

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:16b)

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

For fifteen years, from 1981 to 1995 in one Chinese city there were many cases of murder, armed robbery, rape, and large gangs of thieves. Local village tyrants were rampant and small children were being kidnapped, taxis were being robbed and taxi drivers killed. People's hearts were nervous. Traffic related disputes were increasing and society was not in a peaceful state. There were less than 3,000 believers in the city.

At this time, the Holy Spirit moved Sister Zhou to the city. This Christian sister helped the church there for over one month. She received a burden while praying that the church should set up a prayer watch. So, the first prayer watch group was established. When it started, there were only 6 people. On Sundays these six people would all watch and pray simultaneously.

After almost six months of this kind of prayer, the national police cleaned up and eliminated the triad gangs and local village tyrants, and brought about a change for a better environment in the city.

At the time when children were being kidnapped, old Sister Chang began to fast and pray. Every day she would pray saying, "O Father God, save and rescue these children. Send an old granny to look after them!" After a year's time, the problem of children being kidnapped was transformed.

One problem would be solved and then another problem would come up for prayer. The rate of deaths in that city due to traffic accidents was an average of one to two people per day. Many more than that were injured daily. They then decided to make the city's traffic safety to be a special prayer topic. They prayed and relied on God to solve the traffic

problems.

From 1995 until now, small groups of prayer watches have expanded from one to three core groups. Each person prays at a designated time and the time for prayer rotates to another person in the group. It has now expanded into a large prayer network. Now the city is peaceful and safe. The work of the gospel is stable and steadily expanding. There are more than 30,000 Christians in the city attending meetings.

The people's attitudes and appearance all seem like they are renewed. Although there are many laid-off workers, they seem to be able to find enough work to still be able to feed their families. This truly is the effect of prayer. It is the work done by our Father for the city.

RESPONSE

Today I will recommit myself to believe in the power of prayer and practice that belief.

PRAYER

Pray for the problems in your city or community. Ask God for like-minded partners.