



Asia Harvest

2007

NEWSLETTERS

(Combined)

Asia Harvest



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

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

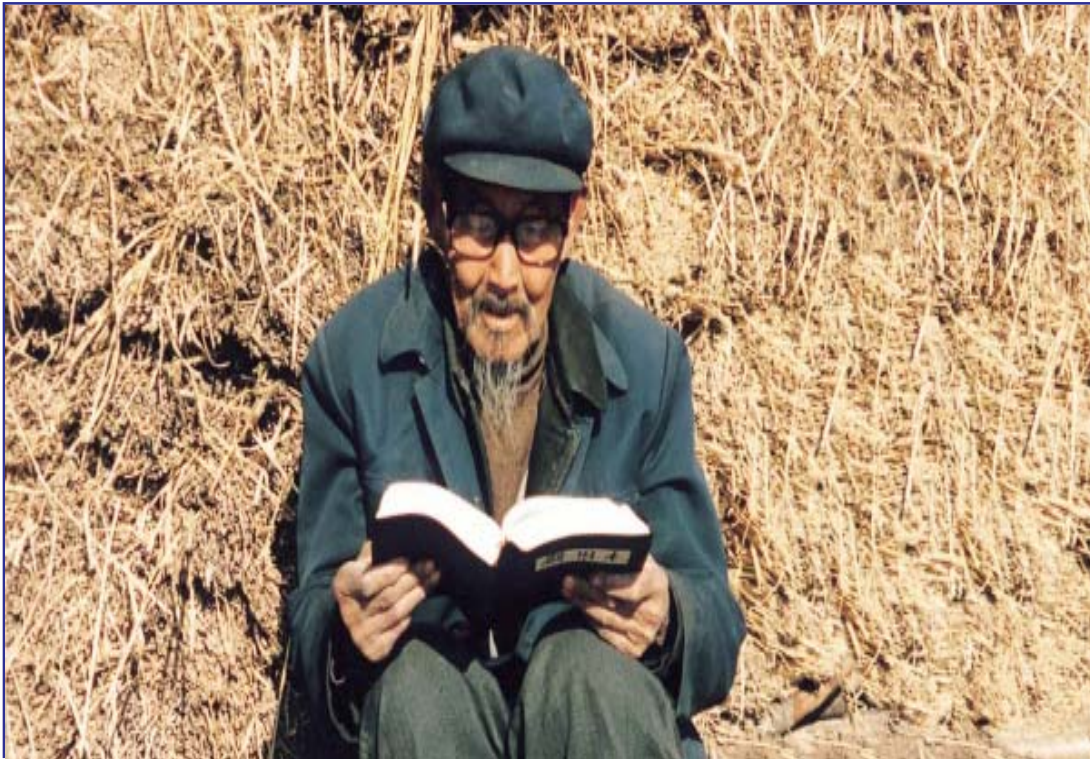
Tel: (877) 868-5025

Fax: (877) 868-5025

Email: office@asiaharvest.org

Website: www.asiaharvest.org

February 2007 - Newsletter #88



2007 Annual Report

Serving the Lord with Gladness

Asia Harvest Report 2006/07

by Paul Hattaway

“Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.”
(Psalm 100:1-3)

We pray you and your family enjoyed a blessed and peaceful start to 2007. In this issue we would like to present a brief summary report of the various projects Asia Harvest was privileged to be involved with throughout Asia in 2006.

One thing the Lord Jesus Christ constantly impresses upon us is that we are to “serve the Lord with gladness,” as the Bible says. This doesn’t mean we should try to conjure up some kind of hype-based emotion, but rather we should rest and be content in Christ’s peace and joy as we serve Him. When we serve the Lord with gladness we tap into His strength, for ***“The joy of the Lord is your strength”*** (Nehemiah 8:10). When we lose touch with the joy of the Lord we tend to get discouraged and life becomes more of a struggle.

A number of people have written and said they would like to know something about how and when Asia Harvest began. Not many people know how the Lord first called me into ministry in Asia. This occurred in the 1980s when I was 19-years-old, just after coming to faith in Christ. At the time I didn’t know what to do with my life, and having no career or worldly qualifications, but God had a plan for my life and sent me to China in a clear and precise manner. I had no money or income of any kind, and all my possessions fit into one backpack. After calling me to China, the Lord Jesus miraculously provided just enough finances to purchase an airline ticket to Hong Kong, which at the time was the most expensive city in the world. Because I was a new Christian of just six months, my home church didn’t think it was a great idea that I should go to Asia, but I was so sure that God had called me to go that I knew it would be a serious offence to Him if I stayed in my home country of New Zealand. Despite having no support of any kind, the Lord took care of me in a wonderful way and by His grace I was able to join up with a ministry and carry Bibles into China more than 50 times in the first six months. I am so thankful for those experiences, and I was able to see God’s miraculous provision on many occasions.

My initial plan was to go to Asia for six weeks, but that time frame was soon discarded. Jesus continued to lead and provide, and opened new doors of opportunity. Over time Asia Harvest came into existence, and we have been so blessed to stand back and see the Lord move and extend His kingdom in Asia. He has stretched the initial six weeks out now to twenty years! We have had many good people come and help us as the work grew over the years. In 1991 I met a beautiful young lady from the US state of Idaho. Joy was also working in a ministry carrying Bibles into China, and we were united in marriage. We have two precious sons, Dalen (now 10) and Taine (5).

God has been so good to us, and it is in this context that we look back with gladness at what the Lord has done, and we look forward to the future with joy and confidence. The work of Asia Harvest has grown, but it has all been the Lord's doing. In keeping with what we believe the Lord told us, we do not do any fund-raising at all (apart from mentioning different projects in our newsletter which people can give to if they feel the Holy Spirit leading them to). Our desire is to leave it up to God to supply our needs. We don't want anyone to feel manipulated or under compulsion in any way, for the Bible says, ***"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"*** (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Our desire has always been to get God's resources to the front lines in Asia, where they are needed the most. We operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, which means that we don't have any flash offices, and we operate with a skeleton staff of just a few administrative workers who work hard for God's kingdom. The real frontline work of God's kingdom is done by hundreds of Asian Christians whom we feel privileged to assist.

We want to thank all of you who participated in the advance of the kingdom of God throughout Asia in the past year, whether through Asia Harvest or another organization. Our vision since we started working in Asia has been simply to serve as a link between the Asian Church and Christians around the world, so that the Gospel may spread, changing lives throughout Asia where two-thirds of the world's population lives. In 2006 we are so thankful for each individual, family, and fellowship of believers who prayed for the work in Asia, or encouraged us, or helped through giving. On behalf of the believers in China, Vietnam, Laos, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, or wherever else in Asia your help reached to, we thank you for your wonderful participation!

We are acutely aware that without God's guiding hand, and the Spirit-led participation of His people, nothing of eternal value would be accomplished. Our prayer is that God would be glorified, for He alone is worthy! **Thank you and God bless you**, and in 2007 let's remember to serve the Lord with gladness!

Tsunami Relief Continues

Although the world's attention has moved on since the terrible tsunami struck the coastlines of Asia at the end of 2004, much work helping communities get back on their feet continues to the present time, and will do so well into 2007.

The current Tsunami relief work is a long-term goal to rebuild lives and communities in the affected areas, especially in Indonesia, Thailand, India and Sri Lanka. Hundreds of simple houses have been constructed for those who lost everything, such as the ones pictured below.



In 2006 we were able to send on a total of **US\$722,148** to help in the rebuilding. This makes a total of **\$1,795,076** since the tsunami struck. Every cent of this has been sent on to the neediest areas. We did not use any part of it for administration or any other purposes.

All of the tsunami relief we have been involved with is done through Christian organizations. This has resulted in some wonderful advances for the kingdom of God. In Thailand, one small tribe which was decimated by the disaster now has more than 100 new Christians in their midst because the help they received opened their hearts to the message of those bringing it.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word

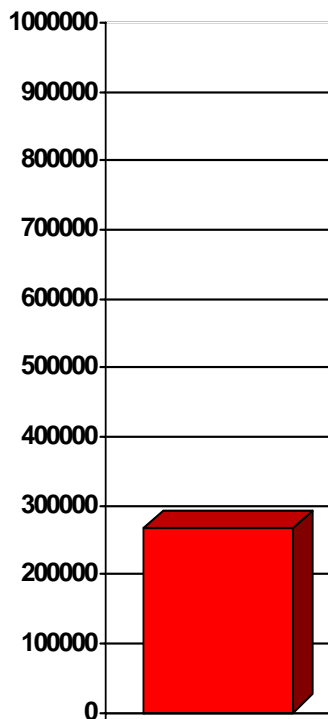
We are thankful to the many people who pray and give so that Christians in China might have their own Bible. Although there have been many changes in China in recent years, and the method of getting Bibles to house church believers has changed, the one thing that remains the same is the tremendous need for the Word of God among the Chinese churches. Recently we have received many letters from China like these:

We have planted 20 churches, but the police came and took all our Bibles. We urgently need 5,200 more Bibles.

In Heilongjiang Province we preached to policemen and to farmers and 500 received baptism! We also sent workers to Shandong Province, and hundreds of workers there are waiting for Bibles and teaching materials.

We held revival meetings in Gansu Province, and each believer shared the Gospel with 10 people. Now we need 2,400 Bibles.

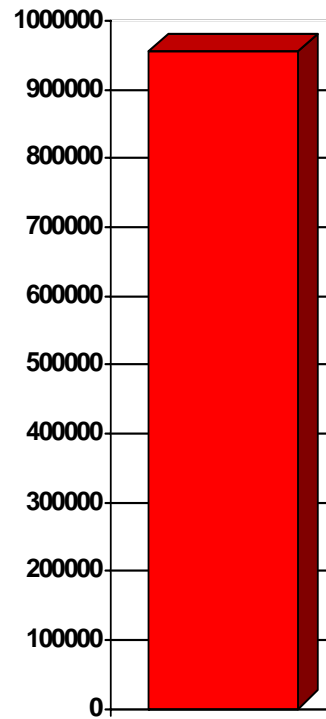
**2006 Bibles
printed: 266,357**



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 US \$2.25 to print and deliver.

**Total Bibles since
2000: 954,833**



PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 1,212 children in Vietnam in 2006 (4,660 since 1999).



You are probably aware that Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with cleft palate or harelip disabilities. What you may not know is that we are now also helping children with various forms of cancer, burns, club-feet, and other conditions. We received the following testimony from our co-workers in Vietnam:

There was excitement among the hundreds of people who had crowded into the government meeting hall, for they were there to see the children receive their wheelchairs. As each name was called their parents carried them forward to claim the dream that had come true.

As one name, Xuan, was called out, our eyes fixed on the brave young 16-year-old girl as she walked slowly towards us, for Xuan had been born without legs, and she was walking on her hands. When she reached the wheelchair her eyes were wide with excitement. She sat down and ran her hands over every part, caressing it as if to ensure this was no mirage.



Thuy, one of the 200 children on the list for wheelchairs simply said, "I have been waiting my turn so I don't have to walk on my knees anymore." Even at her young age her knees were worn flat and calloused. On behalf of the hundreds of precious children whose lives have been touched and changed through your gifts, we thank you!

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

Supporting Christians disabled by Persecution

Because of your prayers and support we were able to support 1,140 living martyrs throughout 2006. 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 disabled or are faced with long-term illness or injury as a result of torture. The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. A house church leader recently said, "The Martyr's fund is very important. It helps many who are not able to support their families because they are in prison or disabled and unable to work. It also helps the Church provide for the families of martyrs. Many of them have no other means of income." You can support one or more of these living martyrs with a gift of **\$25 per month each**. A prayer card is sent to every regular supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to remind you to pray.



Brother Hu, a house church Christian, shows the deep wounds in his legs after being tortured by the Chinese police.

CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Equipping the Church to Reach China's Children

In 2006 sufficient funds were received for the Chinese house churches to train and equip 1,319 Sunday School teachers (2,320 in the last two years). Each teacher is expected to train an average of 100 children.

Thank you for the generous response to this strategic project to reach China's children for Christ. Each teacher, on average, is expected to teach 100 children and establish them in the Word of God. Teachers attending the training have their travel costs covered, and a set of materials given to them for free. These materials include a children's Bible, teacher's manual, teaching books with visual aids, and VCD (video cassette disc) teaching. **The total cost of \$47 per set** includes printing and production, and training expenses.



ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

Because of your prayers and partnership we were able to support an average of 293 Asian church-planting missionaries every month throughout 2006.

The Asian workers' fund provides financial support to evangelists in Asia who are involved with strategic and ground-breaking work in areas that have never had a Gospel witness before. We work alongside Asian Christian leaders, helping to strengthen their ministries and giving in a non-controlling manner to those who are serving Christ wholeheartedly.

The fruit of their labors can be clearly seen as hundreds of people have found faith in Jesus Christ each year, with dozens of church fellowships established in some of the darkest parts of Asia. One such place is the small country of Bhutan, a Buddhist kingdom hidden in the Himalayas bordering Tibet and India. Others work in areas of northern India, reaching out to a number of needy tribes.

In China we are privileged to support many Chinese evangelists who are taking the Gospel to the ethnic minority groups throughout the country, including in Tibet and the Muslim-dominated Xinjiang Region. They have encountered many hardships and persecutions for the Gospel, but they have persevered and have begun to see dozens of Muslims come to faith in Jesus.

An 80-year-old Chinese house church leader recently told us, "Supporting evangelists is vital as it supplements the house churches' support for its workers involved in full time evangelism. With this help, evangelists are able to travel throughout the countryside as well as ministering in the cities. We have sent many evangelists to the big cities, as we feel these are the most needy mission fields in China today. We sent some evangelists to Shanghai and in four years they planted 137 house churches in that city."

Through your prayers and generous gifts, we were able to support many new evangelists in 2006. This work is constantly expanding and new workers are being recruited. You can support one or more of these workers with a gift of **US\$25 per month each**. A laminated prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.



SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

Current Total: 35,674 Bibles printed in 17 different languages



The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam contain more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. In some cases, missionaries labored for years translating the Word of God for a tribe, only to have their work cut short by the change of government. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities.

Recently, our main contact in charge of this project told us about a tremendous opportunity to get the Word of God printed in Communist Vietnam. He wrote,

“A window of opportunity has opened for us to print Bibles legally inside Vietnam, in many different languages. This is amazing because for all these years Bible printing has been illegal. This opening seems to have come about because Vietnam is seeking membership in the World Trade Organization, and they don't want to appear to be carrying out religious persecution. We don't know how long this window will remain open. China went through these same motions when they applied to be a member of the WTO. Once they were successful, they recommenced their attacks on the Church. In the meantime we have the opportunity to print tens of thousands of Bibles for the tribal believers. Right now there are 6 projects ready for printing:

New Testaments in the Stieng, Jeh, Koho and Mnong Ralam languages

New Testament and Psalms in the Bahnar and Bru languages

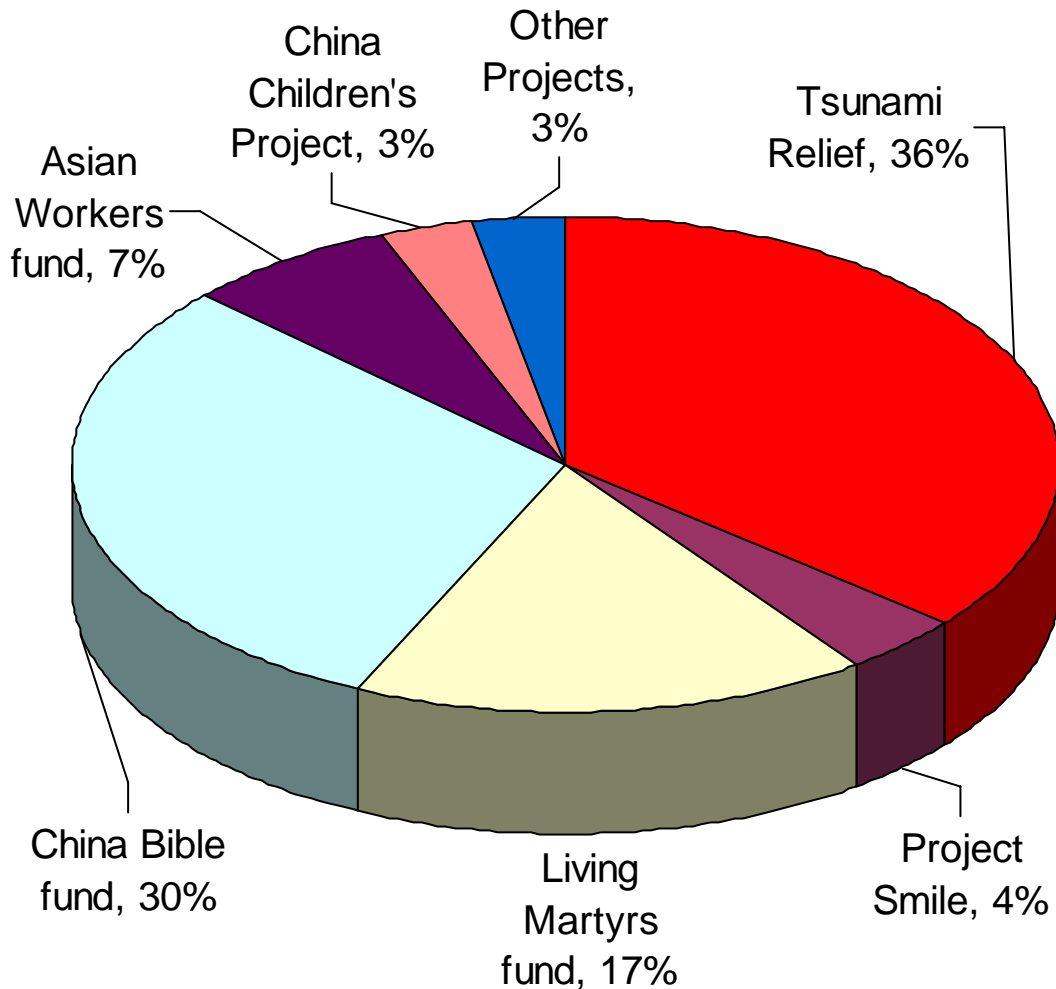
We also have 3 projects that will be ready to print by the Spring of 2007:

New Testaments in the Hre, Churu, and Mnong Gar languages

We urgently need to print 5,000 copies in each language. In many cases, Christians among these tribes in Vietnam have been deprived of God's Word since the Communists took power in 1975.”

Because of your gifts, Asia Harvest has already provided over \$7,000 for this need, but much more is required if we are to seize this window of opportunity and bless our brothers and sisters in Vietnam with God's Word. On average, each Bible costs \$2.70 to print and deliver. If you would like to participate, please fill out the enclosed yellow Response Form and send it to us with your gift.

Summary of Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2006



2007 Financial Statement

At Asia Harvest we desire to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2006 is now available upon request. Please write and ask if you would like to receive it.

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

April 2007 - Newsletter #89



Bibles for Vietnam
- A Window of Opportunity -

From the Front Lines

with Paul 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.”

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

This issue of our Asia Harvest newsletter is about Vietnam, and the need for Bibles among the many ethnic tribes there. Recently I remembered back to my first trip to Vietnam 17 years ago. The country was drastically different to how it is now. Back then it was still trying to shake off the effects of the Vietnam War. There were very few vehicles on the streets apart from police cars and army trucks, and foreigners were closely watched and followed wherever they went.

I believed that God wanted me to carry Bibles into Vietnam and the neighboring country of Laos. An organization in Bangkok, Thailand, provided Bibles for free to Christians who were willing to carry them into these nations, and I looked forward to loading up with as many as I could before leaving for Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon). I had just one problem. Apart from my ticket I had absolutely no money for any other expenses such as food and accommodation. These costs were estimated to be just US\$75, but after much prayer I boarded my flight to Bangkok still with no money at all for the additional expenses. I tried to hide my worry, but had little option but to trust that God would do something.

My Singapore Airlines flight arrived in Bangkok and I waited for my bag to appear on the conveyer belt. After a while all the other passengers had collected their belongings and left the customs area, and the conveyer belt was turned off. My bag had been lost by the airline!

Now I was really worried. I could hardly believe that things had become even worse. I went to the airline counter and filled out a form for my lost bag. They apologized and said they would bring it to the place I was staying as soon as it turned up. Dirty and tired from the flight, I left the airport wondering if I had heard from God correctly that I was to carry Bibles to the believers in Vietnam.

The next morning there was a knock at my door. An airport employee was standing there with my bag! He again apologized and asked me to sign a receipt as he handed me an envelope, explaining that it was Singapore Airlines policy to compensate passengers whose luggage had been misplaced. I sat down on my

bed and opened the envelope to find US\$75 cash, exactly what I needed to go to Vietnam!

By the grace of God I successfully delivered more than 100 Vietnamese Bibles on that journey, and I met with some of the key house church leaders. In those days they received very few visitors from overseas and we had a wonderful time of fellowship. One of the church leaders told me he slept with a packed bag next to his bed every



night, so that if the police came to take him off to prison he would have some essential supplies to take with him.

Just a few weeks later I received news that the pastor had indeed been arrested and sentenced to several years in prison, along with several other key Vietnamese house church leaders. Such commitment touched my heart and challenged me to live more wholeheartedly for the Lord Jesus Christ. The \$75 provision had also taught me a valuable lesson about trusting God! He is always in charge, even if He has to orchestrate getting your bags lost to show it!

The years have passed since that first trip. We have been privileged to travel back to Vietnam on many occasions, and have seen the Church

grow despite many setbacks and much persecution from the Communist government. House churches movements which had hundreds of believers now have tens of thousands, and the Name of Jesus has been proclaimed in thousands of villages and communities.

Last year we launched our “Southeast Asia Bible Fund” which helps print and deliver Bibles in tribal languages throughout Vietnam and other SE Asian nations. At the time we didn’t know that a tremendous, strategic opportunity would present itself in Vietnam.

This newsletter is about that opportunity. We hope you will read about it and prayerfully consider how you, your family, or your church group might be involved in blessing our brothers and sisters in Vietnam who have been without God’s Word for so long.

Bibles for Vietnam - A Strategic Opportunity to Help Make a Difference



Vietnam has changed enormously over the last 10 years. The economy is booming, and the major cities are full of glittering lights, five-star hotels, and towering apartment blocks. In the countryside, however, change has been much slower and millions of people still struggle to eke out a living, earning just a few dollars a day.

Vietnam is home to more than 100 distinct tribes and people groups (although the government officially recognizes just 54 of them). These groups range in size from more than one million people down to tiny groups with just a few hundred individuals trying to hold on to their culture and language.

North Vietnam became Communist in 1954, but the South of the country held out against Communism until the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. The whole country remains Communist to the present day.

In the years preceding the Communist takeover of South Vietnam in 1975, many missionaries worked among the numerous tribal groups in the south. They translated the Bible, or at least the New Testament, into more than a dozen tribal languages during this time. In 1975 all missionaries were expelled from the country and Vietnam was effectively shut off to the outside world for years to come.

Recently we spoke with a veteran missionary who visited South Vietnam in 1968 and stayed in a guest house operated by Bible translators. He

recalled their courage and devotion to the Lord:

In 1968 I was first asked to go to Vietnam to help solve the missionaries' printing needs. I was met at Saigon airport by missionaries from the Summer Institute of Linguistics. We immediately bonded together. They were the bravest and most dedicated disciples I had ever met. While the fighting between the North Vietnamese and the Americans was at its worst, SIL missionaries boldly continued their work of translating the Word of God for the many tribal groups living in the jungles.

Each morning before breakfast I joined all the missionaries in a Bible study and prayer meeting. I loved the fellowship with these dear brothers and sisters who were willing to give up everything so that the tribes would have the Scriptures in their languages. I learned that all the printing shops in Saigon had been closed because of the war, so the missionaries needed help from the outside. At first I didn't realize the cost these brave warriors had paid. On later trips to Saigon I learned that many of my new friends had lost their wives or their husbands during Viet-Cong ambushes.

Amazingly, God's grace and joy had given them strength to stand tall through all the suffering, hurt and pain.

On Sunday morning we drove 25 miles to where more than 1,500 tribal Christians were waiting for our arrival. I was introduced to the pastor, a precious saint who had lost his eyes after being tortured

by the Viet-Cong. The missionaries later told me the blind pastor had led over 1,700 people to Jesus Christ, and had baptized most of them right in the midst of the war.

His example of true consecration gave me much strength in the later years of my ministry.

After Vietnam slowly started to reopen in the late 1980s and early 1990s it was found the tribal Christians still followed the Lord Jesus in large numbers, despite years of persecution and hardship. Their biggest need then, and today, is for Bibles. For years it was illegal to print the Word of God inside Vietnam, so the only Bibles the believers could obtain in their native language came on the rare occasions that foreign Christians would visit Vietnam and carry Bibles with them.

Starting in the late 1990s, Asia Harvest helped print and deliver more



A load of Bibles ready for distribution

than 20,000 Bibles to Vietnam. These were warmly received and helped many churches grow in faith and in number. Now, a far greater opportunity has arisen to get tens of thousands of Bibles into the hands of tribal believers in Vietnam, totally legally.

Our main contact who leads this work has many years experience in Vietnam. He recently wrote the following letter, outlining these exciting developments:

I've recently returned from a trip to Vietnam, and I've learned that there is currently an almost unbelievable window of opportunity to supply Vietnam's tribal Christians with the Word of God. We need your prayers and support if this is

to become a reality to help many people receive their very first copy of God's Word.

Things are changing in Vietnam. The most probable reason for this is that Vietnam is seeking entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) and would like to slowly open its markets to the world economy. As a result of this, and Vietnam's desire for a closer relationship with America, the government is starting to allow some religious freedoms in the cities. So what has happened is that the city governments have started to give permission for tribal Bibles to be printed. This is amazing, because up until last year even using the tribal



Boxes of Bibles being carried through the jungle to Christians in a remote village.



A group of tribal Christians listening intently to the preaching of God's Word.

scripts was outlawed. Amazingly, we can now print these Bibles legally in Vietnam.

The timing couldn't be better, because a number of tribal Bible translations or revisions have been recently completed and more are being finished as I write. It just seems like God's timing that this would happen all at once.

We have a sense of urgency as we don't know how long this window of opportunity will remain open. China went through these same motions when they applied to the WTO. They decreased their attacks on the church when they were applying, but once their application was granted at the end of 2001, the government recommenced its persecution against the Body of Christ.

Vietnam often follows China's lead, so we don't know what will happen once Vietnam finally achieves WTO membership.

I am writing at this time to let you know of this opportunity, and what is needed to see this come to pass. Time may be short, but if we act together, tens of thousands of Scriptures can be printed for Vietnam's poorest and most persecuted believers.

There are 8 Bible translations ready for printing right now! The church leaders are praying that their flocks might be fed by the Word of God they so desperately crave.

We are excited about this great opportunity. Would you please prayerfully consider helping through prayer and/or financial support? Perhaps your church can assist in these printing projects. Thank you and God bless you.

Below we outline the various printing projects that we would like to complete for the tribal Christians of Vietnam and neighboring countries. We include some basic data about each tribe, and the number of Bibles we want to print as soon as possible:



Tribe: STIENG
Countries: Vietnam, Cambodia
Population: 64,000
Christians: 31,000
Portions of the Stieng Bible were first translated in 1971. Now the entire New Testament is available but few

Stieng Christians have a copy. With God's help we plan to print and deliver 5,000 Stieng New Testaments.

Tribe: JEH

Countries: Vietnam, Laos

Population: 46,000

Christians: 15,000

Portions of the Jeh Bible were first translated in 1967. The entire New Testament is now available but few

Jeh Christians have ever had owned a copy. Our plan is to print and deliver 5,000 Jeh New Testaments.



Tribe: KOHO

Country: Vietnam

Population: 142,000

Christians: 60,000

The Koho New Testament was first translated in 1967. They are one of the strongest Christian tribes in Vietnam, with

approximately 60,000 believers. Please pray as we seek to print and deliver 5,000 Koho New Testaments.



Tribe: MNONG

Countries: Vietnam, Cambodia

Population: 98,000

Christians: 48,000

The Mnong Scriptures were first translated in 1977, but are scarce. By God's grace we

plan to print and deliver 5,000 Mnong New Testaments.





Tribe: BAHNAR

Country: Vietnam

Population: 174,000

Christians: 25,000

*Portions of the Bahnar Bible were first translated by missionaries back in 1952, but the whole New Testament was not completed until 1977. Please pray we will be able to print and deliver **5,000 Bahnar New Testaments (with Psalms)**.*



Tribe: BRU

Countries: Laos, Vietnam

Population: 137,000

Christians: 14,000

*The Bru Scriptures were first translated in 1968, and the New Testament in 1981. Our plan is to print and deliver **5,000 Bru New Testaments (with Psalms)**, to Christians in both Vietnam and Laos.*

Tribe: HRE

Country: Vietnam

Population: 124,000

Christians: 13,000

*The Hre Scriptures were first translated by faithful missionaries in 1967. With God's enabling power we plan to print and deliver **5,000 Hre New Testaments** to the hungry believers.*



Tribe: CHORO

Population: 22,000

Christians: 10,000

Portions of the

Choro Scriptures

were first translated

in 1966, and the

New Testament

was completed in

1982. With God's

help we plan to print and deliver **5,000 Choro New Testaments to our needy brothers and sisters.**



THE SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

Please pray for this strategic opportunity, and consider if you or your church group are able to participate. The cost of printing the Bibles varies from language to language, but we have estimated an average cost per Bible of \$2.70, including printing and delivery. All Bibles are distributed free of charge to the tribal Christians. To help, please fill in the yellow Response form in this newsletter and send your check/cheque to the Asia Harvest office nearest you. Alternatively, you can make an easy and secure credit card donation to this or any of our projects at our website: www.asiaharvest.org

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

Current Total: 40,104 Bibles Printed in 17 different Languages



The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam contain more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. In some cases, missionaries labored for years translating the Word of God for a tribe, only to have their work cut short by the change of government. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities. **Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.**

ASIAN WORKERS FUND

Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 307 Asian evangelists.



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

CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Current Total: 2,537 Children's Bible Teachers Trained and Equipped.



Thank you for the generous response to this strategic project to reach China's children for Christ. Each teacher, on average, is expected to teach 100 children and establish them in the Word of God. Teachers attending the training have their travel costs covered and a set of materials provided for free. These materials include a children's Bible, teacher's manual, teaching books with visual aids, and VCD (video cassette disc) teaching. **The total cost of \$47 per set** includes printing and production, and training expenses.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Current Total: 966,771 Bibles printed and delivered.



We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests from house church leaders throughout the country, requesting God's Word for their flocks. These Bibles are distributed free of charge to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning brightly. Each full Bible costs just \$2.25 to print and deliver.

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS FUND

Because of your partnership we are supporting 1,107 living martyrs.



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

(The Voice of the Martyrs)

The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists who are unable to work because of their injuries or illness. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through an occasional or monthly gift you can help support one or more of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every regular supporter.

PROJECT SMILE



Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 5,139 children in Vietnam.

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



Newsletter Return address
(do not send letters here):
Asia Harvest
Box 17 Chang Klan P.O.
Chiang Mai, 50101
Thailand

AIR MAIL

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 2007 - Newsletter #90



Fire and Blood

- A Strategic Project for the Church in China

From the Front Lines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.”
(John 7:37-39)

In the books of 1 and 2 Kings we find many great stories of how God worked at that time in history. They are among our favorite books in the Bible, and we have been reading them as a family every evening before our sons go to bed. In the above verse, Jesus announced that streams of living water would flow from within those people who believe in Him. What a great promise! Throughout Asia we have seen this in action, as God continues to save many people in various nations. In some cases whole tribes have come to the Lord as the living water has flowed and brought life to multitudes.

God has long been turning contaminated water into living water. Before Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind, Elisha asked for a double portion of his spirit. The very first miracle performed by Elisha occurred after the men of Jericho said to him, **“Look, our lord, this town is well situated, as you can see, but the water is bad and the land unproductive”** (2 Kings 2:19).

Is this an accurate description of your own life, or that of your church? Has the water also become bad and the land unproductive? If so, don't lose hope because we serve a God who can intervene and transform your life. Elisha instructed the men to bring a bowl with some salt in it. He threw the salt into the town's spring and declared, **“This is what the Lord says: ‘I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive.’ And the water has remained wholesome to this day, according to the word Elisha had spoken”** (2 Kings 2:21-22).

When Jesus Christ changes you, not only will streams of living water flow from within, but that fresh presence of God in your life will result in the surrounding land becoming productive. Everywhere Jesus goes, streams of living water flow into the lives of people who obey His Word. Wherever He is, the dead become alive and barren deserts become fruitful again.

This is how the kingdom of God has been advancing throughout Asia in recent decades. Countries like China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Nepal have experienced tremendous growth as the Gospel has been proclaimed powerfully in grace and truth. God has generally not used the famous or highly-educated to accomplish this great work, but rather He has chosen the humble farmers and fishermen, just like Jesus did two millennia ago.

Can we ask something personal? Do you have streams of living water flowing from your life? Do you experience the joy of the Lord, or has your spiritual life become dry and dusty, based on human intellect and empty rituals? Before you will ever see other people experiencing God's living water, you will need to be immersed in it yourself.

If you have never experienced God's living water inside of you then I encourage you to fall to your knees and cry out to God. Ask Him to change your life, and dedicate the rest of your days to serving Him and His purposes rather than your own. The same Heavenly Father who loves you so much that He pursued you until you became one of His children, also desires to have an intimate and life-giving relationship with you.



If you do know God, but it has been years since you felt the fresh presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life, then you too should fall to your knees and seek Him. Remember both the warning and promise that Jesus gave the church in Ephesus:

“Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.... To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God” (Revelation 2:5, 7).



Fire and Blood - Introducing a Strategic Project for the Church in China



"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. ... They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. ... They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your kingdom"

(Psalm 145:3-4, 6, 11-12).

Ever since I first started to serve as a missionary in Asia in the 1980s, I (Paul) have been fascinated by the Church in China, and have endeavoured to learn all I can about them, and also from them.

One expert has stated that the current revival in China is the longest lasting and numerically largest revival in the history of Christianity. When the Chinese church started to reemerge in the mid-1970s after decades of brutal persecution, there was

estimated to be only between five and ten million Christians in the entire country.

Late last year a Chinese official named Ye Xiaowen, who is the Director of China's State Administration for Religious Affairs, claimed in a closed-door meeting that the total number of Christians in China is now close to 130 million! Although this is the first time an official in China has stated such a large figure, the fact is that even he is just guessing at the true size of the revival that has burned so brightly for the last 30 years.

Yet little more than a century ago China was considered one of the most difficult mission fields in the world. The great Welsh missionary Griffith John once declared: "The good news is moving but very slowly. The people are as hard as steel. They are eaten up both soul and body by the world, and do not seem to feel that there can be reality in anything beyond sense. To them our doctrine is foolishness, our talk jargon. We discuss and beat them in argument. We reason them into silence and shame; but the whole effort falls upon them like showers upon a sandy desert."

Does this sound familiar to you and how people are in your part of the world? If so, don't give up, because what God has done in China He can also do in your nation.

When it is all said and done, no person in China will be able to take credit for the amazing miracle that has occurred there. It will be clear that this great accomplishment is the handiwork of none other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself. We will do well just to stand in awe and declare: ***"The Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*** (Psalm 118:23-24)

Over the years I have come to realize that even though most Christians around the world know that God has been doing a mighty work in China, few people know much about how this has occurred. This is a shame, and in many ways the reasons for the revival in China have remained a mystery to Christians around the world.

I have to say that out of all the books I have written, I feel the presence and pleasure of the Holy Spirit the most whenever I am writing about the Chinese Church. It is a tremendous privilege to record some of what the Lord has done in the world's most populous nation.

In January 2000 I was blessed to attend a meeting of senior Chinese house church leaders for several days. During that time they told me of a need among the believers in China. Because of the speed and scope of the revival, few Christians in China understand how God has established His kingdom among them, both historically and today.

Most house church believers have little idea of the events that led to the current situation. In many locations the majority of Christians have come to faith in the last 10 years, and are unaware that Christianity in China has a history dating back to 635 AD, nor do they know much about the many men and women who have laid down their lives so that the flame of the Gospel would continue to burn brightly.

When I heard this back in 2000, I believe the Lord called me to commence a project that would glorify God and result in a blessing to many Christians both in China and around the world. Out of this, the vision to produce a series of books was birthed.

“Fire and Blood” is an ambitious project to document the advance of Christianity in China from the earliest beginnings to the present day.

My intention is not just to present a dry account of historical events. There are plenty of such books already available. Rather, **my desire was to present inspirational testimonies that bring alive the marvelous story of how God has caused the Gospel to take root and flourish.**

The title indicates the main themes of these books. **FIRE** refers to the fire of God, which has sent the revival and brought life and blessing to so many areas of China.

BLOOD is a reminder of the persecution and purging that believers in China have experienced for the sake of the Gospel over many centuries.

Revival has not come about by accident. The Church in China has endured centuries

of fire and blood, which moistened the ground for the present time of harvest.

It is hoped that most or all of the 30 books will be translated and distributed to believers throughout China. Obviously, before this happens I need to write the books in English, so Christians around the world will also have a chance to learn about God’s mighty works in China. **The first volume, China’s Book of Martyrs, is now available! (See the enclosed paper in this newsletter for details, or go to our website: www.asiaharvest.org to order).**

In preparation for this series of books I have spent years researching Christianity in China, meticulously gathering information and pictures, and I have read more than 1,500 books—and thousands more articles and publications relating to the Chinese Church. I feel that with God’s



House church Christians meeting in a cave in northern China

help I have turned over every stone I know about in order to obtain as clear a picture as possible about His workings in China.

If you have ever visited my office you will have noticed boxes of photocopied papers, clippings, and typed transcripts of interviews, all arranged province-by-province.

‘Fire & Blood’ will examine and document every creed of Christianity to have taken root in China—all those who call on the name of Jesus Christ will be included and their stories told. In total, it is expected to comprise more than 30 volumes. The aim is to release two volumes per year, focusing on the Church in each province of China.

I consider it a great honor to write these books, especially as I have been entrusted, in the hundreds of hours of interviews I have conducted inside China, with many testimonies that have never been published before.

The series will be illustrated with more than 3,000 photographs, from images of Christian frescos painted more than a thousand years ago to contemporary pictures of the church. Of course, I will take every care that no specific information is published that might endanger Christians in China today.

At the back of each book from Volume 2 onwards there will be a detailed statistical analysis providing estimates of the number of Christians living in each city and county within each province.

This is the first ever comprehensive investigation of the number of believers in China—in each of its more than 2,400 cities and counties—drawing on more than two thousand sources.

Such a huge undertaking as the ‘Fire and Blood’ series has only been possible with the cooperation and assistance of numerous organizations and individuals.

Many Chinese believers have lovingly assisted in this endeavour. I recall an elderly house-church evangelist named Brother Fu who, with a young man on either side to help him walk, made his way up the stairs to my hotel room in Henan Province because he so wanted to be interviewed for this series. Although he had spent many years in prison for the sake of the gospel, this saint desperately wanted to testify to God’s great works so that believers around the world could be inspired and encouraged to live a life more fully dedicated to Christ.

It is hoped that these books will glorify God, bless those who read them, and challenge believers in China and around the world to a deeper and more radical walk with Jesus Christ.



The 'Fire & Blood' Series

At this time, the following volumes are projected for the Fire & Blood series of books, which chart the history of the Christian church in China. We envisage publishing two volumes per year in the following order:

- 1 China's Book of Martyrs
- 2 Henan
- 3 Shaanxi
- 4 Beijing and Tianjin
- 5 Guangxi and Hainan Island
- 6 Tibet
- 7 Qinghai
- 8 Hunan
- 9 Anhui
- 10 Shanghai
- 11 Jiangsu
- 12 Sichuan and Chongqing
- 13 Guizhou
- 14 Yunnan
- 15 Shanxi
- 16 Liaoning
- 17 Heilongjiang and Jilin
- 18 Hebei
- 19 Shandong
- 20 Zhejiang
- 21 Gansu
- 22 Xinjiang
- 23 Inner Mongolia and Ningxia
- 24 Jiangxi
- 25 Hubei
- 26 Fujian
- 27 Guangdong
- 28 Christianity on the Roof of the World: the Gospel among Tibetan Peoples
- 29 Christianity among China's Minorities
- 30 The Three-Self Church in China
- 31 The Catholic Church in China
- 32 China's House Churches

Please pray....

As you may have realized, a long-term project like the Fire & Blood series is impossible to complete without God's intervention and sustaining power.

We would be honored if you would please pray for the following:

1 *Pray that God would be glorified and His kingdom extended through the Fire and Blood project.*

2 *Please uphold the Hattaway family in prayer. Pray they may have good health, strength, and the joy of the Lord to sustain them throughout the years as the Fire and Blood series unfolds.*

3 *Ask God to make hundreds of thousands of these books available to Christians in China, so that they will be strengthened and give glory to God for the great things He has done in their land. Pray the Lord would provide the necessary funds to make this happen.*

4 *Pray for God's blessing on our publisher, Piquant, who have committed to publish the entire series of books, and on Authentic, who will help distribute them in North America.*

5 *Ask God to put these books into the hands of every person He wants to read them.*

Ministry Updates

One Million Bibles for China!

On May 25th, a family from the US state of Oregon made a donation, via our website, to our China Bible fund. This gift helped us pass the milestone of being able to print and distribute one million Bibles for the Christians in China, since we launched this project six years ago! We thank the Lord Jesus Christ for His grace and provision, and also want to thank everyone who has given to the China Bible fund over the years, and for all those who have prayed that all believers in China might have the Word of God. This project continues, as the need for more Bibles remains strong due to the large numbers of new believers. We plan to write a whole newsletter on the need for Chinese Bibles soon.

Strong Response to the Vietnam Bible Project

At the same time, we want to thank everyone for their generous response to our last newsletter about the need for Bibles in Vietnam. Thanks to your gifts we now have enough funds to print more than 23,000 Bibles this year. The first three tribal languages being printed are Bru, Bahnar, and Stieng. A total of 15,000 Bibles will be produced. Later in the year our contacts in Vietnam will focus on providing the Word of God in several more tribal languages.



A Good Friend Dies

If you are on our email list, you will have received a message about the passing of a good friend of Asia Harvest. Doug Sutphen, better known as Brother David, went to be with the Lord on May 8, at a hospital near his home in North Bend, Washington. Doug is best remembered for leading the audacious "Project Pearl" in 1981, when he and 19 other Christians safely delivered one million Bibles to thousands of Christians waiting on a beach in southern China. Many Chinese church leaders today say that Project Pearl was a pivotal moment in their history. The Church had only started to re-emerge after decades of brutal oppression, and the desperate need of believers everywhere was for Bibles. A quarter of a century later reports are still being received of the tremendous impact those Bibles had on whole communities. Doug was a man of great faith and encouragement, and he will be missed. He passed away at the age of 70, after a long battle with illness. Please pray for his widow, Meiling.

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

Current Total: 58,332 Bibles Printed in 17 different Languages



The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam contain more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. In some cases, missionaries labored for years translating the Word of God for a tribe, only to have their work cut short by the change of government. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities. **Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.**

ASIAN WORKERS FUND

Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 291 Asian evangelists.



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

CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Current Total: 3,070 Children's Bible Teachers Trained and Equipped.



Thank you for the generous response to this strategic project to reach China's children for Christ. Each teacher, on average, is expected to teach 100 children and establish them in the Word of God. Teachers attending the training have their travel costs covered and a set of materials provided for free. These materials include a children's Bible, teacher's manual, teaching books with visual aids, and VCD (video cassette disc) teaching. **The total cost of \$47 per set** includes printing and production, and training expenses.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Current Total: 1,002,829 Bibles printed and delivered.



We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests from house church leaders throughout the country, requesting God's Word for their flocks. These Bibles are distributed free of charge to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning brightly. Each full Bible costs just \$2.25 to print and deliver.

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS FUND

Because of your partnership we are supporting 1,060 living martyrs.



*"A martyr is a Christian who chooses to suffer death rather than deny Christ or His work... One who sacrifices something very important to further the Kingdom of God and endures great suffering for Christian witness."
(The Voice of the Martyrs)*

The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists who are unable to work because of their injuries or illness. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through an occasional or monthly gift you can help support one or more of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every regular supporter.

PROJECT SMILE



Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 5,287 children in Vietnam.

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



Newsletter Return address
(do not send letters here):
Asia Harvest
Box 17 Chang Klan P.O.
Chiang Mai, 50101
Thailand

AIR MAIL

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 2007

- Newsletter #91



Sadhu Sundar Singh

The Apostle with the Bleeding Feet

From the Front Lines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.... [The rich man said], 'I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'"
(Luke 16:19-23, 27-28)

Over the years, as we have served the Lord and been involved with His work in Asia, we have seen how people in ministry (including us) can so easily be sidetracked away from the things that matter to God. We can get too busy dealing with life's problems and challenges, and our focus can easily come off the things that matter most. Of course this is not just something that happens to people in "ministry," but to all Christians. As we travel to various places we have seen how busy Christians have become, especially those living in Western nations. Many people hardly seem able to slow down and enjoy the Lord or their families. This is a real trick of Satan, and is designed to sidetrack us from what is important.

So what should be the most important things in our lives? Of course fellowship with the Lord Jesus must always come first, and our families next. When it comes to our interaction with the world, we must seek to cultivate a heart of action for the lost people around us. Reaching the lost must be a key motivation and aspect of any Christian's life. Tragically and ironically, we can get so wrapped up in church life that our hearts become dulled to those things that are the heartbeat of our Heavenly Father.

In the account of the rich man and Lazarus that Jesus told in Luke 16, we read how the rich man, who was being tormented in hell, begged Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his five brothers about the horrible place of torment he now found himself in.

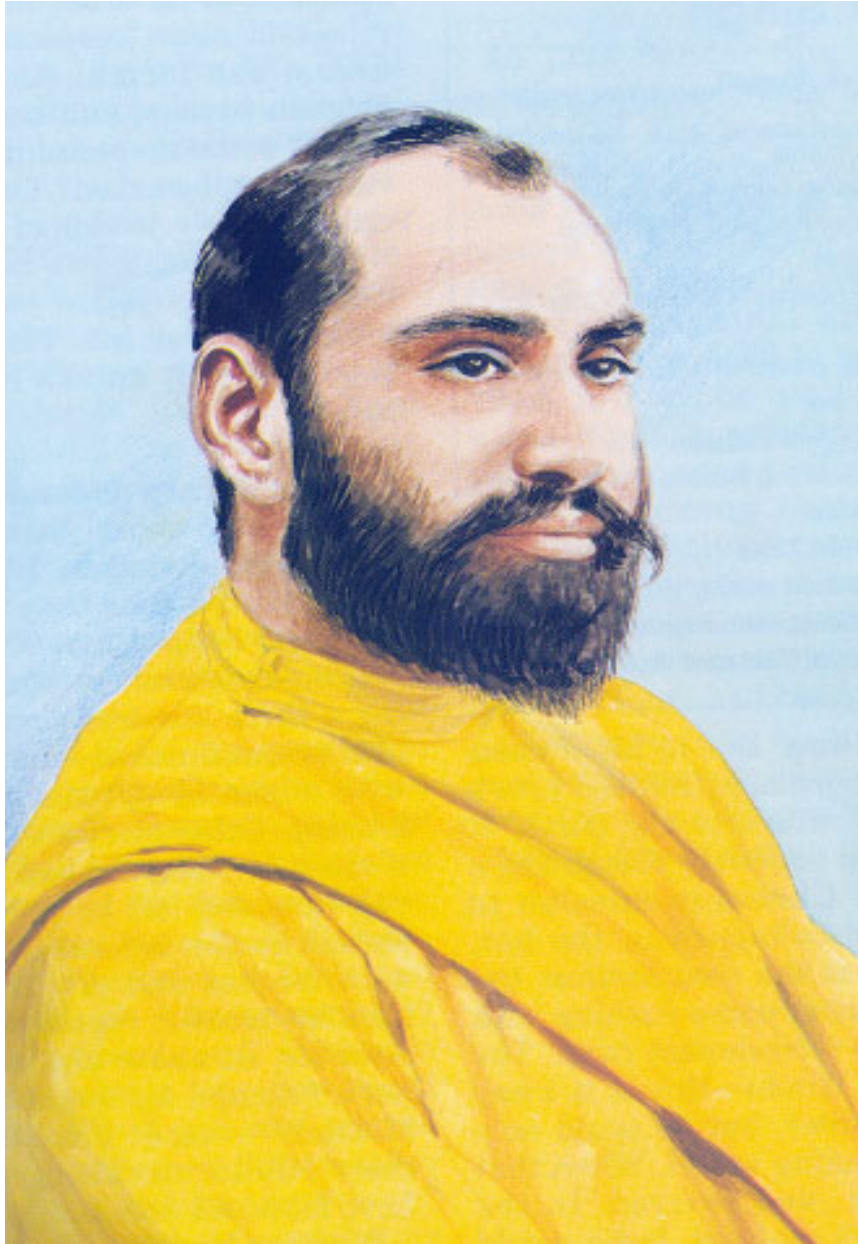
Dear friend, this should be a sober warning to us all. Could it be that people suffering in hell, like the rich man, have more passion to see the lost saved than we do? Is it possible that the lost are perishing all around us, while the devil has many of God's children focused on infighting, petty church politics, and arguments about the color of the church carpet?

Reaching the lost was always the driving force of Jesus' ministry here on the earth. He spoke about it, demonstrated it, and taught His disciples that God's heart is such that He would leave 99 sheep that are safe in order to pursue the one that is lost. Lots of Christians want to talk about signs that the world is coming to an end, yet they somehow miss the one main sign that Jesus said would take place before His return: ***"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come"*** (Matthew 24:14). The heart of Jesus is always towards pursuing the lost and bringing them into the Father's kingdom. Only when the harvest has fully come in will our Lord Jesus return. We should also note that the very last instructions Jesus gave to His disciples before returning to heaven were, ***"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned"*** (Mark 16:15-16). Aren't you glad somebody shared the Good News with you?

Our adversary is skilled at taking our focus away from the lost and onto our own needs and problems. It seems that first and foremost the devil does all he can to prevent people from being saved by the precious Blood of Jesus. If that fails, he then works at making the Christian lukewarm for God's kingdom and ineffective at reaching the lost. He hopes to deceive us so that we lose all sense of urgency, and cause us to give the majority of our time to things that are of no consequence, and little time to those things that count for eternity. We live as though we will be in this world forever, even though David reminded us, ***"Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow"*** (Psalm 144:4). In this newsletter we take a look at the life of Sadhu Sundar Singh, a man who was fully committed to reaching the lost from the moment of his conversion to the day he died. May we become as serious about God as this Indian man was!

Dear friend, if this brief message has spoken to you, we encourage you to stop what you are doing and talk with our loving God. Ask the Lord to give you His heart, and to refocus your life so that the things that are a priority to the heart of God also become your priority. Cry out to God, and pray that he will reconfigure your life and busy schedule. ***"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom"*** (Psalm 90:12).

Sadhu Sundar Singh - The 'Apostle with the Bleeding Feet'



Sundar Singh, the son of a wealthy Sikh landowner, was born in Patiala state of North India in 1889. Considering his background, nobody would have guessed that this man would one day be remembered as the most famous Indian evangelist of the early 20th century. As a young man, Sundar's mother took him every week to sit at the feet of a *sadhu*—an ascetic Hindu holy man—who lived in a remote forest. When their son was old enough, his parents wanted the best for Sundar so they sent him to a Christian school run by missionaries, so that he could learn English. When Singh was 14 his mother suddenly died. This tragedy plunged the teenager into deep despair and violence against anything to do with religion. He began to hate the missionaries,

"...persecuted their Christian converts, and ridiculed their faith. In final defiance of their religion, he bought a Bible and burned it page by page in his home compound while his friends watched. The same night he went to his room determined to commit suicide on a railway line.

However, before dawn, he wakened his father to announce that he had seen Jesus Christ in a vision and heard His voice. Henceforth he would follow Christ forever, he declared."¹

Singh later shared what happened on that night when he decided to kill himself:

"Jesus came into my room. As I was praying for the last time a

bright cloud of light suddenly filled the room, and out of the brightness came the face and figure of Jesus. He spoke to me.... 'How long will you persecute Me? I have come to save you. You were praying to know the right way; why do you not take it? I am the Way.' He spoke in Hindustani, and He spoke to me."²

Sundar Singh's father and other family members did not share the excitement of his new found faith. His enraged father, Sher Singh, held a 'farewell feast' where he publicly disowned Sundar, pronouncing him "dead." Several hours after the feast Sundar fell violently ill and realized he had been poisoned by his own family. He rushed to a nearby Christian hospital and his life was spared.

On his 16th birthday, Singh was publicly baptized at Simla in north India. A year later, in October 1906, he shocked everyone by appearing in a yellow robe and turban—the dress of a *sadhu*. He declared, **"I am not worthy to follow in the steps of my Lord, but, like Him, I want no home, no possessions. Like Him I will belong to the road, sharing the sufferings of my people, eating with those who will give me shelter, and telling all men of the love of God."**³

In his formative Christian years Singh became close friends with a British missionary named Charles Andrews. Singh's zeal for the things of God soon became legendary. He was known to pray several hours each day and to fast for weeks at a time. He took a vow of poverty and decided to hold nothing back from the cause

of Christ. His travels not only took him to Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist settlements throughout the Himalayas, but also to Europe, America, Australia and various Asian countries where he spoke to large audiences. On one trip, while still a teenager, Singh walked barefoot through fanatical Muslim territories in the Punjab, Kashmir, Afghanistan, and through parts of the present-day Pakistan. In all the places Singh went he wore the garments of a *sadhu*. Soon

after the start of his ministry, Christians gave Singh the nickname, “the apostle with the bleeding feet.” On a number of occasions he reported being helped by angels, and the only word to describe some of his escapes from death is miraculous.

On many occasions he was arrested, beaten, and stoned. He faced incredible hardship, yet he carried on, a trophy of God’s grace in one of the harshest spiritual

climates in the world. There were many admirers of Sadhu Sundar Singh, but also many critics. For many of the missionaries in India his ways were just too radical to embrace. Those who enjoyed safe Christianity felt threatened by the intensity of his commitment and his methods of operation. Missionaries persuaded Singh to enrol at a Bible college in Lahore, so that he would be “equipped for the ministry.” He graduated and was ordained, but in 1911 he had a change of heart. He handed back his preacher’s license and returned to the simple life of a *sadhu*.

The mysterious Tibet had attracted Singh since he was a young boy, and he made his first preaching trip there in 1908. In those days the only way to reach Tibet was on foot, across the highest mountain passes in the world. Each journey required a punishing trek of several weeks.

In 1912 Singh decided to preach the gospel for several months each summer in Tibet, Nepal, and areas



A man from the Indian side of the Himalayas, still waiting to hear the Gospel.

along the Northern India border. He encountered much opposition in these dark places, and many attempts were made on his life. The methods of torture included being sewn into a wet yak skin and left in the sun to be squeezed to death as the skin tightened; being smothered with cloth filled with leeches and scorpions to sting him and suck his blood; and being tied to a tree overnight as bait for wild animals.

On one occasion Singh reached a Tibetan town called Razar. He was arrested for illegally entering the country, and the head lama sentenced him to death. Buddhists are forbidden to take life, so the lama had Singh cast into a well, and the iron cover locked until he had perished. The smell of the putrid water made the evangelist's soul recoil, for

"The bottom of the well was covered with dead men's bones and rotting flesh, and the stench was almost overwhelming. It was far worse than anything he had ever experienced before. He was in that well for two days and nights, and on the third day he heard a sound above. The cover of the well was being removed and then a rope was let down and a voice told him to take hold of it. As he breathed in [the fresh air] he felt himself strangely revived. But he was alone. There was no sign of his rescuer...."



A Tibetan lady in her finest dress.

The following day, back in the village, news reached the head lama that the sadhu who had been thrown down the well was out and about again preaching. Again Sundar was brought before him. How had he escaped, the head lama demanded, but all Sundar could tell him was what had happened, and that he had seen no one. Furiously the lama asserted that someone must have stolen the

key to the well, and ordered that a search be made for it. No one was more taken aback than he when it was eventually found on his own girdle.”⁴

By the early 1920s Singh’s health was beginning to deteriorate from the hardships he had endured, even though he was only in his early 30s. He made another trip to Tibetan areas in 1923 and came back exhausted. For the next several years he continued to minister, refusing to belong to any denomination or to start one himself. During these years he turned his hand to writing books. These encountered great success, being translated into numerous languages. In 1927 he again attempted to enter Tibet, but was forced to return due to illness.

Finally, in June, 1929, he disappeared while inside Tibet and was never seen again. He had told friends of his intention to go back to the Mount Kailash area, and to possibly visit Razar, the town east of Lake Manasarowar where he had been thrown into the well years before. Singh had heard there were a few Christians living there, and he wanted to go and see if it were true. Just how he died remains a mystery, but rumors circulated that Singh had been put to death by enraged Buddhist monks.

Sadhu Sundar Singh’s life was one of total commitment and sacrifice to the cause of Jesus Christ. The ‘apostle with the bleeding feet’ set a tremendous example for many other Christians to follow, and he remains widely respected among Asia’s Christians to this day.

Notes

¹ John Woodbridge (ed.), *More than Conquerors: Portraits of Believers from all Walks of Life* (Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1992), 148.

² Cyril J. Davey, *The Story of Sadhu Sundar Singh* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1963), 32-33.

³ Woodbridge, *More than Conquerors*, 148.

⁴ Phyllis Thompson, *Sadhu Sundar Singh: A Biography of the Remarkable Indian Holy Man and Disciple of Jesus Christ* (Carlisle: OM Books, 1992), 75-76.

Note: This profile of Sadhu Sundar Singh has been adapted from Paul Hattaway’s new book, *China’s Book of Martyrs*. Please see our last newsletter about how to order it, or you can do so from our website: www.asiaharvest.org





From our Mailbox

"I just have to comment on the recent newsletter sent out in July. I don't think that in all the years of receiving the Aisa Harvest newsletter that I have ever felt the Holy Spirit as strongly as I did on this one. I was moved to tears as you personally asked readers about their own walk and life with Christ. I think the Lord used you to sound a wake up call among Christians. It's so easy to become dry and barren, with the things of the world snuffing out the life of Christ in us.... I just want to say thank you and God Bless you."

Emily S., Arizona, USA

"Can you please stop what you are doing now? It really is not any of your business to try and change the people you are trying to change. What gives you the right? I know you will tell me GOD does. But what if you are wrong? Please stop. Thats the only way you will "save" anyone."

Chris Schwan, Received by email

"We are a Bulgarian family who love China and all Asia. Your newsletters inspired us so much in the years we have received them. Thank you so much. Now the time for us to go on mission and bless China is close. In two years we hope to leave for China to study a tribal language and serve among an unreached people group. Please pray for us. God bless you!"

Vaselina L., Bulgaria

"I know Asia needs praying for, because I have made a book and it's called 'my missionary book.' It tells about what parts of the world need praying for. I want to help you and all the people around me who are hurt, sick, and most of all the people who are thirsty for the love of Jesus Christ. By the way I am seven and a half."

Sophie M, Tennessee, USA

"Thank you for sending me materials I requested. God bless you. I am really touched by what the Holy Spirit is doing in China and Asia as a whole. A year ago I borrowed the book "The Heavenly Man" from a sister and I read it. From that time on I have a different heart towards my brothers and sisters in Asia. The book records the wonderful acts of God. May His name be glorified in heaven and on earth. Your brother in JESUS."

Eyuel D., Ethiopia

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

Current Total: 76,415 Bibles Printed in 17 different Languages



The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam contain more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. In some cases, missionaries labored for years translating the Word of God for a tribe, only to have their work cut short by the change of government. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities. **Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.**

ASIAN WORKERS FUND

Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 346 Asian evangelists.



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

CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Current Total: 3,234 Children's Bible Teachers Trained and Equipped.



Thank you for the generous response to this strategic project to reach China's children for Christ. Each teacher, on average, is expected to teach 100 children and establish them in the Word of God. Teachers attending the training have their travel costs covered and a set of materials provided for free. These materials include a children's Bible, teacher's manual, teaching books with visual aids, and VCD (video cassette disc) teaching. **The total cost of \$47 per set** includes printing and production, and training expenses.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Current Total: 1,070,738 Bibles printed and delivered.



We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests from house church leaders throughout the country, requesting God's Word for their flocks. These Bibles are distributed free of charge to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning brightly. **Each full Bible costs just \$2.25 to print and deliver.**

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS FUND

Because of your partnership we are supporting 1,080 living martyrs.



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

(The Voice of the Martyrs)

The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists who are unable to work because of their injuries or illness. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through an occasional or monthly gift you can help support one or more of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every regular supporter.

PROJECT SMILE



Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 5,501 children in Vietnam.

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



Newsletter Return address
(do not send letters here):
Asia Harvest
Box 17 Chang Klan P.O.
Chiang Mai, 50101
Thailand

AIR MAIL

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 2007 - Newsletter #92



Bibles for China

One Million Distributed, Many More Needed

From the Front Lines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11)

In this newsletter we focus on one of our longest standing and most strategic projects - China Bible printing. The above verse from Isaiah has often encouraged us over the years. On numerous occasions we have seen God's Word go forth and accomplished great things for His kingdom. There are countless good causes Christians can invest their time and resources in these days, but we can't think of any greater place to invest than in the distribution of God's Word, the Bible, especially among people who are hungry and desperate to read it.

The words “China” and “Bibles” have played a huge part in our lives and ministry. In fact, we met in Hong Kong while we were working for different Christian organizations that carried Bibles across the border to the believers in China. It was while leading a team of Bible couriers into Fujian Province that we got to know each other. The rest, as they say, is history! In the years before our marriage we each took over 150 trips into China, carrying bags and suitcases of Bibles each time. Those experiences were wonderful and inspirational. We saw God's hand helping us in very real and sometimes dramatic ways.

These experiences strengthened our faith and gave us a deeper appreciation for the power and importance of God's Word. Perhaps the thing that impressed us the most was having contact with the precious Chinese believers. We will never forget the time a group of Christians in the city of Kunming came to our hotel room to receive 30 bags of Bibles that our team had carried into China. These believers had been getting by with a few old tattered New Testaments between them for years, and now there was over a thousand brand new Bibles in front of them! They wept uncontrollably and threw themselves on the bags, praying and thanking God. Such times always challenged us to think about our own passion and attitude towards God's Word.

In the 1980s the need for Bibles in China was really extreme. There is still a great need today because demand continues to outstrip supply, but 20 years ago or more the need was much more acute, and there were still places where hundreds of Christians shared a single tattered Bible or New Testament between them.

During the 1990s something new happened which changed the Bible landscape markedly. Industrious believers found ways to print Bibles *inside* China. At the start, the quantities were just a few hundred at a time. The risk of doing this was great, but the Chinese believers were convinced it was the way forward. They appreciated the great effort that thousands of Christians had made to carry Bibles to them from overseas, but their needs had grown to such an extent that Bibles coming in bags and suitcases would never be enough. Slowly, the hundreds of Scriptures being printed inside China became thousands, and then as secure



A Chinese pastor clutching his Bible.

methods were put into place, tens of thousands were being successfully printed and distributed to believers throughout the whole country.

Looking at things from a purely statistical point of view, we are amazed at how things have progressed. As mentioned before, during the Bible-carrying days Joy and I made a total of approximately 300 trips into China with Bibles, about two-thirds of which were successful. If we carried an average of 40 Bibles with us on each successful border crossing, that means over several years we were able to carry a total of 8,000 Bibles into China. These days, as the Lord provides the grace and funds, the house churches are able to print and deliver 8,000 Bibles every week. Hallelujah!

In this issue we would like to examine the overall story of Bibles in China. We hope it will be helpful and informative to you.

Bibles for China: One Million Distributed, Many More Needed

*On the 25th of May, 2007, Asia Harvest received a medium-size donation, placed over our website. It was designated for our China Bible fund. That donation, from a couple who live in the US state of Oregon, allowed us to reach the one-million Bible mark for China since 2001. Since that milestone was passed more gifts have come in, and the total number of Bibles printed and distributed to the Chinese Christians now stands at **1,085,558**.*

We want to thank every person who has prayed or given to this project over the years. We know that for many people, giving so that the Chinese Christians can have God's Word has been a sacrifice. We think of one elderly lady who for years knitted sweaters and sold them at the local flea-market each Saturday, and sent the proceeds so that the Chinese might have Bibles of their own. We think of Sunday school children, businessmen, home groups, and even people in prison who have given to the China Bible fund. We know that each gift is precious to God.

The shortage of Bibles for Christians in China goes back many years, and has continued to this day for a number of different reasons.

In the 1950s and '60s, when the Communist authorities launched a series of severe persecutions while attempting to wipe Christianity from China, it was a crime to own a Bible. Tens of thousands of copies were burned in large public bonfires, as the government sought to obliterate all thoughts that did not align with Chairman Mao's teachings.

Rather than be arrested, multitudes of Christians decided to hide their Bibles until a day when they could openly read the Word of God. In many cases it was 15 years or longer before that day came.

Bibles were buried in the ground in places known only to the owners. Others were concealed in walls, floorboards, and ceilings.

In the late 1970s the long season of persecution that had forced the Chinese church to go 'underground' slowly started to draw to ease. China had been completely shut off from the outside world for more than twenty years. No Bibles had been printed inside the country, and none had been taken in from the outside. Every church had been shut down, almost all pastors thrown in prison, and Bibles had become as scarce as hen's teeth.

Many outsiders thought the Church in China had been totally crushed, but as

the mist cleared, the world was amazed to find that not only had the Chinese Church survived, in many locations it had grown five to ten times larger!

This growth created a sudden and acute shortage of Bibles throughout China. In many places there were thousands of believers without a single copy of the Bible. In those places where there was a Bible, Christians began to carefully copy it by hand, verse by verse. This laborious process often took two years to complete.

Brother Yun recently shared with us the drastic measures some Christians took in a bid to read even a few pages of God's Word:

"Many believers in the past had been buried with their Bibles inside their coffin, and we were so desperate for God's Word that many graves were dug up in order to retrieve what we could of the precious

Bible. In most cases the paper had been worn away by moisture and time, but the opportunity to recover even half a page of God's Word was worth the effort. Other Christians lovingly placed their Bibles inside clay pots and buried them deep in the ground. Years later, when the persecution eased, they dug them up again.

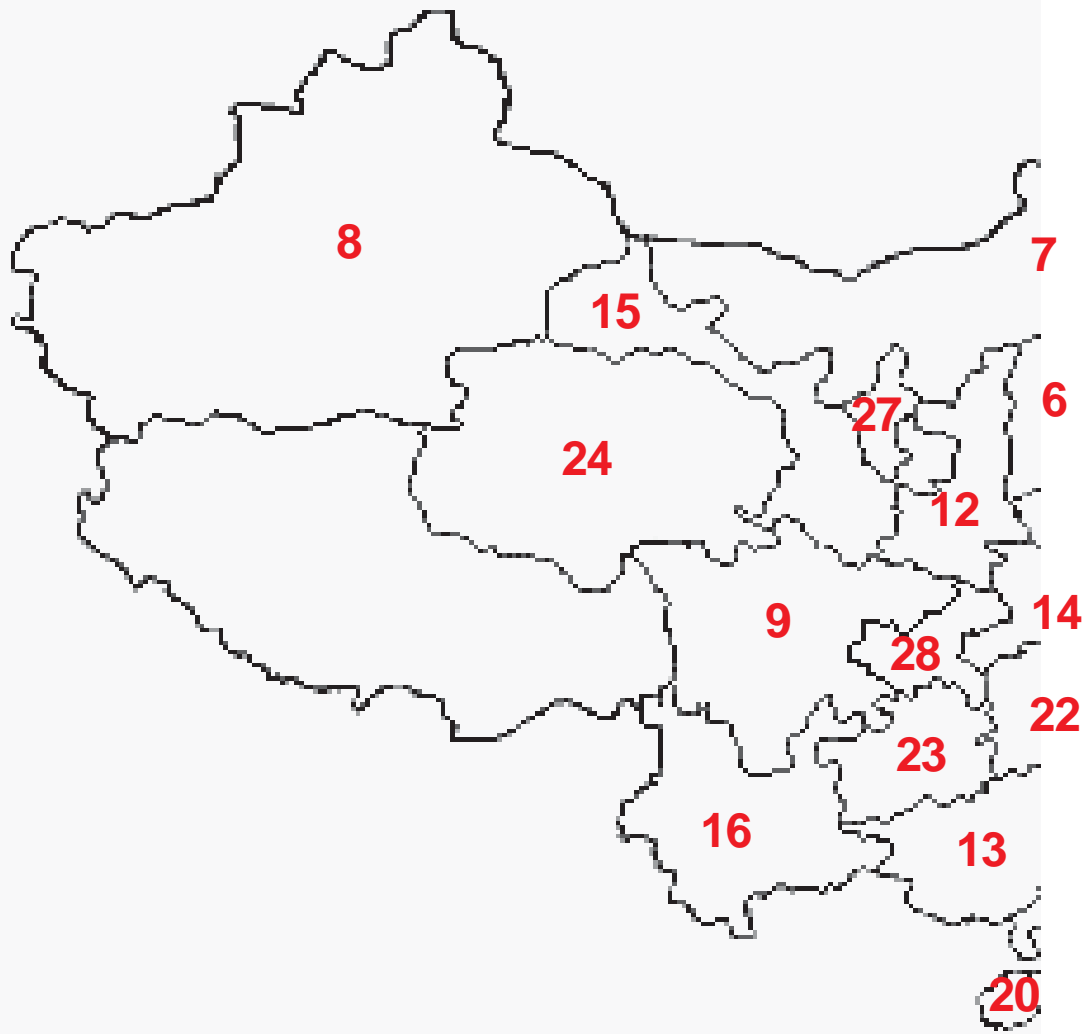
After I first met the Lord in 1974 I was so eager to read God's Word that I prayed and fasted for 100 days, eating just one small bowl of rice a day. My parents thought I was losing my mind because of desperation and despair, but finally the Lord miraculously provided a Bible for me." (from 'Living Water' by Brother Yun with Paul Hattaway, due to be published in August 2008).

As the 1980s got underway, the church in China to increase in number but Bibles



A hand-copied Chinese Bible from the 1970s

CHINA BIBLE MAP



Thanks to the grace of God, and your prayers and support, Asia Harvest has now printed and delivered more than one million full Chinese Bibles to Christians in China since 2001. On behalf of all the believers in China, thank you and God bless you!

Bibles Delivered by Province:

1	Zhejiang	142,714
2	Anhui	138,202
3	Heilongjiang	96,776
4	Henan	88,150
5	Shandong	60,854
6	Shanxi	51,802
7	Inner Mongolia	50,030
8	Xinjiang	45,450
9	Sichuan	42,670
10	Jilin	38,420
11	Liaoning	35,680
12	Shaanxi	34,282
13	Guangxi	32,500
14	Hubei	30,586
15	Gansu	30,410
16	Yunnan	27,730
17	Jiangsu	24,650
18	Hebei	19,346
19	Shanghai	15,272
20	Hainan Island	15,214
21	Fujian	14,440
22	Hunan	11,640
23	Guizhou	9,680
24	Qinghai	7,786
25	Beijing	6,184
26	Jiangxi	4,290
27	Ningxia	3,900
28	Chongqing	3,790
29	Guangdong	3,110
TOTAL		1,085,558

were still rarer than fine gold. In response, God raised up a group of courageous missionaries, led by Brother David.

After a Chinese house church leader requested one million Bibles to meet their immediate needs, Brother David gathered a group around him and prayerfully launched a secret project, code-named Pearl, to deliver one million Bibles by boat to the believers in China.

Although to begin with they had no money or resources at all, God provided what they needed and on the evening of 18 June 1981, their specially-constructed tugboat and barge laden with 232 tons of Bibles slipped through Chinese naval vessels and delivered the precious cargo to thousands of Christians waiting on a beach near Shantou in southern China. The twenty foreigners on board the vessel had signed their wills before the delivery, and risked their lives for the sake of the Christians in China. They realized if they were caught the Communist authorities would not accept the invasion of their territorial waters lightly.

This extraordinary delivery, which must surely rate as one of the most audacious act of faith in Christian history, brought immediate relief to many Chinese believers who had prayed for years that they might see a copy of the Bible. It also caused a huge spike in growth, as believers better understood God's Word and were more motivated to reach the lost. *(This inspirational story, told in a new book 'Project Pearl: The 1 Million Bibles that Changed China,' by Brother David with Paul Hattaway, will be available early next year).*

Two other key events took place in the early 1980s. The Chinese government, partly

because of the shock they received from the Project Pearl boat delivery, gave permission for an official Bible printing press to be established in the city of Nanjing. The Amity Press was launched, but for the first number of years Bibles were difficult to obtain for Christians belonging to unregistered house churches, where at least 80% of Chinese Christians worship.

The second key event that took place was that a number of 'Bible smuggling' ministries commenced work in Hong Kong. These ministries invited Christians from around the world to come and carry Bibles across the border into China. Thousands of couriers came during the 1980s and 1990s, carrying bags and suitcases of Scriptures with them. In total, the number of Bibles carried into China this way was in the millions.

In the early to mid-1990s a new dynamic entered the China Bible scene. Enterprising believers found ways to print Bibles inside China for the house churches, and the need to carry Bibles in from Hong Kong gradually diminished.

The Amity Press in Nanjing continued to print many Bibles, and the house churches found creative ways to get their hands on some of them. We thank God for every single Bible the Amity Press has printed in China! The supply, however, was never able to catch up with the demand among the house churches.

Today there continues to be a great need for Bibles in China, especially among house churches in rural parts of the country. While most believers living in major cities today have access to Bibles, in the rural farming areas (where the majority of house church

believers live), the revival continues to burn brightly and large numbers of new believers have no access to Bibles. Our friends at China Harvest recently told of a meeting they had with a house church pastor named Brother Shu. He told them: "I used to think that Chinese could get all the regular Bibles they needed nowadays. But I was humbled to find out I was so deceived! I've lived my whole life in the big cities, but then as I began to work more and more in remote rural areas, I found there are many hundreds of thousands of believers in those places without access to any Bible!" (*China Harvest, July 2007*).

As mentioned earlier, a few months ago we passed the milestone of one million Bibles printed and delivered to Christians in China since 2001. We are thankful for this, but there are so many more needed! Our coworkers regularly receive requests from China from leaders needing tens of thousands of copies urgently just to equip new believers. Here are a few recent letters we have received:

"In Heilongjiang Province we have sent Bibles to many counties. We recently preached to policemen and to farmers, and 500 received baptism! We also sent workers to Shandong Province, and hundreds of workers there are waiting for Bibles and teaching materials."

"We held revival meetings in Gansu Province, and each believer shared the Gospel with 10 people. Now we need 2,400 Bibles."

"We received the 4,100 Bibles and 650 study Bibles from your contact. Praise the Lord! In the past twelve months the Lord has graciously enabled us to reach more than 60,000 souls for Christ, and

we are now praying and striving to nourish these newborn babes in Christ. Without God's Word this is impossible. The Scriptures you sent us were received like hungry children longing for good and lasting food. Please pray that we will be able to receive at least 50,000 more Bibles from the hand of the Lord, so that none of our new believers would be without a copy of God's holy Word."

Good News!

In 2001 we started our China Bible fund with an average price of US\$2.00 per Bible. In 2003 rising costs caused us to raise the price to \$2.25.

Recently, our coworkers inside China discovered a way to print Bibles in a more economical way, without changing the quality at all! **From this month on we are glad to announce that we can provide full Bibles to the believers in China for US\$1.80 per Bible, including delivery.**

For less than the cost of a cup of coffee, a Bible can be produced and delivered to a Christian family in China, making a huge impact both in their lives and in the lives of those they reach. You may never have the chance to meet the family your gift has helped in this life, but you surely will in heaven!

If you, your family or church fellowship would like to participate in giving to the China Bible fund, please fill out and return the enclosed response form. Every gift is acknowledged, and donors from the U.S. will be sent a tax-deductible receipt. God bless you!