



PRESS RELEASE



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The State of China - Post Olympics

Now that the fireworks have ended and the 2008 Olympic and Paralympics winners have left their winning places the 1.3 billion people of China have now returned to “normal” operations. Many of the great floral displays still stand proudly facing Tiananmen Square. The new facades of many of the tiny shops still show their welcome faces. However, since the probing journalists and their inquisitive cameras have left the Church in China now continues to face its challenges. This past month producers and filmmakers from HFC International, a UK based charity and its media production arm, OLI Productions, were in China to film their documentary film “BEIJING: City of 1,000 Stories”. The production tells the story of a couple of Christians and their extraordinary stories of living a Christian life in a communist society. The film makers found that many of the churches, especially the larger “house” churches faced a heavy crackdown during the Olympic period. Some faced closures of this illegal “activity”. Other leaders faced imprisonment. Now, however, insiders say that much has returned to a state of normalcy, although still not to the church life of one year ago, before Olympic preparations. Church leaders and Christians have passed word to the West that they still need constant prayer. “Although, in the West, many sermon topics are ones such as “How to Live a Successful Christian Life” in the East it is “How to Suffer and Die for Jesus””, one well known leader stated. “It is a totally different mind set and even the songs centre on the differences.” The two testimonies featured are from a man who runs a Christian restaurant in Beijing and a man who was a recruiter for the Communist party but is now a Believer. Their stories give great insight into the struggles and joys of living a Christian life in a nation of over 1 billion atheists.

The film “BEIJING: City of 1,000 Stories” is just one of over 50 films produced by HFC International and OLI Productions and is part of their “Into All the World” film series currently being broadcast on 15 TV networks across the Middle East, Russia, the C. I. S. countries, in Arabic across North America & Mexico, Australia, Romania, the U.K., New Zealand, Indonesia, Holland, Turkey, Israel and worldwide on cable and satellite. The films cover such countries as Brazil, Kenya, Sweden, Turkey and Greece.

Harvest Fields Commissioning International is a U. K. Registered Charity with the purpose of assisting in raising up and encouraging churches and leaders in 43 countries and on all 5 continents for work in churches, charities and other humanitarian assistance groups. Its websites are at: <http://www.agapelive.net> and <http://www.hfci.net>.