

YANS MISSION TO DONGXIANG MUSLIMS

Report for November, 2022 from Danny Thurston composed Dec 12

From the time Janet and I began missionary work in Hong Kong in the mid-1970's until now, there have been just a few times when it was 'difficult' to write a report: when we had to leave HK in 1975 before returning in 1983, when Janet and the kids had to return to the USA in 1991, when daughter Tara was killed in 1992, when Janet (after returning full-time on-field in 2000) had to return to the USA in 2005, when she died nine months ago this week ... but all those concerned us personally. This month there is a report to send which is not of a personal concern, but it is still difficult to assimilate.

One of the impressions that drew me to Brother Yan back in the late 90's was his upbeat, very positive personality. That was a good match for us to be coworkers, and so it continued until...

Earlier this month (December) I texted Brother Yan wondering why his usual monthly work report (for November) had not come. (Sometimes there's a problem with internet service in China: his emails don't get sent.) His response was:

How are you Teacher Shi, at the end of last month I had responded about the current situation, [so] no monthly report was written, epidemic prevention and control is severely affecting

normal activity, cannot do anything, can only stay at home, everybody is tense, depressed, nothing no new work, nothing to share, so didn't communicate further

Here is what he had emailed earlier (Nov 28):

How are you Teacher Shi, we deeply regret learning that your current situation is not well [continued grieving loss of Janet], don't know when the Lord can get you out of the sorrow, we can only continue to pray for you, may the Lord have mercy on us,

from the 11th we have been under total lockdown, up till now cannot go out, the situation for the Dongxiang is worse than for us, TuoZhongHua [first young male Dongxiang baptized; 2009] has twice been forcibly quarantined, and he is still in isolation in a quarantine hospital, everyone is in a very bad mood,

may the Lord have mercy on us, help us to get free from these circumstances, cannot do any work, there is no way to harvest the crops in the field, no way to work and earn money, no source of income, life is extremely difficult, don't know how long these circumstances will last, several



days ago there was a fire in a place, [but because of the] epidemic lockdown, nobody could get out, more than ten people were burned to death.

May the Lord have mercy on us Brother Yan

(Brother Yan's son, Yan Ming, who manages the sheep farm, sent the photos below. The only time I've ever witnessed something like this is in a severe typhoon's passing or early on the first morning of the Chinese New Year holiday – and that situation doesn't last very long those days! I've been at some of these places; so very eerie to see this. Note the Chinese national flags at the places of business ... my guess: a forced show of patriotism for the government's "zero-Covid" policy.)

Prayer matters (!)

"Without our intercession someone will be impoverished. Let us remember the depth and height and solemnity of our calling as saints.."

Oswald Chambers

Matter of special concern...

It is very concerning about Brother Yan. It is not like him to be so depressed(?) – empty(?) – despairing(?). I've been praying daily for several weeks that the government would end the lockdowns. The latest USA media news reports indicate that China's leadership is being affected by the demonstrations and is now relaxing the horribly nasty spot testing and allowing quarantining at home instead of in incarceration centers ... still don't know if loosening has come to Gansu Province where the Yans are. Sometimes it initially happens only in more well-known cities/provinces. I've tried to encourage him, but it's a tough situation.

Update: Funding for the Yans...

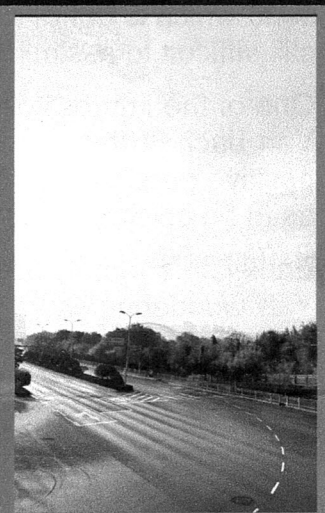
Notes for 2022 donors:

Through the past four years each time Janet and I sent a wire of your gifts to the Yans we would send you the documentation for that with the next immediately following monthly report to verify that your gifts had indeed gone to them. This time (wire was sent December 8) sending the documentation will be delayed until the report for December is sent to you in January. Two reasons: [1] without Janet, even aside from the time spent grieving, I'm time-pressed before Christmas because she's not here to take care of what she normally did; [2] it will make it easier on me doing the documentation this time if I wait for the bank to mail me the 4th Quarter statement to match up with the 3rd Quarter I have already. /// Currently I'm holding \$100 from one "new" donor.

If you need to make contact...

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very eerie indeed

