# *The People of* **CHINA**

## **5x5x5 Prayer:** Five Minutes, Five Days, Five Topics

We invite you to pray for the people of China, for just five minutes a day, for five days, for FIVE STRATEGIC AREAS. Your prayers will open doors in powerful ways, encourage believers, release strongholds and bring great glory to God.

China's recent economic, political, and social development is unprecedented. With rapid economic growth, China is now a major overseas investor, wielding its influence particularly around Central and Southeast Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa as it pursues its 'Belt and Road' initiative to create the world's largest platform for economic cooperation.

Though China's power and influence on the world stage has grown, it has come at a price. There are growing social issues including a widening gap between rich and poor, intense work pressure, strains on the family, and environmental concerns. In rural areas, families are separated as migrant workers leave their children and parents behind to find work in the cities.

## Day One
### THE ELDERLY

In traditional Chinese society, the elderly were cared for within the family, however, modern China's families and infrastructure are ill-equipped to handle an aging population. Decades of a one child policy has resulted in a growing elderly population supported by a shrinking work force. In the last decade alone, China's aged population (65+) has increased by 46 million, now totaling over 150 million people[1]. According to the UN, it will take China just 20 years for the proportion of the elderly population to double from 10 percent to 20 percent (between 2017-2037)[2].

Lord, help Chinese families as they struggle to meet the needs of their parents and grandparents. May those sandwiched between caring for aging parents and young children find the help that they need.

Lord, thank you for local Christian non-profit organizations that are being set up to address the needs of the elderly. May these organizations have the support of the local believers in terms of financial resources and volunteers. Thank you for professional training teams which are developing curriculums to train these local workers.

Lord, we lift up Christian groups that are setting up senior care homes. Many want to provide a loving Christian environment for elderly brothers and sisters. Please help them find the financial resources to buy the land and set up the physical buildings. Help them find the skilled care takers to care for residents' physical needs, and the managers to run the homes well.

## Day Two
### PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

People with mental and physical disabilities are often an ignored segment of society. Many live in poverty and without hope. There is a growing awareness of their situation. In 2012, the government encouraged religious organizations like the church to find ways to help people with disabilities. May this be an opportunity for society to see Christian love in action.

Lord, thank you for the open door for the local church to get involved with the disabled community. Pray for church leaders to recognize and seize this opportunity to share the gospel in word and deed.

Lord, we thank you for trainers willing to work with local Chinese non-profit groups. As they share their expertise and provide hands-on training for individual non-profit groups around the country over the next few years, may these groups grow in knowledge, skills, and love to serve their local communities in Jesus' name.

Lord, we bring before you those that society has ignored. May many Christians with skills and training bless China's people physically, emotionally and spiritually. We ask that you would help believers to live out the life of Christ, so that those who are hurting will see and come to you as their source of hope and healing.

## Day Three
### ECONOMIC GROWTH

2000 years ago the Silk Road trade routes connected China to Central Asia and the Middle East. Today, China's 'Belt and Road' initiative is again extending its influence spanning over 60 countries across Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa. Its goal is to create the world's largest platform for economic cooperation. Chinese investment and aid is helping to build transportation and energy infrastructure.

Lord, thank you that you are sovereign over world affairs. We lift the 'Belt and Road' initiative to you. May you use it to accomplish your purposes. Help your people be wise to see how they can participate to bring your word to a needy world.

Lord, we pray for our Chinese brothers and sisters who are considering business opportunities as part of the 'Belt and Road' initiative. May their business ventures be a testimony for you.

Lord, as large numbers of Chinese workers relocate to work in these infrastructure projects, please bring Christians into their lives so that they may hear of your love for them. May your church in these countries recognize the opportunity to minister to these temporary workers.

[1] http://data.stats.gov.cn/english/easyquery.htm?cn=C01 [2] https://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2017/02/21/chinas-aging-population-becoming-more-of-a-problem/#4f460c22140f

*YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD...*
*LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.*
*Matt 5:14-16*

# Day Four
## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Balancing economic growth and environmental protection is a major challenge facing China today. New policies and regulations are now tightening controls on businesses, especially those in the manufacturing sector, to clean up the skies, rivers and soil devastated by the decades of industrial development. China's new environmental protection agenda is also looking toward the development of clean technologies.

Lord, thank you for the growing awareness of the need to care for your creation. May the new Chinese policies be effective in reducing the amount of harmful pollutants from industry.

Lord, please bring to China those with the knowledge and expertise to help clean up the air, water, and soil. Bring also those who can help develop clean technologies. May these open doors also be open doors for the message of the gospel.

Lord, have mercy on the millions who suffer from health conditions caused by air and water pollution. Please provide loving, caring health professionals who bring life and healing for the body and soul.

# Day Five
## LOCAL NON-PROFITS

Due to new laws and policies, local Christian organizations are facing increasing restrictions. One possible avenue for them to serve their communities is to register as local non-profit organizations. This would give them legal status to serve vulnerable populations, and allow other organizations to establish normal work relationships with them.

Lord, we pray for local non-profit organizations to develop a holistic approach to meet the needs of their service populations. May they see the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each individual. Help them to be able to address each area, bringing healing to the whole person.

Lord, we thank you for trainers willing to work with local Chinese non-profit groups. As they share their expertise and provide hands-on training for individual non-profit groups around the country over the next few years, may these groups grow in knowledge, skills, and love to serve their local communities in Jesus' name.

Lord, please help local non-profits that are trying to register with the government. May they find help in understanding the legal procedures and may the registration process go smoothly. We pray that they would find favor in the eyes of the government meaningful interactions with their communities.

# NEXT STEPS

Is God drawing you to more focused prayer or involvement with China? Consider additional ways to nurture God's love among these people.

**PRAY.** Join a growing team of intercessors focused on China. For more information about praying for China, visit *omf.org/china*

**PARTNER.** Mobilizing your community to join God's work in China is a vital ministry. Will you encourage others to pray and serve?

**GO.** We are looking for new workers both long-term and short-term who are humble and are willing to partner with or work under the leadership of local Christian organizations through training and mentoring.

We need professionals able to train others in special education, rehabilitation, and care of the elderly. We have openings for rehabilitation specialists including physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, play therapists, prosthetics & orthotics specialists, and rehabilitation counselors. Health care workers skilled in pediatric, adult, or mental health rehabilitation are also needed. People experienced in small to-medium sized business startup and management would strengthen the social enterprises serving their communities. For more information visit *opportunities.omf.org.*

What resonates in your heart? How do you want to get involved? Visit *omf.org/china* for more information.