



## MISSIONS FOCUS

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

# Missions: OMF – GCM Prayer “The Elderly and the Church”

From today's bulletin / Missions Report from Missions Team

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In order to understand the suicide problem among the elderly in rural China and to explore solutions, a group of urban Christians set off after the new year's celebrations to a rural area near two provinces. They rented village houses, visited and served the widowed or lonely elderly in the local surrounding areas. The outcome? In 23 days, they visited 24 villages and found that the villages were mainly populated by old folk and women. These believers provided services such as haircuts and nail clipping for the 1065 people they met. They chatted and shared life stories. After learning that the visiting team were all Christ followers, 118 elderly decided to believe in Jesus. At the same time, another 129 said they used to believe in the Lord, but they had not attended church for several years. At the first opportunity, they said they wanted to return to church and back to their Savior Jesus.

It was observed that some older folk undergo a change in their outlook through being part of congregational life in a church. A non-believing author wrote that "when they saw women living in remote areas gathered together on account of an ancient faith....they were profoundly moved."

To read further findings of the visiting team and read some of the prayer requests, please see the following pages.

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

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# The Elderly and the Church June 2023

In order to understand the problem of suicide among the elderly in rural China and to explore solutions, a group of urban Christians set off together shortly after the 2023 Lunar New Year holiday, northwards to a rural area where two provinces meet. They rented village houses to live in, visited and served the widowed or lonely elderly in the local surrounding areas. The outcome? In 23 days, they visited 24 villages and found that the villages were mainly populated by the old folk and women. The urban Christians provided services such as haircuts and nail clipping for the 1,065 people they met. They chatted and shared life stories. After learning that the visiting team were all Christians, 118 old people decided to believe in Jesus. At the same time, another 129 elderly said that they used to believe in the Lord, but now that they were old they had not attended church for several years. At the first opportunity, they said they wanted to return to church and back to the Savior Jesus.

The co-workers who participated in this team were very moved when an older man was willing to stretch out his feet in front of strangers and accept their service. This expressed not just that he was moved, but even more that he trusted this band of Christian young people. Their conclusions were as follows:

In general, lonely singlehood or being widowed makes elderly people quite depressed. Their self-image is very low and they think of themselves as being superfluous to society. But when they met these city Christians and were able to have real conversations, their hearts were opened and gradually they were able to move beyond their poor self-esteem.

Secondly, although the elderly may not be short of food and clothing, their hearts were empty. So when they met these Christians, the true love expressed by these Christians melted the hearts of the old folk.

Thirdly, the hearts of some elderly have been closed for many years. Some of them had almost lost basic language abilities because no one had spoken to them for many years. However, in the course of interacting with the team, they gradually regained their power of speech and their confidence and self-esteem gradually returned.

Fourth, about 10% of the old folk had heard the gospel before and had believed, but had wandered away for various reasons. In the course of caring conversation and interaction with the team, the team found that the old people seemed to be waiting for believers and evangelists to come among them to bring them back to faith in Christ. One of the old men said that he had not been to church for 38 years, but now he could finally come back again.

Fifth, more than 10% of the elderly believed that their life, like a flickering lamp, was already about to be extinguished, so to suddenly be given a chance, the final, greatest chance, to hear the Gospel, meant that there was absolutely nothing stopping them from making an immediate decision to believe in the Lord.

Although this team brought back only a simple summary after their field research, the results tell us that the emotional health problems of the elderly in the villages are already very real, and that this can be a key area of ministry in China today.

According to the "China National Mental Health Development Report" (2019-2020), about one-third of the elderly population suffer from depression. The report also pointed out that depression is one of the common psychological symptoms among elderly people. Long-term depression may lead to deeper depression and to serious acts such as self-mutilation and self-injury. A survey of the elderly in Beijing found that about one-fifth (19.05%) were mildly depressed, and one-tenth (12.17%) had moderate to high levels of depression. Further analysis revealed that there was no significant difference in depression scores between male and female, or between those with different educational levels, or with different marital status and family networks. These findings point to the fact that depression is very widespread and can adversely affect the mental health of every elderly person.

However the above-cited report was based on only 415 samples from the elderly in Beijing, an urban center. For the ministry team that visited the villages, their research was from elderlies in rural areas. Their research revealed that the issue in the villages was much more serious than in the city [urban centers], because the team interviewed more than a thousand elderly people who all had different degrees of depression and mental health issues. A Chinese author, Li Jianjun, in his book *Suicide Research* pointed out: "In recent years, suicides among the elderly have gradually increased, especially among the elderly in rural areas. Statistics show that the suicide rate in the countryside in China is higher than that in urban areas. The suicide rate of the rural elderly is five times that of the urban elderly; and 90% of all elderly suicides occur in rural areas.... There are many reasons for suicide among the elderly, including loneliness, illness, poverty, unfilial children, empty-nests, etc." The problem of depression causing elderly country dwellers to take their own lives clearly is not without its own reasons. Investigations thus confirm that the main causes of elderly depression are mental and emotional health issues and not the lack of food and clothing.

As a mainstream program for improving mental health, Zhang Yaqi stated in his paper on the impact of religious beliefs on the mental health of the elderly - based on the research of CHARLS2018: "According to empirical analysis, religious beliefs have a definite impact on the mental health of the elderly. Those older adults with religious beliefs are less likely to experience insomnia than non-religious older adults." Therefore, he proposed: "paying more attention to the mental health of older empty-nesters in the countryside, starting with their families encouraging their children to pay more attention to them, and at the same time to ensure that they have the necessities for healthy living; finally, to promote collaboration between government and private educational institutions in running elderly schools; provide easily accessible learning opportunities for the elderly, and set up courses that suit the preferences of the elderly population."

The ministry team's field research shows that Zhang Yaqi's suggestions really have no impact, because it is clear that in the vast and remote expanses of the Chinese countryside few are promoting the care of the elderly. This can be seen in the fact that to date there has been no improvement for rural elderlies suffering from loneliness and depression. However, this ministry team pointed the way to a solution to the rural elderlies' problems from a different angle: The ministry team found that about 10% of the elderly in rural areas are Christians. That means, at least in rural areas, the percentage of older Chinese who have heard the Gospel and are willing to accept Christ is higher than the known national average. This shows that the revival which took place in the 1980's opened up widespread areas of the countryside as fields for the Gospel. Since the 1990's, the movement of migrant workers into cities and urban campus ministries led to the establishing of many migrant churches and white-collar churches, while rural congregations experienced a decline.

However, in recent years, aging migrant workers are returning home and are adding to the local elderly population. There is a hope then, that this trend may become the new basis for the revival of rural churches in China, but there is a great need now for Christian workers to heed the call to help cultivate the fields of faith among the rural elderly population. The ministry team also found that more than 10% of old folk were eagerly awaiting the Gospel and were willing to become the firstfruits of its message. This may be similar to the situation in the 1980s. Today, rural China is still a great harvest field for the Gospel. Changes in China's social environment are resulting in a decline in urban churches and campus ministries. At the same time in the countryside large fields of crops await the Lord's harvesters.

The short-term ministry team observed that some old folk in the villages can undergo a change in their outlook through being part of congregational life in a church. Undoubtedly then this is one notable way to solve the mental health issues facing elderlies in rural areas. Faced with these situations, the primary ministry focus of rural churches should be toward the elderly. Proclaiming the Gospel is the way to help the greatest number of older folk escape loneliness and other spiritual problems. In the book, *China in a Village*, author Xiong Peiyun wrote: "I am not a Christian, but when I saw women living in remote mountain villages gathered together on account of an ancient faith, ... and living an otherworldly existence in these mountain passes unknown to outsiders, I was profoundly moved."

Looking to the Lord is not only for these mountain women, but as old folk in the countryside look to Him, so they too will become the crown of China's rural church.



# Prayer Points

**1** Today is International Children's Day. China is reportedly the second most expensive country in the world to raise a child. In another report, a 2017 survey by China's National Health and Family Planning Commission found that 77.4% of women of childbearing age said that the main reason for them not wanting to have children is because "the financial burden is too heavy", followed by "being too old" and "no one to help look after the child". May the Lord grant his grace and wisdom after the renunciation of the one-child policy. Please pray there will be positive developments in childcare, parenting and childhood education in China.

**2** Pray for families who are committed to Christian home schooling. They face multiple challenges: curriculum posted from overseas doesn't always arrive in time and parents are frequently warned that their children should be attending public schools.

**3** According to reports, kindergartens in certain areas require parents to sign a commitment of "no religious affiliation" pledging not to have a religion, participate in any activity, or evangelize. This has put much pressure on Christian parents. May God have mercy.

**4** Pray for Christian middle and high school students who live in boarding schools. They often feel very lonely and depressed because they cannot profess their faith openly at school.

**5** Christian children, at all levels of education, are often discriminated against when they profess their faith. They are often verbally humiliated in public by teachers as well as classmates. Pray for the physical and mental wellbeing of these Christian children.

**6** Pray for those who have graduated from private Christian schools. As the state does not recognize their qualifications, they are unable to further their studies or seek employment in China. Praise the Lord some of the students have been accepted in overseas colleges which recognize their qualifications. Pray for their academic studies and spiritual growth.

**7** Today and tomorrow are the nationwide college entrance exams. With the economic slowdown, it seems more students are participating in these exams. However, it's common for parents to flock to temples desperately praying for their children to get good grades. May God have mercy and help Chinese youth to know the true God.

**8** In the past few years, it has become popular for high school students to set up pictures of Einstein or Madame Curie on their laptops, which they worship

daily in the names of science to be blessed with success in their university entrance exams. Meanwhile, Christian students' private prayers are considered superstitious and are forbidden. May God have mercy and protect these Christian students to lead a life of faith with dignity.

**9** Praise the Lord that some young Chinese Christians who went abroad to study have just graduated from college and returned to their home churches to serve. Pray that they adapt well to serving in the local ministry context.

**10** Please pray for the young students joining various service activities with churches this summer. May the Lord open their spiritual eyes to see the real needs in contemporary China. May they be sensitive to God's calling to step out to serve him in the near future.

**11** Beginning today, the high school entrance exams (for middle school students entering high school) commence in different locations. Pray especially for Qingdao district's graduating middle school Christian students taking their exams from today till June 13th. May they do so with a prayerful and worshipful heart experiencing the beauty of God's presence.

**12** Pray for X family's two children who will be participating in an overseas homeschool program's annual exams. Because they haven't been able to receive their curriculum on time, the children have not been able to keep up with their lessons. As a result, both children and parents are tired out. Pray for the families and children who have committed to Christian home schooling.

**13** The latest population data released by the Shanghai Bureau of Statistics indicates that Shanghai's population in 2022 was 24.76 million, 135,400 less compared to 2021. This is the first time in five years that there has been a decrease in population in Shanghai. This critical turning point is most obvious in places like Shanghai where there is a concentration in population. This trend will have a profound impact on the development of the whole of society. May God have mercy.

**14** According to survey results from Shanghai's Bureau of Statistics, about 60% of Shanghainese expressed that they only want to have one child or prefer not to have children at all. Pray that the consequences of this post-one child policy will pass very soon.



**15** Reportedly, the population in China will start to drop in 2023 and India will soon become the most populous nation in the world. Meanwhile, other research indicates that the average age in China is 37.4 while in India, it's 28.1, 9.3 years younger than that of China. In other words, not only is the total population of India ahead of China, their population is also one generation younger. Pray for Chinese people to have the right values and outlook on life.

**16** One impact of an aging society is the challenge of eldercare. Other than a serious lack of facilities and management personnel, there is also a big differential between seniors' expectations and what their life is really like. Some seniors feel there's not much for them to do except play mahjong and dance. Since Christians can't profess their faith publicly, transport arrangements can't be made for them to attend church. Please pray for the elderly to have a healthy spiritual life.

**17** Pray for the handful of privately run Christian eldercare homes. As Christian social service organizations, they face multiple challenges from all sides. May God grant divine wisdom to leaders of these organizations.

**18** Pray for the Chinese church's outreach ministry to the elderly. May God grant vision and wisdom, and raise up many more committed workers to serve the elderly "in one spirit". (Phil 1:27)

**19** A fire that broke out at Beijing Changfeng Hospital on April 18, 2023 resulted in the tragic death of 29 people. It was later discovered that for many years this private hospital had been illegally taking in elderly who were unable to take care of themselves. Their lack of mobility was why the casualty rate was so high. Please pray for proper and respectful follow up for the families of the deceased.

**20** Due to difficulties getting appropriate resources and training, China has long struggled with providing appropriate long-term care for the elderly with disabilities. Pray for the establishment of long-term pension and medical care for the elderly with disabilities in China.

**21** Based on government statistics, in 2020, there were about 42 million disabled seniors over 60 needing assistance with daily living; in other words, one out of every six seniors over 60. However, from 2010-2020, just over a million disabled and partially-disabled elderly people were admitted to senior care services nationwide. This shows that there is still a huge gap in the care of the disabled elderly. Pray for Christian-run eldercare ministries.

**22** Meanwhile, according to the Domestic Affairs statistics, the occupancy rate of eldercare homes nationwide has been declining. The occupancy rate in 2010 was 77.1% but went down to 45.5 % in 2020. This shows that the existing institutions and approaches to eldercare fall short of seniors' expectations. Pray that China's eldercare industry will be less ideologically framed and more compassionate.

**23** Unlike the West, 90% of the elderly in China grow old at home, 7% in the community and only 3% in institutions. But, the one-child policy has fundamentally changed traditional Chinese family structure making it difficult for the existing eldercare model to adapt to the needs of an aging society. Pray that a suitable eldercare pension model can be found as soon as possible for an aging Chinese society.

**24** China strictly prohibits Christians from entering eldercare homes to share the Good News. They only allow Christians volunteers on an individual basis to do short-term volunteer work. Pray for Christians who have the opportunity to serve in eldercare homes.

**25** Pray for Christians quietly serving in state-run and private eldercare homes all round the nation. May God strengthen them and enable them to experience His presence.

**26** Pray for brother Z. Due to Covid, he has not served in church for several years and has lost the zeal to serve. May God revive his spirit.

**27** Pray for brother T. After years of service, he has experienced many hurts and is exhausted. Pray for God's healing to be upon him and that he can find a suitable spiritual mentor/companion.

**28** Pray for brother C. During the pandemic, he was not involved in church and gave himself over to his work. He feels he is far away from the Lord and very empty. May God enable him to turn back to Him.

**29** Pray for brother X. He has given up serving in church for many years and feels his spiritual life is so weak that he cannot even pray. He asks for prayer support so that he can rekindle his passion to serve the Lord.

**30** Pray for brother W. Because of the stresses of life, he is often impatient with his wife, who serves alongside him, sometimes even offending her with the use of inappropriate language. He asks for prayers that the Lord will change him so that they can serve together well in church.



2023  
年  
6月

白发是荣耀的冠冕，  
在公义的道路上必能得着。  
(箴言16章31节)



## 老人与教会

为了实地了解中国农村老年人自杀问题的情况和探索解决之道，2023年农历新年假期刚过不久，一队城市基督徒就结伴出发，一路向北，来到某两省交界的农村地区。他们租村屋居住，走访和服务当地和周边地区的孤寡或独处的老人。结果在23天里，他们走访了24个村寨，发现各村主要是以老人和妇女为多，他们为所接触到的1065位孤寡的老人提供理发、剪指甲等服务，同时利用机会与老人家们攀谈，分享生活。当得知这些来访的城里人都是基督徒以后，有118位老人决志要信耶稣，同时又有129位老人表示以前是信主的，只是自己年纪大了，已经好几年没有去教会，但有机会就要再回教会，回到救主耶稣的面前去。

参加这一服事的同工们感慨万分，一个老人家愿意在陌生人的面前伸出自己的脚来接受他们的服事，这不仅是因为感动，更是出于对这群信耶稣的年轻后生们的信任。在感慨中他们总结到：

总体上，孤独或丧偶的生活使得老人们颇感抑郁，而且自我形象普遍很低，以为自己是这个世界多余的人。但当他们遇到这些城里来的基督徒，能真诚对话以后，他们的心很容易就被打开，人也就能够从自卑中慢慢走出来。

其次，虽然老人们并不真正的缺衣少食，但他们的心灵却是干枯的，遇到基督徒就被真挚的爱所融化。

第三，老人们的心长年是封闭的，其中一些因为多年没有人讲话，甚至近乎失去基本的语言能力，但在交流过程中，逐渐找回自己语言的能力，自信和自尊也就慢慢回来了。

第四，有占10%左右的老人是曾听过福音、信过主，却因为各种原因疏离了，但从交谈时的热切态度中，服务队发现，他们好像是在等着信耶稣和传基督的人来到，可以再次把他们带回到基督的信仰里面来。其中一位表示，自己已经有38年没有去教会，现在终于可以回来（信耶稣）了。

第五，有超过10%的老人，认为自己的人生已处在油灯将熄之际，忽然能够听见福音，这可是他们人生最后、也是最大的机会，因此毫无拦阻地就立刻决志信主了。

虽然这次服务队只是带回一份十分简单的田野调查小结，可这些数据告诉我们，老年人的心理健康问题已经迫在眉睫，这是当代中国老人事工的重点领域。



据《中国国民心理健康发展报告》(2019-2020)介绍,目前约有三分之一的老年人处在抑郁的状态。报告还指出:在老年群体中,抑郁是常见的心理症状之一。长期的抑郁状态可能导致抑郁症的产生,甚至进一步发展成自残、自伤等严重情况。对北京市老年人的调查发现,约有五分之一(19.05%)处于轻度抑郁状态,近十分之一(12.17%)存在中高强度的抑郁情绪。进一步分析发现,不同性别、不同教育程度、不同婚姻状态和不同家庭结构的老年人在抑郁得分方面并无显著差异。这意味着抑郁非常普遍,可能侵害每一位老人的心理健康。<sup>1</sup>

但是,这份仅以北京市的老年人415份样本为依据的《报告》,除了受访者年龄相近之外,<sup>2</sup>这次服务队在偏远地区的田野调查所揭示的问题,显然要比北京市严重得多,因为上千位受访老人都有不同程度的抑郁。李建军在所著《自杀研究》一书中指出:“近年来,老年人自杀行为却有逐渐增加的趋势,尤其是农村老年人的自杀现象更加普遍。统计数据表明,我国农村自杀率是城市的3倍,农村老年人自杀率是城市老年人的5倍,全国90%的自杀发生在农村。……引发老人自杀的原因很多,包括孤独无依、病痛、贫穷、子女不孝、空巢家庭等。”<sup>3</sup>老人的自卑、封闭、抑郁等造成农村老人自杀的问题并非空穴来风,调查证实,老人忧郁的主要原因是心理健康问题,而不是温饱问题。

作为心理健康的主流方案,张亚琪在其宗教信仰对老年人心理健康的影响——基于CHARLS2018的研究的论文中表示:根据实证分析,宗教信仰对老年人的心理健康有一定影响,有宗教信仰的老年人比无宗教信仰的老年人更少出现失眠的现象。因此,他提出要“更加关注农村空巢老年人的心理健康状况,从农村空巢老人的家庭成员入手,鼓励子女多关注老年人,同时为他们的生活做好保障;最后,推动政府与民营教育机构合作办学,为老年人提供公益教学,并且按照老年人的喜好设置课程。”<sup>4</sup>

可是,从服务队实地了解中发现,至少在广袤且偏远的农村地区,张亚琪的建议没有什么实际意义,因为客观上没有什么人在按着张亚琪的方案推动农村老人的关怀事工,农村老人的孤独问题依然没有得到改善。不过服务队的服事却从另一个角度展示农村问题的解决之道:

服务队发现,农村老人群体有10%左右的基督徒。那就意味着,至少在农村地区,听过福音的中国老年人,并愿意接受基督的人口比例要高过已知的全国平均值<sup>5</sup>。这表明,自八十年代以来,农村教会的复兴运动曾经开拓出宽广的福音禾田。虽然自九十年代以来,农民进城打工和校园事工的兴起,造就了众多民工教会和新兴城市教会,农村教会一度处于低潮,但近年因年老返乡的农民工,和当地老人合流,希望成为中国农村教会再度复兴的基础,只是现在十分需要更多有负担的当代基督徒去深耕农村的信仰禾场。

服务队又发现,有超过10%的老年人正在热切地期待福音,愿意成为福音初熟的果子。这可能和八零年代的情形一样,当今中国农村依然是福音的大禾场。由于中国社会环境的变迁,如今城市教会和校园事工都已再度陷入低潮,与此同时在农村,有大片正在等待主的工人们前去收割的庄稼。

综合服务队的实地考察,至少有四分之一以上的农村老年人是可以通过教会生活改变他们的精神面貌。这无疑为解决当前农村老人问题其中一个重要的渠道。在当前条件下,农村教会的首要事工就是老人事工;而能帮助大多数农村老人摆脱孤独等精神问题的方法,就是广传福音。在《一个村庄里的中国》一书中,作者熊培云这样写到:“我不是基督徒,但当我看到这些生活在荒僻山庄的妇女为了一个古老的信念聚在一起,共同领悟人心向善,在这不为人知的山坳上,过一种超凡脱俗的精神生活时,还是感动不已。”<sup>6</sup>

仰望主不仅让妇女,也让白发再次成为中国农村教会的桂冠(箴16:31)。

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.crca.cn/index.php/16-research/119-2021-04-26-18-59-36.html> (2023-5-1 存取)

<sup>2</sup> 《中国国民心理健康发展报告》(2019-2020)样本平均年龄为69.36岁。服务队报告所接触的老人近90%超过70岁,而且后者样本量超过前者一倍以上。

<sup>3</sup> 李建军《自杀研究》,社会科学文献出版社,2013年12月,第318页。

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.hanspub.org/journal/PaperInformation.aspx?paperID=54341&btwaf=47421050> (2023-5-1 存取)

<sup>5</sup> 根据《宗教蓝皮书:中国宗教报告(2010)》提供的数据为1.8%。金泽、邱永辉主编,社会科学文献出版社,2010年。

<sup>6</sup> 熊培云《一个村庄里的中国》,新星出版社,2014年,第434页。



# 代祷事项

**1** 今天是六一儿童节，据报道，中国目前是全球养育孩子成本第二高的国家，另据中国国家卫生计生委 2017 年的调查发现，77.4% 的育龄妇女表示“经济负担过重”，是除了“年纪太大”和“没有人力照顾孩子”外，不想生孩子的首要原因。请特别纪念自放弃“独生子女”政策以来，中国在保育、养育和儿童教育等方面都能有良性发展，求主赐下恩典和智慧。

**2** 请特别为以基督教在家教育的方式教育孩童的家庭祷告，他们面临多重挑战，除了海外邮寄的教材很难准时收到，家长们还要受到多重警告，必须送孩子去公立学校上学。

**3** 据报道，一些地区的幼儿园，要求幼儿家长签署“不信教承诺书”，保证不信教、不参加活动、不传播宗教等。这给基督徒的孩子家长带来极大的压力。求主怜悯！

**4** 请为在校寄宿的初高中基督徒学生祷告，他们因不能在学校公开信仰而倍感孤独和压抑。

**5** 不论是小学还是中学，基督徒孩子很容易因为公开信仰而遭到各种歧视，受到来自老师和同学公开的言语羞辱并恶作剧。请为这些基督徒孩子们的身心健康祷告。

**6** 请为那些已经在教会自办学校毕业的高中学生祷告，他们因学历不被国家承认而无法进一步在国内升学和找工作。感谢主，其中部分学生已经在海外认可他们学历的学院继续升学。请为这些高中毕业生的学业和灵命造就祷告。

**7** 今明两天，是中国统一的高中毕业生高考日。因经济萎缩等影响，高中生参加高考报读大学的风气似有回潮。但为了能有好成绩，学生家长以各种民间信仰形式求神抱佛脚极为普遍，求主怜悯中国年轻人，能得到正确的宗教教育。

**8** 过去几年，高中生很流行在自己个人电脑上设置爱因斯坦或居里夫人的偶像每天祭拜，以崇尚科

学的名义，祈求他们保佑自己能高考顺利。但却不许基督徒学生私下祷告，被斥为封建迷信。求主怜悯，特别保守基督徒学生能有有尊严的信仰生活。

**9** 感谢主，有部分在海外完成大学学业、取得学位的中国年轻基督徒回国，陆续回到原属教会参加服事。请为他们能很好地适应国内的服事环境而祷告。

**10** 请为在今年暑假随同教会团队参加各类服务活动的年轻学生祷告。求主开启他们属灵的眼目，看见当代中国的实际需要，并能敏感于上帝呼召的声音，在不久的将来踏上服事主的道路。

**11** 根据安排，中国各地从今天开始陆续进入为期 2-3 天的中考（初中毕业考高中入学资格）阶段。请特别为今天青岛地区（6 月 11-13 日）的基督徒初中毕业生祷告，让他们能以祷告和敬拜的心进入考试，并经历主同在的美好。

**12** 请为一 X 姓家庭祷告，他们的两个孩子这个月参加一海外“在家教育”课程的学年考试。因现在很难按时收到必须的教材，使得孩子的学业往往跟不上课程进度，家长和孩子都很疲惫。请为坚持让孩子接受基督教教育的家庭和孩子祷告。

**13** 上海市统计局 2023 年最新公布的人口数据显示，2022 年上海人口 2475.89 万人，比 2021 年减少了约 13.54 万人。这是上海 5 年来首次出现人口下降的现象。显然人口增长的拐点也已经在上海这样人口集中的地区出现了。这一趋势将会对整个社会的发展带来深远影响。求主怜悯。

**14** 据上海统计局调查结果显示，约 60% 的上海人表示他们只想要 1 个孩子或根本不要孩子。请为这一“独生子女后遗症”现象能尽快过去祷告。

**15** 据报道，自 2023 年起中国的人口将开始减少，而印度将超过中国成为世界第一人口大国。但是另外一项研究表明，目前中国的平均年龄为



37.4岁，同时印度为28.1岁，要比中国年轻9.3岁。这意味着不仅人口总数被超越，而且印度要比中国人口平均年轻一代人。请为中国人能有正确的人生观和价值观祷告。

**16** 老龄化带来的影响之一，就是老年人赡养问题遇到的挑战。除了设施、管理人材等严重不足，老人的生活也与期待差距甚远。有老人反映，除了打麻将和跳舞，没有任何其他活动可做。尤其信耶稣不能公开，去教会也没有交通安排。请为老人的精神生活健康祷告。

**17** 请为为数不多的民办基督教养老院祷告，作为“基督教”的社会服务机构，他们面对多重多元的压力。求主特别给这些养老机构的带领人有属天的智慧。

**18** 请为中国教会的老年福音事工祷告。求主赐异象、智慧，也兴起更多有志服事老人的同工，一起“齐心努力”（腓1：27）。

**19** 2023年4月18日北京长峰医院火灾事故造成29人不幸死亡。其后发现，民营的长峰医院，多年来一直违规收治无法自理的失能老人，因老人行动不便，才导致火灾伤亡严重。请为死难者家庭的后续处理能妥善和有尊严地进行而祷告。

**20** 据介绍，因资源和训练等瓶颈问题，中国长期存在着失能老人难以获得合适和长期照护的困境。请为中国失能老人的养护（养老和医护）事业的建立而祷告。

**21** 据政府数据，2020年60岁以上的失能老人超过4200万，即每6位超过60岁的老年人中，就可能有1位无法自理。但2010-2020年，全国养老服务机构收治的失能和半失能老人共109.8万人，实在是杯水车薪，失能老人的照护仍有巨大的缺口。请为民办基督徒养老事工祷告。

**22** 与此同时，据民政统计数据显示，近十年间，全国养老机构入住率整体呈下滑趋势，

2010年时，总体入住率还有77.1%，到2020年时，入住率已经降为45.5%。可见当前的养老机构和理念与老人的期待差距甚远。请为中国养老事业能减少意识形态的框框，更多体现人文的关怀而祷告。

**23** 与西方普遍的养老方式不同，中国有90%的老人在家养老，7%在社区养老，只有3%在机构养老。可是由于多年“独生子女”政策已从根本上改变了中国传统的家庭结构，使得现有的养老模式已难以适应老龄化社会的需要。请为中国社会能尽快找到适合老龄化社会需要的养老模式而祷告。

**24** 中国严禁基督徒进入养老院传福音，只接受一些基督徒以个人名义作短期义工。请为那些有机会进入养老院中服事的基督徒祷告。

**25** 请为在各地国营和民办养老院中默默服事的基督徒祷告，求主加添他们力量，在服事中经历主的同在。

**26** 请为一Z姓的弟兄祷告，因受疫情打击，已经几年没有在教会服事了，而且服事的热心也冷淡了下来。求主复兴他的生命。

**27** 请为一T姓弟兄祷告，多年的服事，曾累积下许多的伤痕，感到疲惫不堪。请为这位弟兄能得到主的医治而祷告，并能找到属灵上的辅导、同伴。

**28** 请为一C姓弟兄祷告，他表示因疫情期间没有服事，就去社会打拼，感觉离主越来越远，心灵空虚。求主使他回转。

**29** 请为一X姓弟兄祷告，他已经放下在教会的服事多年，灵命软弱，甚至祷告也没有力量。他请求大家与他一起祷告，重燃当初服事主的热诚。

**30** 请为一W姓的弟兄祷告，他表示因生活所迫，常常对一同服事的妻子没有耐心，甚至用不当言语冒犯她。他请求大家为他祷告，求主改变他，能与妻子更好地一起在教会服事。