

# Who “Owns” Back to Jerusalem?

In recent months, as the Back to Jerusalem vision has become better-known among Christians around the world, some concerns have been expressed by various people and organizations about how this vision is presented in public. In this article we hope to answer some of these concerns and specifically to answer the question: Who “owns” Back to Jerusalem?

Firstly, it is essential to understand that Back to Jerusalem is a vision, not an organization. There is nowhere that people have to sign up or become a member. Back to Jerusalem was given to the whole Body of Christ in China more than 70 years ago, and all who receive a call from the Lord Jesus are totally free to obey that call and preach the Gospel all the way back to Jerusalem! All of the various house church networks in China believe in the BTJ vision, but the vision is wider than that. There are even a growing number of Three-Self Church Christians in China who have heard about the vision and also desire to give their lives to fulfill the Great Commission. We should all thank God for calling people from all parts of His Body.

BTJ is being acted upon by the house churches and some of the Three-Self believers in China, yet the vision is even wider than this....

In fact, the Back to Jerusalem vision is as wide as the Great Commission itself. It could be said BTJ is one-part of Jesus' command to preach the Gospel to all people.

There are thousands of Korean Christians boldly going forth as evangelists along the Silk Road and many other countries in the 10/40 window, for example. They might not call their mission by the name 'Back to Jerusalem' but it is essentially exactly the same goal that the Chinese Church is aiming for - to see God's kingdom come among all peoples before the Lord Jesus returns.

In northeast India more than one million Naga Christians have been mightily blessed by several revivals over the past 50 years. In the 1970s the Holy Spirit gave a vision to the Naga churches to send 10,000 cross-cultural missionaries into the surrounding nations. Many have since obeyed this call. Again, they may not call their vision 'Back to Jerusalem' but our Lord is surely pleased to see his kingdom expanding through the faithful obedience of his children.

We are very aware of the many Christians already faithfully and effectively witnessing for the Lord throughout countries in the Middle East, India, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia. We bless those brothers and sisters in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and should God lead the Chinese church to partner together with them in the harvest we would be humbled and honoured to do so.

Back to Jerusalem, therefore, is not an organization any more than the Great Commission is. All involved should be careful not to claim any exclusive right to the vision. In this newsletter we have been as careful as we possibly can to explain the BTJ vision is for the whole Chinese Church, indeed the whole Church; that it is not an organization but a vision. This newsletter itself is merely a mouthpiece for some

house church leaders to share their views and prayer requests, and should not be taken as the authoritative voice on matters relating to Back to Jerusalem.

The book “Back to Jerusalem” was also a part of expressing the BTJ vision to Christians around the world, and readers will have noted there was no exclusive ownership expressed by any of the Chinese leaders who were featured in the book. In fact, it was repeatedly expressed that *all* Christians should be involved with reaching the lost and completing the Great Commission.

Because of the political situation in China, most house church leaders are not able to get passports and travel overseas. The number who can is quite small. Some of these have been sharing in meetings about what is their main desire and passion - Back to Jerusalem.

As his children, let's put aside our petty arguments and immature church politics about who “owns” what and let's join hands and hearts as we preach the Gospel to the lost nations who need it the most.

Tens of thousands of people in the countries of the BTJ vision die every day without even once hearing the Good News that Jesus died for their sins and rose again for their justification. Those barren souls do not care for our spiritual posturing, arguing or manoeuvring. They are simply hungry and thirsty, tired and downtrodden. They just want water to quench their thirst, and food from heaven that will fill their spirits. They don't care what denomination brings them balm from heaven. They are more interested in the balm, and not the messenger who brings it.

Let us recognize that it is always Satan's plan to distract us from fighting against the spiritual forces that keep millions of people bound and ignorant of the Gospel. His favourite ploy is to get Christians fighting and bickering with each other, as this takes our eyes off the call of God and onto each other. As the BTJ vision develops, let's not allow Satan to “kill the baby in the crib” as he always tries to do. Satan moved on the Pharaoh's heart to kill the infant Moses, but his plans failed and a great deliverance resulted. He moved on Herod's heart to kill the baby Jesus, but once again God's will was done and The Deliverer was transported to Egypt in the middle of the night.

Now the enemy is trying his old tricks again. Let's repent of any hindrances in our hearts, join hands, and march towards Jerusalem with the Word of God in our mouths and the fire of God in our hearts. There are millions of souls who await the Deliverer, and we must reach them before it's too late.

**Who, then, is the true “owner” of Back to Jerusalem? Let us be clear, the owner is none other than the Lord of the Harvest, God Almighty. BTJ is his idea, his vision, his passion. May we never forget this fact.**