



Asia Harvest

2005

NEWSLETTERS

(Combined)

Asia Harvest



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

1903 60th Place, Suite M1204 - Bradenton, FL 34203 - USA

Tel: (877) 868-5025

Fax: (877) 868-5025

Email: office@asiaharvest.org

Website: www.asiaharvest.org

February 2005 - Newsletter #77

A lady from the Padaung tribe of Myanmar and Thailand. They are commonly called the 'Long Neck' tribe for obvious reasons.



Annual Report

2004-05

From the Front Lines

It was the day after Christmas and we were looking forward to a break when news came through that an earthquake off the coast of Indonesia had triggered a tsunami. Only in the following days and weeks did the true scale of the disaster become apparent. Many Christians around the world have tried to understand this occurrence in light of their faith. The one article which struck a cord with us was entitled "Tsunami and Repentance," by John Piper in World Magazine, 5 January 2005....

From pulpits to news programs, from the New York Times to the Wall Street Journal, the message of the tsunami was missed. It is a double grief when lives are lost and lessons are not learned. Every deadly calamity is a merciful call from God for the living to repent. "Weep with those who weep," the Bible says. Yes, but let us also weep for our own rebellion against the living God. Lesson one: weep for the dead. Lesson two: weep for yourselves.

Every deadly calamity is a merciful call from God for the living to repent. That was Jesus' stunning statement to those who brought him news of calamity. The tower of Siloam had fallen, and 18 people were crushed. What about this, Jesus? they asked. He answered, "Do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:4-5).

The point of every deadly calamity is this: Repent. Let our hearts be broken that God means so little to us. Grieve that he is a whipping boy to be blamed for pain, but not praised for pleasure. Lament that he makes headlines only when man mocks his power, but no headlines for ten thousand days of wrath withheld. Let us rend our hearts that we love life more than we love Jesus Christ. Let us cast ourselves on the mercy of our Maker. He offers it through the death and resurrection of his Son.

This is the point of all pleasure and all pain. Pleasure says: "God is like this, only better; don't make an idol out of me. I only point." Pain says: "What sin deserves is like this, only worse; don't take offense at me. I am a merciful warning."

But the topless sunbathers amid the tsunami aftermath in Phuket, Thailand did not get the message. Neither did the man who barely escaped the mighty wave with the help of a jungle gym and palm-leaf roof. He concluded, "I am left with an immense respect for the power of nature." He missed it. The point is: reverence for the Creator, not respect for creation.

Jesus said that the minutest event in nature is under the control of God. "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father" (Matthew 10:29). He said this to give hope to those who would be killed for his name. He himself stood on the sea and stopped the waves with a single word (Mark 4:39). Even if Nature or Satan unleashed the deadly tidal wave, one word from Jesus would have stopped it. He did not speak it. This means there is design in this suffering. And all his designs are wise and just and good.

One of his designs is my repentance. Therefore I will not put God on trial. I am on trial. Only because of Christ will the waves that one day carry me away bring me safely to his side. Come. Repentance is a good place to be.

Tsunami Relief



After the full scale of the tsunami's destruction became apparent, we immediately got in contact with our friends and coworkers across Asia to see how we could best respond to the tremendous needs. The Asia Harvest Malaysian representatives were ideally placed to coordinate the relief efforts, as they were already involved with the work of the kingdom of God in most of the places where the tsunami struck.

We sent emails to everyone on our email list, explaining our plans to help. The response was quick and generous, and at the time of writing this newsletter we have already been able to pass on al-

most \$200,000 to help relief work in Aceh, Indonesia; Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. We realize that many people who receive this newsletter do not have email, so we are repeating some details here for those who want to pray or give.

In the weeks after the tsunami it was a great blessing to see the Body of Christ in action as we helped coordinate a response. Not only was money sent, but many people volunteered to come, while others offered everything from one million syringes, to food and toys, three thousand fishing reels, and even a forklift!

The greatest area of help has been given to Aceh in Indonesia. Working with Christians who have many years experience in Indonesia, workers were on the ground in Aceh within 72 hours of the disaster and have been involved with two main phases. The initial phase was search and rescue and emergency aid. A medical team soon ran out of medicine and supplies because of the great need, and more have been sent. Realizing there were still large tracts of coastline that had not even been visited since the tsunami because all the roads were destroyed, our coworkers decided to purchase a boat, which gifts from Asia Harvest supporters helped to buy (\$60,000). This boat enables a medical team to go to numerous places no-

body has visited, and will be a tremendous asset in the long-term goal of reconstruction and rebuilding people's lives.

The second phase of relief help has been to provide temporary shelter (tents), food, medical care, and emotional help to many thousands. This is where workers with the love of Jesus Christ in their hearts have been so valuable. One of our close coworkers put it best, *"The need is more than just containers of supplies. It is a 'human factor' need. Only the Body of Christ is empowered to minister healing and peace and comfort. It is more than throwing mineral bottle water from moving trucks and feeling like they have done their part, it is about sitting down with a mother who has lost her husband and children, and praying with her, and helping her to put the bottle of water on her lips and nourish her... ONLY THE CHURCH CAN!"*



The third phase of the relief efforts is the most difficult, but also the most crucial. It is the rehabilitation stage. Just a few weeks after the tsunami, the world media had already gone looking for new stories and the world's attention shifted with them. Yet the rebuilding of shattered lives and communities will take many years.

Please pray that what John Piper wrote about will take place in the areas affected by the tsunami - that people will repent of their sins and place their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

If you would like to give to our Tsunami Relief Fund, please send a check or money order to one of our offices. Information can be found on the yellow Response Form in this newsletter. We guarantee that 100% of money given to the Tsunami Relief Fund will go directly to the need in Asia. Not a cent will be spent on any other expense or administration etc. All donations will be receipted, and all U.S. contributions are tax-deductible.

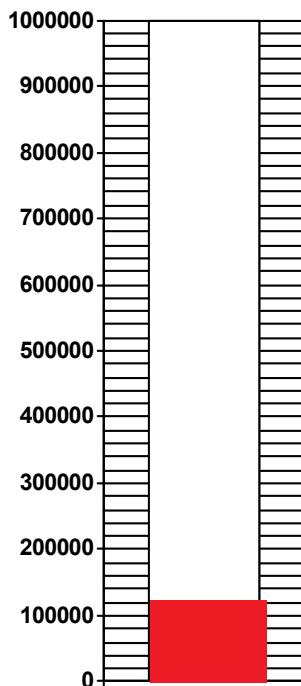
Asia Harvest Report 2004

We want to thank all of you who participated in any way to the advance of the kingdom of God throughout Asia in the past year, whether through Asia Harvest or another organization. This help comes in many ways that matter: not only in financial giving but in letters of encouragement, prayer and intercession, and hands-on involvement. In 2004 we thank God that the finances we received for projects increased 37.5% from 2003. Thank you and God bless you.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word

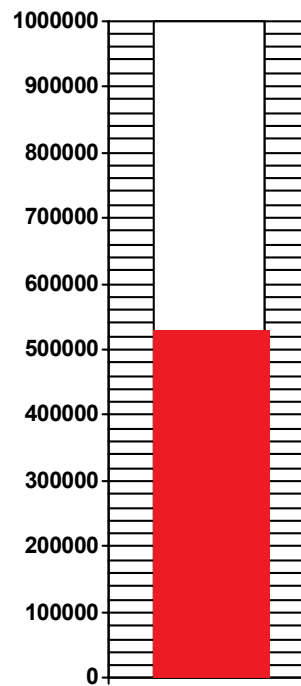
2004 Bibles
Printed: 114,179



Although a limited number of Bibles are now allowed to be printed inside China, there remains a serious lack of Bibles because of the tremendous growth rate of the church in China. Millions of Christians are still without God's Word. We are partnering with 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.

Each Bible costs just U.S. \$2.25 to print and deliver.

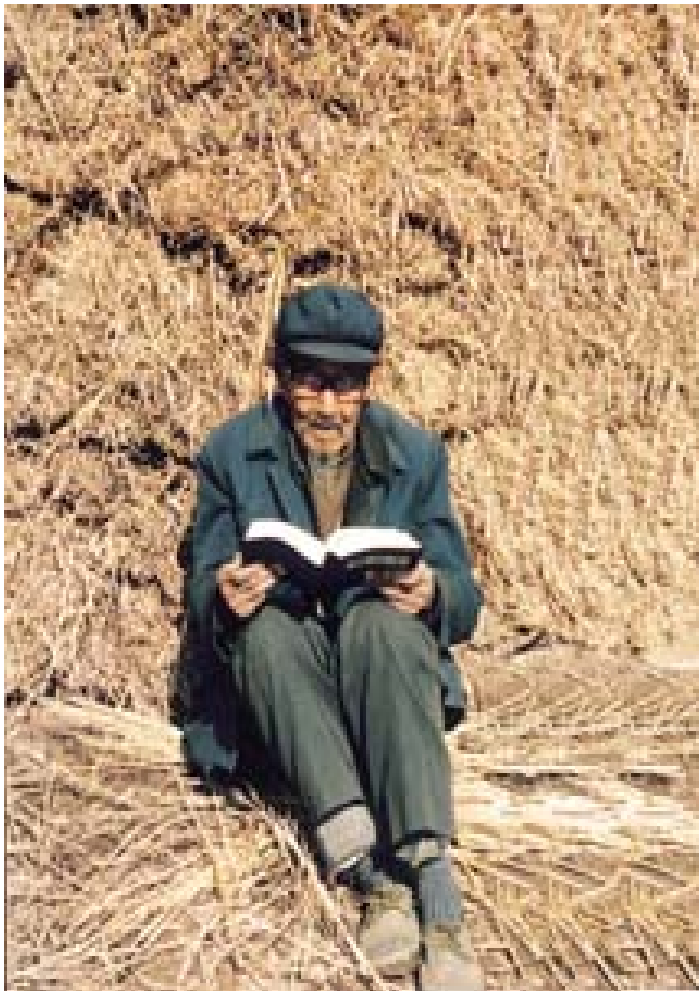
Total Bibles since
2000: 508,985



CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

Supporting pastors Crippled by Persecution and Torture

Because of your prayers and support we were able to support 676 living martyrs every month throughout 2004. This has been a tremendous blessing to the Church in China.



In China today Christians are regularly beaten, tortured and some have even died 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. The support is given through house church leaders of various groups in China.

You can support one or more of these living martyrs with a gift of **US \$25 per month each**. A prayer card will be sent to every regular supporter of this project, with infor-

mation about a living martyr to remind you to pray.

ASIAN WORKERS FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

Because of your prayers and partnership we were able to support 204 Asian church-planting missionaries every month throughout 2004.

Out of the various Asian evangelists we support in countries like China, India, Nepal, Myanmar (Burma) and Bhutan, perhaps the group that is doing the most strategic ministry are those from Nagaland, a state in northeast India where the majority of inhabitants are Christians. These evangelists, most of them young, are reaching into other less fortunate states in India and surrounding nations, and are seeing God's kingdom established among tribes and people groups that previously had no knowledge of the Gospel.

Through your prayers and generous gifts, we were able to support approximately 30 Naga missionaries in 2004, but recently a new batch of 25 Naga missionaries went through training and are being sent out to form different evangelistic teams in the Himalayas.

These 25 new workers have made long-term commitments to preach the Gospel, and are willing to leave their homes and families for years in order to see the Name of Jesus Christ glorified among all people. Unfortunately, however, these workers do not have enough support to sustain them on the mission field, and they are seeking God for His provision.

Asia Harvest would like to be able to support these 25 new missionaries, but we have no funds available to do so. 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**. A prayer card will be sent to every supporter of this project, with information about the worker to remind you to pray.



PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 893 children in Vietnam in 2004 (2,396 since 1999).

Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with cleft palate or harelip disabilities. The average cost to help a child is just \$ 60. We received the following testimony from our coworkers in Vietnam, about a 33 year-old woman named Hanh:



Hanh was sadly born with a harelip, and so was an outcast in her village. She had never really known a single day of happiness. Her facial deformity meant no man would marry her, and she would have to watch from afar as other young women from her village got married. Hanh dreamed that one day someone would love her, but that was an impossible dream.

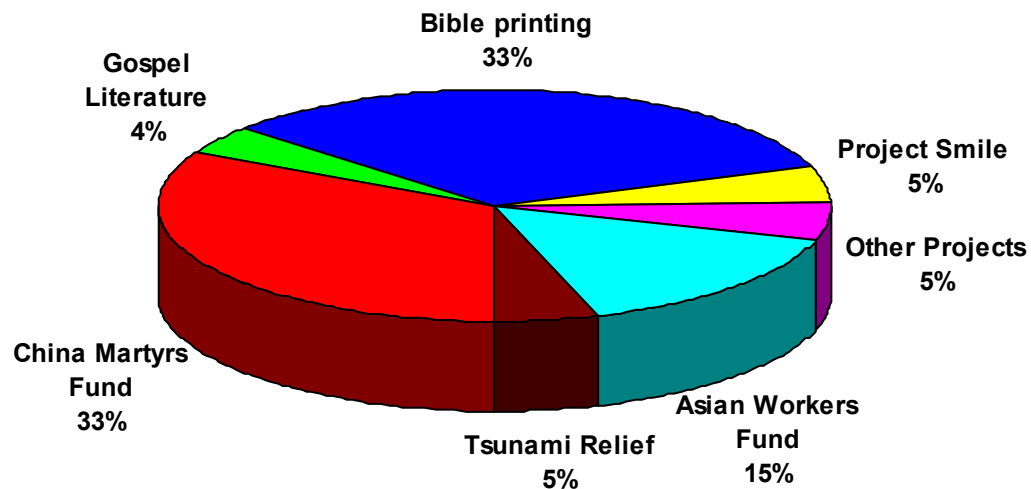
Many nights Hanh cried herself to sleep, wondering just what her life would have been like if she had not been born the way she had. When Hanh heard of the Christian group promising free surgery for children she was sad, for she was not a child, so it was not meant for her. Yet something deep within her prompted her to make her way to the city. It was her only hope, and if she was to be disappointed, well at least she would have tried

her best.

When the nurses brought Hanh to us she was so nervous, for this was the most important day of her life. She hoped with everything within her that despite her age we would include her. When we nodded “yes” to the nurses, Hanh was overcome with joy, and three days later when the bandages were removed Hanh’s new life started.

Her excitement and joy was contagious, for the surgery had transformed her, indeed she was now outwardly quite a beautiful woman. She giggled and smiled, and as she looked into the mirror again and again her confidence grew in leaps and bounds. Hanh’s life changed the day we stepped in and did something to help her. There are now thousands of testimonies of lives changed through Project Smile, just like Hanh’s was.

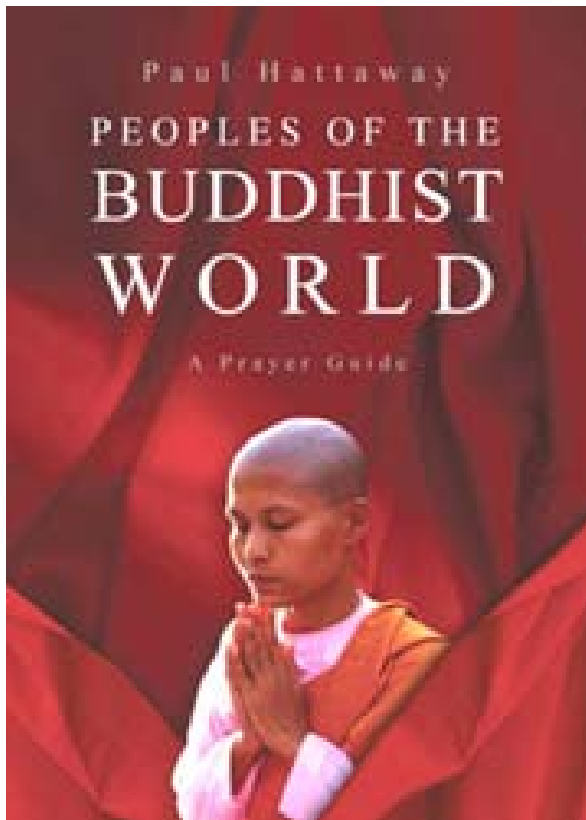
Summary of Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2004



2004 Financial Statement

At Asia Harvest we desire to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2004 is now available upon request. Please write and ask if you would like to receive it.

A New Book by Paul Hattaway



PEOPLES OF THE BUDDHIST WORLD - A Christian Prayer Guide

Published by Piquant, 2004,
480 pages, all in color.

In the past 20 years Christians around the world have launched initiatives to reach Muslims, Communists, Hindus, and other major unreached people blocks, but the Buddhist world has largely been overlooked. Hundreds of millions of Buddhists continue to live and die without any exposure to the Gospel. In *Peoples of the Buddhist World*, Asia Harvest director and author Paul Hattaway profiles almost 250 Buddhist people groups throughout the

world, illustrated with 467 superb full-color photographs. It is the first ever such book, Christian or secular. In addition, various experts have contributed 13 articles on various aspects of Buddhism to help readers pray more effectively. It is a unique and beautiful book, written in a simple yet impactful way. It reveals the heart of God for the lost.

Peoples of the Buddhist World can be purchased either by sending a check for US\$ 26 (\$21 + \$5 postage) to Asia Harvest (United States or New Zealand addresses only) or by using your credit card over our secure website: www.asiaharvest.org. Please note there are significant discounts available for bulk orders of this and all of our books. Please contact us to find out more, or see our website.

PROJECT SMILE



Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 2,396 children in Vietnam.

Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with cleft palate or hare-lip disabilities. The average cost to help a child is just \$ 60. This will help one child to have a better life, and an opportunity for his or her family to hear about Jesus Christ for the first time.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 508,985 Bibles printed and delivered.

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. **Each Bible costs just US \$2.25 to print and deliver.**

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS FUND



Because of your prayers and support we are currently able to support 676 living martyrs.

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**. A prayer card will be sent to every regular supporter.

ASIAN WORKERS FUND



We are currently able to support 204 Asian missionaries.

We are in contact with the leaders of 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**. A prayer card will be sent to every supporter of this project.

Asia Harvest



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

1903 60th Place, Suite M1204 - Bradenton, FL 34203 - USA

Tel: (877) 868-5025 Fax: (877) 868-5025

Email: office@asiaharvest.org Website: www.asiaharvest.org

May 2005 - Newsletter #78



John & Betty Stam
CHINA MARTYRS

From the Front Lines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

"Precious in the sight of the Lord are the death of his saints."

(Psalm 116:15)

Recently we were conversing with a missionary family who have lived in China for several years when the subject of those who have been martyred for Christ came up. When the names "John and Betty Stam" were mentioned, our friends looked puzzled, and confessed they had never heard of the couple.

It made us realize that as Christians we sometimes need to invest time looking backwards, in an effort to gain a clearer vision moving forward.

At the present time we are writing a new book, which, God willing, will be completed some time later this year. The proposed title is China's Book of Martyrs. It contains the profiles and testimonies of more than one thousand people who have been killed for our Lord in China - consisting of approximately 600 Chinese Christians and 400 foreign missionaries.

To research these precious lives has been inspirational, and a great blessing to our own hearts. We would like to include some of these testimonies in coming issues of our newsletter, and we hope reading about the faith and courage of these men and women of God will inspire you too.

In this newsletter we take a look at the lives and deaths of John and Betty Stam, a young couple who were martyred by the Communists in 1934. Many critics around the world at the time harshly said the Stams had wasted their lives, but history has shown they achieved more for the kingdom of God through their deaths than they probably could have through their lives.

May the Lord help us all to realize that our time in this world is short and transient. As Christians it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking we will live in this world forever, when the Bible reminds us we are just "strangers and pilgrims" passing through this world. May we dedicate ourselves to those activities that matter for eternity. As the Psalmist said, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

CHINA MARTYRS: John & Betty Stam

One of the most well-known martyrdoms in the history of Christianity in China occurred in December 1934, when a young American missionary couple, John and Betty Stam, were beheaded in Anhui Province along with a Chinese Christian named Zhang Shuisheng, who had pleaded for the Stams' release.



John Stam was of Dutch immigrant ancestry. His family had settled in New Jersey, but from an early age he had felt burdened for China, a land in which he often reminded people, "a million a month pass into Christless graves." John prepared his heart and life to serve God in China. The early 1930s were a difficult time both in China and in America. In America the Great Depression was wreaking havoc with the economy, and great hardship was felt by all. In China the rise of the Communist threat was seriously disrupting missionary work. The Red Army seemed to be growing in size and scope daily. Numerous missionary bases had been forced to close, and workers were being evacuated from areas where the Communist

forces were approaching. Stam saw these events as mere challenges to God's kingdom, but nothing that could force him to alter his commitment to Christ and to China. When he was chosen to give the speech to the Moody Class of 1932, Stam gave the following stirring challenge:

"Shall we beat a retreat, and turn back from our high calling in Christ Jesus, or dare we advance at God's command in the face of the impossible? Let us remind ourselves that the Great Commission was never qualified by clauses calling for advance only if funds were plentiful and no hardship or self-denial was involved. On the contrary, we are told to expect tribulation and even persecution, but with it victory in Christ."

Betty was the daughter of missionary parents in China, and so was brought up with Oriental language and culture. Although she was attending school in America, everyone expected her to return to China to start her own career as a missionary. Before she was appointed for service, Betty wrote,

"I want something really worth while to live for. Like most young people, I want to invest this one life of mine as wisely as possible, in the place that yields richest profits to the world and to me.... I want it to be God's choice for me and not my own. There must be no self-interest at all, or I do not believe God can reveal His will clearly. ... I know very well that I can never realize the richest, most satisfying, life Christ meant for me, if I am not giving my own life unselfishly for others. Christ said: 'He that would find his life shall lose it,' and proved the truth of this divine paradox at Calvary. I want Him to lead, and His Spirit to fill me. And then, only then, will I feel that my life is justifying its existence and realizing the maturity in Him that Christ meant for all men, in all parts of the world."



John and Betty first met at the China Inland Mission prayer meetings at the Moody Bible Institute in Illinois. Betty was a year ahead of John, so after graduating she made her way to China first, being based in Shanghai. John arrived and a year later they received permission from the China Inland Mission to marry. The Stams were united on October 25, 1933. Soon after, joyous news came that Betty was pregnant. In September 1934 Helen Priscilla was born in a Methodist mission hospital.

The newlyweds were assigned to the mission base at Jingde in southern Anhui Province. After many weeks of arduous boat and overland travel they arrived at their new home. Communist activity in this part of Anhui had lessened in the previous years, and both the Stams and their mission leaders felt the risk of a Communist insurgency in Jingde was extremely low. The city magistrate of Jingde welcomed the Stams and gave a personal assurance that they would be safe from the Communist threat.

Almost as soon as they had settled in, the Stams started to hear rumours of the Red Army nearing Jingde. It was impossible to tell which stories were imaginary and which contained truth, such was the frequency and inconsistencies of the information reaching their ears. Suddenly, in the morning of December 6, a letter was rushed to the Stams' house from the City Magistrate, informing the Stams that 2,000 Communist insurgents were just four miles from the city. The missionaries were advised to flee. The Communists had crossed the mountains on little-used trails and penetrated through the army lines positioned sixty miles south of the city. The magistrate, who just a few weeks before had personally guaranteed the Stams' safety, was one of the first to flee

Jingde. While the insurgents entered Jingde through the East Gate of the city the magistrate and other officials escaped through the West Gate.

Soldiers made their way directly to the mission compound. They broke open the lock on the gate and rushed to the front door of the house. John Stam calmly opened the door and welcomed the men inside. Betty served them tea and cakes while John tried to explain their peaceful intentions. When they finished their tea, the visitors politely said, "You will go with us." John pleaded with the soldiers to let his wife and baby daughter remain behind, but his request was refused.

The young missionaries, along with their baby daughter, were taken to the prison in Jingde for the rest of the day (December 6, 1934). The Communist soldiers forced John Stam to write a letter to the China Inland Mission headquarters in Shanghai, outlining their ransom demand. Stam knew the request would not be considered, as it was the strict policy of the mission never to pay a ransom for a kidnapped worker, believing such an action would only encourage more kidnappings and result in a more dire situation overall. John's letter displays his faith and courage, and also reveals that he was well aware of the likely outcome of his life:

December 6th, 1934.

China Inland Mission, Shanghai.

Dear Brethren,

My wife, baby and myself are to-day in the hands of the Communists in the city of Jingde. Their demand is twenty thousand dollars for our release.

All our possessions and stores are in their hands, but we praise God [we have] peace in our hearts and [we had] a meal to-night. God grant you wisdom in what you do, and us fortitude, courage and peace of heart. He is able — and a wonderful friend in such a time.

Things happened so quickly this A.M. They were in the city just a few hours after the ever-persistent rumours really became alarming, so that we could not prepare to leave in time. We were just too late.

The Lord bless you and guide you — and as for us — may God be glorified whether by life or death.

In Him,

JOHN C. STAM

One of the other prisoners, as he was being released from Jingde Prison, overheard the soldiers discussing what to do with the Stams' baby. The men didn't want to listen to her constant crying, and could see no use in preserving her life, so they

decided to kill the baby for their own convenience. The prisoner, whose name remains unknown, stepped forward and said,

“Why kill her? What harm has she done?”

‘Are you a Christian?’ shouted one of the Reds.

‘No, I am not,’ was the answer. ‘I am a prisoner you just released.’

‘Will you die for this foreign baby?’ they asked.

‘I will,’ answered the strange criminal. And as the Stams hugged their baby tighter, they saw this prisoner hacked to pieces before their eyes. Thus little Helen Priscilla’s life was spared because of the sacrifice of the life of this Chinese prisoner.”

The next day the Communists abandoned Jingde, taking John and Betty with them, along with little three-month-old baby Helen. After arriving in Miaoshou, the soldiers made John write a second ransom letter to the China Inland Mission, which he did. When the postmaster was summoned to receive the letter he recognized Stam and asked, “Where are you going?” John Stam replied, “We don’t know where they’re going, but we are going to heaven.”

Soon after arriving in Miaoshou, John and Betty Stam were bound with ropes that cut deeply into their wrists, then stripped of their outer clothing, leaving them in their underwear. John was tied to a bedpost throughout the night, while Betty was allowed to attend to the needs of her baby. The next morning they were paraded through the town, with the whole population rallied to come out and witness the execution of the “foreign devils.” The Communists cursed and ridiculed them as they were marched through the streets. The procession wound its way up a small hill, called Eagle Hill, to a line of pine trees.

Miaoshou was a small town that had been visited by missionaries for a number of years, so there were a small number of believers living there. On their way to the execution spot the Stams saw a medicine seller named Zhang Shuisheng, who had been a rather lukewarm Christian. He pleaded on his knees for the release of John and Betty when he saw that the Reds were determined to behead the courageous couple. The Communists bound him, and searching his house later they found a Bible and hymn book. They needed no further proof that he was a Christian, so they killed him also.

The Stams were ordered to kneel down in the dust. One biographer recounts the events that followed:

“A huge sword was in the hands of one of the young Communists. John spoke only a few words as he knelt on one knee. Probably only his wife understood what he was saying. Without a doubt, she was reaffirming him, even if it meant giving up his life. While he was talking, he was struck to

the ground, his throat having been cut so completely that the head fell beside the slain body....

Betty trembled, but she did not cry out. Her lips uttered a prayer as she fell over the beheaded body of her beloved husband. In this position the cruel hand struck the same blood-stained knife in at the back of her neck and she fell down dead over her husband's body. John and Betty were one in life and one in death, and one in a martyr's testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ."

The bodies of John and Betty Stam were buried in a small Christian graveyard in the suburbs of Wuhu City, in Anhui Province.

Remarkably, on the same day that news of the Stams' death reached America, John's father, the Rev. Peter Stam, received a letter from his son that had been posted from China many weeks before. In his letter he told about the threat of the Communists, but reiterated his faith and commitment to serve God in China regardless of the cost. John Stam repeated a poem written by another China missionary, J. W. Vinson, who had himself been captured by bandits. The bandits asked Vinson if he was afraid to die. Vinson replied, "No! If you shoot straight, I shall go straight to heaven!" His captors did shoot straight, and Vinson entered heaven as one who "loved not his life unto death." Earlier, Vinson had penned this poem, which Stam now quoted to his father:

AFRAID?

Afraid? Of what?

To feel the spirit's glad release?
To pass from pain to perfect peace?
The strife and strain of life to cease?
Afraid? — of that?

Afraid? Of what?

Afraid to see the Saviour's face?
To hear His welcome, and to trace
The glory gleam from wounds of grace?
Afraid? — of that?

Afraid? Of what?

A flash — a crash — a pierced heart;
Darkness — light — O heaven's art!
A wound of his counterpart!
Afraid? of that?

Afraid? Of what?

To do by death what life could not —
Baptize with blood a stony plot,
Till souls shall blossom from the spot?
Afraid? of that?

The day after the three servants of Christ had followed their Master's footsteps on the road of martyrdom, a Chinese evangelist named Lo arrived in Miaoshou. He wrapped the bodies up in white cotton and prepared them for burial. Lovingly, in a desire to give the martyrs the most decent burial possible, Lo sewed the heads of John and Betty Stam back onto their necks so that those seeing them would not be too upset. The people of Miaoshou came out in numbers to watch the funeral. The bold evangelist addressed the locals with a loud voice:

"You have seen these wounded bodies, and you pity our friends for their suffering and death. But you should know that they are children of God. Their spirits are unharmed, and are at this moment in the presence of their Heavenly Father. They came to China and to Miaoshou, not for themselves but for you, to tell you about the great love of God, that you might believe in the Lord Jesus and be eternally saved. You have heard their message. Remember, it is true. Their death proves it so. Do not forget what they told you — repent, and believe the Gospel."

Evangelist Lo could not discover what had happened to little baby Helen Priscilla. Nobody was sure if she had also been killed, or if the Communists had carried her off to their next destination. Lo searched around Miaoshou before finally an old woman



pointed to an abandoned house and whispered, "The foreign baby is still alive." Lo found the Stams' daughter wrapped up in a blanket, completely oblivious to the events of the previous day. She had been left alone for more than 24 hours, but appeared none the worse for the experience. Later, Lo found a ten dollar bill hidden inside the baby's clothing, no doubt secretly placed there by her loving parents so that food could be bought for her.

Helen Priscilla Stam came to be known around the world as 'the miracle baby'. She became the focal point of many newspaper reports. People preferred to read about the saving of her precious life than the awful slaughter of her parents. Helen was taken to her grieving grandparents, Dr. & Mrs. Charles Scott, at their mission station in Shandong Province. Dr. Scott announced that his daughter and son-in-law "have not died in vain. The blood of the martyrs is still the seed of the

church. If we could hear our beloved children speak, we know from their convictions that they would praise God because He counted them worthy to suffer for the sake of Christ."

Little Helen remained in China in the care of her grandparents until the age of five. She later moved to the United States for college. Helen decided to avoid the publicity brought about by her family's experiences, so took the last name of her uncle to obtain anonymity. She remained in the United States and worked as an editor of a scientific journal, and was involved in church work.

What fruit, if any, sprung from the blood-soaked soil where the Stams offered their lives for the Lord Jesus Christ? In 1942 a fellow missionary wrote,

"It was over seven years ago on a little hill outside the town of Miaoshou that the blood of John and Betty Stam was shed in martyrdom. It seemed like the end of the work in Jingle County; but God honoured the death of His two servants. . . The first baptism in Jingle was held in March, 1941. Five were baptized by Pastor Cheng in the little preaching chapel, which was packed to the doors for the occasion. Truly it can be said of Jingle, the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."



Helen Priscilla Stam, nine months after her parents were killed.

The death of the Stams made a significant impact in the Western world. Many young men and women offered to go to China as replacements for the fallen missionaries. One mission leader remarked, "I personally know of hundreds of volunteers of all ages who gave their lives to the Lord for missionary service because of the death of John and Betty Stam." A coworker of the Stams wrote to Betty's grieving parents: "A life which had the longest span of years might not have been able to do one-hundredth of the work for Christ which they have done in a day."

SOURCES

James & Marti Hefley, *By Their Blood* — Christian Martyrs of the 20th Century (Milford, Michigan: Mott Media, 1979).

Theodore W. Engstrom, *An Hour With John and Betty Stam: Martyred Missionaries to China* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1943).

Lee S. Huizenga, *John and Betty Stam* — Martyrs (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1935).

Asia Harvest Update

TSUNAMI RELIEF

Since our last newsletter three months ago we have continued to help with the rebuilding efforts after the Tsunami disaster. So far, through the generosity of many of God's people around the world, we have received and sent on nearly half a million U.S. dollars, to courageous Christian efforts in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. This help includes the purchase of a large boat (see picture) which can transport up to 50 people, or carry 50 tons of supplies, up and down the Indonesian coast to hard-to-get-to areas devastated by the tsunami. Our partners and coworkers have also started rebuilding many houses for the worst-affected families.



A more detailed description of how we have been assisting can be found on our website.

ASIAN WORKERS FUND

As mentioned in our February newsletter, our Christian friends and coworkers in northeast India have recently trained and sent out 26 new missionaries to live and minister among a collection of unreached tribes and people groups in the Himalayan Region. An Asia Harvest staff member, along with one of our UK representatives, was recently involved with the training school in Nagaland and were impressed by the quality and fervency of these new evangelists.

The ministry we have been partnering with is a fruitful one, with frequent conversions and baptisms taking place in strategic areas where foreign missionaries are not allowed to travel. We have committed to supporting these 26 new workers through our Asian Workers Fund, but we need an increase in this project to help them, as well as maintaining the support levels of the other evangelists throughout Asia that we support. Please pray for God's provision for this important project.

Asia Harvest



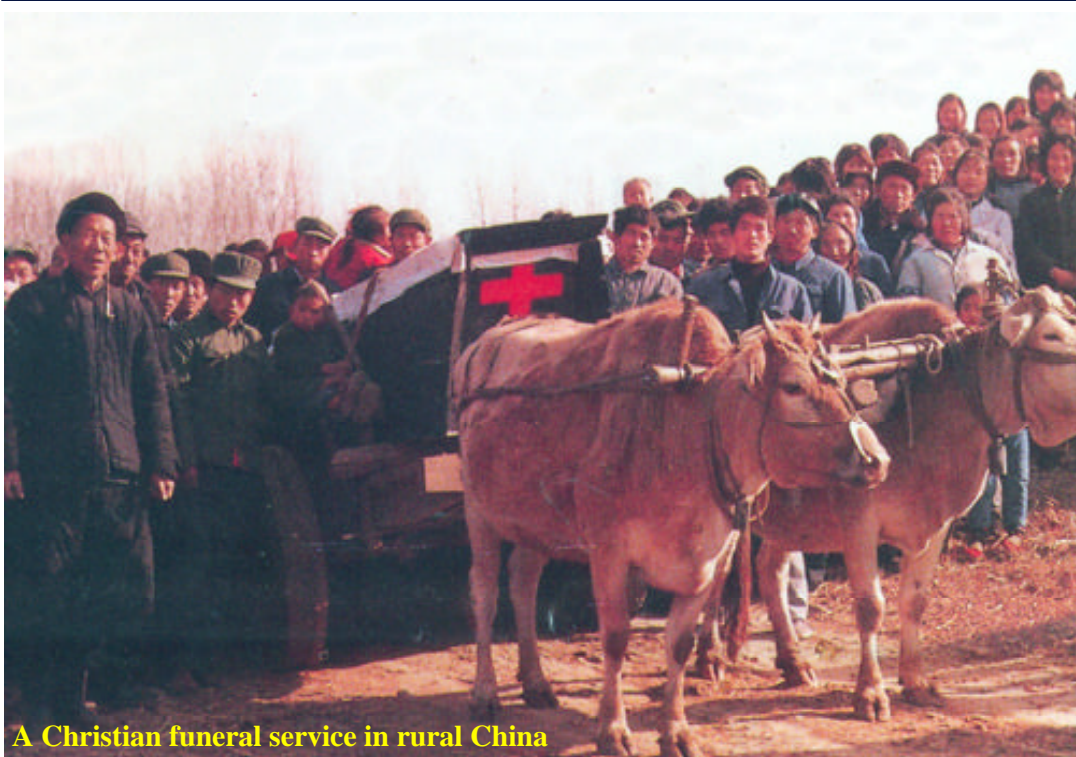
Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe! (Joel 3:13)

1903 60th Place, Suite M1204 - Bradenton, FL 34203 - USA

Tel: (877) 868-5025 Fax: (877) 868-5025

Email: office@asiaharvest.org Website: www.asiaharvest.org

July 2005 - Newsletter #79



A Christian funeral service in rural China

Bill Wallace - CHINA MARTYR
& PROJECT UPDATES

From the Front Lines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Psalm 3:5-6)

We are often asked what the differences are between Christians in China and in the Western world. The first thing to note before attempting to answer this question is to clarify that the Chinese Church is far from perfect. They have their own problems and weaknesses that are not usually mentioned in books or magazine articles about what God is doing there. But one thing that the Chinese Church has plenty of is zeal and commitment for the Lord. While to explain the reasons for this would require an entire book, we believe one of the main factors is a daily, complete reliance on the Lord.

Any genuine Christian understands that salvation comes only by faith in Christ and his grace, and that there is absolutely nothing we can do to contribute to our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9). Somehow, though, if we are not careful we can fall into the trap of thinking that after we are saved our Christian walk becomes our responsibility and is something we have to achieve in our own power and strength. Such thinking can only breed frustration, legalism, and a lack of joy in our lives. The Christian life becomes a hard, joyless slog. The Apostle Paul specifically warned believers against trying to live the Christian life in their own strength. Writing to the Galatians, he said, "You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?.... Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?" (Galatians 3:1,3). Later, Paul instructed them, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1).

House church believers in China, generally speaking, have learned that they cannot walk the Christian life in their own strength, so they don't even try! Perhaps their poverty and the continual threat of persecution has helped them gain this perspective. The result is they are the most joyful Christians we have seen anywhere in the world. When we stop striving in our own strength, God's Spirit can come and take over like He has in China.

CHINA MARTYR: Bill Wallace

The following article is taken from Paul Hattaway's upcoming book, *China's Book of Martyrs*, which will profile hundreds of inspirational testimonies of those who have died for Jesus Christ in China.



B i l l
Wallace has gone down in history as one of the greatest martyrs of America's largest Protestant denomination — the Southern

Baptists. Few would have believed it when he was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1908. The son of a doctor, Wallace paid more attention to fixing cars until the age of 17, when he heard God's call to become a medical missionary while working on a car in his father's garage. The teenager answered "Yes" to God, and recorded his commitment on the inside cover of his Bible.

After graduating from college and medical training in 1935, Wallace was appointed to join the Baptist-run Stout Memorial Hospital in Wuzhou, located in the southern Chinese province of Guangxi. His appointment came exactly

ten years after receiving his calling to missionary work. His colleagues in Wuzhou, who for years had been praying God would send a surgeon to their midst, were immediately impressed by the fervency and godliness of the young man. Wallace rebuffed all marriage prospects. One girl who had hoped for his affection finally gave up, saying, "Marriage to Bill would be bigamy. He's married to his work."

For more than fifteen years Bill Wallace remained in Wuzhou, doing good to others and sharing the aroma of Christ everywhere he went. No sacrifice was too great for him to make, as his fellow missionary-doctor Robert Beddoe wrote of one incident during World War II:

"At the time of the second severe bombing of the hospital, there was a desperately sick patient on the top floor. He could not possibly be moved without almost certain death. Wallace stayed by the bed, comforting and reassuring the patient. A bomb hit not more than 50 feet from the bed, tearing a gaping hole in the concrete roof. In the providence of God neither the patient nor Wallace was injured. One of the staff, who was four floors below at the time, told me he was lifted several inches by the concussion."¹

The Catholic missionaries working in Wuzhou became close friends of Wallace. They could not fail to be impressed by the godliness and selflessness of his life. One wrote:

"Dr. Wallace was famed for his surgery and medical work, but most of all for his kindness and devotion to the sick and poor. His whole life was medicine and charity.... [He] would be called a strange fellow by the hustlers, bustlers and seekers of wealth who people the world today. They would call him stupid and impractical, for when people asked him the charge for services he would usually answer, 'Forget about it.' His canceling of charges drove the treasurer's staff to despair, for he was all charity; a sort of mystic walking on clouds and looking for the stars."²

Seemingly nothing could move Wallace from his calling in Christ. Once, when mobs of bandits raided Wuzhou the other missionaries fled, but Bill Wallace remain behind and continued treating the sick. An American ship arrived in Wuzhou to rescue the missionary. Wallace kindly refused to board. When an officer came ashore to warn Wallace that his safety could not be guaranteed unless he boarded the ship immediately, the intrepid doctor replied, "Tell your captain that he was not responsible for my coming here in the first place and he does not need to be responsible for my staying here."

On one occasion when heavy Japanese bombing raids threatened to destroy the city, Wallace transferred his staff, patients and equipment onto a barge. Whenever air raid sirens sounded, he instructed the

tugboat captain to pull the floating hospital under the shelter of one of the many large caves located along the river bank.

As Christmas of 1950 approached, Wallace remembered the wonderful experiences he had as a young man back in Tennessee, the excitement of opening presents, and the enticing aromas of the Christmas feast lovingly prepared by his mother. Now he was in Wuzhou in faraway China, attending to the needs of the sick and dying. He was often so busy in the work that he didn't have time to listen to what others were whispering, that the Communists would not tolerate the Christian hospital in the midst of their newly won territory, and that impending disaster was in the air. The People's Republic of China had declared war on the United States in wake of the Korean War, and the Americans were intensely hated. It seems that everybody knew that Bill Wallace was in great peril, except the man himself. Perhaps he believed he had won some favor from the Communists as a result of treating many of their wounded soldiers during the war against Japan.

On the night of December 18, Wallace was so exhausted after a full day's work at the hospital that he slumped into bed after a snack of six slices of buttered bread and a glass of milk. At three o'clock the next morning a mob of a dozen young Communist soldiers arrived at the gates of the Stout Memorial Hospital, intent on arresting Wallace, whom they called "President Truman's chief spy in Wuzhou." The soldiers forced Wallace

into the main part of hospital, where the Chinese staff had gathered. The officer in charge shouted, "We know this is a den of spies. The People's Republic is aware that some of you are counter-revolutionaries. This will not be tolerated... You have been found out; you will no longer be able to carry on your clandestine activities."³

The staff looked on aghast, and Wallace spoke up in a measured tone, "We are what we seem to be. We are doctors and nurses and hospital staff engaged in healing the suffering and sick in the name of Jesus Christ. We are here for no other reason."

Unimpressed, the soldiers started a search of Wallace's room, emerging a few minutes later with a brown package containing a small pistol, which they claimed to have found under the missionary's bed. "That is not my gun. I do not own a gun, and I do not know where that one came from," Wallace protested.

For weeks Wallace was left alone in his prison cell as the Communists gathered "evidence" that he was a spy. Neither the American Consulate nor the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board could do anything to help him, and permission to visit the prisoner was denied. The hospital staff, directionless without their leader, came to the prison and tried to secure his release. Wallace told them, "Go on and take care of the hospital. I am ready to give my life if necessary." Bill Wallace was able to share the gospel with a prison guard and two or three peasants who had gathered outside his cell window to hear him.



One night a few weeks after his arrest a public meeting was called at the Wuzhou Town Hall where charges of espionage were leveled at the missionary.

"They asked for those who had any accusation against Dr. Wallace to come forward with their charges. None came. When the planted Communist denouncers began to yell vindictive statements against the doctor, they were surprised that the crowd — despite their training — did not join them. No one was deceived. The doctor was being railroaded and everyone knew it."⁴

A fellow missionary later gave an insight into the reason the Communists hated Bill Wallace so intensely:

"The Communists were smarting under the popularity Dr. Wallace enjoyed. Their

propaganda got nowhere in ruining him. He was running the most modern and best equipped hospital in South China, and the city of Wuzhou was still his domain of loyal admirers. The Communists were jealous of both these assets and planned new measures to crush him. Yet these shameless fellows had been using the hospital and demanding the services of Dr. Wallace for most of a year. In their life of contradictions and savagery, they saw nothing indecent in using a man for all he was worth and at the same time hating him and trying to destroy him."⁵

The Communists presented a paper with Wallace's name, age, length of service in China, and other facts. He signed it, only to discover later that a sentence was added into a blank space on the statement saying he was a spy sent to China by the U.S. Government. This "confession" was all the shameful Communists could use against him.

The whole atmosphere suddenly changed in the prison. Wallace was subjected to long and grueling brainwashing sessions, with his hands tied painfully behind his back. Bill Wallace was a sensitive and gentle man, and the nonstop filthy accusations and intense degradation wore his mind and emotions down. Catholic missionaries who were in the same prison, but who were later released, said that Wallace was "shaken and strained" by the interrogations. One of them managed to ask Wallace how he was holding out. He grinned weakly, and said, "All right. Trusting in the Lord."

Only those who have been subjected to a Communist brainwashing can fully understand the ordeal that Bill Wallace went through. The accusations and methods of application come from a spiritual intensity

born of Satan. Bill Wallace's biographer explained:

"The battle was not whether he could out-argue his accusers. He was not even equipped to begin. It was not a battle of physical endurance, though that soon became involved. It was a battle for sanity. From his cell in the night, Bill sometimes cried out in agony after the battle was over.... Delirium, crying, and blank periods came, but he fought on — clinging to his faith."⁶

The aim of the psychological torture seems to have been to break Wallace down so that he would make a full "confession" of his "crimes." On the night of February 10, 1951, the guards came to his cell and tried to break him down further by jabbing the missionary with long poles until he fell unconscious. This final attack was the 'straw that broke the camel's back.' "Quietly, his soul slipped from his torn body and his exhausted mind and went to be with the One he had so faithfully and unstintedly served. Bill Wallace was dead to the world, but alive forever with God."⁷ He was 43 years old.

The next morning the guards raced to the cell of the two Catholic missionaries, claiming Bill Wallace had hanged himself during the night. The Catholics saw his lifeless body suspended by strips of a sheet that had been strung from a beam in the cell. The guards tried to get the missionaries to sign a statement that Wallace had committed suicide, but they refused to. It was clear to them that the façade was a staged show. The prison notified the hospital staff to come and take the doctor's corpse. A nurse who carefully

examined the body said, "The facial characteristics of hanging were missing — bulging eyes, discolored face, swollen tongue. Instead, the upper torso was horribly bruised. The Communists had tried to cover up one botch with another."⁸

The body was taken to the Believers Cemetery overlooking the West River. Communist soldiers watched as Wallace was laid to rest in an unmarked grave. The local Christians refused to allow the man of God to be dishonoured in such a way, however, and funds were raised to secretly erect a monument over the grave with the simple inscription:

Dr. William L. Wallace
"For Me to Live is Christ."

After news of Wallace's death reached America numerous tributes were paid to the martyred doctor. One of his colleagues said he used to "advise anyone looking for Wallace to seek out the sickest patient; Wallace would be there." A Chinese doctor who had studied under Wallace said, "He was a master in surgery, we shall never see his equal again." M. Theron Rankin, the head

of the Southern Baptist Board at the time, wrote:

"The irrefutable quality of Dr. Wallace's love made it imperative that the Communists get rid of him. His life refuted everything the Communists said. They have tried to get rid of the witness of Bill's life. But that is precisely where they will fail. Bill Wallace's witness of God's love in Christ has been made immortal."⁹

Everley Hayes, a missionary nurse who had worked with Wallace for years, said:

"Many think of martyrs as those long-faced people. But I knew a Dr. Wallace who was very much interested in everything around him. He was a martyr not because he died in service but because he so identified with the Chinese that they considered him one of them. And they loved him."¹⁰

Perhaps Jesse Fletcher summed up Bill Wallace's life the best: "The Chinese had heard sermons before, but in Bill Wallace they began to see one, and that made the difference."

NOTES

¹ International Mission Board, Headline News (Vol.1, No.97, February 22, 2001).

² Mark Tennien, No Secret is Safe: Behind the Bamboo Curtain (New York: Farrar, Straus and Young, 1952), 234.

³ Jesse C. Fletcher, Bill Wallace of China (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996), 202.

⁴ Fletcher, Bill Wallace of China, 204.

⁵ Tennien, No Secret is Safe, 236.

⁶ Fletcher, Bill Wallace of China, 206.

⁷ Fletcher, Bill Wallace of China, 206-207.

⁸ Fletcher, Bill Wallace of China, 208.

⁹ Ione Gray, "Greater Love Hath No Man," The Baptist Messenger (No.22, March 1951), 5.

¹⁰ IMB, Headline News (February 22, 2001).

Project Updates

VIETNAM: PROJECT SMILE EXPANDED



For several years now we have presented Project Smile to our readers and many people have responded. As a result 2,692 Vietnamese children have received surgery for cleft palate and harelip disabilities. Their lives have been changed and many have heard the gospel for the first time.

Now, after consultation with our Vietnam partners, we are expanding this project to include other medical needs of children in Vietnam. These will include the correction of children born with club feet (see pictures below), cancer victims (left) surgeries for burns, and similar conditions.

The cost of helping each child will vary according to a number of factors, such as the nature of the surgery and its degree of difficulty, the location of the child, and so on. A burn victim, for example, could cost more than \$200 to treat, while other kinds of operations will be considerably less. What we intend to do is keep the unit amount for Project Smile the same as it is now - \$ 60. For surgeries that cost more, two or more gifts will be combined to cover the total cost. Of course, donors may give more than \$60, or less, should they so wish. Each gift will be receipted by us and will help a child have a better life. A laminated prayer card of one of the children who has been helped will be sent to all donors.



NGUYET'S NEW HOPE

We received the following testimony from our co-workers in Vietnam, about a little girl named Nguyet who had suffered horrible burns over her face and much of her body. There are many like Nguyet, but in the name of Jesus we are able to provide a measure of hope and joy in their lives.

Eight-year-old Nguyet's eyes were the saddest I have ever seen. Her face and body horribly burnt from the kerosene lamp that overturned and set the hut on fire some five years before. She sat quietly, one of hundreds of children who crowded the hospital for our free surgery program. The sadness in her eyes penetrated my heart. Only she knew the pain she had endured. Only she knew the struggle of coping with the massive burn scars that fused her limbs, made a stump out of her foot that had all but one of the toes burnt off, had ruined her face and made her the object of stares.

I tried to communicate, a smile, a soft touch, but the eyes remained dead. Finally I prayed "Lord, help me to reach and comfort this child."

It was then I simply felt to kneel down in front of her and softly say, "Will you be my friend?" She closed her eyes for a moment, and opened them again as a smile slowly spread across her face.

Nguyet became my friend.

Each day we visited the hospital she would be waiting, and despite the pain that accompanies such plastic surgery her smile did not fade. The surgery we were able to provide has freed up fused limbs, given her an improved appearance, and replaced despair with hope. Nguyet's parents were desperately poor. They have nothing to offer other than their tears of appreciation.



Asia Harvest



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

1903 60th Place, Suite M1204 - Bradenton, FL 34203 - USA

Tel: (877) 868-5025 Fax: (877) 868-5025

Email: office@asiaharvest.org Website: www.asiaharvest.org

September 2005 - Newsletter #80



China's Precious Children

THE CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT

From the Frontlines

by Paul & Joy Hattaway

Over the years we have heard and recorded hundreds of remarkable testimonies from Chinese Christians telling of the wonderful works the Lord has done throughout their nation. Here is one of our favorites:

In the early 1950s as persecution swept through the Chinese church, a pastor named Li lived in Guangdong Province in southern China. Li had a wife and five children, aged from twelve to a newborn baby. The authorities arrested Li for 'counter revolutionary' activities, and sentenced him to prison with hard labor in an iron mine in remote northeast China.

Li was ordered to take a train more than 2,000 miles to Heilongjiang Province, where he was to begin his sentence of many years. Li's wife was understandably devastated. She had five children to take care of including a newborn, and now their only source of income was taken from them. They had nowhere to turn except the Lord. The Lis decided they should travel with their father all the way to Heilongjiang, hoping they would be allowed to visit him in the prison from time to time, and if a miracle happened and he was released early they would be near him. They sold most of their possessions and made enough money to purchase seven train tickets for what in those days was a week-long train journey. During the trip their hearts were heavy. Pastor Li prayed for his beloved wife and children, exhorting them to follow the Lord at all costs and praying earnestly for them, hoping to somehow compensate in a short period of time for what would be years of silence to follow.

The Li family finally arrived at their destination. Many tears flowed as Pastor Li entered the prison. His destitute family found some wooden planks and bits of canvas, and constructed a makeshift hut on the side of the road not far from the labor camp. The icy winds and winter temperatures of minus 20° cut like knives through the hut and thin clothes of the abandoned family. The children cried night after night, especially the newborn baby who could not get enough nourishment or warmth. Their existence was so miserable that words cannot adequately describe the inner and outer pain this family went through – all because they loved and served the Lord Jesus Christ.

Life inside the labor camp for Pastor Li was intolerable. He and the other prisoners were forced to work 14 hours per day, seven days a week. The backbreaking work of hauling heavy loads like a pack animal, coupled with the putrid and meagre food rations, quickly caused his health to deteriorate. The worst pressure of all for Pastor

Li was the knowledge that his beloved family were suffering in freezing conditions just outside the prison gates. Three months after entering the prison, Pastor Li died.

When the news was passed on to Mrs Li and her children, all hope was lost. The family plunged into deep depression and despondency. Mrs Li could see no way out, and longed to die. The children were miserable beyond words. Mrs Li told them she would have to find a job in order for them to survive. Her eldest child, a daughter aged twelve, said, "No mama, you cannot work. Our little brother needs you. He cries all day for you and there is no-one else to help him. I will go and look for a job." The little girl entered the prison office and requested to see the director. She said, "My father was put in this God-forsaken place because of his love for Jesus Christ. That is the only crime he ever committed. He was a good man who loved and helped people. Now he is dead. We have nothing. We have no money, no place to live, and no food. We cannot even return to our home in the south. I want to know if there is any job at all in this prison that you can give me."

The prison director knew about Pastor Li's death and, realizing that his little orphaned daughter was now speaking with him, a slight tinge of compassion welled up in his heart. He told her, "I have a job, but it is not interesting and pays very little." She exclaimed, "I will take it!"

The prison director took her outside to an area above where 3,000 prisoners worked below the ground in an iron mine. He said, "Do you see this red button? Your job is to stand next to this pole all day, every day, and when someone tells you to push it, you must push it straight away. This button is the emergency button and when it is pushed a siren is triggered deep below the ground that makes the men evacuate as fast as they can. This button should never be pushed by accident, or without us telling you to push it." For day after day, week after week, young Sister Li stood next to the pole with the



red button. When she received her first pay—just a few dollars—she and her family were overjoyed.

One afternoon, as she was standing next to the pole, she suddenly heard a voice say, “Push the button!” She spun around to find no-one near her, and was confused. A few moments later she heard the same voice again, this time louder: “Quick! Push the button now!” Sister Li again turned but saw no-one. She thought she was losing her mind and just stood there confused. She couldn’t push the button unless there was a major emergency, and nothing looked any different from normal. A few seconds later she heard the voice for the third time, but on this occasion it was with great authority: “Sister Li, push the button now!”

This time she realized it was no less than the voice of the Lord that had been speaking to her. She didn’t understand why He was telling her to push the button but she knew she had to obey. She immediately pushed the red button and the emergency alarm sounded deep underground.

Three thousand men emerged to the surface as quickly as they could, confused and eager to learn what emergency had taken place. The prison director came running from his office and demanded to know why Sister Li had pushed the button and brought production to a halt. Then, just moments after the last man had evacuated from the mine, the ground started to shake violently. A strong earthquake struck that lasted for about 20 seconds, completely collapsing the mine to such an extent that nobody has been able to enter again to this day. When the shaking stopped an eerie silence came upon the gathered mass. Every eye was fixed upon the tiny frail figure, still standing next to the pole and the red button she had so jealously guarded.

The terrified prison director asked in a stammering voice, “Comrade Li, how...how did you know that you should push the button when you did?” She was given a fruit-box to stand on so that she could be seen just above the heads of the gathered men. In the loudest voice she could muster she said, “It is the Lord Jesus Christ who told me to push the red button. He told me to do it three times and finally I did. Jesus Christ is the only way for you to know the true and living God. He loves you, as seen by the fact he saved all your lives this day. You need to repent of your sins and give your lives to him!”

Immediately all three thousand men, including the prison director, knelt down and prayed with great sobs, asking Jesus to come and forgive them and live in their hearts.

In this issue we introduce to you a new, strategic long-term project, which we are calling the China Children’s Project. Working in cooperation with several other organizations and friends, this project has the potential to impact hundreds of thousands of Chinese children with the Gospel, and in fact has already seen tremendous fruit wherever it has been implemented. Please take the time to learn about this important need, and please pray for God’s hand of salvation to be upon the children of China.

CHINA'S 500 MILLION CHILDREN: Precious in God's Sight



It is now almost twenty years since we were first involved with mission teams coming to China. Almost without exception we have seen people's hearts touched by their interaction with the Chinese children. We have even witnessed hardened men who rarely show emotion reduced to tears as they helped out in orphanages.

Perhaps one of the reasons so many feel compassion for the children of China is because they are so cute and innocent. Another reason is that Christians often feel a tremendous spiritual burden for China's youth.

Did you know that children in China are not allowed by the Chinese government to hear the Gospel? Indeed, it is against the law in China for anyone under the age of 18 to be baptized, and the authorities come down hard against any Christian ministry attempting to reach children; even ministry done by the government-sanctioned Three-Self churches.

In Patrick Johnstone's most recent edition of *Operation World* (p.165), he makes the following poignant prayer point for China's children: **"The churches are not allowed to run Sunday Schools or youth**

groups - most have forgotten how or are afraid to minister to children and young people, but some are quietly doing more to disciple them. One of the great needs of China today is for teaching materials and the know-how of Christian ministry to this group."

In China today there are more than 400 million children aged under 15, and over 500 million aged under 18. This means there are almost twice as many children in China than the entire population of the United States, or twenty-five times more than Australia.

In recent years the Chinese Christian leaders have become increasingly aware of the need to have specific, targeted programs to reach the children in their nation. A few years ago they asked if Sunday School materials from outside China could be shown to them, with a view to translating and using those materials inside China. After carefully studying them, the pastors made an interesting observation. They said: "Most of these books and materials are very good, but there is one major problem. They seem to have been written for children aged from six upwards. We need materials that target younger children. Here in China it is too late to start reaching six year-olds with the Gospel! By then the job of reaching them is much harder because the government has already spent one or two years brainwashing the children into believing there is no God."

The pastors were referring to the government's Young Pioneers program, which every child in China is expected to join. Visitors to China may see groups of children marching together or standing in line, each child wearing a white shirt and

red handkerchief tied around the neck. In some regards the Young Pioneers are similar to Boy Scouts in Western nations, but in China the Young Pioneers is used as an opportunity for the government to promote Communism to the youth, targeting children as young as four.

The devil knows that if he can influence young children away from God he will likely take them captive later in life.

THE PROJECT

Asia Harvest director Paul Hattaway recently travelled to China to learn about the China Children's Project and how it operates among the house churches. He came away impressed and convinced that we should do all we can to pray for and help this strategic need. The China Children's Project is led and operated by Chinese house church Christians, and is not a Western-led initiative at all. The books and all materials are produced by the Chinese, in the Chinese language.

There are two essential things we can help with, however. The first is prayer:

- Please ask God to glorify His Name through this project, and to protect and bless the work of all the people involved.
- Pray millions of Chinese children would soon believe the Gospel and become bold and fearless disciples of Christ.
- Ask the Lord to provide every need for Sunday School teachers in China to be effective and fruitful in the ministry He has called them to.

The second thing we can help with is to provide financial help for the Chinese Church to print, produce and distribute the materials inside China. This has been a burden for the Chinese believers, as most of them live in poor rural areas where the cost of obtaining a set of training materials (US\$47) is much more than they can afford.

The China Children's Project has already been operating among many different house church networks in China with tremendous results. Here is a summary of how it works:

Firstly, Christian leaders are asked to send people who feel they are called by the Lord to children's ministry. These workers receive thorough training in how to teach the Bible to children from the age of four and older.

Each person attending the training has their travel costs covered, and a set of

materials is given to them for free. This set of materials includes:

- 1 Children's Bible
- 1 Teacher's Manual
- 1 The 'Most Wonderful Story' book (a good tool for evangelizing children)
- 18 teaching books with visual aids, providing creative Bible teaching for children between four and eleven years of age.
- 15 hours of VCD (video cassette-disk) teaching. The topics include The Biblical basis for children's ministry; How to effectively present the Gospel to children; How to care for new Christians, etc.
- 6 CDs containing 'Children's Heavenly Songs.'

The total cost of US\$47 per set includes printing and production, storage, and transportation. It also includes the cost of bringing each teacher to the training course.



Some of the materials in the China Children's Project curriculum.

We have been impressed by the accountability and reporting that has been established for this project. Indeed, even though Asia Harvest has not given any help for this project yet, the leaders have already provided several detailed reports to us of the impact the project has had in different parts of China. One of the reports summarized the tangible results that have been seen so far:

"Thousands and thousands of new Sunday Schools have started and tens of thousands of children and young

people attend them. Their lives have changed and they want to serve the Lord."

China needs 10,000 sets of training materials at the moment. The 10,000 Christians who receive training are then expected to lead Sunday Schools with an average of 100 children in each. That means the China Children's Project has the potential to directly impact the lives of one million children in China!

It is hard to explain the excitement the Chinese believers feel for this project. They see it as the answer to years of prayer, asking God to help them reach the precious children in their nation. One of our close coworkers has received the following two letters of thanks from two different networks of house churches that received the Sunday School training and materials:



LETTER #1:

"Thank you for your help. We are so grateful that you gave us the material we need. Those materials helped us to set up many Sunday Schools. All of our Sunday School teachers say thank you! We bless you from our hearts. May the Heavenly Father remember the price you have paid! God's Word says, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35).

Because of your support, many children now have teachers to guide them. The children can grow up happy and healthy, because the teachers can now feed them by the Word of God. Some children are able to preach the Gospel to the adults and even explain the Bible. This is all due to you.

May our God, who is merciful and is willing to bless, shower your life with his presence! We pray that God gives you as many children as grains of sand on the seashore, and as numerous as the stars in the sky. We will keep you in our hearts forever. Let's pray for each other. Hallelujah!"

LETTER #2:

"May God bless you with new fields and new strength! Everything in this world passes away, but God's plan in our lives will never change. We all have the same heart, same mission, and the same burden. It's to bring the children of China back to God.

Huge fields need to be harvested here, but the laborers are few. We continually plead with God, asking him to raise up more Sunday School teachers so that many children could be brought to God and their lives changed.

You brought such good blessings to us in our time of desperate need. The materials you gave us not only helped the teachers, but also met the needs of the children. More and more children have changed and their spiritual lives formed and shaped by the Lord. All the Sunday school teachers here want to thank you for your support and help. What you have done means the children will not perish, won't remain hungry, and won't grow up bound by sin.

May God use you powerfully in China and give you more resources to meet the needs of the Chinese children! Let's bring revival to the Chinese children together, so that God's heart will be pleased and not sad any more."



If you or your church would like to support the China Childrens' Project, please fill out and post the yellow Response Form inside this newsletter. Alternatively, secure one-time or recurring monthly donations can be made by credit card or check over our website: www.asiaharvest.org
All gifts will be receipted and updates will be posted periodically.

Asia Harvest



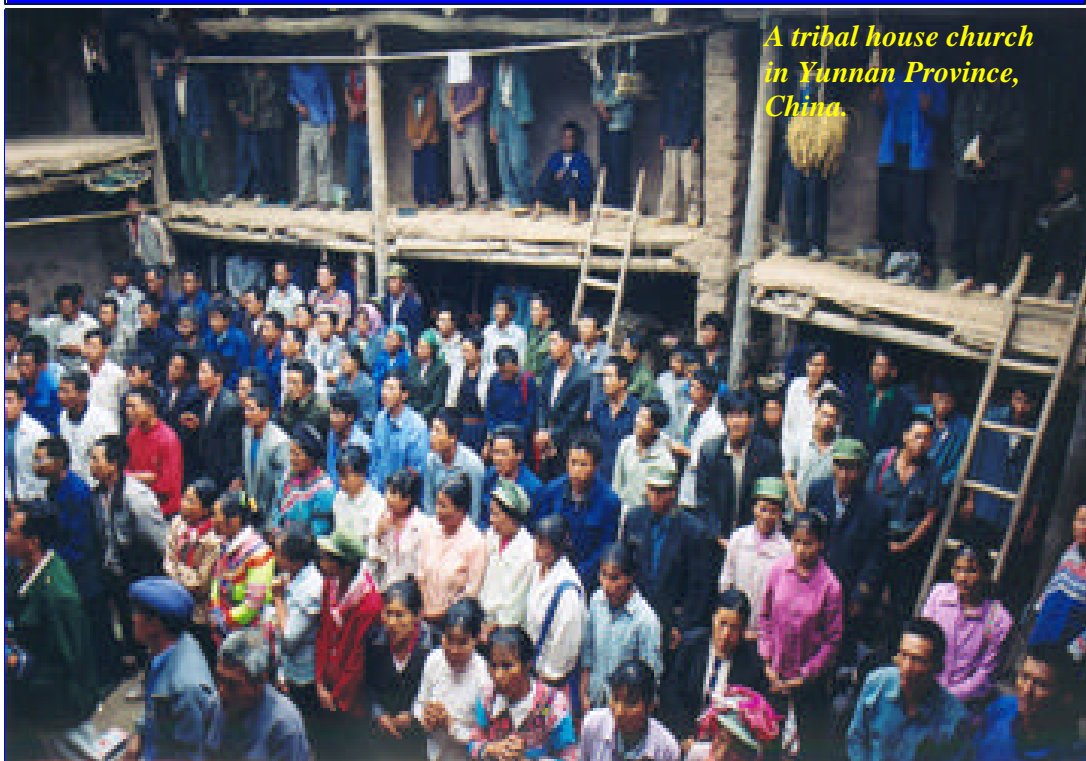
Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe! (Joel 3:13)

1903 60th Place, Suite M1204 - Bradenton, FL 34203 - USA

Tel: (877) 868-5025 Fax: (877) 868-5025

Email: office@asiaharvest.org Website: www.asiaharvest.org

December 2005 - Newsletter #81



*A tribal house church
in Yunnan Province,
China.*

The Baoding Massacre

- CHINA MARTYRS

Who Will be the First?

by Bruce Heyworth

Bruce Heyworth is the administrator of Asia Harvest. He recently travelled to northeast India where he spent time training and fellowshiping with many of the church planters we support through the Asian Workers Fund. These dedicated young men and women work among dozens of unreached people groups scattered throughout the Himalayan mountains. Bruce wrote the following report after his trip.

"Who will be the first?" She asked it with tears in her eyes. The wife of the director of an Asian mission agency addressed the annual conference of their workers. "I lie awake at night and wonder which of you will be the first to die."

She wasn't being melodramatic. She was simply stating a distinct possibility. Some of those who heard her would shortly be returning to resume their evangelism and church planting ministries. Most would be in areas remote from civilization, lacking in all but the barest essentials of amenities, and devoid of any Christian fellowship outside the members of their own small team. Several couples would not have the opportunity of any companionship with other believers as they would be living by themselves. A few would have the privilege of fellowship with the new believers in the small church or churches they had established. All would be in places of risk from disease, dangerous travel, and hostility from those opposed to any Christian activity.

Others of those who listened to her were part of a group of 26 new workers. They had committed their lives to the Lord's service and were now commencing three months orientation and training with the mission. Most were in their early twenties. At the end of this time they would be assigned to work with one of the present teams.

What makes these stories special is not so much who they are or where they are from, but what they are doing. During the conference a brief reporting time was held. Had you been there, this is some of what you would have heard:

"We live in a restricted area and need permission to stay. A few years ago some Norwegian missionaries started some schools, but when found out were expelled. Some other missionaries also tried to start, but were expelled in 1996. We are the third group to try to bring the gospel to this area."

"The Toto people we work among are very poor and uneducated. They do not invite other people into their houses. We have to stand outside and talk, even when it is raining!"

"It is so cold where we are we have to flush the toilet with hot water. It freezes immediately after."

"The nearest phone is two days walk away."

"From November to June there is a lot of snow. Often the road is closed and it is difficult to get food in. Once we lived on one potato each every day for a week."

"We work near the China border. There is no electricity in our village. We fast three days a month and every Sunday after 12 noon. There are over 100 baptized believes in our churches. We are working in five villages."

"On 4th October [2004] our church was dedicated. The same day 32 families came to the Lord."

"Officially we are not allowed to preach. But we can talk one-to-one."

"When we arrived there were six Christian families. Now there are 56 families and two churches have been established."

"The first time we preached four families were converted. Now there are 27 Christian families and a church has been started."

"We live in a very dangerous place. The Nishing people are still very violent."

"In spite of the difficulties and the persecution God is working and people are being saved."

And so we could go on. These extraordinarily committed ordinary people are experiencing the hand of God on their ministries in many places. Others are struggling to catch the glimmer of any breakthrough. The former are able to rejoice in the wonders of spiritual rebirth and the establishment of churches. Their colleagues long for the day when they too will see the fruit of their labors that they so earnestly yearn for.

There remains an untold number of people in these regions yet unreached with the gospel. Countless thousands have yet to hear for the first time of Jesus' love for them. The small number who have become Christians struggle with the demands of discipleship. Intense social pressures, widespread illiteracy, lack of education and a scarcity of resources make what we take for granted in the discipleship of new believers an extremely difficult and frequently discouraging task for them.

We at Asia Harvest are committed to doing what we can to ensure that these workers are supported sufficiently to remain in the frontier areas where we cannot go. Thanks to your prayers and generosity we are able to support more than 200 Asian church planters. Through our Asian Workers Fund we, and you, can share in their toil. We invite you to prayerfully consider helping in this great work.



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM ASIA HARVEST

As this is our fifth and final newsletter for 2005 we want to thank all our readers for their prayers, encouragement and support throughout the year. We pray the Risen Christ will truly be part the Christmas and New Year period for you and your family. In 2006 we hope, with God's help, to continue serving the Church in Asia and we invite you to partner with us to help see this happen. God bless you!

CHINA MARTYRS: The Baoding Massacre - 1900

The following article is taken from Paul Hattaway's upcoming book, *China's Book of Martyrs*, which will profile hundreds of inspirational testimonies of those who have died for Jesus Christ in China.

Rev. Isaac Pierson of the American Congregational Church started a mission at Baoding (formerly spelt Paoting) in Hebei Province in 1873. For the first few years Pierson met with great opposition from local officials and the people, who resented his presence in their city. The first convert came to Christ five years later, in 1878.

By the late 1890s more than a dozen foreign missionaries lived in the city. The

main church was led by Meng Zhangzhun (the son of the first Chinese Protestant in Baoding) and numbered approximately 120 believers, while the entire district under the administration of the Baoding Church had "a total church membership of about six hundred, besides children and inquirers."¹

By late 1899 the Christians of Baoding knew a perilous change had come over their city. An anti-foreign

s e c r e t organization known as the Boxers had grown in influence throughout the countryside. They resented the foreign control of different parts of China at the time, and were determined to drive all 'big nose devils' from their soil once and for



Christian women who were living in the Presbyterian mission at Baoding, 1900. All or most of these women were killed by the Boxers.

all. Missionaries were especially hated, while their Chinese converts were also attacked and hated as 'running dogs of the imperialists.'

Missionary May Simcox wrote a letter home on the last day of 1899: "South of us, there is an uprising among a class called 'Boxers.' They have decided to exterminate all foreigners and all who believe in foreign doctrines, and are persecuting Christians very dreadfully,—killing, destroying property and plundering. No foreigners have yet been hurt, but native preachers have been killed and great numbers are suffering now for want of food and clothing. They are coming Northward, and are now within seven miles of us. They organise in great numbers, but we have not much fear, for we think the officials would protect us here.... Remember us always in your prayers. Love to all your family from us all."²

Simcox's husband Frank wrote a letter to his home church, dated March 29, 1900, in which he said: "The Church in Shandong and Southern Hebei (this province) has become a Martyr Church, and we rejoice to know she had proved that she is able to suffer for the Lord. Hundreds of homes have been destroyed, and all have held fast. When the history of the Martyr Church of China is written, it will be a beautiful record of suffering for His Name!"³

On May 24 he added, "Many of the Catholics have renounced the faith rather than face death, but our people are all standing firm.... Our Christians say they will remain faithful even unto death; but oh, what a trial they are passing through!

The Church in China has already become a Martyr Church, and hers is a beautiful history of suffering.... Dark and troublous times are ahead of us, but we trust in the Heavenly Father's love, that all is for the best."⁴

In June the Boxers destroyed the rail line between Baoding and Beijing. They also destroyed the telegraph system and key bridges, and placed guards on the roads and rivers surrounding the city, effectively cutting Baoding off from the rest of China. On June 28 Pastor Meng Zhangzhun became the first Christian to be killed by the Boxers in Baoding.

The missionaries and more than a dozen Chinese believers belonging to the Presbyterian mission were killed on June 30 in the northern section of the city. A group of more than twenty Boxers and a mob of local troublemakers descended upon the Christians. They gained entry to the mission compound by setting fire to a pile of cornstalks they had placed against the doors, burning them down.

Approximately twenty Christians were slaughtered, many of them burned to death. One Chinese Christian "who tried to kill himself by jumping into the cistern was taken there-from, removed to the city and tortured during the night in an effort to secure evidence against the missionaries.... This man was afterwards put to death."⁵

Missionaries and Chinese believers associated with the China Inland Mission and the American Board (Congregational Church) were massacred on July 1 on a spot outside the south wall of the city. That day eleven foreign missionaries and four children were killed in the city, in

addition to around thirty Chinese Christians. The dead included a Brother Zhang and his wife who were key workers at the Christian hospital in the city. The Zhangs were close friends of missionary Mary Morrill. They were instructed to flee for their lives by the missionaries, "but during the night their sense of loyalty to those who had led him to the truth and their conviction of duty triumphed over fear and they returned and



Pastor Meng Zhangzhun - the first Christian killed by the Boxers in Baoding.

were faithful unto death."⁶

The Boxers found Mrs. Zhang, "carried her to a village not far away, and there many hands rained sword-blows upon the defenceless body as it lay by the roadside, until it was literally minced. No one dared to bury the poor remains, and when, long

months after, her sons searched for the body, they found only a skull."⁷

When a pit was later uncovered at the Congregational Church compound they discovered the grisly sight of three missionaries and nine Chinese believers: "Seven were children of the Meng brothers and of their sister, one a student from Shanxi, and the ninth, Meng's sister herself."⁸ The world was not worthy of them.

When another Christian man named Zhang heard that Pastor Meng had been murdered by the Boxers, his thoughts immediately went to some of the newer members of the faith whom he feared might be tempted to denounce Christ under pressure. He decided to visit their homes and encourage them, but one after the other he found the homes deserted—the inhabitants having fled for their lives. He returned to his own home, knowing the Boxers would soon come to kill him. Unafraid, he wrote the words 'I am a member of the Jesus Church' on a piece of paper and posted it on his door. A few days later, as he was sitting down to eat, a cry went up, 'The Boxers are coming!' Zhang said, "'They must wait until I have asked for the blessing'...and as he sat with his head bowed in prayer the Boxers rushed in and cut him down."⁹

Many were the tales of horror from Baoding. Imagine the grief one young Presbyterian man named Wang Jiude must have felt when he was told: "Your grandfather, mother, two sisters, two brothers and their wives, and four nieces have all been killed. We do not know whither your father and oldest brother have fled."¹⁰

In all, more than fifty Protestant believers died in Baoding and surrounding areas where they had fled.

On March 23 and 24, 1901, memorial services were held to commemorate the lives of the Baoding martyrs. On a banner bearing the insignia of cross and crown, with the motto 'Joyfully bearing the bitter cross,' were written the names of the slain, Over the martyrs' names was written the inscription Ling Shuang zai Tian—'Their spirits are happy in heaven.'

The Boxers' desire that Christianity would be forever wiped from China's soil were not fulfilled. Today there are approximately 12,000 Protestant Christians in Baoding City, in addition to at least 65,000 Catholics.



[Lonely graves mark the slaughter of the Baoding missionaries.](#)

NOTES

¹ W. P. Bentley, *Illustrious Chinese Christians: Biographical Sketches* (Cincinnati: The Standard Publishing Company, 1906), 123-125.

² Isaac C. Ketler, *The Tragedy of Paotingfu: An Authentic Story of the Lives, Services, and Sacrifices of the Presbyterian, Congregational and China Inland Missionaries who Suffered Martyrdom at Paotingfu, China, June 30 and July 1, 1900* (New York: Fleming H. Revell, 1902), 314.

³ Ketler, *The Tragedy of Paotingfu*, 348.

⁴ Ketler, *The Tragedy of Paotingfu*, 355-356.

⁵ Ketler, *The Tragedy of Paotingfu*, 380.

⁶ Ketler, *The Tragedy of Paotingfu*, 371.

⁷ Luella Miner, *China's Book of Martyrs: A Record of Heroic Martyrdoms and Marvelous Deliverances of Chinese Christians During the Summer of 1900* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1903), 372.

⁸ Ketler, *The Tragedy of Paotingfu*, 386-387.

⁹ Miner, *China's Book of Martyrs*, 180.

¹⁰ Miner, *China's Book of Martyrs*, 389-390.

Books by Asia Harvest

The following books can be purchased either by sending a check to Asia Harvest (United States, Australia, or New Zealand offices only) or by using your credit card over our secure website: www.asiaharvest.org. Please note there are significant discounts available for bulk orders of any of these books. Please contact us to find out more, or see our website.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE, TO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD



SET OF FIVE PRAYER BOOKS SPECIAL OFFER

The 50 Most Unreached People Groups of China and Tibet

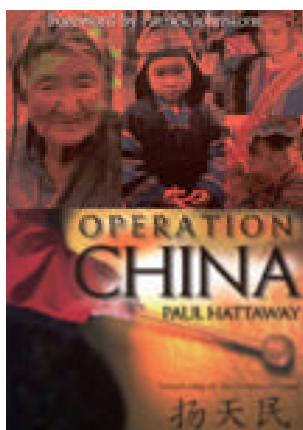
The Peoples of Vietnam

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

China's Unreached Cities, Volume One

China's Unreached Cities, Volume Two

A set of all five of the above books can be ordered for US\$50, including postage. If you want individual books, the prices are \$10, \$12, \$15, \$13 and \$14 respectively.



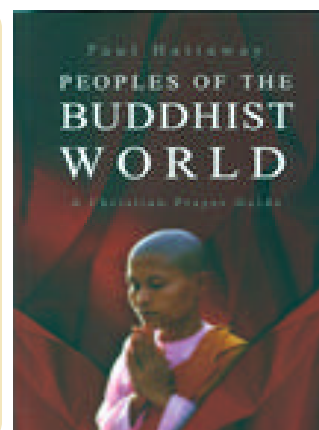
OPERATION CHINA

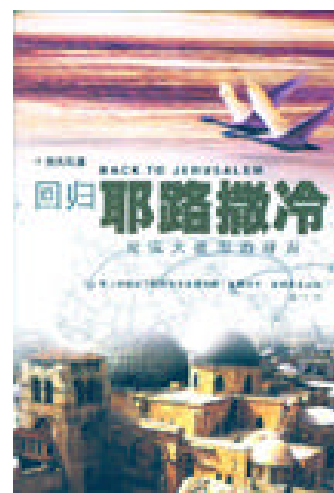
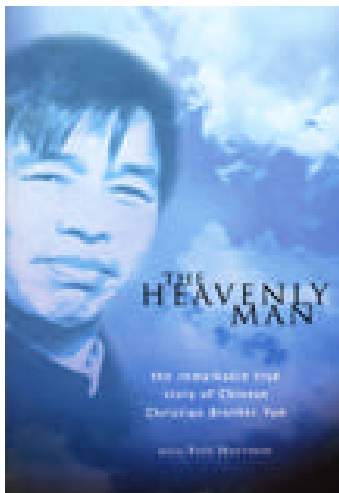
Operation China profiles almost 500 people groups of China. Full color throughout, 750 pages.

Book: US\$36 / CD-ROM \$19

PEOPLES OF THE BUDDHIST WORLD

A beautiful and unique book presenting God's heart for the 700 million Buddhists in the world. 454 pages. US\$26, post paid.





THE HEAVENLY MAN / BACK TO JERUSALEM

The Heavenly Man tells the remarkable true story of Chinese Christian Brother Yun. It has blessed people all around the world and encouraged them to a deeper walk with Jesus Christ. US\$18 including postage. Back to Jerusalem is the testimony of three Chinese house church leaders, revealing their powerful vision to complete the Great Commission. US\$17 inc. postage for the English or Chinese versions.

- - - - PLEASE CUT HERE AND SEND TO ASIA HARVEST - - - - -

Enclosed is a check/money order for _____ for the following book(s)

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 50 Most Unreached Peoples of China and Tibet | _____ @ US\$10 = _____ |
| The Peoples of Vietnam | _____ @ US\$12 = _____ |
| Faces of the Unreached in Laos | _____ @ US\$15 = _____ |
| China's Unreached Cities, Vol.One | _____ @ US\$13 = _____ |
| China's Unreached Cities, Vol.Two | _____ @ US\$14 = _____ |
| SPECIAL OFFER: all 5 of the above books | _____ @ US\$50 = _____ |
| Operation China BOOK | _____ @ US\$36 = _____ |
| Operation China CD-ROM | _____ @ US\$19 = _____ |
| Peoples of the Buddhist World | _____ @ US\$26 = _____ |
| The Heavenly Man | _____ @ US\$18 = _____ |
| Back to Jerusalem (English / Chinese) | _____ @ US\$17 = _____ |
| SPECIAL OFFER: ALL 9 ENGLISH BOOKS | _____ @ US\$120 = _____ |

Your Name: _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Address: _____

PROJECT UPDATES

EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY FUND



On the morning of October 9 a massive earthquake struck the mountainous area between Kashmir (India and Pakistan) and parts of Afghanistan. The damage and destruction caused is huge, with the number of dead presently over 100,000. For many years Asia Harvest has partnered with a mission working in Kashmir. Together we launched a plan to help the victims of the quake, with food, blankets, medicine, etc. being provided. Thanks to the generosity of many Christians, we have received more than \$30,000 which has

been utilized in Kashmir already. In the longer term help is needed to assist people in the rebuilding of their lives. If you would like to help with this need, please send a note "Earthquake Fund" along with your gift

CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Current Total: 137 Sunday School Teachers Trained and Equipped.

Even though we only announced our new China Children's Project in our last newsletter, we have been greatly encouraged by the generous response and have so far received funds to train and equip 137 Chinese Sunday School teachers. Each teacher, on average, is expected to train 100 children and establish them in the Word of God.

Each person attending the training has their travel costs covered, and a set of materials is given to them for free. This set of materials includes a Children's Bible, Teacher's Manual, 18 Teaching books with visual aids, 15 hours of VCD (video cassette disc) teaching, 6 CDs of 'Children's Heavenly Songs'. The total cost of \$47 per set includes printing and production, storage and transportation, and training expenses.

