

Where Strangers Cross

East Meets West on a Journey towards Christ

January 20, 2011 - Any Christian who delights in biography and wants to deepen one's faith will find this book to best help increase their understanding of the international community for the sake of the gospel.

Where Strangers Cross is a narrative with plot and characterization. Beside obvious differences stemming from diverse times, careers and geography between Kevin Avery and John Long, it intertwines two spiritual journeys instead of focusing on one life story. In fact, this aspect of the book makes it unique among other Christian biographies. The reason for this alternating point of view is to enhance the Lord as the main character, who brings the two men together to disciple the nations.

Humanly speaking, the paths of Kevin Avery and John Long should never cross, yet this situation changes when they follow a transforming Jesus. As an autobiography, *Where Strangers Cross* portrays the life journeys of two men's deepening faith. *Where Strangers Cross: East Meets West on a Journey towards Christ* (300 pp., paperback, \$18.99) portrays the crisscrossing of two men's faith journeys. It inspires Christians to pursue Jesus as they disciple the nations. Also, by bringing together East and West, this autobiography adds insight into international ministry. Avery ministers to international students in America, Poland and China, and Long develops into a compassionate pastor, having come to America as an international student himself.

It is designed to challenge and encourage American Christians by seeing the Great Commission lived out from different perspectives – from an American Christian working with internationals as well as from a Chinese Christian, who was once an international student himself. Also, *Where Strangers Cross* shows how the life of one transformed international student can influence his whole family as well as other internationals.

It offers some practical advice indirectly through sermons, dialogue or life lessons learned by the main characters. The www.WhereStrangersCross.org web site together with the book and all the resources included in www.International-Village.org contain the tips and tools a local church or any believer needs to witness to an international. To blog with the authors, you can visit us on Facebook group.

(-About the authors-)

As ordained pastors, both authors have ministered to people globally. Kevin Avery has a master of divinity degree from George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University. In addition, he has a BA in English with an emphasis in teaching and creative writing at Oklahoma Baptist University. Currently a hospice chaplain, he and his wife, Dayna, reside in Waco, Texas, with their two children. Jiang Long graduated from the prestigious Xi'an Jiaotong University in Shaanxi, China before earning a Master of Business Administration from Oral Roberts University. He is president of International Village ministry and lives in Norman, OK, with his wife, Xuemei Fu and their three children.

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