

Asia Harvest



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

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Spiritual Genocide in China

Interview with Paul Hattaway, Part Three

SPIRITUAL GENOCIDE IN CHINA

Straight Talk on the Need for Bibles

An Interview with Paul Hattaway (Part 3)

Last year we conducted two interviews with Paul Hattaway, the director of Asia Harvest, about the present need for Bibles in China. These interviews were published in our June and August 2011 newsletters. We recently sat down with Paul, and asked him to update us on the current need...

Asia Harvest: *Last year we spoke about the emergency need for Bibles in China. What kind of response did those newsletters receive?*

Paul Hattaway: I'm glad to have the opportunity to share with you again. We are thankful for the wonderful response that came in. We shared research showing the house churches in China needed 34 million Bibles just for the Christians in their congregations. We also explained how they were unable to access God's Word despite the claims of many who falsely claim Bibles are freely available to all Christians in China.

Many people wrote to say how confused they had been by the conflicting information coming from China, with some organizations saying Bibles are plentiful, and others claiming there is a massive shortage.

Other people said it had baffled them why the need for Bibles in China has remained strong for so long. When we explained that each copy of the Scriptures acts like an evangelist, and often two or three people come to faith in Christ as a result of each Bible, they were better able to understand

the reality that that the more Bibles we provide, the more are needed. This is why the need is so great and persistent.

AH: *How has been the progress of the project over the past year?*

Paul: We praise God that many people responded with prayer and generous support, and we have experienced a sharp increase in the number of Bibles printed and distributed to the house churches.

In 2011 we were privileged to provide just under 1.6 million Chinese Bibles, which works out to one Bible printed every 20 seconds.

A single snowflake is fragile and easily brushed aside. But if enough snowflakes join together they can become strong enough to stop a large truck in its tracks!

Similarly, the strength of the Bible project is in the fact that many normal Christians have heard about the need, and have sensed the Lord wanted them to help.

The overwhelming majority of people who give to this project are not wealthy. The average donation we receive is in the \$20 to \$50 range. Added together, the

result has been a very powerful force for the kingdom of God!

This year we have seen similar progress. By God's grace we recently passed the milestone of six million Bibles since the project first began.

AH: Has all the feedback been positive?

Paul: The overwhelming majority of people know what we share about the need for Bibles in China is true and not an exaggeration. A few people have been upset, because they have been misled by the propaganda that Bibles are freely available all over China.

The deception is so prevalent that someone living in a big Chinese city, where Bibles are easier to obtain, may be totally blinded to the fact that tens of millions of Christians in the countryside of China are starving to death without access to the Bread of Life.

One gentleman rebuked us strongly for our lack of faith! He read about the shortfall of 34 million Bibles and asked why we have printed so few (just six million) in comparison to the need. To people with such strong faith we have a simple answer: please come to China and begin to print Bibles without government permission. You will soon find out just how easy it is to print and distribute God's Word in a tightly-controlled Communist country opposed to the spread of Christianity!

We are aware, more than ever, that every single Bible produced is a miracle, a provision of God's grace towards His children in China.

If we ever thought for a moment that this project operated by our own skills or

cunning, the whole thing would collapse in a heap.

AH: You mentioned how Bibles are like bread to starving Christians in China. Is that analogy accurate? Are the believers really starving?

Paul: How healthy would your Christian walk be if you were a new believer and had no way of reading God's Word for yourself?

I think it is often hard for people in other countries to comprehend the value of a Bible in China. Whereas in nations where Bibles are plentiful, they often sit unread on people's shelves, in China the Word of God is like the pearl of great price Jesus spoke of (Matthew 13:44-45).

Let me remind you that these are fellow Christians who need God's Word. They are our family members, millions of them, who have heard the Good News about Jesus and responded to it by repenting of their sins and believing. Tragically, their faith often stagnates because of a lack of understanding, due to their inability to get a Bible.

It is clear to me and those I work with that one main way China tries to stop the spread of the house churches is to deliberately starve them from access to Bibles. The hope is that the house churches will stop spreading the faith, and will gradually decay and crumble. It is a kind of spiritual genocide against the house churches of China.

AH: 'Spiritual genocide' is a strong phrase to use. Can you explain what you mean?

Paul: The dictionary defines "genocide" as "the deliberate and systematic extermination

of a national, racial, political or cultural group.”

From the time Communism first appeared, it has been a priority of governments to crush religion, especially Christianity. The founder of this godless ideology, Karl Marx, stated, “Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.”

As most people know, there are two main kinds of churches in China today: those approved by the government, and churches that refuse to register or come under government control. These latter congregations are commonly referred to as ‘house churches’ or ‘underground churches’. Every Bible we print and deliver is to a house church Christian.

I believe China long ago realized they could not totally destroy Christianity, although they tried hard to do so in the 1960s and 70s. Today, the strategy is more one of containment. They don’t mind too much if Christians agree to meet in approved church buildings which they can exert an element of control over. Indeed, they have even agreed to print a limited number of Bibles for such ‘patriotic’ Christians who attend these churches.

What China loathes is the kind of vibrant Christianity which refuses to be contained within the four walls of a church building. Such faith scares the government, because it spreads quickly like wildfire, transforming lives and making millions of people willing to live and die for a new Master, Jesus Christ!

We do not have anything against Christians who meet in the government

approved churches—indeed God is moving powerfully in many of them. We supply Bibles to the house churches simply because they have far less opportunity to access God’s Word than those who attend a government church. Most of the areas where our Bibles are distributed are extremely poor farming areas in remote provinces like Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia, Gansu and Qinghai.

Another way they achieve this goal is to spread clever propaganda throughout the Christian world, telling them, among other things, that Bibles are plentiful in China today. They may be if you attend a government church, but if you are a rural house church Christian, it seems you are looked down upon and treated like a second-class Christian, not only by the

“Blessed be the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I have been a traveling evangelist for many years in the remote areas of our province. For so long we have struggled to receive enough Bibles, but now that you are providing God’s Word to us I see such strength and depth in our ministry that it lacked before. Many times in years past we would preach the Gospel in a village and come back later to find that the villagers had believed many false things because they did not have a Bible to lead them in Truth. God bless you and thank you so much for providing these Bibles!”

— Letter from Anhui Province

government but sadly, even by some other members of the Body of Christ.

AH: *You mentioned there is “propaganda” spread about the need for Bibles in China. Can you give an example?*

Paul: Late last year I was in the United States and flew into the city of Charlotte, North Carolina. While I waited for my bag, I noticed an advertising poster on the wall. It promoted a ‘China Bible Exhibition’ which was underway at the Billy Graham Library in the city.

I excitedly went along to see what it was all about. The exhibit put on by the Chinese government-approved China Christian Council, in conjunction with the Amity Press. I was disappointed that there was nobody from China there I could ask questions to, but overall there was nothing technically wrong with the exhibit. Displays told about the history of the Bible in China, and lots of posters showed smiling Chinese Christians holding their Bibles in the air.

While there was nothing to fault technically, the problem I had with the exhibition was one of perception. If I didn’t know any better from first-hand experience, I would have left the place convinced that there are plenty of Bibles in China now, and that the need has been well and truly met.

Come to think of it, I would probably also think that claims there are tens of millions of Christians in China without any access to God’s Word are grossly exaggerated.

After all, at the China Bible Exhibition I saw the “evidence” of all the happy Chinese Christians with their Bibles, and I would think if the good folk behind the Billy Graham Library have endorsed the

exhibition, then who am I to doubt what is being presented?

This is the kind of propaganda I mean. It is subtle and implied, rather than outright lies. No wonder so many Christians are confused. They need the wisdom of Solomon and the gift of discernment just to be able to make sense of it all.

Gary Russell, the director of China Harvest, recently wrote a newsletter about the China Bible Exhibition which toured major cities throughout America. He wrote....

“Be aware that this is a “double-edged sword.” On the one side Amity Press does print millions of genuine Bibles, most for export in other languages, but also in Chinese for Christians in China. Thank God for each one!

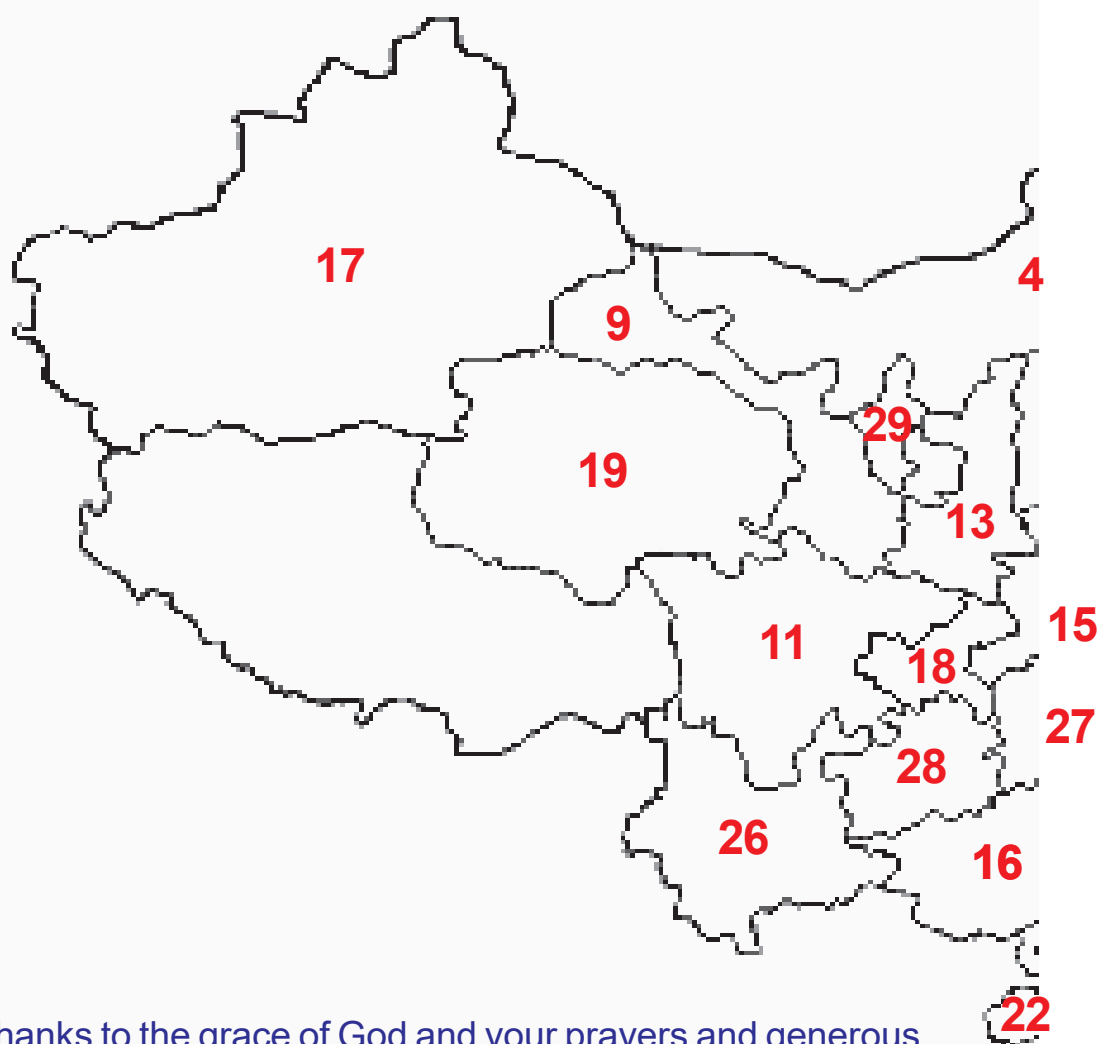
On the other hand they purport that therefore these are enough to supply the need, and that they are available all over. **This is mere propaganda and simply NOT TRUE!** Do not be deceived. There are unquestionably tens of millions of Chinese Christians who have no Bible and no access to one, plus hundreds of millions more empty hearts seeking the only Way, Truth and Life that the Holy Scriptures reveal. Picture your whole life without even one Bible.”

AH: *What is the best way to try to convince Christians around the world about the reality of the need for Bibles in China, and hopefully wake some of them up from the misinformation they have been fed for years?*

Paul: All we can do is tell the truth, pray, and let the Holy Spirit convince people of the reality of what we and others are saying about the desperate need for Bibles in China.

To be honest, I find it a very strange battle, and much of what we argue against is

CHINA BIBLE MAP



Thanks to the grace of God and your prayers and generous support, Asia Harvest recently passed the milestone of 6 million Chinese Bibles printed and delivered to the house churches in China. Our Chinese coworkers provide detailed reports, which allow us keep track of every Bible we print and to create this distribution map. On behalf of all the believers in China, thank you and God bless you!

Bibles Delivered by Province:

1 Heilongjiang	552,989
2 Anhui	534,307
3 Henan	498,070
4 Inner Mongolia	460,845
5 Zhejiang	432,092
6 Shandong	399,111
7 Jilin	307,291
8 Shanxi	250,161
9 Gansu	214,856
10 Jiangsu	205,668
11 Sichuan	204,764
12 Liaoning	203,081
13 Shaanxi	184,731
14 Hebei	174,396
15 Hubei	173,830
16 Guangxi	168,941
17 Xinjiang	159,734
18 Chongqing	150,478
19 Qinghai	140,390
20 Shanghai	132,205
21 Jiangxi	122,357
22 Hainan Island	97,319
23 Fujian	95,725
24 Guangdong	60,600
25 Beijing	50,722
26 Yunnan	31,595
27 Hunan	13,466
28 Guizhou	11,029
29 Ningxia	5,902

TOTAL	6,036,657
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completely irrational thinking. Let me give you an example of what I mean.

What would you say if a Christian leader from your home town went to Africa for a couple of weeks, visited a few churches in major cities, and then returned home to energetically conduct media interviews and tell everyone: “There are no hungry children in Africa! I have been there in person, and I can tell you the stories you have heard for years are all false. Everywhere I went there was plenty of food, and all the children appeared well-nourished and happy.”

You would (hopefully) realize such a man was totally deceived, and his extremely limited experience did not qualify him to form any worthwhile judgments on Africa. Decades of evidence has shown that there *are* millions of starving children in Africa, that corruption and the interference of wicked men diverts food from reaching them, all while drought continues to devastate vast regions.

Indeed, such a deceived Christian leader should be rebuked and feel humiliated for making such false statements about something so serious—the survival of millions of fellow human beings in Africa.

Well, dear friends, is there any real difference between this and what happens in China today?

Numerous Christian leaders, some of them world famous names, have flown into China for a few weeks, been taken around by officials from the government church, and return home absolutely convinced that they know the truth about China! “Everywhere I went the Christians had Bibles” they confidently declare. “I

“Words cannot express the gratitude our family feels for the Bible you provided for us. We treasure it and read it every day. Reading the words of our Lord makes our hearts overflow with joy. For so many years we longed to know the truth, and now we understand more and our faith is becoming stronger every day. God bless you for your sacrificing and giving so that we can know the truth!”

— Letter from Zhejiang Province

even visited Amity Press, where millions of Bibles are produced each year.”

Such people ***“do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm”*** (1 Timothy 1:7).

Don’t listen to people speaking on the subject of Bibles in China unless they have travelled far from the modern cities, to the poor farming communities where the majority of house churches are based. If they are willing to leave their hotel in Beijing and catch a series of rough trains and buses for two days into northeast Inner Mongolia, they will find tens of thousands of new believers with absolutely no way of obtaining Bibles.

If they go a thousand miles west to the remote province of Qinghai, they would discover thousands more new Christians eager to learn the Word of God, but deprived of doing so by the system of spiritual genocide that has been put in place to choke the life out of the “illegal” house churches. There are hundreds of other

examples throughout China I could share with you.

I feel scared for those Christian leaders who become active propaganda tools for China. Most are completely unaware that they are contributing to the spiritual starvation of millions of God's children. The sad thing is that most of these men are genuine believers, and the last thing they would ever want to do is harm other Christians, yet this is exactly what is taking place.

Over the years, a number of house church leaders have wept openly before me. They simply can't understand how Christians around the world are so easily deceived. They view their famine of Bibles as a form of persecution. They are used to persecution, but not at the hands of fellow believers.

AH: Some Christians might be upset at what you have said. What would you say to them?

Paul: It is not my job to say or write things that make people feel 'happy' and comfortable. The role of every Christian should be to tell the truth, in love. Any preacher worth a grain of salt will preach what people *need* to hear, not what they *want* to hear. Not to do so is to be a man-pleaser, and the Bible warns us that ***"the fear of man is a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe"*** (Proverbs 29:25).

My primary concern is for the tens of millions of Christians starving in China without Bibles. We continue to be flooded with letters from senior house church leaders throughout China, begging for hundreds of thousands of Bibles to be sent urgently for new believers in their churches. They are afraid the harvest will spoil, and

they know of no other place to access Bibles in the kind of quantities they need.

We have not told you these things in some kind of bid to manipulate you for our own benefit. It is the Christians in China who benefit from this project. We use the funds we receive so that the maximum numbers of Bibles are produced, for the cheapest possible price. That is why we print and deliver Bibles for just \$1.80 each. It is a project that operates on a shoe-string budget, with all the fat already cut out!

In our next newsletter we will conclude our interview with Paul Hattaway.

Recently, a generous donor gave a "dollar for dollar" matching grant to Asia Harvest. A matching gift has a multiplying effect, so that for a period of time each donation we receive for Bibles will be doubled. Therefore, if you give \$1.80 for one Chinese Bible, it will be matched, so that two new Bibles will be provided instead of one!

We thank God for this wonderful opportunity to help feed God's neglected children in the world's most populated country.

We ask you to please pray that God would continue to provide His Word to China's house church Christians.

If you would like to help provide the Word of God to China's house church Christians, please fill out the yellow response form and send it back to us. Alternatively, you can give via our secure website: www.asiaharvest.org

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 6,036,657 Bibles printed and delivered.

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 believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival in China. **Each full Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

Asia Harvest is able to print and distribute 230,000 Chinese Bibles per month depending on incoming funds. So far this year we are operating at 60.8% capacity.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Thanks to your support we are currently able to support 556 Asian evangelists working among 179 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.



The **Asian Workers Fund** assists church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry in Asia. These servants of the Lord have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. We only support evangelists/missionaries and not pastors, as we believe pastors should be supported by the flocks they shepherd. Please pray about whether you or your church could help support these dedicated workers, at **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional worker updates are sent to all regular donors.

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 286,893 Bibles printed in 46 languages

The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam are home to more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities. We are also providing God's Word to tribes in Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, and other Southeast and South Asian nations as the need arises. **Each Bible costs \$2.70 to print and deliver.**

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

Because of your partnership we are supporting 731 living martyrs.



"A martyr is 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 Voice of the Martyrs)

The **Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists in China and Vietnam 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 **\$35 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.

PROJECT SMILE



Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 11,180 children in Vietnam.

Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with disabilities such as cleft palates, cleft lips and club feet, as well as others who need operations for burns, cancerous growths and other conditions. The cost of helping a child varies depending on the kind of surgery required, but each gift received of **\$60 changes a child's life**. A laminated prayer card of a child helped through Project Smile is sent to all donors.

ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND



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

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided relief assistance to the victims of natural disasters such as the earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the Tsunamis of Southeast Asia and Japan, and a host of other disasters in India, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. 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 thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.



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