



"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." - 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

China

Open Doors has seen many answers to prayer over the years and the improving situation in China is one such example of this. In the 1980s, one believer, Zhong Hua*, distributed 800,000 bibles to churches, receiving them from Open Doors courier teams at different ports in China.

Zhong Hua recently told an Open Doors worker about his experience of distributing bibles in China. "Bible distribution was a risk-taking ministry in that generation. Sometimes, we simply asked overseas brothers and sisters to leave the bibles at a certain place. We didn't even meet each other for security reasons."

However, things have changed since the intense persecution from the 80's and 90's, even with China still ranking 29 on the World Watch List, increasing availability of bibles in China has meant Zhong Hua is no longer engaged in bible distribution.

"The Chinese churches enjoy much more freedom to worship God and evangelize today. There is no need for delivering bibles from overseas. We now have a considerable degree of freedom, but are we ready for that freedom? Today, my business is successful. I am financially secure. I enjoy family life with my grandchildren. Though I still preach in local churches, I have to admit that I am not as passionate as before."

On hearing this, the Open Doors worker spoke to Zhong Hua about persecution of the church in other countries too. Never before has the church been in a position to engage with the persecuted church outside of China. Now it's a possibility. The Open Doors worker asked, "We have initiated a new ministry focusing on these things. Would you like to join us?"

Zhong Hua agreed to join the upcoming ministry event of sharing the vision of serving the persecuted church. "When you talk about persecution in other countries, my heart beats very fast. I am touched by the vision of serving persecuted Christians worldwide."

**Name changed for security reasons*

Photo indicative only

OFFERINGS DETAILS

Weekly Budget: \$2,841

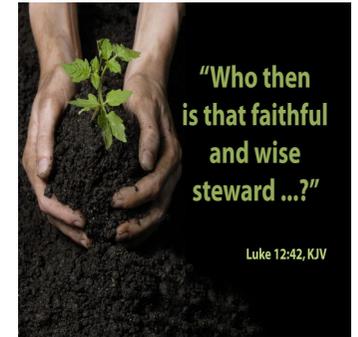
Last 4 weeks: \$1,377; \$2,177; \$1,537; \$1,947.

Average (Last 4 weeks) - \$1,759

Online Offerings

Acc Name: Wentworthville Baptist Church

BSB No: 704922 Acc No: 100007520



PRAYER and PRAISE POINTS

OUR 'SHUT INS'

Johanna Boland, Bill Horswell, Elaine Bowey, Peggy Palmer, Keith Davis, Gwen Phillips, Bruce McNally & Val Williams.

Continue to pray for:

Maisie Horswell, Morgan Bishop, Elaine Gough, Bruce Gough, Marie Smith and Carmen Strudwick.

Bronwyn Agius (Ron & Evelyns' daughter) with gall bladder problems.

Prayer is still needed for the right for SRE to be in all our schools.

Prayer for those in our Church family who are suffering from winter ills.

