



**Asia Harvest**

**2002**

**NEWSLETTERS**

*(Combined)*

# Asia Harvest



Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe! (Joel 3:13)

Box 17 - Chang Klan P.O. - Chiang Mai 50101 - THAILAND

Tel: (66-53) 801-487 Fax: (66-53) 800-665

Email: [office@asiaharvest.org](mailto:office@asiaharvest.org) Website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

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## Henan Province -

The Galilee of China (PART ONE)

# ***From the Front Lines***

**with Paul & Joy Hattaway**

*“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.”*

*1 Corinthians 1:27-29*

It is in people's nature to look up to the big, rich, powerful people and organizations in our world, but over the years we've become convinced that God is mostly using small, anonymous, simple-hearted Christians to do His will and work. It seems the Lord delights to take people from insignificant backgrounds and use them to shake the world!

When God uses someone who would never have been able to do anything worthwhile if it wasn't for His power, God gets the glory. When someone does a work that they were more than capable of achieving in their own strength, then that person gets the credit. The American Bishop Phillip Brooks once said, “Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle.”

Over the next few issues we plan to focus on a remarkable miracle from China - Henan Province. Henan is a landlocked province with almost 100 million people. It's one of the poorest parts of China, with a high rate of illiteracy. In many ways people from the more sophisticated parts of China look down on people from Henan as poor, uncouth farmers. In the past, many exasperated missionaries complained how stubborn the people of Henan were, and lamented they would never be saved.

Praise God that what seems impossible with man is possible with God! True to His Word, He has chosen the people of Henan to be leaders of the Church in China, and firsthand witnesses of His mighty power. One of the most powerful, sustained revivals in Church history has taken place over the past 25 years in Henan, so that today the province is known as the ‘Galilee of China’ - the place where Jesus' disciples come from. Regardless of where we travel in China we usually find the majority of the key house church leaders are from Henan. They have been used by the Lord to lead tens of millions of people to Jesus. Many of the Chinese Christians we help support as evangelists and missionaries are from Henan. Many of the Bibles and books the Lord has allowed us to print in China end up in the hands of believers in Henan.

Most Christians around the world are aware God has done something truly awesome in China today, but few know exactly *how* He has done it. In these next few newsletters we hope to share just a few of the many testimonies we've heard from Chinese Christians. Because we don't want to get any of the believers in China into trouble, some of the people's names and specific places have been changed or omitted, but the stories themselves are true. In this Part One on Henan Province we examine the foundations of the Church in Henan, how the Gospel was first brought to this blessed part of China.



## Henan - The Heart of China's Revival

Henan, which means “South of the River” is home to almost 100 million souls, crammed into an area less than half the size of Germany, or approximately the same size as the U.S. State of Oklahoma.

The Yellow River cuts across the north of Henan, bringing both life and suffering to millions of people. Frequent floods have afflicted those living near the Yellow River for countless centuries.

Henanese have a reputation in other parts of China for being as “stubborn as donkeys.” This character trait frustrated many of the early missionaries who attempted to bring the Gospel to them.

Although Catholic missionaries had been active in Henan since the 1600s, the first Protestant missionaries to set foot in Henan didn't arrive until

1884 when the China Inland Mission secured premises in the town of Zhoujiakou, an important central trading center connected to a tributary of the Yangtze River.

Progress was slow in the early years of work in Henan, but the missionaries faithfully and carefully persevered, laying a solid foundation for what was to follow. If only by faith they'd been able to see what a tremendous work God would bring about on the soil they labored for so long with little apparent success!

Many missionaries were mocked and harassed during the early years, while several spilled their blood and died on Henan soil during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. By 1922, after almost forty years of labor, the total number of Protestant Christians in Henan Province was just 12,418.

No one envisioned what God was about to do! By 1949, when Communism took over China, the Church in Henan had grown to about 120,000 believers, but even that was just a foretaste of what was to come later.



## Marie Monsen - Mother of the House Churches

We have found it interesting that often old China missionaries who have a famous reputation in their countries of origin are not even known by house church Christians inside China today, while others who are hardly known in their native lands are considered among the great heroes of the faith by the Chinese people they sought to reach with the Gospel.

One such missionary who is still deeply loved by the Chinese believers in Henan is Marie Monsen, a single, Lutheran lady from Bergen in Norway. Monsen worked in China from 1901 to 1932.



*Marie Monsen with Mrs. Hsi, wife of a famous Chinese pastor, 1929*

Marie Monsen was greatly used by God to bring revival to the churches in Henan, especially in the southern part of the province. Straight away the Chinese believers knew there was something different about this missionary.

Whereas most of the other missionaries preached messages about God's love and acceptance, Monsen told the church leaders they were all hypocrites. In the words of one present-day house church leader, "Marie Monsen didn't speak smooth words to impress the people when she first came to our area. Instead, she brought fire from the altar of God. She told the Christians they were hypocrites. The people were struck to the bone with God's conviction, were sickened by their sin, and revival broke out."

"Monsen preached that it was not enough for Christians to study the lives of people who are born-again, but they themselves must be radically born-again in order to enter the Kingdom of heaven. With such teaching, she took the emphasis off head knowledge and showed each person they were personally responsible before God for their own inner spiritual life."

Marie Monsen's life-style matched her words. She was fearless, traveling thousands of miles through bandit-infested territory to share the Gospel, and showed great faith, love and courage wherever she went. Although she personally never planted a church in China, God used her to bring revival and the churches grew rapidly.

Today Marie Monsen is fondly remembered as 'The Mother of the House Churches' by believers in Henan Province. Indeed, it can be said that many of the attributes she possessed, including faithful endurance in the face of intense suffering, are traits of the Church in Henan Province today.

The Lord also used this small Lutheran lady to perform many miracles of divine healing and signs and wonders.

Monsen returned to Norway in 1932 to take care of her elderly parents, but by then her work in China was complete. She never returned to China, but her legacy of uncompromising faith, unquenchable zeal, and the necessity of changed hearts and lives fully committed to the cause of Christ lives on in the Chinese Church today.

As an interesting side-note, in 1999 a Chinese house church leader, Brother Yun, happened to be speaking in the city of Bergen, Norway. His hosts asked him if he would like to visit the grave of Marie Monsen. Yun was excited to have a chance to thank God on behalf of Henan's Christians for the blessing this small woman had been to them.

Their car pulled up at the graveyard, and they walked around for a few minutes, hoping to see her name on one of several hundred tombstones. Not being able to locate Monsen's grave, they strolled to the office for help. After flicking through records the graveyard administrator told them, "Marie Monsen was indeed buried here in 1962. But her grave was left untended for many years, so today it is just an empty lot with no headstone."

Yun couldn't understand how a woman so loved and respected thousands of miles away in China be treated so shamefully in her hometown?

Brother Yun said, "In Chinese culture the memory of people who did great things is cherished for generations to come, so I never imagined that such a thing could happen. The local believers explained that Marie Monsen was still held in high regard and that they had honoured her memory in different ways, such as the publication of her biography decades after she had died. But to me her unmarked grave was an insult that had to be made right."

With a heavy heart Brother Yun sternly told the Norwegian Christians, "You must honor this woman of God! I will give you two years to construct a new grave and headstone in memory of Marie Monsen. If you fail to do this, I will personally arrange for some Christian brothers to walk all the way from China to Norway to build one!"

"Many brothers in China are skilled stonemasons because of their years in prison labor camps for the sake of the Gospel. If you don't care enough, they will be more than willing to do it!"

On September 1, 2001, exactly 100 years to the day since Marie Monsen had first arrived in China, more than 200 Norwegian Christians gathered at the graveyard in Bergen. They held a memorial service and thanked God for the life of Marie Monsen.

They also unveiled a new memorial headstone. *The picture below was taken at the Marie Monsen memorial ceremony in Norway last year.*





## Mennonite Visionary Has Last Laugh

Times were not always easy for the missionaries. Local Chinese officials and religious leaders often made determined efforts to drive the missionaries out of their towns. They felt Christianity was a threat to their way of life.

On several occasions opponents of the Church even made blood oaths, vowing to kill the missionaries, but every time God protected His children so that no harm came to them.

In Puyang County, northeast Henan, local people ridiculed Mennonite missionary Henry Brown when he constructed a huge church building with 700 seats in 1917. At the time, few Chinese in Puyang showed any interest in the Gospel. Brown's building was compared to the apparent foolishness of Noah's building of the ark.

The church building was confiscated by the Communist authorities in the 1950s and used as a warehouse for many years, but in 1993 it was finally returned to the Christian community.

After repair work was carried out, the church was officially opened at a service in

October 1994. More than 1,000 people crammed into the sanctuary, with many more standing outside in the courtyard. The church has continued to overflow with crowds of worshippers and seekers since.

Although he had long since passed away to be with his Lord, Henry Brown's faith and foresight finally paid off, as he saw a day when God would pour His Spirit out in China and churches would overflow with hungry souls. Today the believers in Puyang wish Brown has constructed a larger building!

## Fire and Blood

By 1949, when Mao Zedong and the Communists had gained complete control of China, the Church in Henan had grown to significant proportions and was considered one of the spiritually healthiest in China. The strong



*Often whole extended families came to Christ in Henan, such as the Chang family in 1915*

foundation the Church had been established on proved to be necessary for its survival during the terrible decades of persecution that were to come.

By 1952 all foreign missionaries had been forced to leave Henan Province. Some who refused to leave voluntarily spent time in prison before being made to leave.

Then the brutal persecution began.

All over China the Communists launched a systematic plan to destroy Christianity. In Wenzhou City of Zhejiang Province, 49 leading pastors were arrested and sentenced to long prison terms of twenty years or more each. They were all sent to prison labor camps near the Russian border, where winter temperatures regularly plummet to minus 30 degrees.

Forty-eight of the pastors died before their sentences were completed.

Just one returned home alive.

Henan Province was chosen as one of three experimental zones in an anti-religion drive by the extreme elements of the Communist Party, along with Zhejiang and Inner Mongolia.

The ultimate aim was to eliminate Christianity once and for all, and to consign it to a curiosity section of a museum. As a result, horrific persecution was undertaken, with inhumane cruelty displayed by local officials.

In the Nanyang area of southern Henan, believers were crucified on the walls of their churches for not denying Christ. Others were chained to vehicles and horses and dragged to death.

One pastor was bound and attached to a long rope. The authorities, enraged that the man of God would not deny his faith, used a crane to hoist him high into the air. Before hundreds of witnesses, who had come to accuse the pastor of false charges as a "counter revolutionary," the pastor was asked one last time by his persecutors if he would recant.

He shouted back, "No! I will never deny the Lord who saved me!"

The rope was released and the pastor crashed to the ground below. Upon inspection, the evil tormentors discovered he was not fully dead, so they raised him up into the air for a second time, dropping the rope to finish him off for good.

In this life the pastor was dead, but he lives on in heaven with the reward of one who was faithful to the end.

A Lutheran pastor from Luoshan County in Henan, Dong Shaowu, was physically and mentally tortured around the clock for weeks until he could take no more. His mind snapped from the massive strain being exerted on him.

One of his torturers was a man who later spent more than 30 years as a "respected" standing member of his county's Three-Self Patriotic Church, which is the government-sanctioned church in China.



*Dong Shaowu in 1956*

On September 6, 1958, after a long torture session, Dong asked to use the toilet. When he failed to return quickly, guards rushed into the bathroom to find Dong slumped over on the floor. He had drowned himself in the urinal, unable to face another moment of the brutal treatment he'd endured for so long.

Even his death did not please his torturers. They officially charged the dead Dong with having "committed suicide to escape punishment".

That evening, as news spread around the town that Dong was dead, a local deacon boldly came to the police station and claimed the body of Dong Shaowu. He washed the corpse and prepared it for burial.



Six other Christians volunteered to help bury Dong, at great personal risk to themselves. Among them was a 14-year-old believer. They covered the face of their beloved pastor with an old straw hat and wrapped the corpse in an old mat. Dong's body was buried in an empty hole in the ground outside the South Gate of the city.

And so ended the life of a simple, good-hearted man whose passion in life was just to preach and teach the Bible and see Christians grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

At a meeting the following evening, the deacon who had come for his pastor's body stood up and announced his commitment to Christ. He was immediately arrested and sent away to a labor camp, and was never heard from again.

## The Silent Years

In the late 1950s Chairman Mao launched a campaign called 'The Great Leap Forward,' which was actually a great leap backward! Some scholars estimate the famine which resulted because of his economic experiment resulted in an incredible 8 million people starving to death in Henan Province alone!

As persecution raged against the Church in China, and thousands of leaders were butchered for their belief in Christ, China shut herself off from the rest of the world and a period of silence began. Every church building in China was closed.

Many observers believed the Church in China had been completely eradicated, lamenting that if and when China's doors ever reopened, missionary work would have to start all over again.

When an American delegation visited China in the 1970s Mao's wife arrogantly told them, "There is not a single Christian left in China. Christianity has been consigned to the history section of the museum."

She was wrong!

Throughout the 1950s and '60s the Church in China reached its lowest point. All church activities were forced to go underground, where God preserved a remnant. A few faithful believers continued to meet in secret during those dark years. No pastor remained to shepherd the flock, so elderly, uneducated women led most of the meetings.

Without any leadership, the light of the Gospel in many places was being kept alive by small groups of illiterate women. They served a God who said that unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it will not bear fruit.

## Mother Jia of Wuyang



*Mother Jia in 1988*

One such faithful saint was Mother Jia of Wuyang. When the doors of the churches were closed she organized small meetings in her house, despite the threats of the authorities.

Wuyang County is an impoverished area located in central Henan. Missionaries had commenced work there in 1887. Progress was extremely slow, however, so that by 1924 the number of church members in Wuyang numbered just 36.

When the missionaries focused their efforts more on the countryside, they found people hungrier for the Gospel. By 1949 the total

number of believers in Wuyang County was about 1,000.

Mother Jia had come to Christ in 1941 at the age of 36. Being the only Christian in her family, she was opposed and criticized by her relatives, but her life had been changed by Jesus and she would never turn back.

For years Mother Jia's meetings contained no preaching or even reading of the Bible, because everyone attending the meetings was illiterate. Instead, they worshipped God, prayed, and encouraged one another.

In the late 1960s Mother Jia was called into the local police station on several occasions and questioned about her illegal activities. The believers were never charged but they decided to change their meeting times to start at midnight. Only between three to five people were allowed to come to any one meeting.

The light of the Gospel flickered low in Henan during these difficult years, but thousands of faithful believers like Mother Jia courageously kept the candle burning.

Today the small flame has become a mighty fire.

Starting in the late-1970s, the Church in Wuyang began to experience rapid growth. The harsh years of the Cultural Revolution had created a vacuum in people's hearts, and they were eager to fill it. Zealous preachers traveled from village to village proclaiming the Gospel.

## The Four Bravehearts

In the 1960s and '70s the government launched the Cultural Revolution. These were particularly harsh times for Christians. Many denied the Lord, while others often went years without any fellowship at all, as people were too scared to meet together. During this time a person would be publicly beaten and sent to prison for many years just for having a copy of the Bible. As a result, many believers put their Bibles in a can and buried them deep in the ground, hop-

ing a day would come when they could dig their treasure back up and read the Word of God again. Christians sometimes practiced their faith so secretly that even their own family members didn't know they were believers.

It was in the midst of this intense atmosphere that God raised up four brave men in Henan Province. They not only loved Jesus, but were so bold that they decided to preach the Gospel in public, regardless of the consequences.



*Xu Yongze, first to preach the Gospel publically in Henan*

Xu Yongze, known in the West as Peter Xu (pronounced "Shu"), started preaching the Gospel in public meetings in 1968. According to house church leaders today, he was the first to preach publicly in Henan Province.

During the Cultural Revolution preaching was penalized with a certain death sentence. It was illegal just to believe in Christ. This stand for Christ earned Xu a great deal of respect among the Christian community, as a brother who is willing to risk all for the sake of the Gospel.

Xu founded the Born Again house church movement, which is today the largest in China

with as many as 20-25 million members throughout the entire country, in all its various branches. They experienced phenomenal growth throughout the 1990s after they focused their efforts on the training of new leaders.

Later, Xu was joined by three other men, brothers Yun, Wang and Zhang. They worked closely together until 1983 when a wave of severe persecution caused hundreds of believers to be thrown into prison all across China.

At first their preaching was confined to their home areas in southwestern Henan Province, expanding to other parts of Henan in 1979. After seeing thousands of people come to Christ in the midst of great revival, the group commenced cross-province evangelism in 1982 when they sent workers to Sichuan Province.

Xu was arrested in 1982 and sent to a labor camp. He miraculously escaped in August of that year – after a hundred days imprisonment – when he simply pushed a heavy coal cart out the prison gates. None of the guards questioned him, so he kept walking away to freedom!

During the wave of persecution in 1983, many workers fled across China, thus spreading the flame of the Gospel. By 1985 Xu's group had grown and expanded their work to far-flung parts of China including Tibet, Xinjiang, Yunnan, Guizhou and Heilongjiang.

In 1997 Xu was again arrested. This time it was actually announced in newspapers around the world that he had been executed, but this rumor proved to be unfounded. He was sentenced to ten years in prison, which was later reduced to three years. This was nothing short of a great miracle from the Lord. He was released in May 2000, and immediately continued his ministry of training up new evangelists and church planters.

During his three years in prison, Brother Xu experienced much torture and affliction. The prison officials even handcuffed his wrists to each side of an iron gate in such a way that when the gate was pulled open he was stretched

up off the ground in a crucifix position, causing his internal organs to be agonizingly stretched. His torturers would then relax the gate, giving Xu a moment's relief, before again pulling the gate open. They repeated this process again and again, causing this dear brother to later say, "I came to know how Jesus must have felt on the Cross."

Brother Xu Yongze is a humble, gracious and loving man, very personable and approachable. He carries with him an air of brokenness from his years of imprisonment and torture, yet that is not all. People who meet Xu are left with the impression they've met a man with great spiritual authority in God.

These four men risked everything for the sake of the Gospel and paved the way for thousands of like-minded evangelists who followed. These four bravehearts have spent a combined total of more than 40 years in prison for the sake of the Kingdom of God. They've been tortured and have suffered inhumane treatment at the hand of sinful men, yet God has spared the lives of all four.

What are the other three men doing today?

Brother Yun is recognized as a great evangelist and apostle by the Chinese Church, with many signs and wonders accompanying his ministry of the Word of God. Many Christians consider him to have suffered more than any other believer in China, having been



*Brother Yun*

arrested more than 30 times for preaching the Gospel. In 1997 God enabled him to miraculously escape from a maximum security prison in Henan, when He blinded the eyes of numerous armed guards and opened several iron doors. Later that same year Brother Yun left China and is now the official spokesman and representative of the Sinim Fellowship (a unified fellowship of leaders from China's six largest house church networks), to churches around the world.\*

Brother Zhang is the founder of the Fangcheng house church movement, which has grown rapidly to about ten million believers all across China, in all its various branches.

Brother Wang spent more than 15 years in prison for his love of Jesus. After his release several years ago he started rebuilding his network of house churches, and today sits as an elder of the 'Sinim Fellowship.'

\* A book about Brother Yun's life, entitled 'The Heavenly Man' will be published in June or July 2002, by Monarch Books. We'll let you know more information closer to the release date.

## Heroes of the Faith or Cult Leaders?

As China started to open up to the outside world in the 1980s and '90s the government realized they couldn't continue to openly persecute and torture house church Christians simply because of their faith in Christ, as it would create a bad public image around the world.

Instead, they decided to start classifying all of the house church networks in China as "evil cults that threaten the stability of the nation," thereby allowing them to prosecute believers for "breaking the law."

Under this deceptive pretense, thousands of Christians have been beaten, crippled, imprisoned, tortured, raped and humiliated. Leaders of the Three-Self Patriotic Church in China have launched a strong campaign branding all the

house church leaders, such as the four men mentioned above, as cult leaders. They've told Christians around the world not to worry about reports they hear of Christians being persecuted in China, that there is no persecution in China any more, that freedom of religion is guaranteed in the constitution, etc.

The government has then lied and slandered house church believers in order to "prove their case," often accusing pastors of "raping and seducing women," "plotting to overthrow the government," and other such ludicrous charges.

The most ridiculous thing of all is that many Western Christians have believed the lies.

In actual fact, those Christians who have bothered to investigate have found the beliefs and practices of the Chinese house churches conform with standard Biblical theology, and contain all the essential elements of the faith.

The situation is clouded by the fact that house churches have been placed on the same government list of "evil cults" as other religions such as the Falungong, and other pseudo-Christian groups in China that really are cults.

It's interesting to note some of the official charges brought against Brother Xu and the other leaders to "prove" they are cult leaders:

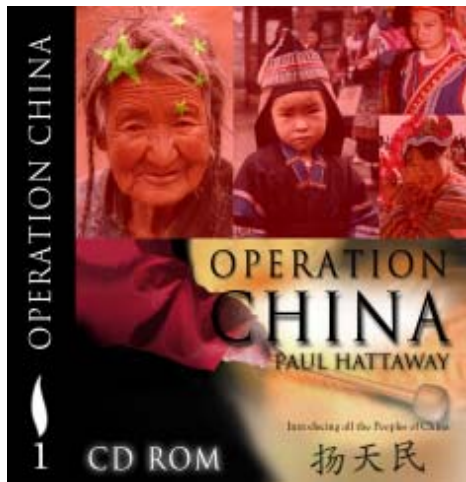
1. He teaches followers should give 10% of their income to the work of the church.
2. He says only those who know Jesus will go to heaven, while all unbelievers will be condemned to an eternity in hell.
3. People often shout and cry out in his meetings, confessing their sins before God.
4. He prays for the sick to be healed.
5. He preaches the world will come to an end when Jesus returns.

How do these charges measure up with what you believe? Would you be labelled a cult member if you lived in China?

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In our next newsletter we'll continue our look at the Church in Henan Province, how it has grown through years of bitter persecution, and how it experiences miracles and blessings similar to the Book of Acts.





## OPERATION CHINA CD

We've been encouraged by reports from God's people around the world how much our 'Operation China' book has blessed them. Now it's available on CD!

The entire book is on the CD, including more than 700 color photos. The CD operates on both PCs and Macintosh computers, and has a powerful search engine.

The cost is US\$ 17, including post and packing. If you are interested, please include a note "Operation China CD" along with your check. Alternatively, you can order the CD by going to our website and paying with a credit card.

## WEBSITE DONATIONS

We're thankful to God for those people who feel the Lord wants them to financially help spread the Gospel throughout Asia. We always endeavor to be the best stewards of these donations as we can. Now, we're able to receive payments by credit card for particular projects listed on our website. This may be a lot more convenient for some people, as it would eliminate the need for writing letters and checks. Supporters can click either for onetime or monthly donations. Our system is 100% secure and easy to use. If you are an internet user, please check out our website at [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)



## FIRST MONPA BELIEVERS!

In our last newsletter before Christmas we profiled the Monpa people of Arunachal Pradesh, India, and asked you to pray for their salvation. The Lord heard your prayers! Recently we were told by Naga missionaries among them that three Monpa have accepted Christ and are being disciplined! This is a great breakthrough among a Tibetan Buddhist group considered resistant to the Gospel. Please continue to pray for them. They are already being persecuted by their own families and by the Monpa community.

## 2001 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

We believe as ministers of the Gospel we should be open and accountable in the area of finances. The 2001 financial statement for Asia Harvest is now available. If you would like to receive a copy, please write and ask.



## From our Mailbox

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I just wanted to let you know about the kids who raised all of this money for Bibles for China. We are a small private school in Georgia. We have about 25 students who are mostly considered “under achievers” and “castoffs” by the public and private schools. Many come to us defeated and hurt by those who are supposed to be teaching them how to live. Many of our students are not even Christians and a large number had no idea who Jesus Christ was when they came to us. It is a unique situation and a great privilege to be able to serve them and see them grow, succeed and change.

We began a contest in October to see who could raise the most money for Bibles: boys vs. girls. The winners get a half-day off from school in January. The girls started out with a huge lead, prompting the boys to strategize and come up with a plan to win it at the end. The contest was to end on the last day of school prior to the Christmas break. The boys had steadily gained on the girls’ large lead and were only about \$50 behind. That morning, one of the boys gave me an envelope containing enough money to win it by about \$40.

Both sides were excited to be a part of it, both were happy about the results, and both were overjoyed to hear how many Bibles the Chinese believers would be receiving. I was extremely touched by these young people who would give up their afternoons and weekends to raise money so that others would have the opportunity that they often take for granted. Many of our students still don’t know Jesus personally (although I believe that will all change soon), but it is awesome to see them sacrifice and serve in this manner.

We pray a special blessing upon Asia Harvest and all of your work. May the work of your hands be fruitful and may the God of peace rest upon all of you as you serve Him and serve those in Asia.

*from a private school, Georgia, U.S.A.*

You damned Christians must STOP spreading your damned religion to Asian peoples! SO many minority cultures are on the verge of being assimilated into the evil modernization of the WESTERN WORLD. Changing them into blind, irrational, hypocritical Christians will only destroy their unique cultures forever.     *received by email*

I have been receiving your newsletters for a few months now and find them informative, inspirational, and a kick in the pants when it comes to prayer. Thanks for your faithfulness to send these out. They are a great encouragement. You are in my prayers, as are the people you represent. May God bless you in all your work.     *Rachel, Michigan, U.S.A.*

## ASIAN WORKERS FUND

### *Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

*Because of your prayers and partnership we are currently able to support 100 Asian evangelists for a 12-month period.*

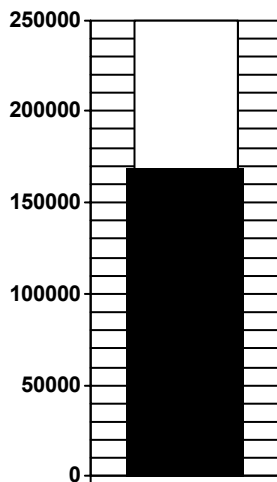
Asian churches give their tithes and offerings, but the economy of many places is so poor that here is little or nothing left for “big” expenses such as sending an evangelist or a missionary to an unreached area. In other cases the church may have enough just to send the worker to the field, but is unable to support them once they are there.

In China some house church evangelists have even sold their own blood at the hospital, receiving just a few cents as payment. They then buy a few meals with this money, giving them enough strength to continue to preach the Gospel for another week or two. These servants of the Lord have given their whole lives to the Gospel. We are in contact with thousands of workers who need support.

The **Asian Workers Fund** assists workers who are doing strategic ministry in Asia. Please pray about whether you, your family, home fellowship or church could help support one or more of these workers with help of **\$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to the workers in need.** A prayer card will be sent to every supporter of this project, with information about your worker to help you remember to pray for him or her.

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

### *Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word*



**Current Total: 168,411**

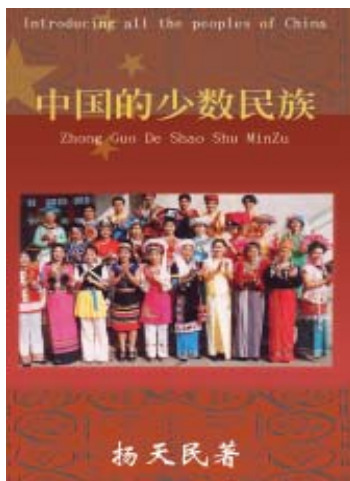
**Chinese Bibles Printed**

**Cost: US\$2.00 per Bible**

Although a limited number of Bibles are now permitted to be printed inside China, they are not enough to meet the need. Because of the tremendous growth rate of the church in China (some say 30,000 new believers each day), there is a serious lack of Bibles. Millions of Christians are still without God's Word. We are partnering with six large house church networks in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for the church. These Bibles are distributed to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning throughout the world's largest nation. **100% of your gifts go directly to printing Bibles. Each Bible costs just US\$ 2.00 to print and deliver.**

## OPERATION CHINA

*Printing 200,000 books for the Chinese Church*



**GOAL:** 200,000 books for the  
Chinese house churches  
**CURRENT TOTAL:** 84,066  
**COST:** \$1.20 per book

We have had a great response to our project to print 200,000 Chinese-language copies of our book on China's minority groups for the house church networks of China. The books will help mobilize hundreds of Chinese believers to reach all 490 tribes and people groups in China. Costing just US\$ 1.20 for a 500-page book, we have so far received enough finances to print more than 84,000 books. Thank you and please continue to pray that God would provide the full amount needed.

## CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

*Supporting pastors now crippled by persecution and torture*

*Because of your prayers and generous support we are currently able to support **417** living martyrs every month.*

In China, Christians are regularly beaten, tortured, and even killed because they love Jesus. One report states there are presently 4,014 house church Christians in prison labor camps, and 23,686 under arrest. 129 have been murdered by the authorities.

Last year house church leaders in China gave us details of about 1,000 Christians leaders who are now permanently crippled or maimed as a result of the torture they received at the hands of the police. Many of their stories are absolutely horrific, yet they remain faithful to the Lord. The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of their injuries. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Please pray about whether you, your family, home fellowship or church could help support one or more of these living martyrs with help of **\$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to the workers.** A prayer card will be sent to everyone who regularly supports this project, with information about your worker to help you remember to pray.





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Box 17 - Chang Klan P.O. - Chiang Mai 50101 - THAILAND

Tel: (66-53) 801-487 Fax: (66-53) 800-665

Email: [office@asiaharvest.org](mailto:office@asiaharvest.org) Website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

May 2002 - Newsletter #66



## Henan Province (PART TWO)

Special Issue on the Present Crisis in China

# ***From the Front Lines***

## **Special Issue on the Present Crisis in China**

***“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”***

*Ephesians 5:11*

In our last newsletter we commenced a series of articles on the Church in Henan Province, China. In Part One, we told you the history of how the Gospel was first brought to Henan and started to take root. We also wrote about the intense suffering the Church went through during the 1960s and ‘70s, yet bold men such as Brother Xu Yongze decided to stand up for the Lord and proclaim His Word anyway.

This issue was meant to record testimonies of some of the remarkable miracles experienced by the Henan house churches, and how the Church in Henan has grown in leaps and bounds, so that today it numbers in the millions.

Information received from China on April 20th, however, changed our plans. The issue on miracles will have to wait until our next newsletter.

To begin with, we received reports that the entire leadership of the China Gospel Fellowship house church network, based in Tanghe County in southern Henan, had been arrested by the police. This would have been terrible news, but as things became clearer over the following days, we received news that was even worse. The 35 leaders had not been arrested by the police, but kidnapped by a wicked Satanic cult called the Eastern Lightning!

**Thirty three of the top leaders of the China Gospel Fellowship are now confirmed kidnapped.** Two managed to escape.

We started to receive calls from concerned Christians around the world, asking, “What is this Eastern Lightning? What do they believe? What is going to happen?”

In response, we wrote an article giving background information on both the China Gospel Fellowship and the Eastern Lightning cult. In this newsletter we present a condensed version of our report. You may have already received this report from us by email, but we realize that the great majority of people who receive our newsletters are not on our email list, and for most this information will be brand new.

**The reason we have written about this subject is so that you, your family, and your church WILL PRAY EARNESTLY for our brothers and sisters in China who are presently facing the most inhumane torture imaginable.**

At the conclusion of this report we present an opportunity should you want to practically help this situation. We believe the best way to expose dark deeds is to walk in the light, and to steadfastly continue in God’s work.

God bless you, and may the Lord be with His little flock in China!

## The China Gospel Fellowship

The China Gospel Fellowship (CGF) was founded in Tanghe County, southern Henan Province, but spread rapidly until they now have churches in every part of China. The movement is also widely known as the 'Tanghe Church' after its founding location.

The CGF contains at least six million believers. They have a strong emphasis on work among China's unreached minority groups. Because of their highly organized structure and their uncompromising zeal for the spread of the Gospel, the CGF has been severely persecuted by the Chinese authorities over the past several years. Dozens of their members are languishing in prison as you read this.

In the late-1990s the Director of China's Bureau of Religious Affairs, Ye Xiaowen (who is an avowed atheist!), condemned the China Gospel Fellowship as an 'evil cult'. This decision was based on the fact that they refuse to submit to the control of the government, rather than any cultic beliefs or practices. In fact, the CGF are one of the strongest fundamental conservative, evangelical Bible-based house church networks in all of China.

The CGF are one of the six major house church networks that we work with in China. We print Bibles for them, help support and train some of their workers. The movement is led by brother Shen Yiping, who was released from prison in late 2000, and by his nephew Shen Xianfeng.

Shen Xianfeng is partially disabled due to a childhood accident and gets around with the use of crutches. A few years ago, during an interrogation, police officers beat Shen with his own crutches!

## What Happened on April 19

On the evening of April 19th, all the top leaders of the China Gospel Fellowship suddenly went missing. None of them could be reached by telephone. The immediate thought was that they had all been arrested by the authorities. Gradually, the facts about what had happened started to filter through.

About a year ago, a lady introduced some Singaporeans to one of the major leaders of the China Gospel Fellowship, starting the relationship. The Singaporeans identified themselves with a respected Bible School based in Singapore. The CGF leader made some investigations about the school, and when he received good reports he trusted the Singaporeans from that time on.

Earlier this year the CGF was informed that some famous professors from the Singapore school were coming to China to give them leadership training. Because the CGF leaders are being hunted by the government, for security reasons it was decided to split their leaders into six different groups, to go to six different locations for training. The Singaporeans promised to cover all travel and accommodation expenses, and to conduct their training in a safe environment. What the church leaders didn't know was that the Singaporeans were not even Christians, but members of a wicked cult called Eastern Lightning.

On April 19th each group of house church leaders went to the meetings. It is known that at one location, the organizers greeted the leaders and immediately requested they hand over their mobile phones for safe keeping (thus removing their ability to communicate outside of the room). When

some of the brothers refused to cooperate, the Eastern Lightning beat them to get their phones. This was the first the believers knew they were in trouble.

One sister asked to go outside to use the toilet, and managed to escape. **Praise God for this!** If she hadn't escaped nobody would have any idea what had happened to these house church leaders. They would have simply vanished without a trace, which was the intention of the cult. When they discovered the sister had escaped, the Eastern Lightning went to her home. Not finding her there, they beat up her parents before leaving. This sister said the leaders were already being severely tortured by the time she got away.

She went to the police and told them what had happened. Together they rushed back to the meeting place, but by the time they arrived the room was deserted, with no trace of where the house church leaders had been taken.

It is clear from past experiences that the Eastern Lightning always separate Christians and spread them in different locations to be brainwashed and beaten individually. By now, it is likely the 33 Christians are scattered in 33 different places. Two have managed to escape.

The China Gospel Fellowship (CGF) is organized at a national level with what they call the Chai Hui (missionary sending agency) level underneath. To qualify as a Chai Hui, a region must have at least 30,000 baptized believers, and a certain number of trained leaders and training centers. By last year, there were 22 such Chai Hui's throughout China in the CGF. **It's believed the cult has kidnapped EVERY ONE of these top leaders.**

At the time of writing this newsletter we have learned that one of kidnapped pastors was very vocal in witnessing to his captors, and wouldn't stop praying loudly to the Lord. Despite being threatened he wouldn't stop, so the Eastern Lightning cut his tongue out.

This kidnapping has shaken all house church

believers across China. They have been fighting with infiltration from the Eastern Lightning for more than 10 years, but never before has there been such a coordinated attack launched against house church leadership.

Chinese Church leaders throughout the country believe they have entered spiritual warfare at its highest level. This action by the Eastern Lightning has roused them not only to pray for the release of these 33 leaders, but to mount a revolution to completely destroy the Eastern Lightning once and for all. They see this as a spiritual fight and are determined to win at all costs. Unprecedented levels of prayer and communication are taking place between believers from different groups.

Thousands of believers inside China are fasting and praying around the clock for God's intervention.

**They invite you to join them.**





## The Eastern Lightning Cult

**"The satanic cult 'Eastern Lightning' is one of the most evil and deceitful cults I have ever seen in China. They are positively sheep in wolves' clothing; they attack Jesus Christ, twist and defraud the Bible, destroy families and lives, causing great hurt and destruction to Christians who have been bought by the precious blood of the Saviour! They are devils dressed as ministers of light, workers of Satan, and false prophets after the ways of Balaam. May the Lord have mercy upon the elect that they may be able to discern, to reject all lies and the deceitful words from Satan. May our brethren be on the alert! May the deceived quickly repent and return!"**

- Pastor Pang K.H.,  
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

A few years ago I had the privilege of speaking to house church leaders in a meeting in China. I noticed one young lady in her early 20s who was attending the meeting. During the meal times and breaks she hobbled around the room, painfully dragging her crippled right leg behind her. Her face was gaunt, void of the expressions of deep joy that permeated the faces of the other Christians in the meeting.

At the end of the day's training the brother who organized the meeting asked my coworker and I if we would pray for some of the leaders. Of course we agreed, and the very first believer to come up to us was the partially-crippled young woman. Thinking she was seeking prayer for her injuries, I asked, "What happened to your leg?" She immediately looked down at the floor as tears welled up in her eyes.

"Pastor," she quietly explained, "Several months ago I was deceived into joining the Eastern Lightning cult. When I realized they didn't believe the Bible and weren't believers in Jesus I tried to leave, but they wouldn't let me go. To prevent my escape they severely beat my legs with an iron bar. With the help of another Christian sister I was finally able to flee, but the Eastern Lightning have sent agents to find and murder me. My left leg is almost back to normal now, but my right leg is badly damaged and it gives me great pain."

After taking a deep breath she continued, "Please pray for me, not only that God would restore my leg but also my mind. The cult brainwashed and tortured me for weeks. I am still struggling to regain God's peace in my life that I had previously. Please also pray the Lord would hide me from those who wish to take my life."

Eastern Lightning, or *Dongfang Shandian* in Chinese, was founded by Zhao Weishan in Acheng City, Heilongjiang Province, in 1989. Zhao started a new group which he called 'Church of the Everlasting Fountain.' He began to call himself "Powerful Lord."

They grew rapidly, printing tens of thousands of booklets and tracts outlining their views. By 1991, when the group was declared illegal and their printing press was shut down, they already had thousands of followers.

Zhao and his leading coworkers fled from the authorities in Heilongjiang and restarted their activities in Henan Province. In 1993 Zhao changed the name of the cult to "Real God" and said he had received divine revelation on the verse "***For as lightning that comes the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.***" (Matthew 24:27). This is how they came to be commonly known as the "Eastern Lightning," or "Lightning from the East."

Zhao sent his main leaders throughout Henan Province, spreading their influence among thousands. Many of the deceived who joined their group were illiterate rural house church members, who had little Bible training and so were susceptible to the cult's influence. They also targeted educated university students who have an unstable grounding in the Bible.

Eastern Lightning (EL) quickly spread to most parts of China. It has grown with remarkable speed, and is today believed to number in the millions of members.

Instead of trying to convert unbelievers to their group, the EL appears to have decided it is better to deceive existing Christians. They don't mind targeting nominal believers, but their chief goal is to attack church leaders and those with the most influence. Their methods have included financial inducement, beatings and torture, sexual entrapment, and brainwashing.

In recent years the EL are believed to have won over leading Communist Party figures in various localities. After indoctrinating them and being sure of their allegiance, the cult then persuades the officials to use their influence to protect cult members, and to create ways for the group to multiply.

### ***What the Eastern Lightning Believe***

EL theology appears to evolve year by year, but it can be broken down into three or four main categories. This information is taken from one of the cult's own books.

**The Female Messiah** : The cult believes God has appeared in three different eras throughout history, using different names. The first era was the **Age of the Law**, when God's name was Jehovah.

Next was the **Age of Grace**, when the EL

believe "God changed His name to Jesus. They deny the deity of Christ, stating that 'Jesus is a created being.'"

The **Third Age** is the present "age of the Kingdom," and God has changed His name yet again, this time to "Lightning." In this Age, the cult claims there is "only judgment and punishment, without any grace." This age is superior to the others. Only those who believe in the female messiah of the Third Age can be saved. They blasphemously say "the words spoken by Jesus are worthless."

The Eastern Lightning twists Scripture to "prove" that Jesus Christ has already returned, as a 30-year-old plain-looking Chinese woman living in Henan Province! They claim Christ already returned "as a thief in the night" in 1990, and entered the churches of China with great power. Ironically, the identity and location of the cult's new messiah is unknown. It seems this woman named Lightning is only a fictional character rather than an actual person alive in China today.

**Attacks on the Bible:** Like all cults, the EL refuses to accept the authority of the Bible, and attack it at every opportunity. They claim "no one is qualified to study Scripture. No one can understand that book. All who follow the female Christ must throw aside the Bible."

Now that we have read about some of the beliefs of the Eastern Lightning, you may be wondering how they have managed to convince so many Chinese Christians to join them. Surely most believers in China are not so Biblically illiterate to be sucked into this obvious trap?

The EL themselves discovered that the great majority of Christians would not join their movement and could easily see through their deception, so around 1996 they launched a new phase. They turned to violence to convert believers to their ways.

## *The Eastern Lightning Handbook*

One of the books written by the EL is an “insider handbook,” instructing members how to ruin a church, gather information, win the trust of leaders, convert pastors, and even how to bring an entire congregation under the influence of EL. Here is a summary of direct quotes from the handbook:

1. Spying is making use of various connections and methods to gain access to the inner workings of churches, winning their trust and confidence, and understanding their structure and plans.
2. Do not speak in such a way as to make others suspicious of you. Be sober and normal, leaving a good impression. Let proper and orderly patterns govern your speech, sleeping, and eating. Be well mannered, dress neatly and normally...
3. You must have some basic knowledge of the Bible. Take special note on what Jesus said in the New Testament, the epistles of Paul, and passages in Revelation concerning saving grace.
4. Do **not** spy out liberal denominations.... **You should spy out the following: Those who believe in Jesus, pray to Jesus, who thirst for God's revelation; Real believers who truly love God,** those with no serious physical disability and a sane mind.
5. How to get the most out of spying: (a) You must try your best not to let people know you are lying, even as we for the sake of our work speak not the truth. (b) During your first few times in a new church speak little and ask many questions. (c) Say what they want to hear. Be sincere in prayer, mention some moving, sad things, and ask for more blessings for their families and the church. (d) For those sheep more selfish, or those with families, observe their behavior and make use of their

weak points to maintain contact. For example, oblige people if they want to take you as their mentor or confidant. (e) Some believe crying is important in churches, so you should also cry with sadness and bitterness, thus moving their hearts and winning their trust. (f) Some churches believe a Christian should be outwardly suffering, or persecuted. Therefore you should act with a greater degree of seriousness in order to satisfy such people. (g) Do not, at anytime, preach during this spy stage. Only share some personal experiences or short testimonies, so that people have a good impression of you.

6. Bridge building occurs after you have laid a good network of contacts. You will then be able to change people's perspectives, picking on ideas or thoughts which will easily disrupt God's work, changing them one by one. In other words, the work of bridge building is to introduce your new teachings that will spark in them “interest,” “appetite,” and “a heart of desire.”

## *Violence*

Thousands of Christians across China have been physically beaten, tortured, or poisoned by the EL. Hundreds of believers are missing. Although most of those missing may have ended up changing sides and joining the cult, there are dozens of known deaths caused by the brutality of the EL.

Let's read the words of just one house church pastor as he tells what happened when his church was targeted by the cult:

“I know not a few brethren who have fallen victim to violence at the hands of the EL. In this phase, the cult will first try to trick the victim. They will call them as though they are a family member, invite them to pray, etc. After the victim is tricked and brought somewhere else, the EL turns violent. Nearly all of them carry a cudgel, which they use to

hit the victim's vital parts, such as their four limbs and/or his head, until he becomes unconscious. Then the believer is taken to a prearranged place where the EL indoctrinate him with the teachings of the cult. If the subject refuses to accept the teachings, they will turn to more violent methods. Friends tell me of such cruel methods as cutting off an ear, breaking legs, and there was even an old sister who had her neck broken because she would not accept the teachings of the cult or their "lady Jesus."

"During this violent phase one of my father's colleagues was deceived into going with them, and acid was thrown at him. Another colleague of mine had his water poisoned. My aunt's neighbor was poisoned to death. These are accounts of which I personally know. The victims are always church members who are more influential."

### ***Sexual and Monetary Enticement***

Taking advantage of house church Christians' financial hardship, the EL has offered extraordinary sums of money to church leaders if they will convert. Nanyang County in southwest Henan Province is one of the centers of China's revival. Elders of the Nanyang Church were offered 150,000 RMB (more than US\$ 18,000) to join the EL, plus the promise of two or three mistresses. This amount of money is more than some rural farmers in China can make in their whole lifetime. By appealing to these two basic sinful desires of mankind, greed and lust, the faith of some has been shipwrecked.

Often after kidnapping victims, the EL employs sexual temptation in a bid to destroy the reputations of their victims. Not all Christian leaders fall into sexual sin of course, but this does not seem to stop the EL. They

have been known to drug their victims, and then take video and photographs of the drugged brother with a naked EL woman. The cult then feels they "own" a pastor for life, even if they are unable to convert him. If he ever attempts to enter a leadership role in the church again, the EL invariably slip into the church, and wait for an opportune time to spread rumors of the pastor's immorality, backed with photographic "evidence."

### ***The Testimony of a House Church Sister***

Following is a condensed testimony from a house church sister in northwest China who was kidnapped by the EL two years ago. It would be bad enough if this was an isolated incident, but unfortunately this sister's experience is representative of hundreds of others throughout China....

"Nine months before my nightmare commenced, a man came to our house church claiming he wanted to know the true God. Of course, we could not turn him away so we told him the Gospel. He responded warmly and seemed, over the months, to grow in the grace of God and knowledge of His Word. He always asked questions that new believers should ask, was baptized, and gained our confidence. We are still shocked to find that all along this "brother" was a spy sent from the EL to destroy us.

In March 2000 he approached us saying, 'I've just returned from Lanzhou (Gansu Province) where my brother lives. There are hundreds of people there who are in the dark. They have never heard of the way, the truth, or the light. They are as I was before God opened my eyes. I've never been trained to preach or teach, so I beg you to please go and speak to them. Bring them out of the darkness!'



Let them know and understand the truth and fundamentals of the Gospel.'

We could not refuse such a call. We became excited, threw away all caution, and started planning our trip. After all, this was a brother who had been in our church for nine months. He had shown much humility and zeal for God's Word. With much sweet talk and flattery he deceived not only us, but the whole church. It was difficult to see through his lies at the time, but looking back, it is still unbelievable that we could be so deceived all along. May the Lord forgive us our stupidity and immaturity!

After arriving we were told it would be far better if we would split, the two men staying in Lanzhou and the two women going to Xian, so that our efforts could be maximized.

This was how the EL successfully split the brethren. Later, using similar methods, the two brothers in Lanzhou and the two sisters who went to Xian were convinced to split again.

The two men in Lanzhou were subjected to horrible torture, beatings and constant round-the-clock brainwashing and sexual entrapment. Although neither brother gave in to fornication, they were given "medicine" for their painful injuries. This medicine made one brother even more ill, and he was unable to sleep. He lost his perspective and willpower. His mind was in a state of utter confusion. A woman was taken to his room, where they photographed him in his semi-conscious state with her, to be later used as "proof" of his sexual immorality.

I was taken to Weinan, then to Tongguan, moving constantly. In my first meeting I was asked to teach. The congregation (all EL members) unfailingly praised my sermon, saying things like, "Your sermon was the best we have ever heard, please come to our village to preach."

On the fourth day I was preaching when two men in the congregation made a scene. They were specially chosen by the EL to act as though they were demon possessed. They shouted, "Don't listen to her!" They rolled around on the

ground, hit people, and broke things. I was totally convinced these men were truly possessed. Seeing people possessed by a demon naturally attracted the attention of the congregation. They pleaded with me to cast the demons out. When I tried to pray over them in Jesus' Name, these "possessed" people retaliated, holding me down, sitting on top of me, and beating me. The more I tried to cast out the devils the more possessed they seemed to become.

One of the men mocked me, "Why do you still pray in Jesus' Name? Don't you know Jesus' Name became useless long ago?" The congregation also mocked me, asking "Is Jesus' name really powerless? Why can't you cast out these demons?"

The next day an Eastern Lightning leading "brother" named Wang Enguang came to the meeting. When the two "demon possessed" men saw him they immediately fled to a corner of the room, tried to hide under a table, and shouted, "The Light! It is glaring! I'm afraid!" After some coughing they became calm, and the demons were presumed to have been cast out. The congregation all said with one voice, "Hallelujah! This is the truth!"

I felt humiliated and defeated, while "preacher Wang" took center stage and explained the teachings of the Eastern Lightning. He quoted many verses from the Bible and systematically explained what they believe step by step. Then the members of the congregation took turns speaking, trying to convince me of my erroneous belief in Jesus. My heart became confused, worn down from lack of sleep and constant pressure. Every night they removed my shoes and clothing, so that I wouldn't be able to escape. In addition, there was always one person watching me as I slept. I was never allowed out of the house. If I needed to go to the toilet I was given a pail to use. Slowly they were brainwashing me.

At first, I didn't contemplate escape because of the isolation of where I was being held, and because I had no money. But one day I realized all freedom had been robbed from me and I had to do something before it was too late. God helped me slip away through the hills and I begged my way onto one bus after another until I finally reached Tongguan and Xian. In the end I was able to call my brother in law who asked a friend to give me a train fare back home. When I finally saw the faces of my brethren, I wept uncontrollably."

This dear sister's pastor concludes this terrible story....

"Of the four, she was the last to escape. She had been away for about five months. When she reached home, she didn't look human. She believed she was going to die, and had written two wills, one to her family and one to the church. In her will to the church she wrote **"Dear fellow workers, no matter when, no matter where, coworkers must not separate."**

We all wept when we read her words.

She had been brainwashed so that her mind was in a state of total confusion. She couldn't pray for months. Even one month after her escape, this sister still didn't believe the incident with the two demon-possessed men had been an act, so convincing was their performance.

Many of us fasted and prayed all night for her, asking her to repeat prayers line by line, renouncing the cult and its false teachings.... Thank God, for He listened to our prayers, and this sister shined a little brighter each day.

How can we combat this wicked threat to the Church of Jesus Christ in China? First, we must communicate better. We can never, without prayer and confirmation, promise to go somewhere for speaking engagements. When we travel we must never go alone. The worst thing to happen because of the Eastern Lightning is that the brethren have now lost mutual trust. We do not know if one of the members of our

own congregations is an EL spy, nor can we tell if pastors and leaders from other churches are still walking rightly with God or have come under the EL's influence."

### ***Christians, Don't Lose Heart!***

As we write this newsletter, just days after the kidnapping of 33 house church leaders by the EL, emotions are still running high. It is always grievous and deeply painful when a part of the Body of Christ suffers. This whole situation should remind Christians of a few basic facts:

(a) We are truly combatants in a fierce war. Satan is a very real foe, determined to do whatever is necessary to destroy the Church that is purchased by the precious, spotless Blood of Jesus Christ. Unable to injure God, Satan lashes out at God's children. Because of the false theology that pervades many Western churches (belief that if we live for God, only good things and blessings will result in our lives), many Western believers feel confused when they hear of Christians suffering such vile treatment at the hands of evil men. Such thinking is contrary to Scripture and inconsistent with the experiences of millions of Christians down through the centuries, who lived wholeheartedly for God yet were **"stoned; they were sawn in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated – the world was not worthy of them."** (Hebrews 11:37-38)

(b) Christians around the world should immerse ourselves daily in the Word of God, thereby enriching our fellowship with the living God and helping protect us from deceptive doctrines. If anything, the incredibly sly tactics of the Eastern Lightning remind us that **"such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ."**

***And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.... Their end will be what their actions deserve.*** (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

The Bible warns us to be on guard because ***“...in latter times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons”*** (1 Timothy 4:1).

There is always a Satanic spiritual root behind all twisting and perverting of the Scriptures. The EL have a worldwide vision. They have already opened offices and operate printing presses in New York, Toronto, and San Francisco in North America, have a rapidly growing influence in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and other Southeast Asian nations.

(c) We need to understand that Jesus has already conquered Satan. His final defeat is completely sealed. Jesus has already ***“disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”*** (Colossians 2:15). Although the end result of our battle is already certain, there are many trials and struggles for each Christian to conquer here and now. God wants us to fight a good fight, and also to rest in the fact that the Lord was, is, and always will be the victor in the battle against Satan. ***“Do not be afraid, I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One: I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”*** (Revelation 1:17-18)

(d) We should not lose heart. God knows exactly what has gone on, has seen the pain of His children in China, and will not be mocked forever. He is not only a mighty God, but the Almighty God. He is not just a King, but the King of Kings! Call on Him to show His mighty power. Pray as Moses prayed, ***“Rise up O Lord! May your enemies be scattered; may your foes flee before you.”*** (Numbers 10:15)

(e) Understand if God's children are suffering today it is for a reason that one day will be completely clear. I'm reminded of past

suffering in China, and the fruit it brought forth in the Chinese Church.

In 1900 more than 30,000 Christians in China, including over 200 Western missionaries, were butchered during the Boxer Rebellion. Countless thousands of Christians drew great strength from these martyrs, who set a shining ***“example of patience in the face of suffering.”*** (James 5:10). One young Christian man who was inspired by the martyrs of 1900 was Wang Mingdao, who was interestingly born at the very time of the carnage in 1900. One year later, in 1901, the mighty evangelist John Sung was born, and in 1903 Watchman Nee entered this world. All three learned from the example of the 30,000 Christians killed in 1900. In turn, all three great leaders of the Chinese Church suffered much for their faith.

Wang Mingdao, later known as the Father of the House Churches, was subjected to more than 20 years in prison for the Name of Jesus Christ. Watchman Nee was in prison 25 years, having his tongue cut off because he refused to stop praying and testifying. Thousands, and now millions, of Chinese believers have been inspired by these men's courageous example in the face of extreme suffering.

The past 25 years have seen countless thousands of brave Gospel warriors raised up by God in China. They have been beaten, humiliated, raped, slandered, maimed and killed. The result is an active Church in China now more numerous and fervent than anywhere else in the world. It came at a great price for those believers who spilled their blood on China's soil so that the light and the integrity of the Gospel would be maintained for the next generation.

Now we hear horrific stories of Christians being kidnapped, brainwashed and tortured at the hands of a Satanic cult. The Church has once again been driven to its knees, throwing itself on God and God only for its sustenance. If such conditions continue and

the Lord tarries, what will the size of the Church in China be 20 or 25 years from now? 300 million? 400 million? Pray that one day the believers from the China Gospel Fellowship who are being brutalized even as you read these words, will say with the Apostle Paul ***“Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”*** (2 Corinthians 4:17)

### ***Please Pray!***

■ Pray God's Name would be glorified in China, and in the house churches, and that through all of this Jesus' Name would be lifted up and exalted, drawing all men to Himself.

■ Plead with God to protect the 33 leaders of the China Gospel Fellowship currently being held by the cult in unknown locations. Pray He will reveal their whereabouts, and help them **escape from the snare of the fowler.** (see Psalm 91:3)

■ Pray against the demonic filth of the Eastern Lightning cult. Ask God to bind the dark forces that control it, and to lose its captives. Ask God to be with the Chinese leaders as He was with Jeremiah, who was able to say, ***“The Lord is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten.”*** (Jeremiah 20:11)

■ Ask God to comfort the families of those who have been kidnapped. Pray they will experience the near presence and love of the Lord over this time. Pray practical help such as food and money will reach them.

■ Pray more Bibles and teaching books would be available to house church Christians in China, and systematic training would help the Christians be stronger in the faith and not as susceptible to being deceived by cults like the Eastern Lightning.

■ Pray the Church in China will learn and grow through this experience, and that God will use it to sharpen His people to be more effective witnesses of His death and resurrection.

### ***How Can You Help?***

Already many people have contacted us, asking how they can practically help the believers in China. In response to this present crisis our coworkers inside China and Asia Harvest have launched a new project to help counteract the influence of the Eastern Lightning among the house churches.

Last year a Chinese pastor wrote a book exposing the lies, deception and practices of the Eastern Lightning. The book includes almost 100 pages of testimonies from believers across China who have fallen prey to the cult, before God graciously allowed them to be restored.

It was already planned to publish this brother's book soon, but the present crisis had made it an immediate priority. **We plan to print and distribute 200,000 of these books inside China.** We believe this will make a significant positive impact, helping prevent thousands becoming victims of the Eastern Lightning. **Each book costs just 5 RMB (60 U.S. cents) to print.** We guarantee that 100% of money received for this project will be used directly to print and distribute these books.

We don't want to make a big issue about this project, but simply want to give an opportunity to those people who feel the Lord leading them to help be involved financially with the printing of these books. If you would like to help, please send your check along with the filled out Response form in this newsletter, or if you prefer you can go to our website and donate with a credit card.



## ASIAN WORKERS FUND

### *Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

*Because of your prayers and partnership we are currently able to support 100 Asian evangelists for a 12-month period.*

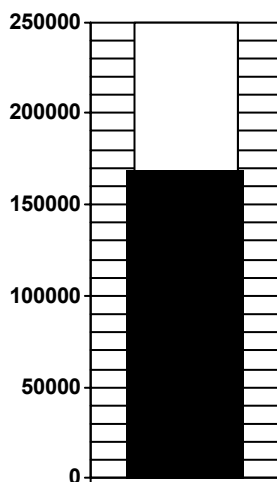
Asian churches give their tithes and offerings, but the economy of many places is so poor that here is little or nothing left for “big” expenses such as sending an evangelist or a missionary to an unreached area. In other cases the church may have enough just to send the worker to the field, but is unable to support them once they are there.

In China some house church evangelists have even sold their own blood at the hospital, receiving just a few cents as payment. They then buy a few meals with this money, giving them enough strength to continue to preach the Gospel for another week or two. These servants of the Lord have given their whole lives to the Gospel. We are in contact with thousands of workers who need support.

The **Asian Workers Fund** assists workers who are doing strategic ministry in Asia. Please pray about whether you, your family, home fellowship or church could help support one or more of these workers with help of **\$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to the workers in need.** A prayer card will be sent to every supporter of this project, with information about your worker to help you remember to pray for him or her.

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

### *Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word*

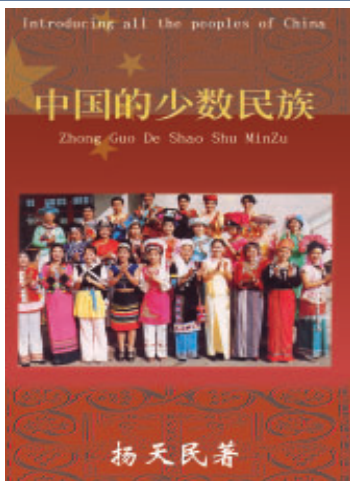


**Current Total: 168,411  
Chinese Bibles Printed  
Cost: US\$2.00 per Bible**

Although a limited number of Bibles are now permitted to be printed inside China, they are not enough to meet the need. Because of the tremendous growth rate of the church in China (some say 30,000 new believers each day), there is a serious lack of Bibles. Millions of Christians are still without God's Word. We are partnering with six large house church networks in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for the church. These Bibles are distributed to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning throughout the world's largest nation. **100% of your gifts go directly to printing Bibles. Each Bible costs just US\$ 2.00 to print and deliver.**

## OPERATION CHINA

*Printing 200,000 books for the Chinese Church*



**GOAL:** 200,000 books for the  
Chinese house churches  
**CURRENT TOTAL:** 84,066  
**COST:** \$1.20 per book

We have had a great response to our project to print 200,000 Chinese-language copies of our book on China's minority groups for the house church networks of China. The books will help mobilize hundreds of Chinese believers to reach all 490 tribes and people groups in China. Costing just US\$ 1.20 for a 500-page book, we have so far received enough finances to print more than 84,000 books. Thank you and please continue to pray that God would provide the full amount needed.

## CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

*Supporting pastors now crippled by persecution and torture*

*Because of your prayers and generous support we are currently able to support **417** living martyrs every month.*

In China, Christians are regularly beaten, tortured, and even killed because they love Jesus. One report states there are presently 4,014 house church Christians in prison labor camps, and 23,686 under arrest. 129 have been murdered by the authorities.

Last year house church leaders in China gave us details of about 1,000 Christians leaders who are now permanently crippled or maimed as a result of the torture they received at the hands of the police. Many of their stories are absolutely horrific, yet they remain faithful to the Lord. The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of their injuries. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Please pray about whether you, your family, home fellowship or church could help support one or more of these living martyrs with help of **\$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to the workers.** A prayer card will be sent to everyone who regularly supports this project, with information about your worker to help you remember to pray.



# Asia Harvest



Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe! (Joel 3:13)

Box 17 - Chang Klan P.O. - Chiang Mai 50101 - THAILAND

Tel: (66-53) 801-487 Fax: (66-53) 800-665

Email: [office@asiaharvest.org](mailto:office@asiaharvest.org) Website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

July 2002 - Newsletter #67



## Henan Province

Ripe for Harvest (PART THREE)

# ***From the Front Lines***

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

***“And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.” 2 Corinthians 8:1-2***

***“What kind of church is the Chinese house church?”***

I was asked this question once by a Western Christian who had never been to China. As he continued, it became apparent what he really wanted to know was what kind of denomination the Chinese house churches are. Are they an evangelical church? Baptists? Charismatics?

I thought about his question for a few minutes before answering, “The house churches in China are a Biblical kind of church.”

That answer didn’t satisfy him, but it is the most honest answer I knew to give.

Note I didn’t say “a perfect church” but rather “a Biblical church.” The Chinese Church has plenty of problems, temptations, trials and weaknesses. It contains those who have various theological views, those who fall into sin, and those who cause division, just like the New Testament church.

But the Chinese house churches are also like the early Church in that the vast majority of believers are fully committed to Christ, willing to die for Him and willing to live every moment for His glory. They have endured through decades of suffering, imprisonment, hardship and torture and have been faithful to Jesus. From the midst of the fire of testing they have come forth as refined vessels, preaching the Gospel at every opportunity and seeing God move in great power. Denominational tags mean little, the focus is on a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and making him known.

In the West some Christians believe the day of miracles ended when the last Apostle died, or when the last book of the Bible was completed. In China the house church believers look upon such views as ridiculous and tragic. They see God perform miracles regularly, yet take no credit themselves, realizing it is all the work of God. They always acknowledge the greatest miracle of all to be a heart changed from darkness to light by Jesus’ blood. If you are a Christian who thinks miracles are not for today, you would not enjoy visiting a Chinese house church, nor will you enjoy reading this newsletter!

In our March issue we started our look at the church in Henan Province, China. We read about the early missionaries who labored faithfully in Henan without seeing much fruit. We wrote about some of the Christians who endured horrendous opposition for many years in order to keep the light of the Gospel burning in Henan. In this issue we look at how the Church in Henan started to grow, with the help of numerous miracles and signs and wonders that pointed people to the Cross of Jesus. These testimonies have been told to us directly by house church leaders over the past few years. They were witnessed and attested to by many people.





## Update on the Kidnapped Church Leaders

Our May newsletter was a special issue asking for your prayers on behalf of 33 house church leaders with the China Gospel Fellowship who were kidnapped by the Eastern Lightning cult in April.

Praise God! Now all of the leaders have been released and are back home with their families and churches. They have all gone through terrible physical, mental and spiritual torment and will take some time before they are restored and able to lead the church again. The cult used drugs to weaken and control the minds of the believers. Please continue to pray fervently for the China Gospel Fellowship, that they will grow closer to the Lord through this ordeal, and their work will continue to expand and touch millions of souls for Jesus Christ throughout China.

The CGF plan to release a statement soon, but they have already expressed their deep gratitude for all the people around the world who prayed for them.

We have also had a very encouraging response to our project to print books for the Chinese house churches that outline the doctrines, methods and tricks of the Eastern Lightning cult. We believe this book, which was being written by Chinese believers even before the kidnapping took place, will help thousands of Chinese believers avoid the demonic deception this awful cult has been able to spread across China.

## Henan - Ripe for Harvest

We ended our March newsletter talking about how the Gospel was preserved in China's Henan Province through many years of dark trials and tribulations. Brother Xu Yongze is respected for being the first Christian to dare to preach the Gospel publicly, when he boldly started sharing at meetings in 1968, in the midst of the Cultural Revolution.

Thousands of Christians in Henan were killed during the 1950s, '60s and '70s. Many leaders were brutally murdered in front of crowds of people, while others were simply hauled off and never heard of again.

In the early 1980s there was hope in China that a new, more relaxed time had arrived when believers could worship together with more freedom. These hopes were dashed in 1983 when the government launched an "anti spiritual pollution" campaign and a new season of brutal persecution was underway. Now we continue our look at the Church in Henan Province, and recount some of the many testimonies we have been told by China's Christians.

### Judge Astounded by Courageous Christians' Love

During the year of intense persecution in 1983, an elderly Christian widow named Chen Meiyong, along with her son and daughter-in-law, lived in central Henan Province. The old woman often prayed in Jesus' Name for sick people, and many recovered.

One day a very sick man was brought to their home. He was already knocking at death's door, but the family couldn't turn down the opportunity to minister God's Word to the man and pray for his recovery.

The man couldn't sit upright, so he was carried into the house and laid upon a bed. Just a few minutes later, right in the middle of their prayers, the man died!

spread far and wide, and hundreds of people packed out the courtroom. Some came eager to see the Christians punished, others came out of curiosity, while many believers came to pray for their brethren. Since their arrest the three had been held in separate cells and had no opportunity to communicate with each other. Chen Meiying appeared first before the judge. Instead of pleading for



In China if someone dies while under your care, you are held responsible. When the dead man's non-Christian family heard what had happened they lodged a complaint with the police. The mother, daughter, and son-in-law were all arrested and charged with murder! According to the law, someone would need to be put to death to atone for the death of the man.

The day finally came for the three Christians to appear in court in Pingdingshan City. News of the trial had

clemency, she amazed everyone by confidently proclaiming, "Judge, I am the one you should hold guilty for the man's death. He came to my house and he died while I was praying for him. I am fully responsible and deserve to die. Please let my son and his wife go free - they have done nothing wrong. I am old and have lived a full life; they are young and have much to offer our nation. Please let them go free!"

The judge and the entire courtroom were shocked. Usually those who faced the death

penalty cried and screamed their innocence. That day, the old Christian widow had calmly and boldly asked for the punishment to fall on her! In her heart she wanted the two younger believers to be spared, as they had more years left in this world to preach the Gospel. She had no fear of death, knowing it was merely a graduation into the presence of her loving Lord who had purchased her with His own Blood.

The judge called for Chen's son to be brought into the courtroom. Instead of defending himself, he boldly declared, "Judge, I am the one to blame for this man's death. I am the man of the house and should be considered fully responsible for what happened. My mother is just an old lady who couldn't harm anyone, and my wife wasn't involved. Please let them live. I am the one you must punish!"

Likewise when the daughter-in-law appeared she too took responsibility for the man's death and pleaded with the judge to let the other two go free.

An argument started in the courtroom between the three accused Christians, as they tried to convince each other to let them take the punishment.

The judge didn't know what to do. All three had asked to die without even having a trial! Nobody had ever heard of such a thing before. News of what happened spread all across Henan Province. It was a tremendous testimony of Christian love and courage.

As a result of all three of them accepting the blame, the judge decided to sentence none of them to death. He said, "I don't believe any of you is the true murderer." He sentenced the trio to eight, seven and six years in prison respectively.

Undeterred, each of them saw their time in prison as an opportunity to minister for the Lord, and they led dozens of prisoners to faith in Christ.

Today they are reunited as a family, and continue to pour their lives out for the Lord, preaching the Gospel, encouraging the believers, and praying for the sick.

## Satan Vents His Fury

In Henan the spiritual battle intensified during the 1980s. As thousands of people became Christians, Satan vented his fury on the believers, doing his best to destroy their faith through persecution and deception.

At one stage, house church leaders in Henan estimated that 40% of all prisoners serving terms in labor camps throughout the province were there because of their faith in Christ. The brutal suppression of the Body of Christ continues to this day. According to Freedom House, approximately 300 house church believers were arrested and incarcerated in Luoyang City prison between July 1996 and June 1997.

On May 25, 1996, a 36-year-old Christian woman, Zhang Xiuju, was dragged out of her home in the middle of the night by Public Security Bureau officers in Xihua County, Henan Province.

After being beaten throughout the night, Zhang died the next day on May 26. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, the authorities returned her body to her parents' home, and gave them ¥ 5,000 (about US\$ 600) compensation.

The Public Security office in Zhang's hometown claim she died while jumping out of a police car while in custody.

Local house church believers dismissed the claim, pointing out that the scars and rope marks around her wrists were consistent with



torture techniques commonly employed by the police when they detain house church believers.

### Going the Extra Mile

The house churches in Henan never pray for a change of government, but rather they pray God would save the souls of the lost in China!

In fact, many Chinese Christians pray persecution will continue in China, because they are afraid if life becomes easy and their faith does not cost as much, the church will get lazy and fall asleep.

They pray their attitude will be one that embraces suffering as a gift from the Lord. With that attitude, they are willing to go the extra mile, and there is nothing evil men or the world can do to them.

Brother Shui lived in Fangcheng County

in southern Henan Province. During the Cultural Revolution, Christians were often forced to parade in public wearing large “dunce” hats, made of heavy bamboo. The people came out to mock and abuse the “criminals” who wore them.

When the time came for Brother Shui to be paraded in public, the police were unable to find a spare dunce hat for him, so they made him walk without one. This deeply upset him, because he wanted to bear the reproach of the Lord.

Each prisoner's crimes were written on their hat. For Christians they often wrote, “This person believes in Jesus.” This was meant to be a humiliation, but many believers wore the hat as a badge of honor for their Lord. It was a witness to unbelievers, who could clearly see the peace and joy on the faces of the Christians compared to the other criminals.



Brother Shui cried out, “O Lord, why did you forget me?” On the second day a dunce hat was found for Brother Shui, which made him so happy. His face shone with joy and tears welled up in his eyes as he paraded through the streets, now he was considered worthy to fully suffer for the Name of the Lord.

After the ceremony Brother Shui asked the police if he could keep the dunce hat and take it home when he was released from the prison, as a reminder of his “crimes.” The police found this request very strange, but they consented! When he returned to his farm, his neighbors were amazed to see Shui tending his cows and sheep while wearing the dunce hat! For him it was a treasured souvenir of when the Lord allowed him to suffer for the Name of Jesus.

His neighbors thought he had lost his mind, and that he was a shameless man. They despised him. But Brother Shui was a man who loved Jesus with all his heart.

The government was infuriated when they saw Brother Shui embracing what was meant to be his humiliation. They realized they could do nothing to make him change his ways or renounce his Lord.

The world can do nothing to a Christian who has no fear of man.

Brother Shui wholeheartedly served the Lord for the rest of his life until he went to be with Jesus last year, leaving a testimony of courage and faith to many believers.

In 1966, in Nanzhao County (Henan Province), in a small town called Yunyang, one brother also had the experience of wearing a ‘dunce hat’ and being paraded through the streets for the Gospel. This brother was blind and couldn’t see a thing. Everyone knew he had been totally blind for many years.

The people came out and beat him on the back and on the front, smearing dirt and rotten things on him, and riled against him. Two

guards were placed on either side of him in order to lead him forward.

Suddenly this brother began to shout, “Please don’t guide me anymore! I can see! I can see!” God had miraculously opened his eyes right in the midst of his persecution!

This brother is still alive today in Nanzhao, and can still see!

## God’s Wrath Leads Many to Repentance

The persecutors of the church in Henan have done unmentionable things to the believers, but they haven’t always had things their own way.

Some government officials who ordered a crackdown on the church were suddenly struck with cancer, while the family members of some persecutors began to die in accidents. The officials knew they were being judged for their actions against God’s people.

There was one well-known official whose actions against believers had been particularly brutal. He showed no mercy or remorse, and treated Christians like animals undeserving of compassion.

The one person this official loved dearly was his young daughter. She was the apple of his eye. One day he returned home to find that daughter had suddenly become insane.

For weeks she was unable to respond normally to her parents or anyone else. Leading doctors and psychiatrists were brought in to treat her, all to no avail. The official’s daughter could only say one sentence during this time. Constantly, day and night, she declared, “You should stop persecuting the Christians! You should stop persecuting the Christians!”

Finally, realizing God’s wrath had fallen on him, the official decided he wouldn’t

persecute God's people any more. On the same day he repented his daughter was fully restored to sanity.

## Man Dies For Mocking God

In 1995 three female evangelists traveled to Xinye County in southern Henan. Just one week later 1,100 people had repented at their preaching, and numerous people were healed of sickness.

During one meeting, an unbeliever came up and cursed the sisters at the top of his voice with vile and disgusting remarks. The women tried to ignore his filthy display.

After the meeting concluded, a group of unbelievers came up and asked how the three could continue without retaliating, and how they even appeared to have compassion in their eyes for the vile man.

They responded, "We leave this man in the hands of God." At the exact time they said these words, the blasphemous man fell to the ground and died. This caused the fear of God to fall on the people who had witnessed this judgment, and many more people repented and accepted the Lord.

## Unusual Signs and Wonders Lead Many to Christ

Miracles and powerful signs and wonders are a common occurrence among the house churches in Henan. Healings, deliverances of demons, and other miracles often testify to non-Christians throughout the province of God's power and reality. We have even documented several clear testimonies of dead people being raised back to life. The Henan house church leaders are always careful not

to focus on the miracles themselves, however, but prefer to focus on the Miracle Maker, Jesus Christ.

Here are just a few stories we have been told by church leaders in Henan Province....

## Frozen by the Lord

The official Three-Self church in 1997 conservatively estimated 160,000 Christians living in Henan's Zhoukou Prefecture, although house church sources say there are probably in excess of a million believers in the prefecture. Much of the growth in Zhoukou has been due to signs and wonders, and unusual events drawing unbelievers to Christ.

In 1995, five local ruffians came to disrupt a Gospel meeting. These five were renown thugs, feared by all the people in the area. They shouted obscenities and challenged everything the preacher said. They then started to savagely kick and beat him with a stick.

The relatively newly-saved preacher prayed 'Lord, you have to answer my prayer now, or I'm going home.' The moment he prayed, 'In Jesus Name, I bind you' – all of these five men immediately knelt down on the ground and placed their hands behind their backs as though they had just been bound by a tight rope.

Soon, five of the man's relatives came and tried unsuccessfully to lift them up. The young preacher said, "God has bound them, and even if you come with a crane you won't be able to move them."

All of this was witnessed by hundreds of people. The fear of God fell on them and they shouted, "Please let them be free! Please let them be free!"



The preacher ignored the men, and continued sharing the Gospel, carefully explaining the way of the Cross to the captivated audience. When he finished, he said, ‘Get up in Jesus Name!’ The men immediately stood up and were free.

The bound men later reported that while bound they were unable to move any of their body parts, yet their hearing and minds remained unaffected. God graciously allowed them to hear every word the preacher spoke!

More than 100 people, including these five men, repented and were saved because of this sign and wonder.

### God’s Video Screen

When some house church preachers visited one district, a strange occurrence happened. While they spoke, the crowd was able to see images of what the preachers were

speaking about at the time. Witnesses said it was as though a slide projector or video was playing in midair, even though the evangelists were employing no such device.

When they spoke about the crucifixion, everyone present – believers and unbelievers alike – saw a gripping image of Jesus hanging on the Cross with His Blood flowing down. When they said, “Jesus was born in a manger” they saw a picture of a manger in front of them. This continued for more than four hours, and was witnessed by more than 1,000 people. Almost everybody repented and dedicated their lives to follow Jesus Christ. They said, “God is real and lives among you. What can we do except thank Him and believe in Him?”

### Tongue-Tied Officer

During the Cultural Revolution, in Henan, there was a police officer who



severely persecuted the believers. He spoke vile and threatening words against God's people and was always busy making plans for more arrests.

One day this man stuck his tongue out and was unable to put it back into his mouth! He visited many doctors but nobody knew how to help him. One doctor told him he should seek a Christian for prayer. He visited the home of one of the Christian leaders he had persecuted. The family was afraid to see him.

When the Christians saw his tongue was sticking out and he was unable to say anything intelligible, their fear of this man was changed to pity. The believers realized this man wanted them to pray for him, but they knew if he was healed he would go straight back to persecuting them. Therefore they told him, "There is no way we will pray for your physical healing unless you give your heart to Jesus

Christ and believe in Him! And after you receive Christ, you need to agree that you will come to our meetings regularly, and learn to love and serve God with all your heart."

The officer was commanded to kneel down and repent. Immediately God healed his tongue. This man became a believer and stopped persecuting the believers.

This incident was the start of a great revival in that village, when many families came to know Jesus.

This man is still a Christian today.

## School-Children Have to Praise Jesus

The revival in Henan Province has affected the lives of millions of people.

Xixia County is located in southern Henan Province. In Hongqiao Village, the Gospel had been preached there with great power. Revival



affected the entire area as people lived under the awesome reality of God's presence every day. Relationships were restored, stolen goods given back to their owners, and everywhere meetings took place as people hungered to learn more of God's Word.

Even the students in the government school couldn't help but sing Gospel songs during class time. There was no way to contain the childrens' infectious joy. The atheist teachers were amazed, for when the students in one class started to sing, the students in the next classroom also spontaneously joined in worshipping the lover of their souls, Jesus Christ.

Because the teachers and school administrators couldn't contain the children's desire to worship, the Public Security Bureau were brought in. Over 300 of the Christians in Hongqiao Village were arrested. The entire

population of the village is just a little over 1,000 people!

The three hundred who were blessed to suffer for the Lord became even stronger Christians, and they all committed themselves to full time ministry! Now practically every soul in Hongqiao village has been saved.

*In our next newsletter we will continue our look at the remarkable Church in Henan Province.*





## From our Mailbox

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Thank you so very, very much for the excellent article you wrote on the Eastern Lightning cult and their evil work. It moved me so and I am praying for all of you. The Lord gave me this verse "If they drink any deadly thing it will by no means hurt them." Mark 16:18. I felt this was for the whole church, strengthening them to expect that this kidnapping will not stop the work of God in China. The Chinese church is so powerful and so committed and sacrificial, that I believe they really threaten the enemy, especially since the China Gospel Fellowship has a focus on reaching the unreached minorities. Often when God is going to work, things become more difficult for the people of God, but God will still prevail! I know this is a terrible time for our dear brothers and sisters! It is a time to walk in the light. Our only protection in these circumstances is to humble ourselves completely in the sight of the Lord and allow Him to be the one who vindicates and restores and lifts us up. I believe the Lord is allowing his people to go through these horrors so that they can have wisdom and empathy to lead many people out and into freedom. He allowed His own dear people to be enslaved in Egypt, and then instructed them to welcome the stranger and the refugee and the alien, because they knew what it felt like. Above all, please remind one another of the Apostle Paul's words in Phillipians 1:27-30. Remind them to be "in nothing terrified by your adversaries, which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God." "For to you it has been granted, for the sake of Christ, not only to believe in Him but to also suffer for His sake." God will utterly prevail, and all of us will see Him humiliate those who try to stand against Him!

Meg, Arizona, U.S.A.

I am a student of Chinese language and culture. You Christians are ridiculous! Who do you think you are? What gave you the idea that people in China need your Christ? I grew up Catholic and I respect the Christian god, but I also respect any gods, as long as there is good in his/her teachings. Why can't you do that as well and leave people alone?

Steffi S. - received by email

I am 17 years old and studying in a computer technology course. I always pray through everything you send me in your newsletter. I am thankful to the Lord Jesus Christ for giving me a chance to be part of your mission. I am very blessed reading your newsletters. When I first read them I prayed, "Lord, I want to be yours forever. Please make me a faithful child of yours." May God always give you strength and courage to continue reaching the unreached for His glory and honor.

Cleofe D., Philippines

## ASIAN WORKERS FUND

*Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

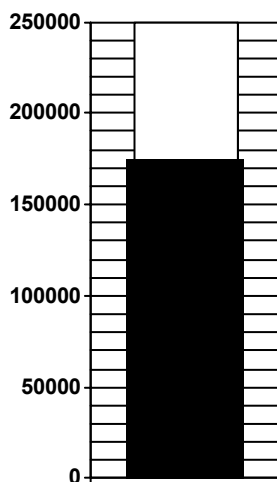
*Because of your prayers and partnership we are currently able to support 148 Asian evangelists for a 12-month period.*

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## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

*Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word*



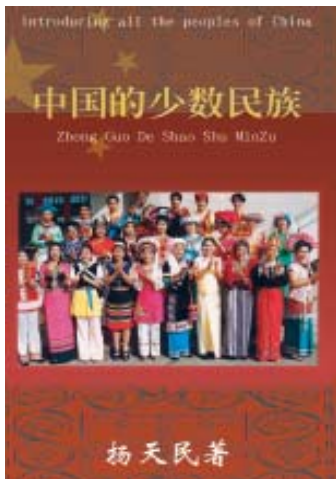
**Current Total: 172,174  
Chinese Bibles Printed  
Cost: US\$2.00 per Bible**

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## OPERATION CHINA

*Printing 200,000 books for the Chinese Church*



**GOAL: 200,000 books for the Chinese house churches**

**CURRENT TOTAL: 84,406**

**COST: \$1.20 per book**

We have had a great response to our project to print 200,000 Chinese-language copies of our book on China's minority groups for the house church networks of China. The books will help mobilize hundreds of Chinese believers to reach all 490 tribes and people groups in China. Costing just US \$1.20 for a 500-page book, we have so far received enough finances to print more than 84,400 books. Thank you and please continue to pray that God would provide the full amount needed.

## CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

*Supporting pastors crippled by persecution and torture*

*Because of your prayers and support  
we are currently able to support  
**584** living martyrs every month.*

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."

(Voice of the Martyrs)

In China today Christians are regularly beaten, tortured and even killed because they love Jesus. House church leaders have given us details of more than 1,000 Christian leaders who have been crippled as a result of torture received at the hands of the authorities. The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of their injuries. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. You can support one or more of these living martyrs with a gift of **US \$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to this project.** A prayer card will be sent to every regular supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to help remind you to pray.





# Asia Harvest



Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe! (Joel 3:13)

Box 17 - Chang Klan P.O. - Chiang Mai 50101 - THAILAND

Tel: (66-53) 801-487

Fax: (66-53) 800-665

Email: [office@asiaharvest.org](mailto:office@asiaharvest.org)

Website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

October 2002 - Newsletter #68



Waiting to hear: A man from the tiny unreached Sauke tribe in Nepal carrying his firewood.

## Getting to Know Asia Harvest

# Getting to Know Asia Harvest

In the past few years we've become aware that as our ministry has expanded, there has been an on-going need to explain our vision, aims and ministry methods to people. Many who receive our newsletters know us and our work quite well. Hundreds of people came on short-term mission teams in past years and participated in the work throughout Asia. Other people reading this newsletter may not know us personally, but enjoy hearing about what God is doing in this part of the world. Others probably have no clue what Asia Harvest is, or what we are called to do. We thought it may be a good idea to do something in this newsletter that we've never done before - to answer some of the questions that we most frequently get asked. We hope this will be helpful and allow you to get a better understanding of our ministry. If you have any questions you'd like to ask about us and what we do, please send them by letter or email.

## **What is the background of Asia Harvest?**

In 1988 the director of Asia Harvest, Paul Hattaway, entered full-time Christian work in Hong Kong, carrying Bibles to Christians in China and working with other missionaries with a similar calling. Many short-term teams came to help. By the early 1990s the Lord had directed our attention to the unreached tribes and people groups in China and neighboring countries. We started getting involved in various forms of outreach to them. A lot of research was done in the hope of bring the existence and spiritual needs of these groups to the awareness of the Body of Christ around the world.

Various people who came on short-term teams received a call from God to participate in the work on a longer term basis. Among them was Dwayne (now married to Tamara), who remains a vital part of Asia Harvest to the present time. After Paul married Joy in 1994, they

relocated the ministry (then known as Asian Minorities Outreach) from Hong Kong to Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. We continued to publish many prayer profiles and newsletters, and spent a lot of time developing strong relationships with church leaders in countries such as China, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar (Burma), and northern India. We started to publish books profiling unreached peoples, in a bid to raise prayer and outreach to the most needy groups. The first book in 1996 was entitled *The 50 Most Unreached People Groups of China in Tibet*, followed by *The Peoples of Vietnam* (1998), *Faces of the Unreached in Laos* (1999), *China's Unreached Cities, Volume One* (1999), and *Operation China* (2000). It has been a great blessing to see how various Christian organizations have used this information to mobilize dozens of new workers and implement strategies to reach them. God

willing, we hope to continue producing more books in the future (two or three new books are in the pipeline at the moment).

In 2000 we changed our ministry name from Asian Minorities Outreach to Asia Harvest, believing this change reflected the new focus we had, to serve the Church in Asia and help them be more effective reaching the hundreds of unevangelized tribes and groups in their nations.

***What denomination are you part of?***

One of the greatest joys we've had over the years is to gain a deeper appreciation of the different parts of the Body of Christ. Each church and denomination brings certain strengths (and weaknesses) to God's work. We have never been connected to any particular denomination. Our staff members originate from several different nations and church backgrounds. This enables us to be more effective in working with different parts of God's Church in Asia. In countries like China, where the Church lost its denominational tags during 50 years of persecution, it is foolish and ridiculous for outsiders to come in and try to enforce one particular church group's creed. Those who try to do this, in essence, start rebuilding barriers within the Body of Christ that God has spent half a century breaking down!

Here is one example of how denominationalism started to ruin the Chinese house churches. We have adapted it from a biography of the life of Chinese Christian Brother Yun. The book, entitled *The Heavenly Man* is due to be published in November by Monarch Books.

Brother Yun says,

"Throughout the 1970s there had been just one house church movement in China. There were no networks or organizations, just groups of simple believers who came together to worship and study God's Word. The leaders all knew each other. God had brought them together during times of hardship. They learned to fellowship and trust one another while shackled together in prison. After being released, they worked together for the advancement of the Gospel. In those early days we were truly unified. Suffering had broken down all denominational walls in the Chinese Church.

When China's borders started to open up in the early 1980s, many foreign Christians smuggled Bibles to us from Hong Kong. These gifts were greatly appreciated and so desperately needed! Once I took a train with various house church leaders to the southern city of Guangzhou, to receive Bibles from our Western friends. After a day or two of fellowship we boarded the train again and headed home with our precious gifts. We were all so happy and full of love for one another. However, after a few years these same mission organizations started putting other books on the top of the bags of Bibles. These were books about one particular denomination's theology, or teaching that focused on certain aspects of God's Word.

This, I believe, was the start of disunity among China's house churches. We read all these booklets and soon we were confused! Our churches started to split into groups that believed one thing against groups that believed another. Instead of only speaking for Jesus, we also started speaking against other believers who didn't conform to our views.

I clearly remember how this caused division among the leaders. The fighting began even before we got off the train! It was a real mess. Within a year or two, the house churches in China split into ten or twelve fragments. The leaders could no longer walk together in



## FACES OF THE UNREACHED IN ASIA

These pictures represent just a few of the hundreds of unreached people groups in Asia that we long to see know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

*Left:* a tribesman from Arunachal Pradesh, northeast India

*Bottom left:* Buddhist monks in a procession, Vientiane, Laos

*Top Right:* a Tawang mother and daughter in the mountains of Nepal

*Bottom Right:* two Boyu Tibetan women, China









unity before the Lord. We felt that to do so would be to compromise our new beliefs! This situation gradually worsened for more than 15 years, until some house church networks believed they were the only ones who held the truth, and despised other groups as cults that should be avoided at all costs. The leaders no longer spoke to or loved one another.

I'm not saying it was purely the fault of our foreign brothers! Our own hearts were in error and we easily succumbed to temptation. I'm also not saying that we don't need or want help from Christians around the world. We do! We have tremendous needs and we pray God will provide however He chooses, including through foreign Christians. But the motive in giving and receiving must be pure, and these gifts should only be given through the existing church leadership, so that younger leaders are not tempted to use these gifts to usurp the authority of the leaders above them."

I think Asia Harvest might qualify to be called a truly "inter-denominational" ministry. This, however, doesn't mean we believe in anything or work with anyone! We are Bible-based Christians who believe the 66 Books of the Bible to be inerrant and inspired by God. We only work with churches and individuals who believe the same foundational, non-negotiable beliefs that we have, those who live their lives in the fear of God, have the Cross and Blood of Jesus Christ at the center of everything they do, and possess a strong witness of moral and ethical integrity, humility, and a God-given zeal to take the Gospel to all corners of the earth. (Note: on our website we have a doctrinal statement about what we believe and practice.)

### ***Is Asia Harvest a mission agency?***

No. At least not if a mission agency is defined as an organization that facilitates and places missionaries on the field. Every year we receive many enquiries from people wanting to become full-time missionaries and we do our best to refer them to one of the many good mission agencies that suit their interests. Whenever we have taken on the role of facilitating missionaries it seems to end up in failure, because it simply isn't what God wants us to do, nor has He gifted us to do it. Our call is to be a link between Christians in Asia and around the world, assisting efforts wherever we can that spread the Gospel. We have made lots of mistakes over the years and have learned mostly by trial and error, but by the grace of God He has allowed us to develop strong trusting relationships with quite a few key Church leaders throughout Asia. It is a privilege to be able to serve God by serving His people in need.

### ***How do you Serve the Church?***

Many people are surprised to find out that we are numerically a very small ministry. If you walk into our office in Thailand you won't find more than five or six staff at any given time, in addition to our Asia Harvest representatives around the world. In fact, we are not really looking for many more workers to join us in the foreseeable future, as we don't want to become bogged down with a large staff and overhead expenses. Last year we felt like we needed three new staff members, so we started praying for an accountant, a computer/website worker, and a publishing/layout designer. God responded by sending us Harley, who is

skilled in all three areas! Harley is a tremendous blessing to us and has things working much more efficiently in the office, as well as going on ministry trips into different countries from time to time.

To fulfill what we believe God has called us to do, we feel we need to be as streamlined as possible, and flexible enough to be able to adjust our strategy when needed. Some people who are used to more traditional methods may struggle to understand this principle, but we really have no desire to build a big new organization. We'd rather focus on building up the Body of Christ that already exists.

As our friend Gary Russell of China Harvest recently stated, *"Should we make our ministry bigger, so we can do it all? NO! As Jesus did not do it alone, neither can we, nor can any one human organization. To get more apples, does an apple farmer plant one tree, and try to make it bigger and bigger? That would be ridiculous. No, he takes the fruit away from that tree, and uses the seeds inside to multiply more and more apple trees! Farmers mobilize the resources, which would otherwise sit inertly in the ground, by planting seeds that will transform those resources into fruit!! People are impressed by big trees; but God seeks much fruit."*

Although Asia Harvest is small, we are blessed to work with church leaders who are responsible for thousands, and in a few cases even millions, of believers. Once when Joy and I were in the United States we were asked to speak in a church. The pastor introduced us by saying, "Let's welcome Paul and Joy. They are going to share about all the people they have been leading to the Lord in Asia." I had to get

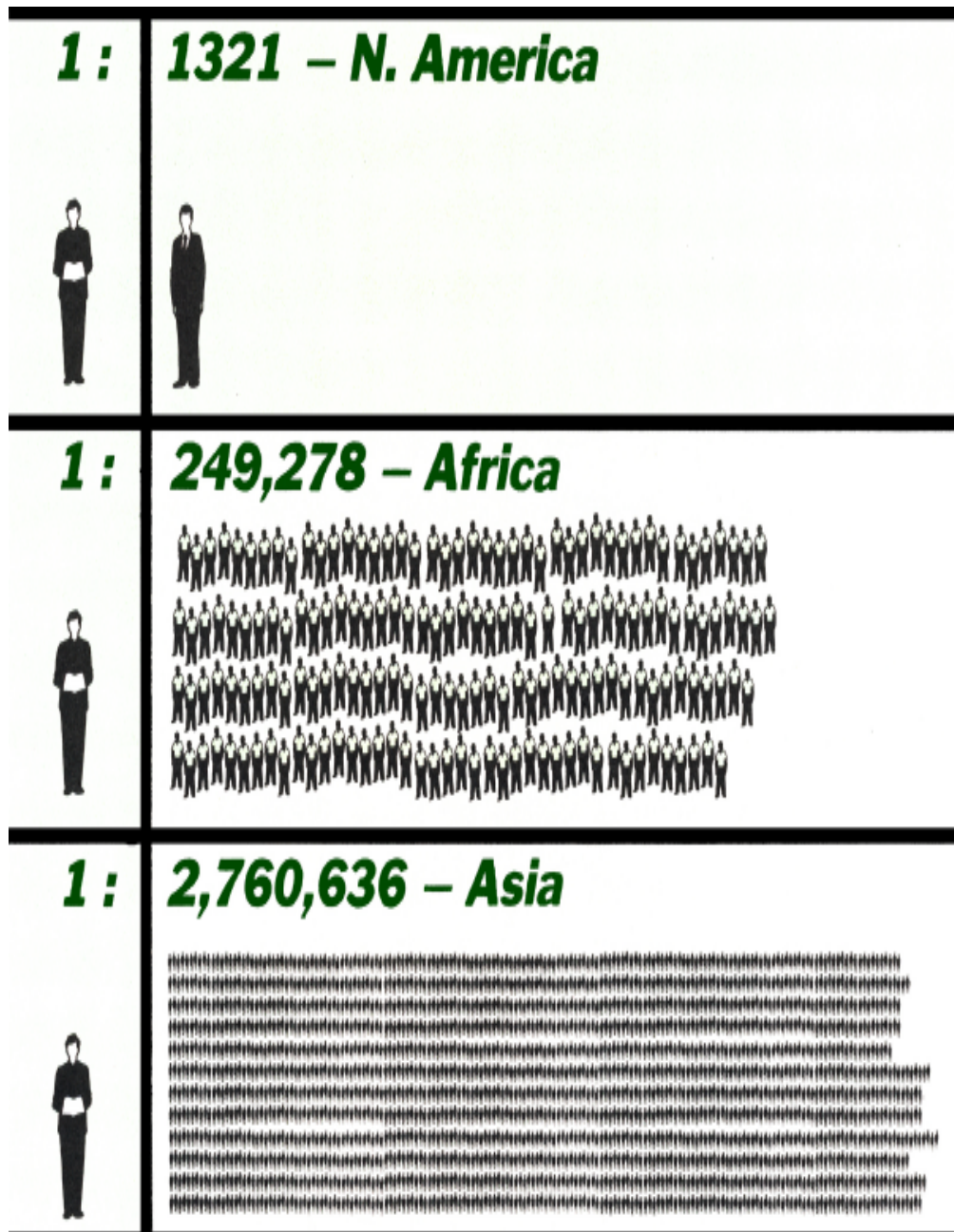
up and explain that even though we try to reach out to people we have contact with, the fact is that we personally don't lead too many souls to Christ. But we serve and work with churches who lead multitudes to the Lord! If we can help them in any way to be more fruitful in their ministries, this is a great privilege.

***Do you believe Western missionaries should still be sent around the world?***

Of course! As long as the Bible says, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," any Christian who reads that command has an obligation to go anywhere the Lord leads them to share their faith and reach out to the lost. Missions is no longer "The West to the Rest." We have to rid ourselves of this thinking. Westerners are coming to Asia, Asian Christians are going to the West, African evangelists are working in Europe and tribal believers are crossing mountain ranges by foot to share the Gospel with neighboring tribes. This is all how God intended it to be in his great plan.

What we do need to be careful of is our motive. What or whom are we REALLY serving? Are we serving God and His church, careful that God only gets the credit and the glory? Or are we serving our own agenda, to see our own hopes, dreams desires fulfilled?

For example, I was in a meeting with house church leaders from China a few years ago and they expressed deep frustration at much of the missionary activity being done by foreigners inside China. By foreigners they didn't only mean Westerners, but also Koreans, Singaporeans, etc. The Chinese leaders



**WHY WE WORK IN ASIA....** This graphic, although now about 10 years old and a bit outdated, shows the number of fulltime Christian workers to the population in three continents. While North America has one fulltime Christian worker for every 1,321 people, Asia remains clearly the world's most needy continent with the most people, smallest percentage of Christians, and most unreached people groups. Our aim at Asia Harvest is to help the Church grow in the most strategic, ethnically-diverse and neglected areas.

didn't understand why practically no one coming to work in China ever asked the Chinese Church how they could serve the vision God has given them, or how they could be a part of the work already flourishing. One leader, Brother Wang of the Little Flock, said *"We long to partner with foreign believers to get the work of God's Kingdom done in China, but everyone comes in with their own vision, their own plans and their own doctrines. They never even bother to consult us, and their work often ends up damaging what we are trying to do, instead of helping it. Their good intentions actually slow down the Gospel in China instead of helping it grow."*

Western mission organizations have to be very careful not to have a parental kind of attitude, thinking that we know God and His Word so deeply that the poor and ignorant Asian Christians just can't wait to learn from our great pearls of wisdom! I have found the opposite to be true actually, that the Church in Asia is often more advanced and mature than in the West. While we strive to know God's Word by knowledge, they have learned it by living it out through persecution and testings. But that doesn't mean we have to just sit there and learn from them either. Surely what the Lord desires is that we would all learn from each other!

More than 100 years ago the great China missionary Hudson Taylor wrote the following words, which we agree with today, "I look upon foreign missionaries as the scaffolding around a rising building. The sooner it can be dispensed with, the better; or rather, the sooner it can be transferred to other places, to serve the same temporary use, the better."

Years ago we started to learn some of these principles and have tried to put them into practice in everything we do at Asia Harvest. We don't want to be out in the front of any church or mission in Asia. We want to be alongside the leaders, helping them be more effective without controlling them in any way. We want to have strong trusting relationships with key leaders based around the Cross of Christ. When we help a project we do so with no strings attached, apart from requiring Biblical integrity and accountability.

In any war there are frontline combatants and there are supply lines. In many ways our ministry is a part of the supply line, mobilizing prayer support, Bibles, training, refreshment and financial resources for soldiers of the Gospel throughout Asia. We noticed that when the U.S. planes started bombing Afghanistan last year, the first place they targeted was the support structures for the soldiers. They knew if they concentrated on destroying the supply lines, the frontline soldiers would soon be ineffective. I believe the same principle applies in the spiritual realm, which is why we greatly appreciate any prayer support we receive here at Asia Harvest.

***Your newsletters state 100% of designated gifts go to the project in question. How is this possible?***

*Our aim is to get the maximum amount of help to those who need it. We strongly believe that first and foremost we must seek God's kingdom and His righteousness, and all we need will be added to us. Time and time again we have seen that this is true. No one working at Asia Harvest*

receives a salary. We are all volunteer workers who receive personal finances from churches and individuals whom God prompts to give. We are also blessed to have been given a rent-free office in Chiang Mai, thus reducing our expenses and allowing us to pass on more resources to where they are sorely needed. We do have ministry expenses such as for travel, accommodation, utilities, computers, postage, etc., but all of these are paid from donations designated to our general ministry fund and not from donations designated for ministry projects.

#### ***How does Asia Harvest raise finances?***

If you are reading this newsletter, you have in your hands practically the sole means we have to notify Christians around the world how they can give if they feel led to do so. We don't have any fundraising programs or techniques. When we are privileged to share in churches around the world, it is our conviction not to mention any financial needs, unless someone specifically asks. We don't send out appeal letters as such, and we want to avoid begging or emotional manipulation to elicit donations. All we do is list projects in the back of each newsletter and give people a chance to give if they want to. We've found it's a lot easier letting God raise finances His way than it is to try to do it with human methods and persuasion!

*"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*  
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

The burden and responsibility for raising finances is therefore the Lord's, and not ours. It is His work, and not ours. When the responsibility rests with God and not us then we can relax a lot more and that takes the pressure off us. If God provides, then we bless Him, if He doesn't, then we still bless Him and we reconsider whether He wanted us to do that particular project or not!

People who receive our newsletters continue to do so whether they give or not, or even whether we hear from them or not. In fact, the majority of people who receive these newsletters never write or contact us, but we are happy to continue sending them because we know many people are praying for us and the ministry. Last year we heard for the first time from a church leader in an Asian country who had been receiving our newsletters for 7 or 8 years. In that whole time we hadn't received a single communication from him. He wrote to say how glad he was that we'd never taken his name off our list, as he has been translating our newsletters into his language, and sending them to a vast network of 600 prayer groups throughout the country!

We don't know many rich people, but we have found over the years that God has brought ordinary folk along who don't have a lot of money, but who want to be involved in helping spread the Gospel in Asia. The majority of donations we receive are in the \$20 to \$30 range. Those who give include farmers, housewives, office workers, unemployed people, doctors, mechanics, plumbers, school children, widows, and retired missionaries. We always strive to handle each donation with the fear of God, knowing that for many



people, their gift represents a great personal sacrifice. Recently we were told an underground church in Laos (one of the world's poorest nations) wants to financially support a Chinese house church evangelist, and they want us to provide details of the worker they will support and pass on the finances on their behalf. We think such sacrifice really touches the heart of God. We've come to understand that one of the reasons the Lord has built this ministry the way He has is because He doesn't just want people's money. He wants people's hearts, minds and participation.

There is strength in numbers. Instead of having a lot of finances come from a few sources, He has chosen to bring in smaller amounts from a larger number of people. That allows for the participation of many people instead of a few. Many dozens of believers around the world are praying daily for a believer on the other side of the world after receiving a prayer card for a project such as the Asia Worker's Fund, or the China Living Martyr's Fund. We have Moravian believers in the Czech Republic supporting Chinese evangelists working among a Tibetan people group, school children in Brazil raising money for Bible printing in China, and Christians in Africa praying for and supporting a Naga missionary in Nepal. Although the giver and the receiver may never have a chance to meet in this world, each is blessed by the other and hopefully each is enriched by the experience. This is the way God's kingdom grows all around the world, not by big man-made schemes and programs, but by simple-hearted believers obeying the Lord's leading in their lives. *"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners*

*and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."* (Ephesians 2:19-22)

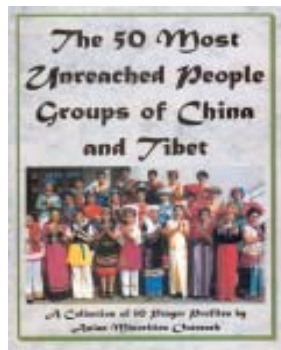
We consider it a tremendous privilege to be a link in this whole process, connecting believers in different parts of the world.

## Ministry News

You may remember our newsletter about the 33 Chinese Church leaders who were kidnapped by the Eastern Lightning Cult. Miraculously they were all released and we are glad to report they are recovering well from their ordeal. You can read more about their experiences at the website: [www.chinaforjesus.com](http://www.chinaforjesus.com)

Thank you for your prayers and for the generous finances that were sent in to help us print the book for the Chinese Church, which exposes the teachings and evil practices of the Eastern Lightning. We hope they will help many people from falling into the same trap. At the time of writing this newsletter, we had received enough finances to print **25,380** books. This project is still active so if you would like to help please feel free to fill out the yellow response form in this newsletter. Each book costs just 60 cents (U.S.) to print.

## Books by Asia Harvest



### The 50 Most Unreached People Groups of China and Tibet

Thousands of people around the world have used this book to pray and intercede for the needy peoples of China and Tibet, and new workers have been mobilized for this harvest field.

110 pages. ISBN 974-85307-0-1

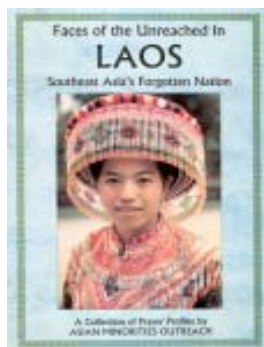
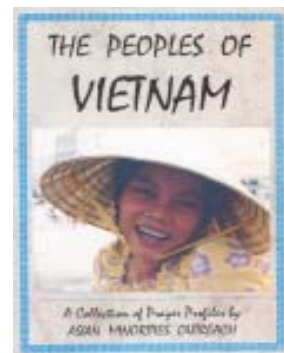
COST: \$ 10 including postage

### The Peoples of Vietnam

The Peoples of Vietnam examines the unique and varied cultures of Vietnam. It encourages caring Christians around the world to pray in an informed way for salvation of all the peoples of Vietnam.

114 pages. ISBN 974-85301-6-7

COST: \$ 12 including postage



### Faces of the Unreached in Laos: Southeast Asia's Forgotten Nation

For centuries landlocked Laos has been forgotten by politicians, explorers and missionaries alike. This is the first known book to attempt to profile all 138 people groups of this fascinating, needy country.

158 pages. ISBN 974-85302-7-2

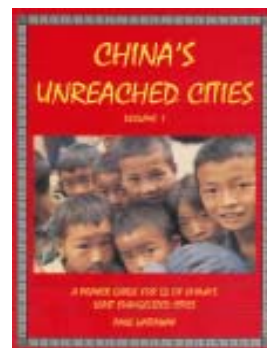
COST: \$ 15 including postage

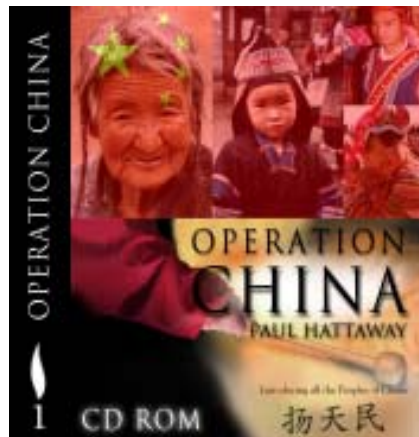
### China's Unreached Cities, Vol.1

By the year 2010 it is estimated half of China's population will live in urban areas - up from 28% in 1994. The cities of China are largely unevangelized. Reaching them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a daunting task, but it must be done. 124 pages.

ISBN 974-85302-8-8 COST: \$ 13 including postage

**A set of all four of the above books can be ordered for US \$39, including postage. To order, please send a check to Asia Harvest, or order by credit card over our website.**





## OPERATION CHINA CD

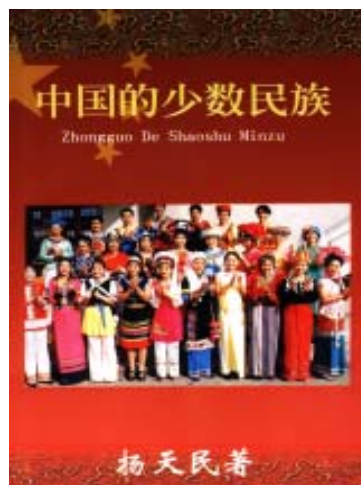
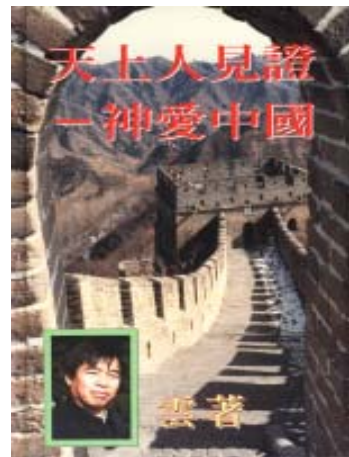
Our book *Operation China* is available from distributors all around the world (see our website for details), but we are now selling the Operation China CD-ROM, which contains more than 750 pages of profiles and information, and more than 700 color photographs. The CD has a search engine, is printable, and works on both PCs and Macs.

The cost is US\$ 17, including post and packing. If you are interested, please fill out the enclosed Book Order Form and send in remittance. Alternatively, you can order this CD or any of our books by credit card over our website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

## Books in Chinese

### THE TESTIMONY OF THE HEAVENLY MAN

A powerful autobiography written by Brother Yun, a house church leader from China who has been imprisoned four times and arrested more than 30 times for his faith in Christ. A precious glimpse into the life of a Chinese Christian leader. NOTE: This book is only available in traditional Chinese script (not simplified script). 323 pages, hardcover, ISBN 974-85311-07-1  
COST: \$ 15 including postage



### THE MINORITIES OF CHINA

We now have a limited number of this book available outside China. It is the slimmed-down version of the English Operation China, containing profiles of approximately 450 people groups in China. The entire book is in color, on high-quality glossy paper. Available only in Simplified Chinese script. 466 pages.

COST: \$ 20 including postage

## PROJECT SMILE

### Helping Children in Vietnam

*Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of **678** children in Vietnam.*

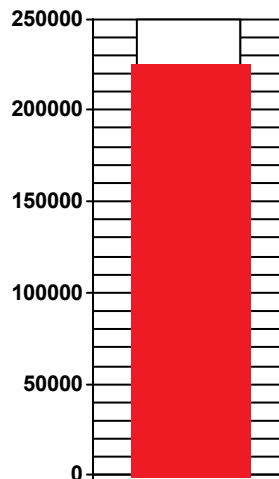
Project Smile helps children from poor families in northern Vietnam who were born with cleft palates or hair-lip disabilities. The average cost to help a child is just \$ 60. This pays for the cost of the operation, the travel expenses for the child and his/her parents to come to the city where the operation takes place, and the cost of an overnight stay in the hospital. ***A gift of \$ 60 will enable one child to have a better life, and an opportunity for his or her family to hear about Jesus Christ for the first time. A gift of \$ 240 will bless four children.***

Each gift of \$ 60 or more will receive a picture of the child before and after their life-changing operation, so you can continue to pray for them.



## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

### Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word



**Current Total: 224,592**  
**Chinese Bibles Printed**  
**Cost: US\$2.00 per Bible**

Although a limited number of Bibles are now permitted to be printed inside China, they are not enough to meet the need. Because of the tremendous growth rate of the church in China (some say 30,000 new believers each day), there is a serious lack of Bibles. Millions of Christians are still without God's Word. We are partnering with six large house church networks in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for the church. These Bibles are distributed to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning throughout the world's largest nation. **100% of your gifts go directly to printing Bibles. Each Bible costs just US \$2.00 to print and deliver.**



## ASIAN WORKERS FUND

### *Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

*Because of your prayers and partnership we are currently able to support 143 Asian evangelists for a 12-month period.*

Asian churches give their tithes and offerings, but the economy of many places like China or Nepal is so poor that here is little or nothing left for “big” expenses such as sending an evangelist or a missionary to an unreached area. In other cases the church may have enough just to send the worker to the field, but is unable to support them once they are there. We are in contact with thousands of workers who need support. These servants of the Lord have given their whole lives to the Gospel.

The **Asian Workers Fund** assists workers who are doing strategic ministry in Asia. Please pray about whether you, your family, or church could help support one or more of these workers with a gift of **US \$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to the workers in need.** A prayer card will be sent to every supporter of this project, with information about a worker to remind you to pray.

## CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

### *Supporting pastors Crippled by Persecution and Torture*

*Because of your prayers and support we are currently able to support 609 living martyrs every month.*

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.” (Voice of the Martyrs)

In China today Christians are regularly beaten, tortured and even killed because they love Jesus. House church leaders have given us details of more than 1,000 Christian leaders who have been crippled as a result of torture received at the hands of the authorities. The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of their injuries. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. You can support one or more of these living martyrs with a gift of **US \$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to this project.** A prayer card will be sent to every regular supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to help remind you to pray.

