

# Asia Harvest



'Put in the Sickle, for the Harvest has Come!' (Mark 4:29)

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## HENAN - Inside China's Revival

*A new Book by Paul Hattaway*

# From the Frontlines

*“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps” (1 Peter 1:21).*

*“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown” (Revelation 2:10).*

*“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him” (Philippians 1:29).*

In recent years—especially since the start of the Covid pandemic—many believers around the world have contacted us to ask if we can share insights or do interviews into how Christians can survive persecution, as they see the storm clouds of persecution gathering on the horizon in their countries.

First, we point out that we have written more than a dozen books on the Church in China, each containing principles and testimonies of how God has not only helped His children survive six decades of persecution, but has caused them to thrive, so that China is still experiencing the greatest revival in Christian history.

When we try to help church leaders and believers in the West prepare for persecution, after more dialogue it usually emerges that they are not really looking for straight answers. Often, what people mean when they ask these questions is: “How can we survive persecution in our current church structures, so we don’t have to suffer or change?”

The answer to this is... you cannot!

True, physical persecution (e.g. when Christians are being arrested, beaten, imprisoned, or even killed) **will not leave most current church structures intact. It will completely dismantle them!**

Gone will be the denominations, emphasis on church buildings, Reverends, division between “clergy” and other believers, and all kinds of church traditions and outward imagery that are not found in Scripture. They will be swept away.

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*Front cover: Henan Christians preaching the Gospel at the funeral of one of their members in the 1980s.*

This pattern is what happened when persecution was ramped up against believers in China, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, and other countries we work in.

We don't know if severe persecution is coming to your part of the world soon, but we must be prepared. The Lord Jesus said, *"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake"* (Matthew 24:9), while the Apostle Paul told Timothy that *"everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"* (2 Timothy 3:12).

We would like to conclude by sharing five important truths about persecution, which we hope will bring encouragement and focus to our fellow believers:

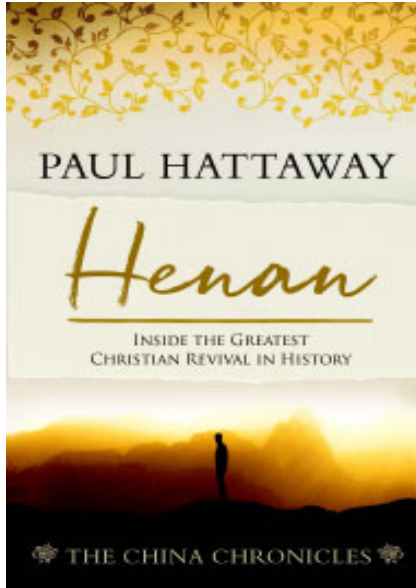
\* **God is always in control!** If He allows persecution to come, it's for the good of His kingdom. In China, believers only experienced the full joy of intimacy with Jesus when they were in the furnace of affliction and after they came out the other side.

\* Persecution is the last thing our flesh desires, but our faith must rest on the fact that **the Lord Jesus will not let us down**, and He will never leave nor forsake us. Persecution cannot destroy our relationship with Him: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?"* (Romans 8:35).

\* Importantly, when intense hardship comes, we shouldn't see only the hand of Satan in persecution. In China, God's people looked back later and realized that it **was actually the Lord Jesus overseeing the entire process** out of love for His children. He is zealous to remove the dead religious structures that trap people in bondage and keep millions of unbelievers from being able to see the true Gospel.

\* **Persecution is a pruning process**, when the Holy Spirit removes half-hearted believers from among the flock. In China, when fierce persecution first broke out in the 1950s, around **two-thirds of churchgoers fell away** from the faith. The Lord Jesus told us this would occur: *"When trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, they quickly fall away"* (Mark 4:17). Friends, if two-thirds of Chinese Christians fell away at the onset of persecution, how might things be in your part of the world?

\* For those who do not give up, **persecution often brings great revival**. In China, the number of Christians has grown from less than one million to over 100 million after 60 years of brutal Communist persecution! All glory to God. When that realization dawned on believers, many learned not only to grimly endure persecution, but to **embrace it as a special blessing from God**.



# HENAN

## - Inside China's Revival -

*Book 5 of 'The China Chronicles'*

by Paul Hattaway



In this newsletter we are pleased to announce the fifth book in our series on the mighty revival that has swept China during the past 50 years. ***The China Chronicles*** are proving to be a great encouragement to many and are enriching the spiritual lives of those who read them.

Containing more than 18 million Christians (the most of any province), Henan has emerged as the nation's spiritual heart and soul, and is home to both the most powerful revival and intense persecution in China. Much of the book consists of first-hand interviews Paul conducted with key church leaders in Henan. In many ways, this may be the most important book in the entire ***China Chronicles*** series. We invite you to discover what true revival looks like in China, and to gain insights into God's faithfulness, to help prepare you for when persecution comes.

**The remainder of this newsletter is an excerpt from 'HENAN: Inside the Greatest Christian Revival in History'. It shares a gripping testimony from Timothy, a humble house church leader from Henan, whom the Lord used to raise a man from the dead in the 1990s. This account was shared directly with us by Timothy and has been verified by several other church leaders in that part of China.**

**To order a copy of the book, please fill out and return the enclosed form or visit our website ([www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)) for details. An e-book version is also available online.**

*Alternatively, if you send a donation to any Asia Harvest project, please indicate that you would like a complimentary copy of the book and we will gladly send you one.*



## ***Raised from the Dead***

*Brother Timothy is a friend and key house church leader from Henan Province. When he was in his mid-20s he already led a network of house churches spanning several provinces, with tens of thousands of believers.*

*When asked to share some testimonies, Timothy told about a Communist Party official who was raised from the dead in 1993. The humble and self-efacing way he shared this story was striking. He was careful to give all glory to God, and to help us understand that he had nothing to do with it, apart from being in the right place at the right time.*

*As you read the following testimony, we encourage you not to judge it by your own experiences, or what may or may not happen in your own church. What God is doing in the heart of white-hot revival in China may not be your Christian experience or make you feel comfortable, but we encourage you to ask one main question when considering this or any other testimony: is it biblical?*

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"In 1993, while I was speaking at a meeting, we received a request for us to pray for a 50-year-old unbeliever named Chang, who was dying of mouth cancer. This man was very wealthy and a well-known Communist Party leader. By the time he reached the hospital his condition had deteriorated, and was close to death. The staff called Chang's wife and broke the bad news that he would not recover.

Because the man was a public figure, visitors who wanted to see him at the hospital had to get permission beforehand. To help me gain access, I was given the



man's name card. The next morning I went to the hospital, feeling nervous and not sure what the Lord's will was in all of this. At the hospital none of the staff paid any attention to me because I was just a poor farmer. Finally, a nurse looked at me with disdain, and said, 'You're too late. Chang died last night.'

I was shocked to hear that he was already dead, and asked to see his body because I had promised his family that I would pray for him. The nurse thought I was stupid, but told me the corpse had been moved to the refrigerated morgue in the hospital basement. I went downstairs and told an attendant that I needed to pray for Mr. Chang. He took me to a line of refrigerated boxes, located Chang, and opened the cover. His body slid out and I saw that he was truly dead. The blood had drained from his corpse, and his identification tag was tied around his big toe.

I felt afraid as his skin was frozen and ice cold. Despite the circumstances, I knew the Lord could do whatever He wanted. As I closed my eyes and prayed for Chang in a hushed voice, I leaned forward and said, 'Mr. Chang, I know that you can hear me. I know that Jesus can bring you back from the dead because He wants to glorify His Name in your life.' By now the morgue attendant had gathered several of his co-workers and they stood at a distance, snickering at the sight of a farmer praying for a dead Communist Party leader!

I had a very simple faith in God. I had read that both Jesus and Lazarus were resurrected after three days, so I thought if God was going to raise Chang I would need to return two more times.

I finished praying, thanked the workers for letting me pray for Chang, and told them I would be returning at ten o'clock the next morning to pray for him again. They laughed and looked at me like I was completely insane. News quickly spread around the hospital, and the next morning more than 20 staff members gathered to watch me pray for the corpse. They were all eager to witness the sight so they could have a laugh. His body was again pulled out of the refrigerator and I closed my eyes and prayed for him. He had now spent one and a half days in the freezer and was still very much dead!

As I laid hands on the corpse I leaned forward and whispered, 'Mr. Chang, if you are unable to talk, then I command you to move your eyes in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.' I looked closely and it appeared his eyes twinkled a little! This greatly increased my faith because I knew that God was at work. Nobody else in the room was close enough to see his eyes move however, and they thought the whole thing was a great joke.

I prayed Bible verses out loud and asked the Lord to prove that the Scriptures are true, and that He has power and authority over death. In a bid to reach others in the morgue, my prayer included a summary of the gospel. After a while, the onlookers could feel the presence of the Lord and they became serious-minded and attentive. I announced that I would return again at ten o'clock the next morning to pray for the third and final time. His body was placed back in the refrigerator, the door was locked, and I walked up the stairs and returned to the place where I was staying.

On the third morning I was amazed to find an even larger crowd had gathered to witness my prayer. It was difficult to get past everyone into the basement. Dozens of people lined the stairs leading down to the morgue, and many more were crammed into the room. People were talking among themselves, but everyone was watching closely to see what would happen.

The attendant again produced Mr. Chang's body and I prayed for him, asking the Lord to glorify His Name by healing this man and saving both him and the many witnesses in the room. Nothing appeared to change, so I thanked the attendants and left the hospital, as I had to make my way to the train station to travel across the country with a team of evangelists. I never saw what happened after I left the hospital, but a few days later the believers contacted me with an urgent message.

They said that about 20 minutes after I left, Chang suddenly sat up and started coughing. The terrified attendant and his co-workers watched as he coughed up a large ball of blood and pus from his mouth. The cancer spilled out of his mouth and onto the floor of the morgue.

Mr. Chang was healed and alive! He asked for food and water because he was hungry and thirsty. As you can imagine, news of the resurrection quickly spread to the upper floors of the hospital, and all those who had come to witness the





prayer came rushing down to the basement to see if the report was true. All the hospital staff saw Chang alive, and his grieving wife was called in to receive her husband back from the dead. Every person who saw this miracle dropped to their knees, repented of their sins, and confessed that Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God.

In the Lord's providence, I didn't personally witness Chang come back to life, but everybody told me about it later. I thank the Lord that I wasn't there because people might have thought it was due to my own power if he had sat up while I was praying for him. By raising him from the dead after I had left, everyone clearly understood that God Himself had performed the miracle, and all the glory and honor went to the Lord Jesus.

When I first heard what had happened, I was pleased but chose not to dwell on it. It was just an act of the Almighty God. In those days the revival was burning so intensely that miracles took place at every meeting, and thousands of people were daily coming to Christ. Miracles were not something we focused on. They were merely evidences that confirmed the truth of what we were preaching about Jesus.

The whole Chang family came to Christ and remained strong believers. Mr. Chang lived for many more years."





*Four Henan church leaders who were personally interviewed in the Henan book — Brother Yun, Enoch Wang, Zhang Rongliang and Peter Xu. These four men have been first-hand witnesses and participants in the greatest revival in Christian history, and have also spent a combined 47 years in prison for their faith in Jesus Christ.*

**Over a period of more than three decades, Asia Harvest has provided a total of more than 1.1 million Bibles to the house church Christians of Henan, as part of our China Bible Fund. Henan is the province where we have delivered more copies of God's Word than any of the 29 other provinces and regions in China.**

**Despite the current season of intense persecution, our project continues full-steam ahead. Each full Chinese Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

**There is a famine of Bibles in China at the moment, as the government restricts all activities. Even the official Three-Self churches are in great need, as they have seen their Bible quotas slashed by the authorities in recent years.**

**We invite you to consider partnering with us as we help provide the Scriptures to our brothers and sisters in China.**

## CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **14,484,391**  
Chinese Bibles printed and distributed.*



We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term project to provide Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests for God's Word from church leaders throughout the country. These Bibles are distributed free of charge, equipping the Body of Christ and helping add fuel to the revival in China.

**Each full Chinese Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



*We currently support **1,513** Asian evangelists  
among **1,144** unreached people groups.*

The **Asian Workers' Fund** supports indigenous church-planting evangelists among unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. These disciples have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. To date, the evangelists we help have reportedly led **600,371 people to faith in Jesus Christ**. You can help support these dedicated workers for **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular supporters of this project.

## ASIAN BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **1,276,676** Bibles printed in **125** languages.*

The **Asian Bible Fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and anywhere in Asia that God's people need His Word.

**Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.** We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.

## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **1,749** living martyrs.*



*A martyr has been defined as "a Christian who chooses to suffer death rather than deny Christ or His work. One who sacrifices something very important to further the Kingdom of God and endures great suffering for Christian witness."*

The **Living Martyrs' Fund** supports Christian widows and church leaders and their families throughout Asia who are unable to work because of injuries or illness caused by persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through a gift of **\$25 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs.

## THE CHILDREN'S FUND



*Your generous support has so far reached **178,572** children throughout Asia.*

The **Children's Fund** introduces children to Jesus in India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and a host of other Asian countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, funding Sunday school training classes, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. It costs an average of just **\$10 to reach a child for Christ**.

## PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



*Transforming lives from ashes to beauty with God's love.*

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided assistance to the victims of natural disasters that have struck Asia. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and many people have come to know Jesus Christ. This project also provides physical and spiritual relief to Christian communities and families throughout Asia who have been affected by persecution.



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