



LANDER, WYOMING
church of Christ

God in Chinese Hearts

Before we imagined coming to China, we often heard the question: “How will God judge the guy in the middle of China?” Often Romans 2:14-16 was used in the answer:

“For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.”

After living in China we can testify these verses are true. The gospel is far from permeating this land, but God’s law has always been in Chinese hearts. Here are some examples from just the past 2 weeks:

- Four of our church members spent the 3-day New Year holiday at an orphanage outside of Shanghai. No one asked them to, but they planned, organized and executed. Cathleen sent me this SMS: “We have a party for the kids tonight, very happy, don’t want to stop singing.” God’s law is on their hearts, but there is more: They raised over USD1670 – that’s triple their average salary. How did they do it? They spoke to colleagues and bosses who gladly gave for an orphanage. Why would non-believers do this? God has put His laws on their hearts. It feels great to do good!
- The next example is a little sad. Linda is having a C-section tomorrow (Tues 1/4) and had to verify whether a bribe is needed to make sure the operation goes well. Yes, you read right. Some doctors expect bribes to “take care of you.” Bribery is “grease” in the wheels of Chinese society, but is generally hated. The fact that it is hated is perhaps another example of God’s laws on hearts. People know things shouldn’t be this way.

God’s law has always been in Chinese hearts. Does this mean they don’t need Jesus? No. Like us own consciences are “accusing or else defending.” They need Jesus just as we do. So how exactly will God judge those who have never heard of Jesus? I don’t know, but I know He is fair. This leads me to another way God is working on hearts: raising teachers. Last Sunday TianCi expressed the desire to go to Bible school. May God raise ever more Chinese teachers! What is He saying in your heart?

- Triston Jacobsohn, 2011