

"PUT IN THE SICKLE, FOR THE HARVEST HAS COME!" MARK 4:29

Asia Harvest

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NEWSLETTER #206



BIBLES FOR THE HIDDEN RAWANG PEOPLE

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FOR DECADES we have tried our best to share how God's pursuit of all tribes, languages, people groups and nations is one of the great redemptive themes of the Bible.

Despite this wonderful theme running throughout the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation, many Christians remain completely oblivious to God's masterplan to redeem the peoples of the world, and their lives are poorer for it.

In China—where the economic future and social fabric are unraveling because of the terrible 'one-child policy' of the past two generations—the Communist government has long been terrified of Christian activity among children.

Are aware that the above Psalm talks about several Gentile nations and how God will save them? Believers know about the Lamb's Book of

*"I will record Rahab and
Babylon among those who
acknowledge me—*

*Philistia too, and Tyre,
along with Cush—and
will say, 'This one was
born in Zion.'"*

*Indeed, of Zion it will
be said, "This one and
that one were born in
her, and the Most
High Himself will
establish her."*

*The Lord will write in the
register of the peoples: 'This
one was born in Zion.'"*

(Psalm 87: 4-6)

FRONT COVER: A Rawang hunter with his crossbow.

BACK COVER: Rawang territory sits in the shadow of Hkakabo Razi, the tallest mountain in Southeast Asia at 19,925 feet (5,881 meters) above sea level.

Life, but few know that God also keeps and writes in a “*register of the peoples*.” Perhaps it is one of the “other books” mentioned in Revelation 20:12 that the Almighty God will open on judgment day.

You may have seen some of the regular Myanmar people group profiles that we have been sending out by email.

They and many others like them are part of our call to raise awareness and prayer for Asia’s hidden people groups.

We consider it our great honor and privilege to present these groups, especially those that have never appeared on any Christian lists of the world’s peoples. We have profiled over 100 such previously unknown groups in our current Myanmar project.

In this, our final newsletter of the year, we would like to share about a tribe you have probably never heard of.

More than 70,000 Rawang people live in the northernmost part of Myanmar, where the country meets southwest China and northeast India.





Their majestic homeland contains many gushing rivers and snowcapped mountains, including Hkakabo Razi, the tallest peak in Southeast Asia at 19,925 feet (5,881 meters) above sea-level.

Further to the north, on the Chinese side of the border, the altitude changes dramatically, with the floor of the Dulongjiang Canyon sitting more than twice as deep as the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

Virgin forests teeming with wild animals abound, where expert Rawang hunters armed with wooden crossbows have hunted game for countless generations.

Numerous rare bird species are found in the diverse Rawang area, which is also the only place on earth where black orchids grow.



The mass movement to Christ among the Rawang people is one of the greatest, yet least-known mission stories of the 20th century.

It is said that when missionaries started ministering to them there were no Rawang Christians, but by the time they were forced to leave Myanmar in the 1960s there were just a few old men who were not believers.

Today, practically all Rawang people are Christians, and the Bible, Jesus film, and other Christian resources have been translated into their language.

Because many Rawang people on the Chinese side of the border have intermarried with Tibetans and formed mixed communities, **the Rawang are strategically placed to share the Gospel with the many unreached Tibetans** who dwell in the valleys of the southern Himalayas. Along with Lisu Christians, the Rawang have probably been the most effective tribe at reaching Tibetans for Christ in this remote part of Asia.

The Rawang Bible was translated and published in 1986, but the quality of the paper and binding back then was poor, and many copies of God's precious Word have disintegrated over the years.

Recently, Rawang church leaders have contacted our coworkers and asked if we could reprint the Bible in their language, as the Rawang churches desperately need a fresh infusion of the Scriptures, both to establish young believers in the faith and to equip and empower Rawang evangelists to share the Gospel among the unreached.





ABOVE: A young Rawang man wearing a traditional hat with wild boar tusks.

RIGHT: Rawang children from the China-Myanmar border area.



**WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO
HELP PROVIDE RAWANG BIBLES TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS
IN THIS PRECIOUS GROUP.**

Through our ASIA BIBLE FUND, we are printing 60,000 Rawang Bibles, which will be distributed FREE of charge to Rawang Christians in Myanmar and China. For many churches, it will be the first time in several decades they have been able to access God's Word for their members.

Please pray for this strategic initiative. If you would like to support the project financially, please return the enclosed form along with a gift designated to the ASIA BIBLE FUND.

Each Bible costs an average of just \$3 to print and deliver. Alternatively, you may give via our secure website **AsiaHarvest.org** or make a transfer to one of our Asia Harvest bank accounts around the world.



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A Rawang church in Putao, northern Myanmar. Over 90% of Rawang people are Christians but have lacked access to God's Word for decades.





ASIA BIBLE FUND ABF

CURRENT TOTAL: 20,851,162 BIBLES PRINTED IN 176 LANGUAGES

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

Each Bible costs just \$3 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.



ASIAN WORKERS' FUND AWF

WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT 1,953 ASIAN EVANGELISTS AMONG 1,304 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 1,904,593 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.



MINISTRY TRAINING FUND MTF

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT WE HAVE HELPED TRAIN AND EQUIP 73,094 ASIAN BELIEVERS TO EFFECTIVELY SERVE GOD

The Ministry Training Fund helps the Asian Church disciple and train believers to be effective ministers of the Gospel among the unreached.

Often workers live in remote places and coming together once or twice a year is the only outside fellowship and teaching they receive. We cover travel, food and other costs associated with the meetings. To train each worker costs an average of \$50.

LMF

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

**BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP WE ARE
CURRENTLY SUPPORTING 733 LIVING MARTYRS**

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.



TCF

THE CHILDREN'S FUND

**YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT HAS REACHED 243,790 CHILDREN
THROUGHOUT ASIA SO FAR**

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 help reach a child for Christ.



PRF

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 lepers, communities and families throughout Asia who are in desperate need.





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