Before the days of the revolution, missionaries preaching and building schools and hospitals actually helped to westernize China. Today, Christianity no longer functions openly, and worship of Mao is China's "religion."



There does seem to be an immense spiritual vacuum in the hearts of China's 900 million people.

We asked Dr. Chan again why this vacuum?

"Because 900 million people are in the two churches now. That is one Catholic and one Protestant Church in Peking. None there except for the foreigner--for the diplomats to worship, but the Chinese people dare not to go but you must know the Chinese Church has gone underground and we were informed that about two to three million Christians are still in China underground and worship secretly in two by two, four by four, small groups and still have a nucleus intact in China. But yet, 900 million of our countrymen in China are of an empty heart and nothing to feel."

According to one periodical, "Years of repression by the Peking regime have driven Chinese Christians completely underground. Yet, hope persists for better times ahead."

Hal Lindsey in his book, THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH, commented on the Scriptural role China is destined to play during the coming Great Tribulation.

Remember, our Lord warned of coming awful Great Tribulation such as the world has never seen, no, nor ever shall see again.

It is during this time that we read, "The waters of the great River Euphrates are dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared--enroute to the battle of Armageddon."

Notes Lindsey: "We believe that China is the beginning of the formation of this great power called "The kings of the east" by the Apostle John."

The late Dr. Wilbur Smith, noted Bible expositor, points out: "Since the dawn of the Christian era, the Far East has been sleeping...." But here we see the kings of the east awakening and on the move. The kings of the east are also referred to as "The kings of the Rising Sun."

It's interesting to note that Mao has likened the growth and advance of Communism to the rising sun. Stated Mao: "Capitalism has reached a stage of decay and death while Communism is like a rising sun."

Napoleon once said: "Let China sleep. When she awakens, the world will be sorry."

Today Red China is seen awakening and beginning to play the role forecast for her in the endtime.

As R. E. Neighbor, writing in the GOSPEL HERALD, has noted: "The rise of China...is prophetically phenomenal."

In the final conflict of the ages, Red China would appear to be among the nations seen rising into prominence, joining forces with other eastern powers eventually seen marching to Armageddon.

We read in the 16th chapter of Revelation where the way is paved for the Kings of the East with their destination clearly forecast--Armageddon.

Certainly Red China, we believe, is meant here. And ultimately she will fulfill her role as one of the "kings of the East," or as we might better translate the Greek word "east," it would mean, "The rising of the sun."

Interestingly enough, when Communist China hurled its first satellite into space, it broadcast this anthem back to earth. The anthem stated: "The East is red, the sun is rising. In the east there emerges a Mao Tse Tung."

It is in view of world-shaking events, including this rise of the Kings of the East, that our Lord suddenly injects this warning which surely must be meant for us today. For we read, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

Did you hear it?

Remember, in view of awesome events described here--the rise of nations that will ultimately meet their destruction at Armageddon--our Lord declares that He is coming as a thief.

Now it is not known when a thief comes. If you knew a thief

would be planning to rob your home tonight, you would wish to be alerted. Martin Luther once declared, "Christ designed that the day of His coming should be hid from us, that being in suspense, we might be as it were upon the watch."

Were a thief to come to your place, he would not waste time on taking the rug and the furniture. Rather he would quickly snatch away the jewelry or whatever money and valuables he could find and be gone. So will it be when Christ returns. He comes for His jewels. For those looking for Him, shall He appear.

Then, did you notice that we are admonished: "Bless is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

It is in view of Christ's coming as a thief that we are to be properly attired, not only having robes of Christ's righteousness, but seeing that those robes are kept from defilement by sin and the world.

This is what it means to be ready for our Lord's return.

In Revelation, chapter seven, we see a great multitude of whom it is said, "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

There seems to be only one explanation that is satisfactory. This multitude represents those who will be left behind at the rapture to go through the coming awful Great Tribulation. Notice, it was not said of these that they were given white robes, but rather they are seen washing their robes and making them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Could this be representative of professing believers living carelessly and left behind when Jesus comes?

Oh, how we need this message today urging us to come clean, to allow the blood of Christ to purify our lives through total and complete obedience to the Word of God. For concerning that blessed hope of being ready for Christ's coming, we read: "He that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure."

Think of multitudes missing the rapture because they were not ready for our Lord's return. Thus, the urgency of our message.

May God help us to wake up. It is in view of Christ's coming that we're admonished: "Let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

Do messages of this kind challenge and stir you? Do you find an inner compulsion to make these moments count for the Saviour? Should we not seek to warn and win others who otherwise may be caught napping and miss that glorious day of rapture?

Our Lord used the illustration of ten virgins waiting for the coming of the Bridegroom. When He was delayed in coming, they all slumbered and slept. But then a cry was made, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh. Go ye out to meet Him."

The sad part of this story is that only half were wide awake and actually ready to meet our Lord when He came.

Should this message not speak to our hearts today? We would conclude by quoting the words of Jesus who said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh."

Future of China



Americans are showing a new attitude toward the people of China.

A Harris Survey shows a majority of Americans feeling friendly toward the People's Republic of China since the United States' recognition of this country of nearly a billion souls.

Looking back, it was in September of 1949 that the People's Republic of China was officially proclaimed in Peking. The proclamation on behalf of Mao's revolution climaxed nearly a decade of bloody purges and sacrificing of the lives of untold millions.

Actually, China's future was decided in the 1920's when President Sun announced: "We no longer look to the Western Powers. Our faces are turned toward Russia."

However, Chiang Kai-shek came along. He purged the communists from his armies and reversed Sun's policy of friendship with Russia. There followed in 1928 the long civil war between Chiang's Nationalists and the Communists under Mao Tse-tung.

Chiang declared himself a Christian believer so that if he would have been successful, we would have seen a country that may have been Christianized today.

Instead, Mao continued the policy of death to those who opposed the spread of godless materialism. It was General Douglas MacArthur who asserted that Red China had become a "mighty military colossus to threaten the future freedom of all men."

Senator Barry Goldwater has indicated: "There is probably no regime in history which has ever committed such atrocities

against human rights on a massive scale as have the Red Chinese."

Think of it!

Many are asking, What is the future of the Gospel in China?

Perhaps the answer lies in the charred page of a New Testament, recovered after Communist guards ordered a Christian's Bible to be burned. For standing out were the words, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Today, more than three decades since Chiang Kai-shek's ouster, the face of China has changed drastically--both from an economic as well as political point of view. Of course, it would be foolish to undermine the military strides made by the Chinese as well.

It was Arnold Toynbee, the noted British historian, who once commented that "The 21st Century will belong to China. They will be about two-fifths of the human race by then. They are a very hard working and extremely intelligent people. The great world is Asia."

Although the Chinese people are completely in the dark about things the government does not want them to know, they do realize that drastic changes have taken place in the political structure of China's leadership.

At least that's the observation of Robert Stiff, an American editor who traveled to Peking and other cities on the mainland and here was his comment:

"Now they are aware of the change in government policies since the gang of four, Mao's widow and three of her cohorts from Shanghai were arrested after Mao's death because the Chinese government's line changed so drastically. They are speaking against the gang of four, about political ideology, and now they're very interested about raising the economic levels and they just preach this over loud speaker systems, in the papers, on television, on radio, just day after day after day after day, and you could really talk to the Vice Premier of China or the houseboy in your hotel and get exactly the same story word for word because the government's line is known by everyone."

We asked Stiff if China's new-found ties to the West were instigated as a result of an internal economic crisis and, if so, was it wise to reopen our diplomatic relations with China?

".....and for the United States, it's very important for us to establish a dialogue and communications with a country that has one billion people. That's one-fourth of the world's population and we simply cannot afford not to be on speaking terms with that many people in this sort of a world. And the very best thing for us, I think, is to be better friends with the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China than they are with each other. I think that's the best way to postpone or hopefully avoid something as disastrous as World War III."

Of course, China's primary benefit in developing an American/Sino Axis is to be found in the economic sector. It is true that China will more than welcome the technology of the West. Surely, that would raise a most interesting problem. And that centers around the premise of what to do with all the people in China who would be put out of work as a result of "labor-saving

devices.” What will those hands do? Again, Bob Stiff:



“The most thoughtful answer that was given to us was from a Professor at Wuhan University who talked about the many great problems that they have that they cannot now tackle. They have very little arable land in China because of the Gobi Desert, because of the number of mountains where there just is not enough land that can grow crops. And they need a lot of agricultural land, of course, just to feed their billion people. And he said that if they freed them from other things they could put them to work on some of these huge projects. Transporting of water from place to place and this sort of thing to better irrigate the fields, things that are just so immense that the Chinese government doesn’t even try to tackle it now but it would be very good for the country.”

It seems clear, at least for the present, that Peking is intent on presenting to the world a new face.

As one evangelical publication notes: “Gone is the glowering mask of suspicion and hostility and in its place, for all to see, is a visage so amicable, so full of good will, some are asking if, after all, we’ve misunderstood Mao and Chou from the start.”

Apparently as a goodwill gesture, China has expressed a willingness to make reparations of properties destroyed or taken over during days of the Communist takeover. When Mao took over the control of China, his first words were, “We have stood up, never again to be an insulted nation.” Unfortunately, he insulted

other nations, including the U.S. by acts of thievery and betrayal.

It's interesting to look back to the days of Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission. He, too, faced the question of what to do about the loss of life and destruction of property resulting from massacres that occurred in his day. While foreign governments demanded indemnities for losses they sustained, Taylor asked the China Inland Mission, which suffered greatly, to show the Chinese "the meekness and gentleness of Christ, not only not to enter any claim against the Chinese government but to refrain from accepting compensation even if offered."

Perhaps this should be the same attitude today that we should express in forgetting the past wrongs and forgiving our debtors.

As to the question, How soon will missionaries enter China, one journal notes: "We would consider it a major tragedy if the Church in the West were able to enter China in any kind of identification with North American business interests." Observes this journal: "The history of Missions in China bears sad witness to the alliance between the Church and commercial interests. This error must not be repeated."

It has been suggested that China's first new missionaries are the Chinese Christians that were driven out of North Vietnam where Christian businesses have been taken over by a strong wave of Vietnamization. North Vietnam has taken steps to return all Chinese living within its borders.

In this migration, it is believed there must be a number of Christian families. What kind of reception will they have?

George Tubbs was a missionary in China in 1948-1949. He gave God's News his first-hand account of how it was when he first arrived in China.

"When we first arrived in China of course, the war with the Communists was way up in the North and far removed, and very few people were greatly concerned about it. It wasn't until Chiang Kai-shek's troops began to collapse at their advance that large areas of north China fell under their control and, particularly, when the line at the Yangtse River fell and they poured across the river and this started a movement southward of literally millions of refugees, soldiers with their families, people, they came down into the province where we lived and into our city. Every train arrived loaded with them. In fact, when the train would stop they would crawl out from underneath having been riding on the axles and soon and the city just doubled the population over and over again during that time. They slept along the streets, on the street, and some of them really had nothing. They were selling what they did have just to buy a little food to survive for a few more days in their flight southward. They were hoping that eventually if China did fall they would find a refuge in Indo-China. But it was pathetic to see sometimes even the soldiers who had these very special things that certified--that gave their rank and they were really prized possessions as officers of the army, and here they were selling them--their little swords and that type of thing on the streets--or their binoculars just to provide for their families. These were tragic days indeed and of course when we saw all of this, we knew that probably (and all the people knew) that the time would come that they, too, would fall into the orbit of the advancing Communists."

A book entitled, CHINA! CHRISTIAN MARTYRS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, relates how it was in China since the turn of the century. James C. Hefley, author of the book, gives startling witness to the many who died for their faith in China during days of missionary activity there.

It was in June, 1900, that foreign newspapers headlined: "CHINESE MASSACRE MISSIONARIES." There followed unbelievable accounts that shocked the world.

In Manchuria, where some missionaries happened to escape, a Chinese pastor was caught. When he refused to deny Christ, his eyebrows, ears, and lips were cut off. Still he would not repent. Then his heart was cut out and put on display in a theatre there.

In another remote area (Tsun-hua), two Chinese women teachers who were captured refused to renounce Christianity. The feet of one were chopped off, and she was then killed with a sword. The other teacher shouted, "Keep the faith!" She was then wrapped in cotton, soaked in kerosene, and burned alive.

We asked Rev. Tubbs to tell us something of the suffering endured by nationals and missionaries alike during the advance of Mao's troops, and here was his reply:

"It's hard to forget some of the tragedy that we experienced and felt during those last days when we saw the mass movement of people southward realizing that we, as one person, couldn't do too much to help them. Soldiers with their limbs gone. Blind being led by other soldiers who had lost their eyes apparently in the war, and one particular tragedy that really touched me. In fact, it was right there next to the place where we slept. I looked down over the wall one morning and there was a Chinese mother over the dead body of her infant son and she was wailing and wailing and so we went down to endeavor to give some words of counsel and comfort and she had told how she lost her husband. All of her children, and this was her last son. She was left alone and nothing left. She had been uprooted from her home in North China and here she was in a strange land, and really no place to go. I think really to me, this was a picture of the whole tragedy of those last days of the Chiang Kai-shek regime when people really had nowhere to turn and, of course, this was an opportunity for us as possible, to point them to the One who was able to help them in a tragic experience like this."

At the time of these atrocities, China was looked upon as "our largest and most promising mission field." Yet, Christianity had reached China long before Columbus discovered America.

During the 1900's we read of the Boxer Rebellion which resulted in the death of 184 missionaries and their children. The Boxers bitterly opposed Christianity which they called, "The Religion of the foreign devils." They succeeded in arousing the wrath of the people against the missionaries, resulting in persecution and death of many, including Christian and Missionary Alliance personnel in far Northwest China.

The Boxers killed their captives with guns and swords and often forced them to kneel after which they were beheaded.

John and Betty Stam are well known among the missionaries who gave their lives in China.

I recall entering the Moody Bible Institute in the early 1940's

as a student, and hearing of the dedication of these former students. Betty, who had been raised in China by Presbyterian missionary parents, felt the call of God to return there. John, whom she met at Moody Bible Institute, could not get over the vast number of Chinese--"A million a month who pass into Christless graves."

Arriving in China, the district magistrate assured them: "There is no danger of Communists here. I will guarantee your safety." However, weeks later there was an attack. Soldiers went to the home of the Stams where they were served tea and cakes. When they finished their refreshments, they said politely to the Stams, "You will go with us."

The Stams had a baby, Priscilla. When a discussion followed as to whether the baby should be killed, an old farmer protested, "This little one has done nothing worthy of death." The leader then responded, "Then you will die for her." "I am willing," said the farmer. He was then killed.

A short time later as John was ordered to kneel, the executioner swung his sword and the young missionary went to be with his Lord. Betty was next. Only the baby escaped death and was carried for hundreds of miles through dangerous mountains to the home of another missionary and eventually to the mother's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Scott. Dr. Scott testified of his daughter and son-in-law: "They have not died in vain. The blood of the martyrs is still the seed of the Church."

Rev. George Tubbs whom we heard from a moment ago, served as a missionary to China in 1948 and 1949. He was spared the cruelties and atrocities suffered by so many.

Missionary work became increasingly hazardous so that the American Embassy issued orders for foreigners to leave when it was apparent that the southern borders of China were about to fall. However, not all heeded the advice. Some decided to stay. We asked Rev. Tubbs when it was apparent that the southern border of China was about to fall.

"It was early in 1949 when we as a mission realized that our days may be numbered there. And plans began to be formulated for alternative areas of serving as missionaries...The U.S. embassy gave direction that at a certain point they would advise us to leave and beyond that point, they could not be responsible. So in March of 1949 we took our families to Hong Kong and they remained there while a number of us men returned to key areas of Kwangsi, trying to relate to the Church and the leaders of the Church there, to stay by their side as long as we possibly could. And we stayed there until November of 1949. In fact, when Kwy-Lin, the nearest city to us--just about 90 lee north of us--fell to the Communists and was in flames, then we decided to leave and took the first flight to Hong Kong. It was just two weeks after that the city of Liuchow was in the hands of Mao Tse tung, and we had to leave and of course we went to an area of Indo China after we left China."

Soon afterward, in fact in 1950, Chou En-lai helped draft "The Christian Manifesto" which affirmed loyalty to the Marxist government and opposition to "Imperialism, Feudalism, and Bureaucratic Capitalism."

By then most of the missionaries had gone and Red China

has been closed to missionary activity ever since.

Now with the recognition of China, it is hoped that the gospel will have opportunity again to invade that land of nearly a billion souls. For did not Jesus say, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matt. 24:14)

Today there are gospel broadcasts going into China from the facilities of the Far East Broadcasting Company. We have been associated with FEBC for many years, helping to get this message to millions that "Jesus is coming soon. Be ready."

Dr. Paul Freed of Trans World Radio says it is no accident that Chinese children are being taught English as a second language. Five out of six homes he visited in China have radios so that millions are able to hear the gospel through transmitters that are beaming the message behind the Bamboo Curtain.

Cliff Westergren, writing in the PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL, points out that the Church in China is alive. And he notes: "Although political, physical and psychological barriers have been raised by Communism, the more difficult barriers of tradition, ancestor worship, Confucianism, superstition, illiteracy, and language diversity have been broken down." He adds, "In a real sense, to a large degree, Maoism has conditioned China for Christianity."

Maybe the time is ripe to reach these people with the message of God's love revealed through Jesus Christ.

The Chinese people, along with the rest of the world, needs to be told the gospel.

In I Cor. 15, we read: "Moreover brethren, I declare unto you the gospel...by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

Did you hear it?

Perhaps you may be listening today and never received Christ as your Saviour and Lord. The gospel is simply this--that Jesus died for your sins so that if you will receive Him now, you too can be saved.

Remember, whether in China or India or America, "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Only through Jesus can we be cleansed of sin, pardoned, forgiven. (Acts 4:12)

Why not trust Him as your Saviour today?

In Acts 2:21, we read, "And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Today, invite the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart and life. Then read your Bible and pray every day asking God's guidance upon your life. Finally, we encourage you to live for Him daily for He is coming soon for those who are ready to meet Him.

Our Lord hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."