

‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...’ - Jesus

December, 2007

Dear,

I recently stood on the peaceful hills outside a major Chinese city. Then, just a few days later, I walked through a squalid, cramped city slum. And I thought: Jesus could have been born right here, in this city, in this poverty, in simplicity.

Honestly, it’s hard to grasp the words of Jesus in a country like China where the population is enormous and the needs are on a scale that’s unthinkable to me.

Over 1.3 billion inhabitants, thousands of factories, staggering environmental pollution, and poverty of epidemic proportions, China faces major challenges that threaten the poorest of the poor.

The mass influx of migrant workers to the cities is one of the main struggles facing the government. An estimated 150-200 million workers have already flocked from the country to the city looking for work; and that number will continue to grow.

About 30% of the country used to live in the cities but in the next 20 years that number is expected to rise to 70%. Chinese cities are being flooded by migrant people desperately looking for work and desperately seeking a way to feed their families.

The epidemic of poverty is almost unfathomable.

Millions of migrant workers without food, homes, jobs or stability gather to form makeshift communities within the cities. The conditions are unsanitary and deplorable. Children are left unfed, unschooled and unhealthy, while parents struggle to find the

over, please...



Yes, I’d like to provide food for the poorest of the poor in China

- I'd like to feed 1 family of 4 for a month for \$30
- I'd like to feed 2 families of 4 for a month for \$60
- I'd like to feed 4 families of 4 for a month for \$120
- I'd like to contribute \$ _____ to feed families in China

I'd like to make my payment with:

Cheque (please make payable to ERDO)

 

Card #: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Telephone: () _____

Email: _____

next meal. The slum-like areas have become breeding grounds for gang violence, social injustice and intense poverty. These urban-dwellers have become the undesirables of society, a faceless mass of humanity forgotten and abandoned.

And as I walked through the slum a mother held her child out to me. And as I looked into this baby girl's eyes, the truth gripped me. God does not create life haphazardly. This child I held was created by God, purposely, with deep compassion and a thoughtful plan. This child is loved by God.

My heart weeps for these communities – I know God loves them. They are not faceless to Him. He knows each man, woman and child by name and tells us specifically how we should treat them: "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40, NIV)

Christ came to earth to transform the world – to bring hope to the hurting, help to the helpless and joy to the downtrodden – and the 'least of these' living in China.

We have the opportunity to bring new joy to the people of China.

We have men and women on the ground in communities like this. They shared the immense need and opened the door for us to help them by sharing a little of what we have. **The greatest need they have right now is food** and ERDO has committed to providing families with baskets filled with nourishing food. Food is a simple first step towards improving their overall health and helping them see beyond poverty.

Your Christmas gift of just \$30 will feed a family of 4 for one month. For just \$120 you can feed 4 migrant families for one month! Your gift is a gift of hope!

I also ask you to pray. Please pray for China this Christmas – pray that God's hand would move in the hearts of men and women who are searching for their next meal and also for meaning in their lives.

I am grateful to God for your partnership. Love expressed through caring people is opening doors in China. This love, motivated by God's Spirit, knows no bounds – political, economic or emotional. The gift of the tiny baby Jesus was a gift to all people. Thanks for joining us in sharing that gift.

I wish you and your family a Christmas filled with the peace and love of Christ.

Sincerely,



Kelvin Honsinger
Executive Director

*P.S. These migrant families live at the mercy of others. Few speak or understand Mandarin and therefore cannot speak for themselves. As we provide nourishing food, we give them hope. And that is the first step towards change. Thank you for standing in prayer and support with ERDO – **together** we are doing good!*

