



MISSIONS FOCUS

From bulletin: March 26, 2023

Our Missionaries, their health and ministries affected by Covid-19

OMF (GCM March 2023)

From today's bulletin / Missions Report from Missions Team

OMF – Heart for Asia. Hope for Billions: omf.org/us

OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship, formerly China Inland Mission) has a monthly update and daily prayer list regarding the church in China called GCM.

This month's focus tackles various aspects of ministry in China to the Generation Z age group. "Gen Z" (currently teens to young adults) has had 3 years of strict Covid Zero tolerance in one of the world's largest countries. With their experience and knowledge of technology, social media and virtual reality, their predisposition towards living in cyberspace has actually grown stronger. Those who are adults prefer to live alone. Generally pessimistic, they say, "we are the last generation." Jesus said to seekers, "Come and see." How to reach and connect with those who seem only interested in connecting virtually? Regardless of the generation, human needs and challenges are the same: the church needs to find ways to bring answers to Gen Z!

A preacher's son felt that life was purposeless so he made his spiritual and emotional home through the internet until he felt such loneliness and fear, he returned to the real world and discovered the truth of the Christian life and turned to Scripture for his real worth and life purpose. Today, please remember Chinese Christian cross-culture workers serving overseas and their families.

You may use the prayer list during the month of April even though it is for March. Prayer is powerful.

The complete article and prayer list in English and Simplified Chinese follows this page.

Thank you for reading about and praying for our missionaries, countries and people locally and globally!

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Generation Z's Gospel Work

Since the 1980's Chinese society has undergone unprecedented changes on many levels. And with China's active participation in the global economy these changes have become ever more obvious, even unimaginably so, from the decade of 2010 onwards. For youths of different generations, these enormous changes have been having a subversive effect on their outlook regarding cultural heritage and core values such as nationalism.

Among the many buzzwords in contemporary language, one merits our attention, namely "Generation Z", a word of foreign origin and not an indigenous Chinese creation. In China it is used to refer to those born between 1995 and 2010. Unlike traditional Chinese who respect family and authority, this is the very first generation to switch the heart of their lives from the real world to the virtual world. For this generation, bringing glory to their ancestors by achievements in the real world is not important. Instead, how to dominate

online, especially in gaming, and how to quickly gain many virtual fans and followers and build a network of universal friends across national and linguistic boundaries by being different and original – these things are far more important and real than success and building up personal connections in the real world.

The past three years of "zero tolerance" Covid policies have thrust every single person into all kinds of unpleasantness. And with all the 1+ billion population suffering different disruptions to their daily lives, overall it has been an Embarrassing Mess. Yet for Gen Z, already devoted to the freedoms of virtual reality, the external problems actually strengthened their predisposition toward living in cyberspace. Additionally, pessimism regarding things generally, plus officialdom's often harsh interventions led to popular sayings online that "we are the last generation". Eventually these feelings erupted in public anger at the end of 2022.

Although Gen Z-ers seem to be living in their own world, they're an indispensable group when it comes to the nation's development. According to official data, China's Generation Z population totals nearly 280 million – about 18% of the whole. Their spending power, however, comprises 40% of society's consumption, so they are the main driving force of China's economic development today. Additionally, reports indicate there were 494.16 million households on the Mainland in 2021, of which 125.49 million are "one-person households" – more than 25% of the total household count. One-person households in China usually are elderly people living alone and younger singles. 2021 national statistics reported 25.4 million elderly single-person households, so that implies there are about one hundred million single-person Gen Z households. These households would be 40% of the total population of Gen Z-ers.

Most adolescent through high school Gen Z-ers live with their families or in dorms, but the data show that the Gen Z-ers who have the economic capacity to be independent choose to live alone. And thus their worldview makes them the greatest unpredictable factor in China's development.

The Chinese government reported that the economy grew by 8.1% in 2021 and by only 3% in 2022, making it the slowest GDP growth since the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1976. In July 2022 the unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year-olds peaked at 20%.

These statistics imply that, excluding those youth continuing studies at school, the number of Gen Z-ers in the work force is

actually very small. This high youth unemployment rate makes Gen Z the biggest victim of the economic depression which came about due to the fight against the pandemic. Gen Z-ers [translator's note: by contrast with earlier generations have had more educational opportunities and are relatively educated] have thus become "educated pessimists", and for them "lying flat"¹ has become an almost unavoidable choice.

In addition, the National Bureau of Statistics announced on January 17th, 2023, that China's population had decreased by about 850,000 in 2022, from 1,411, 750,000 the previous year. China's population, a topic of lively debate for years, has now been confirmed to be at an inflection point where for the first time in peacetime growth has turned into a decline. In view of this, the "DINK-y"² Gen Z-ers who see themselves as "the last generation" and who prefer their "one-person households" will bear the biggest responsibility for the unsustainability of their nation's strength and development.

Being passionate about virtual reality while "lying flat" in the real world are the traits characterizing Gen Z-ers. Recently in a group sharing among pastors from different regions, they all talked about Gen Z-ers and made the observation that in the 200 years of Gospel work in China, this moment may pose the greatest challenge. Life's hardships may lead people to recognize the chance for eternal life (Mt 11: 28). But how do we introduce the hope of eternal life to young people seeking their identity within virtual reality? The Gospel must be contextualized and indigenized, but how to contextualize it within virtual reality? Jesus said to seekers, "Come and see", and they

¹ 'Lying flat' refers to the phenomenon among Chinese youth in recent years whereby many resist the high pressure, materialistic social norms by working only enough to support themselves minimally and by choosing instead a simpler lifestyle. It is very counter-cultural and has been subject to criticism and censorship by the Chinese authorities.

² Here "DINK-y" refers to an earlier generation of "double income no kids" individuals who cared only for their own comforts and lifestyle.

went and saw where Jesus was staying (Jn 1.39). But how to pull back into real life young people who are sunk in cyberspace and bring them to know the Lord?

A preacher with years of experience shared that his son became addicted to the internet from an early age and would stay in internet cafes sometimes for months without returning home. More recently this son has locked himself in his room, refusing to come out, and not even wanting to go to the toilet. He has thrown himself completely into a virtual world while utterly rejecting everything in the real world.

Another preacher's son once confessed to this author that he couldn't help himself but had spent a huge amount of time and money on online pornography, all in meeting his dream lover in the virtual space.

From what we have seen, the impact of Gen Z is not only societal, but also is a huge challenge for the church. The church has to pioneer a new way to live for Gen Z-ers, that is to comprehend and accept the Gospel – only then will the church bring true hope to society's future. The virtual world is not that scary after all; what we need to realize is that Gen Z is seeking in the unpredictable world of online reality the life goals they feel they cannot attain in the real world. No matter which generation, Gen Z included, all human wants and challenges basically are the same.

Another preacher's kid told this author: because he felt that life was purposeless, for many years he made his spiritual and emotional home in cyberspace, until one day he suddenly felt inexplicable loneliness and fear which made him come home to the real world. He then discovered the truth of the Christian faith from the teachings of his parents in church, so he bid farewell to the virtual world, and turned to

Scripture to find the real worth and purpose of life.

In his new book, *Living by Faith in turbulent times*, Jonathan Griffiths specifically cites Hebrews 11 to remind his readers that everyone in this fallen world must face death and that this fate fills people with fear. Even if you have attained great success and satisfaction in the cyber world, nevertheless one day you will have to come back to reality to face death. Christians know that in all of history only one man has conquered death, Jesus Christ. And so only in Jesus Christ can a person see hope. For many Gen Z-ers, "lie flat" was their frustrated response to the competitiveness and callousness of the real world. And modern technology opened wide a door to virtual reality where they discovered they could settle down and build their own fantasy kingdoms. Gen Z appears to outsiders as though they think and live differently than the majority of people, but in fact they are the same as other people. First and foremost they are a lost and seeking generation. Only when Christians, "fix our eyes on Jesus who carved out the path for faith, and... the one who brought it to completion," (Heb 12.2, NTE New Testament for Everyone) only then will we be able to pave a road for this generation to emerge from illusion and stride toward eternal life.



Prayer Points

1 Open Doors' latest report reveals that in 2022 there were more than 360 million Christians around the world being "severely persecuted and discriminated against" because of their faith. Pray for Christians all over the world who are suffering for their religious beliefs or who are under the pressures of ideological nationalism.

2 Thank God that some churches are beginning to reopen for Sunday worship after three years of being closed down. Pray for Christians to be able to renew fellowship and restore good times of corporate worship.

3 House churches have been closed down because they are deemed to be "illegal gatherings". With the relaxing of pandemic controls, pray that house churches will be able to enjoy more freedom for fellowship and worship.

4 During the past several decades, in the aftermath of major social events restrictions on religious have been eased somewhat. And these were times when Christianity also grew rapidly. Let us pray that the church will enjoy a period of steady growth in this post-Covid season.

5 Pray for God's special blessing upon the many churches in the countryside. As the economy stagnates, the number of migrant workers returning to farm and to seek other local employment has increased dramatically. This influx of returning workers creates opportunities for renewal in the rural churches. May God strengthen the evangelistic efforts of countryside preachers and their fellow church workers.

6 During the past three years, a huge number of migrant workers lost their jobs because of pandemic control measures. Many hope to find high-paying employment this year. However, the expectations of these migrant workers are proving to be too high in light of the poor economy. As a result, they are prone to anxiety. May God have mercy on them and provide ways for them to hear His good news.

7 These past few decades of economic growth have seen a practice become common in China's villages, namely that of "building a new house and marrying a new bride". This custom displays one's ability to go out and earn good money working as a migrant laborer. Even though high earnings have been harder to come by recently, nonetheless this village custom hasn't stopped. Instead, it continues to affect the lives of Christians in the countryside too. Pray for village churches influenced by secular social customs.

8 Today is International Women's Day; please pray especially for women in rural China. Besides the above-mentioned "build a new house, marry a new bride" custom, another new practice has become popular – the "three golden gifts" (gold bracelet,

necklace and ring). Most Christian households reject this custom, but rejecting it makes it hard to gain acceptance among your relatives in the village. Pray for rural Christian families, especially that young women may see through social customs in their understanding of marriage.

9 We have learned that, due to the imbalance of more men and fewer women, the latter are now quite picky in choosing mates. They consider whether the man is a single child or whether he later on may have to divide his inheritance with siblings. If women learn that a man has several brothers they immediately refuse marriage. Pray for rural churches to be able to teach the Biblical view of marriage effectively.

10 As a result of the past 20 years of rural workers migrating to the cities, most villages today have to join together to provide their own primary school. From junior high onwards, village students must go as boarders to the county township schools and this continues through senior high. This separation distances youth from emotional ties to their villages, and the elderly complain that youth are "soft" and aren't filial at all. Pray about the loss of traditional rural livelihoods in favor of factory labor and how townships are taking over; may Biblical teaching about the family penetrate the countryside through the churches.

11 Some poor rural households received a one-time gift of a CNY300 coupon (about 44 USD) this Chinese New Year. They can use these coupons for miscellaneous purchases. This shows just how low living standards are for some country folk. Pray for evangelistic efforts to reach and care for widows and elderly people in rural areas.

12 As pandemic controls ease, pray that God will bless and prosper urban churches' ministries to elderly people in the countryside.

13 Pray for more and more rural elderly people to have opportunities to hear the gospel and embrace eternal hope in Christ.

14 China has now entered a phase of negative population growth. Even country dwellers are becoming more cautious about having children. Urban residents worry about the high costs of raising children, whereas rural people are more worried about the high cost of their children getting married. May God help Christians to play a role in strengthening Chinese family culture.

15 The number of children born into rural families has continued to shrink in recent years. Many children are addicted to video gaming. Unfortunately, Sunday School programs for children are relatively weak in rural churches. Pray that this may change for the better.

16 The shrinking of the export market has led to a great reduction in the number of migrants working in coastal areas. Instead, laborers from China's central regions now head for the high western plateaux

of Western Sichuan, Tibet, Qinghai and Xinjiang. They work in road-building and urban infrastructure projects and even do heavy labor on the large-scale farms. Thank God that a number of rural migrant worker churches have also begun to turn their attention to these western regions. Pray for migrant churches in their geographical and strategic changes.

17 Praise God that in recent years, the government has encouraged more investment in rural infrastructure. As a result, farmers' physical living conditions (the "hardware") has improved greatly. We pray that the "software" of rural life, namely the Christianization of rural culture, may also improve.

18 National Statistics Bureau data shows that land purchase square footage declined 53.4% in 2022, compared with the previous year, and commercial property sales dropped 26.7%. These figures are the lowest since such data began to be collected in 1992. Property is one of the pillars of China's economic development, and unless the post-Covid property market can show clear signs of revival, it will be extremely difficult to achieve macro-economic growth. May God have mercy and provide for the vast numbers of unemployed construction workers suitable job opportunities.

19 Pray especially for church advancement in smaller towns and cities. The slowing of the macro economy hits smaller urban places even harder, and this affects the churches as well.

20 One of the effects of slowing population growth is that elder care becomes more difficult. Pray for those churches which have a ministry to seniors that they may be able to effectively maintain these outreaches, and that the Lord would raise up more churches to get involved.

21 "De-coupling" and the reconfiguring of "globalization" continue to evolve, so that now even middle class people are facing hardship in job searches. These pressures affect church members in some of major cities as well. They had never considered emigrating, yet now "running" [translator's note: "run" refers to emigrating to escape China's problems] has become "Plan B" for some of these people. Pray that God would grant them Heavenly wisdom to make decisions in accordance with His will.

22 Pray for the Christian scholars and teachers in universities who pursue academic integrity and freedom. May their diligence in teaching and research be a great witness for the Lord.

23 Professional women have always been the disadvantaged in the workplace. However, now that "negative population growth" has emerged, there is an opportunity to reduce gender discrimination. Pray for gender equity and lessening of gender discrimination in Chinese workplaces.

24 Reportedly, the Sichuan Provincial Health Bureau will change the current law that reserves birthing rights only for married women.

Effective February 15th, married women and any individual (regardless of marital status) wishing to have offspring may apply to the government and a birthing permit will be issued. Pray for Christian efforts to uphold marriage and birthing ethics.

25 From 1980 to 2015, China carried out a strict "one child" policy. This eventually resulted in the shrinking of the population, but at the cost of many, many women suffering permanent harm. Additionally, the normal development of the "one child" offspring was distorted. We thank God for the churches which, over many years, faithfully adhered to Biblical teaching in helping women and families. Pray for them to have much grace in months and years ahead to face even greater challenges in upholding Biblical and ethical views of family and childbirth.

26 Please remember Chinese Christian cross-culture workers serving overseas, and their families.

27 Despite China re-opening its borders in December 2022 for international outbound travel, there has not been noticeable increase in numbers of Chinese traveling overseas. This is due to different countries' concerns and doubts over China's Covid policies. During the Chinese New Year "Golden Week" there was a rise in "revenge" travel domestically, but international travel is slow to recover. Pray there will be steady restoration of overseas travel for Christians to attend different meetings and trainings.

28 Beginning from this month, junior and senior high students will concentrate their efforts to prepare for the high school and university entrance exams, respectively. For the past three years the great majority of them have had online instruction only. This means that this class of students have had the least systematic education and training of any group of students ever, and therefore their exam pressures are heavier than ever before. Pray for this year's graduates to have the right outlook on learning and a calm attitude.

29 A Christian high school teacher, H, met quite a few Christian students through online classes over the past three years. She feels encouraged and hopeful because of them and prays for them by name whenever she can. Join her in praying for her students.

30 Remember those overseas Christians who, for the Lord's sake, did not leave China during these past three years. Along with their families they quietly stood with ordinary Chinese folk, enduring all the severe restrictions in order to be there for Chinese people who needed them. May God grant them even more grace in the days ahead.

31 Many overseas Christians prayed for the Chinese people and churches during the three years' pandemic. Let us give thanks for them, and to God be the glory.

2023
年
3月



Z 世代人的福音工作

从八零年代开始，中国社会在不同的层面发生了许多前所未有的变化，随着中国改革开放和主动融入经济全球化，这种变化在 2010 年代以来尤为明显，甚至超出想象。若从不同时代年轻人的精神风貌去看，这一变化的巨大，已经开始让文化传承和民族主义等核心价值受到颠覆性的冲击。

当代中国有许多流行语，其中一个值得我们认识的就是所谓的 Z 世代。其实这词并非中国社会的原创，而是外来语，但在中国，则用来特指自 1995 年至 2010 年出生的这一代青年人。与传统看重家庭和权威的中国人不同，这是历史上将自己的生活重心从现实世界移位到虚拟世界的第一代人。对他们而言，如何在网络空间（尤其是游戏）出类拔萃，甚至称王称霸；如何能在短时间内在虚拟世界中拥有大批粉丝或追随者；如何能别出心裁，跨越国界和语言文化圈，建起自己的宇宙朋友圈；这些都远比在现实世界中光宗耀祖、出人头地和建立人际关系网更加要紧和现实。

自 2020 年以来，连续三年的“抗疫”和清零政策，使得所有人都处在各种“蜗居”的窘态，十几亿民众的日常生活也都受到了不同的冲击，但对于原本就热衷于在虚拟的网络世界中天马行空的 Z 世代而言，却更加强化了他们固有的虚拟生活倾向；也因为对现实生活

的日益悲观和公权力的粗暴干预，出现了“我们是最后一代”等网络名句，并最终在 2022 年底到来前演变成公众愤怒情绪。

虽然 Z 世代人看似鹤立独行，却是国家和民族发展不可或缺的一个群体。据官方资料，目前中国 Z 世代的总人口将近 2.8 亿人，占中国总人口的 18% 左右，但他们的消费能力，却占社会总消费的 40%；因此他们是中国经济发展的主要动力所在。另一方面，据报告，2021 年中国大陆共有 4.9416 亿户家庭，其中“一人户”为 1.2549 亿户，占比超过“家庭”总数的 25%。（注 1）中国的一人户家庭主要是由独居老人和年轻单身构成，而国家统计局的数据表明，2020 年中国独居老人为 2540 万户，（注 2）亦即目前中国有上亿 Z 世代的人口是以“一人户”的方式生活，占 Z 世代总人口的 40%。考虑到青春期到就学年龄的 Z 世代人口大多与家人同居或住在学校宿舍等场所的现实，数据表明，但凡有经济能力的 Z 世代的主流，就是以“一人户”的方式生活，因此 Z 世代的世界观又使得他们成为中国发展的最大不确定因素。

据中国国家统计公布的数字，2021 年经济增长 8.1%，2022 年中国经济增长仅 3%，成为自 1976 年文革结束以来，GDP 增长最慢的一年。而在 2022 年 7

月，16至24岁人口调查失业率为20%，达到峰值。意味着除了在学校中继续学业，Z世代中的就业人口其实十分少。青年失业率高企，让Z世代成为近年来抗疫所引发的经济萧条最大受害者。因此他们成为“受过教育的悲观主义者”，而在现实生活中，“躺平”几乎成为Z世代的不由自主的选择。

另外，中国国家统计局2023年1月17日宣布，2022年末中国人口总数为14亿1175万，比上年减少大约85万人。多年来纷纷攘攘的中国人口问题终于被证实：和平年代的中国人口增长已经来到了拐点，首次出现了负增长。如此看来，自诩“我们是最后一代”的丁克一族，以及“一人户”人口，又将为未来国力发展难以为继的主要责任买单。

虚拟世界中的激情奔放和现实世界中的躺平，是Z世代最大的共同点。最近和一些在不同地区的牧者分享，都谈到了所谓Z世代的福音工作问题，发现这可能是福音入华两百多年来最具挑战的时刻：虽然生活的艰辛可以成为人们认识永生的契机（太11:28），但如何向正在虚拟世界中寻找自我的年轻人介绍永生盼望？虽然传福音要讲究处境化和本土化，但如何在虚拟空间中让福音处境化？耶稣曾对寻道者说：“你们来看”，他们就去看祂在哪里住（约1:39）。但如何将沉迷于虚拟世界中的年轻人带回到现实生活中，并认识主呢？

一位事奉多年的传道人分享到，自己的儿子早年沉迷于网吧，可以连续几个月都不回家。近年则将自己锁在房内，足不出户，甚至连去厕所都不乐意，全副身心地置身于虚拟世界而全然拒绝现实世界中的一切。

又有一位传道人的儿子曾经向笔者坦承：自己花费巨量的时间和金钱于网上情色而无法自拔，整天都在虚拟空间中与自己的梦中情人相会。

显然Z世代所带来的冲击，不仅是社会性的，也是教会要面对的巨大挑战。我们相信只有教会先行，为Z世代开拓人生新路，认识并接受福音，才能给社会的发展带来真切的盼望。其实虚拟的世界并不可怕，只是要认识到，Z世代想要在这个变幻莫测的虚拟世界中发现并找到自己在现实世界中无法企及的人生目标。而无论哪个世代，包括Z世代在内，人类一些最基本的需求和挑战都是相同的。

另一位传道人的子弟告诉笔者说：因为觉得生活没有目的，几年来一直在网络世界中寻找自己的精神家园，直到有一天，忽然感到莫名的孤独和惧怕，才使他重新回到现实世界，并从父母在教会的教导中，发现基督信仰的真实，从此告别虚拟世界，转而从圣经寻找真正的人生价值和目的。

Jonathan Griffiths 在他的新著 *Living by Faith in Turbulent Times* 中，特别援引希伯来书十一章的经文提醒读者注意，死亡是所有人，生活在堕落世界中的任何一个人，都要面对的，而且让人感到惧怕的问题。无论是否在虚拟世界中获得过伟大的成功和满足，至终都要回到现实的世界中面对同样的死亡挑战。但基督徒知道，在人类的历史上，只有耶稣基督战胜了死亡；因此唯有在耶稣基督里，人才都能看到盼望。为数众多的Z世代，是因为在冷酷和高度竞争的现实世界备受挫折，才用“躺平”的态度应对现实的世界，却因为现代科技开启的大门，发现可以在虚拟世界中安身立命，并在虚幻中建立各自的王国。因此，虽然在在外人看来，Z世代们表现出与众不同的思维和生活方式，但与其他人一样，他们首先是一个迷失的世代，也是寻求的一代。惟有基督徒懂得“仰望为我们信心创始成终的耶稣/或作：仰望那将真道创始成终的耶稣”（来12:2），才能为这个世代走出虚幻和迈向永生铺就的道路。

注：

- 1) <https://www.chinanews.com.cn/cj/2022/01-14/9652147.shtml>
- 2) <http://www.21jingji.com/article/20211119/herald/890d7956735840e400d15c805ff9e61c.html>



代祷事项

1 据“敞开之门”最新的报告，2022年世界上有超过3.6亿基督徒因信仰而受到“严重迫害和歧视”。请为普世所有因“宗教和意识形态民族主义”而遭受不同难处的基督徒祷告。

2 感谢主，经过三年的封闭，中国一些公开教堂陆续重新开放，开始主日崇拜活动。求主保守参与的基督徒，能重建美好的敬拜和团契生活。

3 “不准非法聚集”是过去几年家庭教会聚会受到冲击的主要理由，现在疫情的放开，祈愿家庭教会能有多一些自由聚会和敬拜的空间。

4 过去几十年的经历，每当遇到重大社会事件以后，总会出现宗教活动相对宽松、而基督教也相对增长快速的时候。我们祷告在疫情管控过后，能有一段相对平稳的教会发展阶段。

5 求主特别祝福广大的农村教会。由于经济停滞，返乡民工务农和需要就地解决就业问题的人数大增，这些都将成为农村教会再度复兴的契机。求主加添教会传道人和其他同工传福音的力量。

6 据了解，过去三年，各地封控政策而失去收入的农民工数量庞大，期待在今年外出寻找高薪机会的大有人在。但宏观经济的下行压力和农民工的期待大相径庭，导致焦虑现象频繁发生。求主怜悯，并藉着农村教会，开展外乡务工的男青年的福音事工。

7 过去几十年经济的发展，中国农村流行在老家“盖新房、娶新娘”的做法，以此证明自己在外打工挣钱的能力。近年虽然在外挣钱不易，但这农村流行文化并未因此消停，也影响教会内肢体生活。请为受到世俗文化冲击的农村教会祷告。

8 今天是“国际妇女节”，请特别纪念中国的农村妇女。除了“盖新房、娶新娘”之外，近年农村也流行“三金彩礼”（金镯、金链、金戒）的新民俗。虽然基督徒家庭大多拒绝这样的习俗，但在乡亲中间很难取得认同。请为农村基督徒家庭，尤其是年轻妇女的婚姻观能冲破世俗文化而祷告。

9 据了解，因男多女少的社会现实，现在女方选婆家很挑剔，出于日后财产分配的顾虑，如今女方只愿意嫁独生子。若得知男方有弟兄几个，便直接拒绝。请为农村教会能有效教导圣经婚姻观而祷告。

10 受到二十年农工潮的影响，如今大多数农村是几个村合并办小学，初中就到县城集中住校，高中则更加集中的做法。这样孩子们不再眷恋农村，农村老年人也抱怨现在的年轻人太会享受，不像原来那么孝顺了。请为农村文化受到工业化和城镇化冲击的现象祷告，祈愿能藉着教会让圣经家庭观深入农村。

11 今年春节，一些农村地区的贫困户（五保户）获得一次性300元人民币（约44美元）的购物卡，可以在指定的商店购买年货和日用品。可见农村人平均的收入水平很低。请特别为农村孤寡和失独老人的福音工作祷告。

12 随着疫情管控的放松，请为一些城市教会认领农村孤寡老人，在农村地区从事福音工作的服事祷告。

13 请为更多农村老人能听闻福音祷告，让更多人能在基督里得到永远的盼望。

14 根据政府的统计公告，中国进入了人口负增长阶段，连农村人也对于生育越来越保守，但与城市人担心儿女养育费用高昂的情况不同，农村人更是提前为儿女婚嫁的费用而担心。求主怜悯，让教会在重建中国的婚姻文化上发挥更大的作用。

15 近年来，农村儿童人数持续在萎缩。而且，如今儿童痴迷电子游戏的情况十分严重。而农村教会的儿童主日学也相对比较薄弱。请为农村教会的儿童和青少年事工的复兴祷告。

16 由于出口加工业萎缩，沿海地区的民工大幅减少。如今外出务工的中原民工，往往到川西、西藏、青海和新疆等高原地区，从事道路和城市基本建设，以及在大型农场从事繁重的体力劳动。感谢主，一些原民工教会也开始将注意力转移到西部地区。请为中国民工教会在地域和策略上的转变而祷告。

17 感谢主，近年来政府鼓励在农村基础设施上的投资，农民生活的硬件得到很大的改善。

我们祷告，让农村生活的软件，即农村文化的福音化，也同样能进步。

18 据国家统计局的数据显示，与前1年相较，2022年中国土地购置面积重挫53.4%、商品房销售面积年减26.7%，为1992年有该数据以来最大降幅。房地产是中国经济增长的支柱之一，因此，除非疫情后房地产市场能出现明显复苏现象，不然宏观经济增长将十分困难，求主怜悯，让庞大的建筑业待业人员能尽快找到合适的工作机会。

19 请特别为小城镇和三四线城市的教会发展祷告。因为宏观经济发展的滞缓，对这些小城镇的就业市场带来更大的打击，教会也受到波及。

20 人口增长放缓带来的冲击之一，就是老人赡养问题更严峻。请为有老人福音事工的教会能持续有效的服事祷告，也求主兴起更多的教会投身其中。

21 随着“脱钩”和重构“全球化”的持续发展，“中产阶级”也面临越来越大的就业压力。这种压力也出现在一些主要城市教会的成员身上。他们原本并未打算移民，现在却把“润”（RUN）作为自己的Plan B。请为他们祷告，求主赐下属天的智慧，作合乎主心意的决定。

22 请为大学中遵循诚实和学术自由的基督徒学者和老师祷告，愿他们认真教学做研究的态度成为见证主美好的机会。

23 职业妇女一直是职场上的弱势群体。但目前出现的“人口负增长”的压力，为减少职场性别歧视提供了机遇。请为中国职场中的性别公平，和减少对女性职工的歧视现象祷告。

24 据报道，四川省卫生当局将改变只有已婚妇女才可以合法生育的权利，从2月15日起，改为“已婚夫妇和任何想要后代的个人（不管是否结婚）都可以向政府登记”，以便获发出生证。请为基督徒为维护婚姻和生育伦理的努力而祷告。

25 中国从1980年到2015实施严格的“一胎化”政策，除了最终导致人口萎缩，更使得众多妇女遭受永久性的伤害，也扭曲了独生子女的身心成长。请为中国教会多年来努力遵行圣经教导，协助妇女和家庭献上感恩的祷告；也为在未来的岁月中，在维护圣经的家庭观所要面对的挑战求恩典。

26 请祷告纪念如今身在海外，从事跨文化宣教工作的中国基督徒及家人。

27 据报道，虽然中国在2022年十二月开始开放公民的国际旅行，但受碍于不同国家对中防疫政策的疑虑，实际出行的中国人并未明显增加。春节黄金周国内旅游虽然出现了报复性增长，但国际旅行增长缓慢。请为能有序恢复中国基督徒前往海外的出行自由，并能够恢复在海外参加不同聚会和训练计划而祷告。

28 从现在开始，中国的初中和高中毕业班都集中力量应付升学考试（中考和高考），由于过去三年大多实行网上授课，使得今年的毕业班比以往任何一届学生都更缺乏系统的教育和训练，因此他们的考试压力远比以往更甚。请为今年的毕业生能有正确的学习观和坦然面对的态度祷告。

29 请特别纪念一位H姓的基督徒高中老师。过去三年的网课时间，她结识不少学生中的基督徒。既给她自己带来许多鼓励，看到盼望，也使她有机会常常为这些学生提名祷告。请特别与她一起，为她的学生祷告。

30 请纪念在三年疫情期间，为主的缘故，一直没有离开中国的海外基督徒。我们感谢主，他们及其家庭能与普通中国人一起经受三年的严格管控，默默陪伴有需要的中国人。求主让他们在接下来的日子能经历主更多的恩典。

31 请为过去三年疫情期间，所有为中国人民和教会持续祷告的海外基督徒献上特别的感恩祷告。归荣耀与主！