

THE SECRET TO JOY

God is at work in our world. As in the days of Hudson Taylor a century and a half ago, we live in a time when discovering purposeful involvement in God's affairs around the world requires us to engage intentionally. Hudson Taylor—husband, father, physician, evangelist, visionary and founder of the China Inland Mission—lived his life for God with intention and purpose. In the process, God revealed to him the secret to joy and satisfaction, no matter what circumstances surrounded him.

Countless thousands have been inspired in their faith and calling by observing the life of this blessed man. This refreshed edition of *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret* seeks to challenge and encourage contemporary Christians to ask anew, "How might God use me to reach the nations with his love?"

HUDSON TAYLOR'S SPIRITUAL SECRET

by Geraldine Taylor
newly revised by Gwen Hanna

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EAST ASIA INSIGHT

OMF INTERNATIONAL

CHINA
ONE WORLD, ONE DREAM

FALL 2007

It is a cool September morning in Beijing. Though the Chinese capital is known for its perpetual smog and haze, today is a sunny day with blue skies—the kind of day Chinese Olympic officials are hoping for next summer.

As I gaze out the window, I see a crowd of schoolchildren in the distance. They are lined up in formation and shouting something in unison. "What are they saying?" I ask a Chinese friend. "Welcome Beijing Olympics!" my friend replies.

I am amused, but not surprised. One can't escape the prevalence of the Olympic theme in Beijing. The Olympic motto "One World, One Dream" is plastered over highway overpasses. Olympic countdown clocks are spotted throughout the city. And the Olympic mascots—Jingjing, Beibei, Huanhuan, Nini and Yingying—show their faces on all forms of media (TV, newspapers, billboards etc.).

Interest in the Olympics is high; initial ticket sales (open only to residents of China) were met with a demand of 4.9 million requests for only 2.7 million tickets. Still, most people I know have mixed emotions on the subject. Since June 2001—when it was announced Beijing would host the 2008 Olympics—their Olympic fever has subsided. They are tired of hearing about it. Some say they hope to leave the city during that time, while others are hoping for a strong showing by China's Olympians.

In less than 300 days the world will focus its attention on the world's most populous—and in some ways most mysterious—nation. It has been widely recognized that the Olympics will signify China's official "coming out party" on the world stage, a time for

China to put its best foot forward and showcase all it has to offer—and not just athletically.

The 2008 Summer Olympic Games are scheduled to begin at precisely 8:08 p.m. on August 8, 2008. The "8" theme is no mistake; it is a number symbolizing hope and prosperity in Chinese culture. China hopes the Olympics will be a catalyst to continue its surge as an economic and global power.

The Olympics will signify China's official "coming out party" on the world stage ...

In the short-term, the coming of the Olympics has meant a building boom in this city of 15 million. New skyscrapers seem to go up overnight. Additions to the airport and subway systems are scheduled for completion in the coming months. Visitors traveling on the city's Fourth Ring Road can easily spot the new Olympic stadium—dubbed the "Bird's Nest" for its outside façade of tangled metal—and the environmental-friendly aquatics center (the "Water Cube").

The country has also attempted to clean up its act, sometimes literally, in preparation for the Games. More than 2 million trees have been planted to beautify the city. Campaigns to curb public spitting, loud talking and breaking in line are underway. And in a further effort to welcome international guests, 90,000 Beijing taxi drivers are learning rudimentary English (though this is anecdotal evidence; I have only met one such driver in my time there).

There is no doubt the country, and specifically Beijing, have transformed in recent years. Long seen as the political heart of China, Beijing is also now being appreciated as a cultural and economic hub of the Middle Kingdom.

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CHINA—Countdown to Beijing

by a Beijing Insider



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“MOVING PEOPLE THROUGH PRAYER ALONE.” J.H.TAYLOR

PRAY FOR CHINA

“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ ... Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.” PAUL, COLOSSIANS 4:3,4

PRAISE GOD FOR ...

- The work of the early missionaries among the Han, including Robert Morrison and Hudson Taylor.
- The *Jesus* film, gospel recordings and various Bible translations in Mandarin and other Han dialects.
- The incredible growth of China’s church, particularly among the Han.

PRAY FOR ...

- The large number of Han believers to remain strong when confronted by persecution or false teaching.
- Han Christians to reach out cross-culturally to different minority people groups and religions.
- The successful publication and distribution of Christian literature.
- The growing missionary movement within China—for wisdom and training for the many Christians planning to take the gospel to other parts of the world.
- More Christian teachers, trainers, agriculturalists, business people and medics to offer their skills for work and witness in China.

HAN CHINESE

At more than 1.3 billion, the Han people are the largest ethnic group on earth. The Han people, sometimes referred to as the Han Chinese, represent the majority people group in China. All citizens of China are Chinese by nationality but not all are Han by ethnicity. For the most part, the Han people are just referred to as the Chinese. The Han make up 92 percent of the population of mainland China, and there are millions of overseas Chinese scattered throughout the world.



History And Culture: The Han have more than 5,000 years of recorded history and have invented numerous items including paper, gunpowder and the compass. They perfected the art of printing seven centuries before Gutenberg.

Language: Mandarin (Putonghua in Chinese, meaning “common language”) is the official language of China. Estimates range from 780 million to 1 billion people who speak Mandarin as their mother tongue, but other Han Chinese and minority groups in China learn to speak Mandarin in school. All education after the third year is conducted in Mandarin. There are up to 2 billion speakers of Mandarin worldwide.

Religion: Traditionally, Han people practice a blend of Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism and ancestor worship, which grouped together are called Chinese (or ethnic) religions. The People’s Republic of China, which was founded in 1949, established Communist rule. The new government, led by Mao Zedong, sought to eliminate all religious groups. Today, about half the mainland Han are non-religious, roughly 22 percent practice Chinese religions, 21 percent are Buddhist and seven percent are Christian.*

Christianity: Nestorian Christians entered China as early as 505 AD, though oral traditions say that the Apostle Thomas visited China before he was martyred and buried in India. In 1275 the emperor Kublai Khan sent letters via the Polo brothers to the pope in Rome asking for 100 teachers of science and religion. Few answered the call. A lone Franciscan monk arrived in China in 1294. Less than 100 years later Christianity almost disappeared from China.

Matteo Ricci, a Jesuit, arrived in 1583. Ricci was so respected that at his death the emperor made him an honorary citizen. By the time Ricci died, there were 400 converts. Within 50 years, there were 150,000.

The first Protestant missionary to China, Robert Morrison of the London Missionary Society, arrived in 1807 and began to systematically translate and publish the scriptures into Chinese. In 1842 the Treaty of Nanjing ended the first Opium War and opened China up to foreign interests, which included missionary activity. James Hudson Taylor, first went to China in 1853. All the missionaries at that time lived and worked in a handful of coastal cities in China.

In 1865, burdened by the vast needs of inland provinces with no Christian presence, Taylor founded the China Inland Mission (now OMF International). By 1869 there were more than 400 missionaries in China from 30 different denominations. In 1926 more than 8,000 missionaries served in China. On October 1, 1949 the Communists established their rule over the whole of China and missionaries were compelled to leave. By the time the last foreign missionary left in 1953, there were more than 750,000 Chinese Protestants throughout the country.

Since that time, the nation has experienced one of the greatest revivals in church history. While seven percent* of the population practices Christianity, persecution exists and is fierce in parts of China.

Several translations of the Bible exist today, and the *Jesus* film, gospel recordings and Christian broadcasting are available in Mandarin plus other Han dialects. Despite these great developments, hundreds of millions of Han Chinese have yet to hear the gospel.

* Source: www.joshuaproject.net

...“Countdown to Beijing” continued from first page.

But will it be a place of spiritual transformation as well? Frankly, we don’t know. Perhaps as the Olympics further exposes Chinese citizens to the international scene, they will become more open to spiritual matters (we certainly hope so). And perhaps the Olympics will be a window of opportunity for China’s house churches to glimpse an outside world it may have seen on only a limited basis. In the coming years, the Chinese church needs to be mobilized for mission. Maybe this is one step in the process.

In that sense, the Olympic motto (“One World, One Dream”) has a touch of irony. For, as believers in Christ, it is also our God-given vision to see all the peoples of the world gathered in celebration one day. But it won’t be for an athletic event; it will be a worship service to the King of kings.



“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’” (Revelation 7:9-10).

That is a dream worth pursuing indeed.

*Source: www.joshuaproject.net, cited 7/16/07.

GO BACK TO CHINA

Samuel was born in China and educated in the U.S. Very bright and gifted, he went on to become a vice-president of a large computer company. Samuel actually became a Christian as a young man in the U.S., but work, success, raising a family and lots of money had seriously dampened his love for the Lord.

Just two years away from receiving a lucrative retirement package, the Lord found him and spoke two words to him: “*Da lu*” (sounds like the word for both “wide road,” and “China”). Believing God was chastising him for being on the wide road, he panicked and said, “Lord, am I on the wide road?” “No,” came the reply, “*Da lu*.” This time he understood that the Lord was calling him to leave everything and go back to “*Da lu*,” China. Though at first his wife responded negatively, two days later when Samuel returned home and opened the door, his wife met him with tears streaming down her face. “God wants us to go home!”

Today Samuel and his family are living in a large city in China. He believes he has been called by God to help change the corporate culture of China—to help eliminate corruption, the embezzlement, extortion and the use of prostitution to make business deals. With his experience and very high profile, he has been able to influence some of the richest and most influential business and corporate leaders in China.

Where did Samuel develop a sense of a fairer, more God-pleasing corporate culture? Overseas. Samuel is one example of the incredible opportunity we have to influence China at its point of deepest need by reaching those God is bringing overseas.



Visitors gather at the Forbidden City in Beijing



TIBETAN BELIEVER CELEBRATES

A young Tibetan believer recently returned to Christ after tremendous personal struggle. Choosing to spend the Chinese New Year with her family, she went home, only to be confronted by family members and neighbors who told her that she was possessed by evil spirits and was bringing curses on them because she had adopted a foreign religion. They were calling her to repent and return to her spiritual roots: Buddhism.

She felt torn. Her non-believing roommates told her to forget the Christian ways and even convinced her to return to pray at the monastery, leaving her feeling empty and suicidal. At the same time her Christian friends continued to invite her to activities and meetings. When those times came, her “heart became all cramped” and she had to attend.

Finally it was time for the annual special summer gathering, and she made the choice to attend rather than take the exam her father was pressuring her to take. The leader was teaching about the need for repentance. “This time I knew that I did not want to keep running away, and I knew that I had to repent in front of everyone. I did. I came back. Jesus filled me with joy. Hallelujah! He is much stronger than Satan and in him I am strong. He is the only living God. I want to walk the narrow road, and with him I can tell my parents. I read my Bible constantly and pray all the time. I am full of praise.”