

Weigh In

Weighing the facts
about China

1.

Based on a lunar cycle, the Chinese New Year is celebrated with extravagant festivals for a duration of 15 days. This year, the celebration began on January 29th.

2.

China has numerous 'smart cities,' where cutting edge technology runs everyday life. This includes paying for purchases with facial recognition (biometrics).

3.

Watchman Nee spent the final 20 years of his life in prison for the sake of the Gospel. One of his most famous sermons was expressed while Chinese authorities watched. Instead of speaking words, he gave an illustration using only smashed glass to convey the message: *By attempting to destroy the church, the government has spread it.*

4.

People under the age of 18 are legally prohibited from attending Christian churches.

Corresponding Question Points:

(1) The Chinese New Year is celebrated so extravagantly and according to tradition to avoid "bad luck" in the upcoming year. Look up the definition of "luck." Does the Bible condone luck? Support your answer with Scripture.

(2) What are the dangers of using biometrics as a key to engage in banking transactions?

(3) During the Communist government's crackdowns on religious groups and activities, the underground Chinese

church not only survived, but thrived! What's the difference between *surviving* and *thriving*? Why is this significant for the church in China? Research information about Watchman Nee.

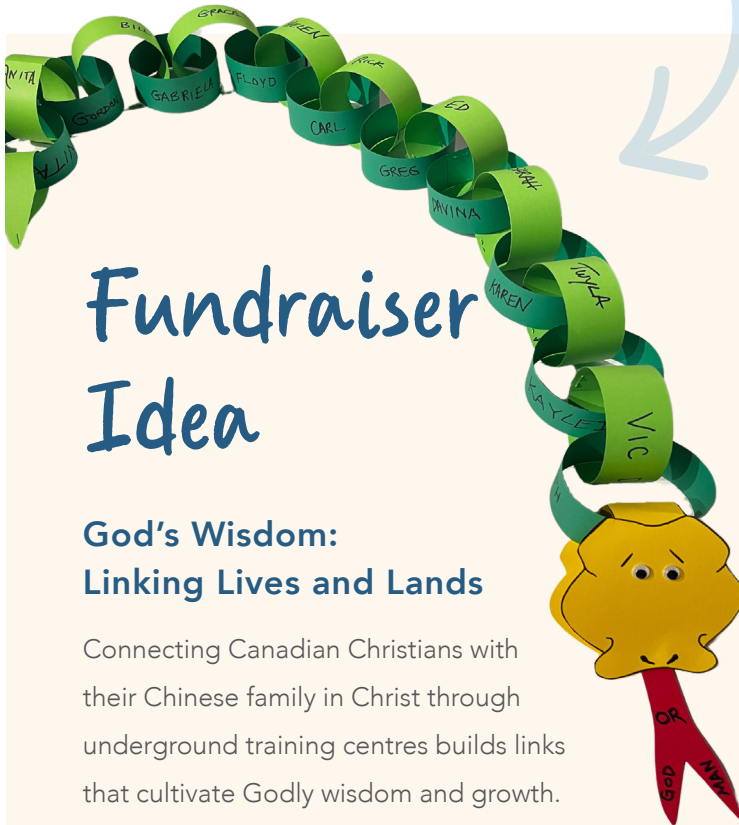
(4) How would laws restricting Christianity impact Christian families? Why would adults be allowed to attend registered churches, but their children are not? How does *wisdom* differ from *truth*? Would keeping young people from reading the Bible impede their spiritual growth?

One Way

Religious Comparison: Compare & Contrast What the Bible Says

The Chinese zodiac, a traditional classification system based on the Chinese calendar, assigns an animal and its reputed attributes each year. The selected animals are eventually repeated in a revolving 12-year cycle. In 2025, it is the year of the snake. According to this belief system, every person born in 2025 is supposed to acquire an abundance of natural wisdom and intuition. Essentially, this form of astrology claims that an individual's behaviour, attitudes, personal strengths and destiny are determined by the lunar cycle.

The Bible teaches that we should seek wisdom and direction from God alone. Christians must not rely on the elements of His creation (such as the sun, moon and stars), but instead on Him – the Master Creator – for guidance, truth and insight. Looking to the stars for answers by following astrology (or the horoscope) is considered idolatry (Deuteronomy 4:19). Therefore, we must only look to God, the One who created the heavens and the earth (James 1:5).



Fundraiser Idea

God's Wisdom: Linking Lives and Lands

Connecting Canadian Christians with their Chinese family in Christ through underground training centres builds links that cultivate Godly wisdom and growth.



Learn more about donating funds by scanning the QR code.

A Way Out

Cut strips of green construction paper. Each time someone purchases a strip for \$2, write the donor's name on it, and then use that strip to build a chain snake. The two prongs of the snake's tongue pose the question, "Whose wisdom do you choose to follow: God's or Man's?"

Send us a photo of your completed snake, along with the collected donations, by March 31st, 2025. A photo of the longest snake will be featured in a future *Table Talks* issue.

For detailed step-by-step instructions, go to:
vomcanada.com/TableTalksChina25