



A NEW VISION

The Evangelical Covenant Church in North America has committed to raise \$1 million over the next five years in support of ministries of evangelism and compassion in mainland China, working in partnership with the Taiwan Covenant Church. The goal is to raise \$200,000 each year through additional support from local Covenant churches—voluntary offerings that provide churches with additional strategic opportunities beyond our regular shared ministry budget.

The additional funding for mainland China outreach will allow this new shared ministry to:

- Establish 10 to 20 churches for immigrant laborers each year
- Start 10 factory churches
- Assist economically deprived school children
- Plant 5 urban student churches
- Build urban churches
- Operate house church worker training centers
- Assist Chinese church workers receiving training abroad
- Establish 25 mission sites in Muslim areas

The mainland China outreach will also be supported through the sending of co-workers, mission trips and the continued prayers and encouragement of Covenanters everywhere.

PLEASE RESPOND NOW

“There is a window of opportunity to reach China with the gospel...how long that window will remain open, God alone knows.”—JOHN MARTZ, *Pastor, Arvada Covenant Church, Arvada, Colorado*

“I believe that this is a God-provided opportunity that we must not let slip away.”—DAVE DOLAN, *Chinese Ministry Coordinator, The Evangelical Covenant Church*

TO LEARN MORE about mission in China, visit the special China link on the Covenant website at www.covchurch.org or call 773-907-3316. To order copies of China project resources, including the China DVD and additional copies of this brochure, call Covenant Resource Center at 800-338-4332.



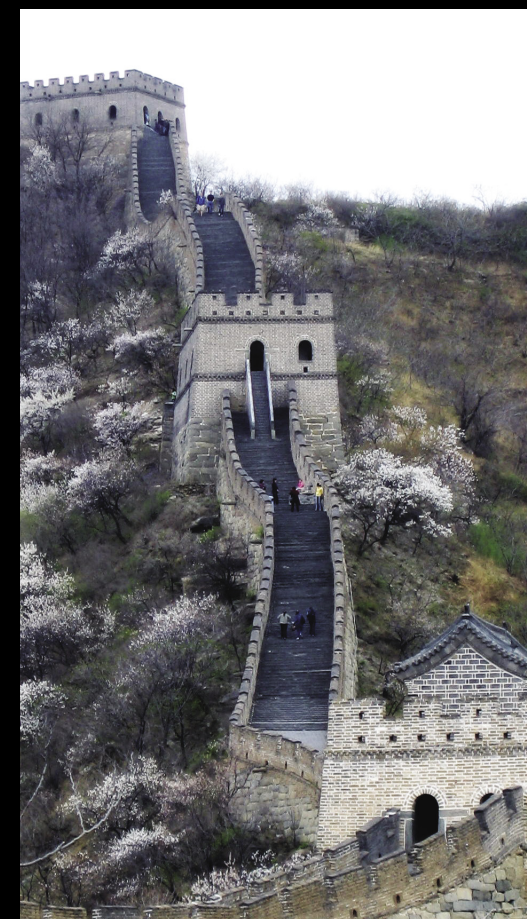
THE GREAT OPEN DOOR

A NEW MISSION TO CHINA

The Evangelical Covenant Church

COVENANT WORLD MISSION

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A BRIEF HISTORY

The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.”—Psalm 33:11

China was the first Covenant mission field, established in 1890. Led by Peter Matson, the China mission was strong and vibrant for almost sixty years, bearing much fruit.

After Chinese bandits murdered Covenant missionaries Alik Berg, Esther Nordlund, and Martha Anderson in 1948, all Covenant missionaries were brought home. However, the Covenant continued its work among Chinese-speaking people on the island of Taiwan.

Today, that church started by Covenant missionaries on Taiwan is alive and vibrant. It is active not only in Taiwan, but in its own mission work around the world. That mission work has expanded to include a significant ministry of training, evangelism, and compassion in support of ministry to the 1.3 billion inhabitants of mainland China.

Our daughter (now sister) church in Taiwan has invited us to join with them in their work with the emerging church and the people of mainland China.

A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Despite a time of significant religious suppression, the church in China is experiencing enormous growth. It is estimated that when China reopened its doors to the West, there were only 400,000 Christians in China. Today, conservative estimates place that number somewhere between 60 and 80 million believers.

The Taiwan Covenant Church has seized the opportunity that this kind of transformation represents. There are a number of factors that make this the right time to expand ministries of outreach and compassion in mainland China:

- A vibrant faith community tested by persecution and driven by the great commission
- Enormous poverty and human need
- A profound spiritual vacuum created by years of the forcible removal of all religions from Chinese culture
- Massive sustained economic growth with enormous societal change
- Huge internal migration of hundreds of millions of people
- The growing challenge of western consumerism for the minds and hearts of people

A NEW OPPORTUNITY

The rapid growth of the Christian church in mainland China has created a demand for pastors to lead them. Training, which is a critical need, is being addressed through support for existing programs in established seminaries and creation of new training centers.

The Taiwan Church is committed to building up the human resources to sustain the work of God in China. This includes the training of lay leaders, missionaries to the great west of China, student workers, and missionaries working in the urban centers that are growing at an incredible pace.

Part of the urban growth is due to the migration of parents from smaller, rural areas to urban centers to find work—and income—to support their own families back in the villages. As parents are forced to travel great distances to work, they often leave their children in the care of other family members. This has created enormous needs in areas of education, clothing and medical care.

The Covenant is already at work with two schools that are addressing these needs, with additional opportunities to be explored as financial support permits.