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CHINA Friend or Foe?

By Patrick Klein

I have traveled to China for over thirty years. My heart is heavy as I hear what is happening around the world where the Chinese are moving aggressively. I'm grateful for what God has done in China and am blessed by the Chinese Christians. Their love and commitment to Jesus Christ is truly inspiring. While we rejoice over the Church in China the Chinese government is altogether different.

We watched for many months as the people in Hong Kong demonstrated in their streets against the oppression of the Beijing government. This movement was partially hijacked by those who used violence and caused much damage to personal and government property. Meanwhile it was reported that Chinese troops were being trained to stop the demonstrations with physical force just miles across the border.

These events were overshadowed by the coronavirus which like some other new diseases had its origins in China. Whether accidental or intentional, the origin of the coronavirus is proof that the Chinese government cannot be trusted. President Xi has had all term limits removed, so he is a dictator for life. He hates Christianity and has proved it by closing down many church buildings and stopping all gatherings of Christians.

He has also targeted the Uighur Muslim minority by placing over one million of the Uighur people in re-education camps. We have heard reports that Muslims are being forced to renounce their faith in Islam and are required to eat pork, something their religion strictly prohibits.

President Xi, or as some call him Chairman Xi, has high regard for Chairman Mao, a man who was responsible for over 40 million people's deaths in 20 years. Chairman Mao liked young teen girls and was said to have a sexually transmitted disease at his death. After the Tiananmen Massacre in 1989 where thousands of students died, Chinese leader Deng Xiao Ping downplayed their deaths as insignificant. In China the government has no regard for human life. I remember years ago while living in Xi'an province, locals said that the government would take prisoners to the football stadium and publicly execute them, and then charge the parents \$0.80 for the bullet.

One political candidate in the US said, "China is no threat to the United States, China is our friend." Maybe China is a friend to this man and maybe they are helping fund his campaign. Please do not believe these lies. China is not our friend and would rather see America fail and God's Church collapse.

The Chinese Church is different; they love American Christians and pray regularly for us. One church even prayed six hours every Saturday for revival for America. They are grateful for the Bibles delivered to them and the teachers who brought them the Gospel. I'm very concerned about the policy of aggression perpetuated by President Xi. I have seen firsthand how the Chinese are moving into southeast Asia. They are not bringing the Gospel but rather prostitution; sex trafficking, alcohol and drugs. They are especially targeting the young people. In these countries the people are very naïve and don't understand the aggression from the mainland Chinese.

I have heard reports that many businesses are being bought up by mainland Chinese. Land and homes are being bought up and prices are rising so that the local people cannot afford to live there. I have heard in Laos that the Chinese government is moving so many Chinese into parts of Laos that there are now more Chinese people than Laotian people living in some places.

In January I visited Vientiane. I used to love going to this city and would enjoy the laid back lifestyle. I was grieved as I saw trash laying everywhere. The downtown area had several boarded up buildings and prostitution has greatly increased. Dance bars have sprung up, much like what I have witnessed in cities in mainland China.

I have heard that Cambodia is being overrun by mainland Chinese. I met some American missionaries who said that one coastal city was being bought up by the Chinese and is being turned into a city full of casinos. I saw a similar thing in Macao, which used to be a serene Portuguese city on the Chinese coast but now resembles Las Vegas and has all the same sins and broken lives.

In Burma, our friends report that young girls are taken to China as child-brides or sold as sex slaves. The young men are targeted to get them addicted to drugs. Our Burmese friends are concerned that the younger generation may cease to exist. Young Hmong girls are taken into sex trafficking from the mountains of Vietnam. While in Pakistan Chinese men marry Pakistani women and then force them into prostitution. All the while Christians in surrounding countries are told not to share the Gospel in mainland China.

Please pray for the Chinese people, especially the businessmen that they will repent of their sins. Pray for government leaders, that they will turn from communism and wickedness and repent at the foot of the cross. Please pray that the Chinese Church will grow in spite of the opposition that they face daily. Please pray that President Xi will see his need to repent of his sins and turn his life completely to Jesus Christ, or that God would remove him as a man of influence. The world desperately needs Jesus Christ and the hope only He brings. While these things can weigh heavily on our hearts, when we pray God can lift that burden and fill us with hope.

God Bless You!