

# The Johnsons

China

501-205-2943 (text)

We serve in the heart of China's capitol, a city of over 20,000,000 souls hailing from almost every country in the world. Our time is spent training leaders to effectively teach the Bible (2 Timothy 2:2) and discipling new believers to be fully equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17). We have the privilege of ministering to both internationals (many from other creative access nations) and locals in hopes that individuals would be so transformed by Christ they carry the good news with them back to their home countries and cities.

If you ask the average Chinese person, “你相信什么” (what do you believe in), most will reply with the indoctrinated phrase, “I believe in myself.” 罪 (the Chinese word for sin) is often understood to mean criminal; therefore, seeing how they have never been to prison, they wrongly assume they have no need for a Savior. A low view of God creates a low view of sin which creates a high view of self. I would classify the average belief system not as atheism but as MEtheism (I am god). Great patience is needed to help people see the beauty of God and the wretched state of self.



## Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the church in China to be brave and bold amid increased persecution. Remember, in John 17:15, Jesus did NOT pray to remove hardship from his disciples, but rather that they have divine protection to remain faithful.
- With borders finally reopening, China will see an influx of new expats, many of whom have never heard the gospel. Pray that these individuals will hear and receive the gospel, be discipled, and carry an evangelistic passion with them when they leave China.
- Pray for our church planting efforts both in and out of the country: Boulder, Colorado; Tokyo, Japan; Durbin, South Africa.

## Praises:

- We finally have a new space that can hold three times what we were previously able to hold for our services. Before this, people were literally lined up in the hallway each week.
- We have seen large numbers of baptisms with powerful testimonies of how Jesus has radically transformed lives.
- Our people are faithfully sharing the Good News of Jesus with their friends, families, and co-workers. We have had over 600 recorded gospel conversations in the city this year (2023).