

Three Events for Remembrance

By Betty Ann Maheu, M.M.

When the “Chinese people stood up” on October 1, 1949, few would have guessed what that “standing up” would mean 50 years later for China and for the world. In planning this issue of *Tripod*, we examined hundreds of events that had taken place in China over the last 50 years. We decided to concentrate on three main events using the following criteria: the event had to be of major historical significance, whether for good or for evil; its impact had to go beyond the moment leaving its mark on the future, and it had to have had an impact not only on China but on the world.



The choice was not easy. Finally, we settled on the Cultural Revolution that set out to destroy the very foundations of Chinese life and culture through the destruction of the four olds: ideology, thoughts, habits, and customs. This included the eradication of all religion.

Our second choice was the Tiananmen Square incident that shocked the world as people watched the tragic event live on the media. Many who took part in this event are still lingering in prisons. Furthermore, ten years later, this event can still bring thousands together on June 4th to pause, to remember, and to pray.

Our third choice was the peaceful handover of Hong Kong to the motherland. This phenomenon has no precedent in the annals of human history.

These will be remembered in the article that follows. Other choices were possible, of course. Still we hope you will agree with us that these three events were indeed among China’s most significant happenings over the past 50 years. There is no doubt that they have left their mark not only on China but also on other peoples throughout the world.