



Asia Harvest

2008

NEWSLETTERS

(Combined)

Asia Harvest



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

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2008 Annual Report

Abiding in the Vine

Asia Harvest Annual Report

by Paul & Joy Hattaway

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.... This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:1-5, 8)

Serving the Lord sometimes feels like a continual process of being pruned by God so that we might abide in Jesus Christ more, which subsequently enables us to bear more fruit for God's kingdom. The process of pruning is not always pleasant. When we think of pruning we may imagine that it means God is cutting off those areas in our life that are unruly and unfruitful. While that is certainly part of the pruning process, Jesus also said that "every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

Last year we enjoyed watching roses bloom in a beautiful garden not far from our home. One day a gardener came along and pruned the rose bushes back until they looked like barren stumps protruding from the soil. A few months later, however, the wisdom of the gardener's actions became clear when the change of seasons produced another beautiful display of red, yellow and pink roses in full bloom.

If you are a disciple of Jesus and endeavor to follow Him, you will find your life in a constant process of being pruned and molded by the Master Gardener, God. During such times the process often feels painful, but we should prayerfully submit to God's process, for as the writer of Hebrews explained, *"Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it"* (Hebrews 12:10-11).

During the last year we feel the ministry of Asia Harvest went through a pruning process, so that the projects and work the Lord has called us to would be more effective and fruitful for the kingdom of God. This has resulted in fresh opportunities, new strategic partnerships with other members of the Body of Christ, and an ever-increasing awareness that our primary role must always be simply to remain in the vine, Jesus Christ.

Surely one of Satan's major plans is to persuade Christians to operate in their own strength and wisdom, instead of daily abiding and trusting in the Lord. This is easy to do if we are not careful, and it immediately destroys our ability to bear fruit for God's kingdom. The Apostle Paul bluntly compared God's wisdom to human wisdom when he wrote: *"For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength"* (1 Corinthians 1:25).

Our strategy has always been to send 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 in the West we operate with a 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 thousands of Asian Christians whom we feel privileged to assist and serve.

This approach means we are able to maximize the fruitfulness of people's precious gifts, and enables us to get as many resources as possible to where it is needed most. One example of this recently occurred when we were able to lower the cost of the Bibles we produce inside China from \$2.25 to just \$1.80, including delivery. We rejoice that this change means that by God's grace, every year thousands more hungry believers throughout China will be able to have their own Bibles.

We want to thank all of you who have 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 and ethnic groups throughout Asia where two-thirds of the world's population lives. 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, Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and everywhere else in Asia your support reached to, we thank you for your wonderful participation!

On the following pages we present summaries of Asia Harvest projects in 2007. 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.

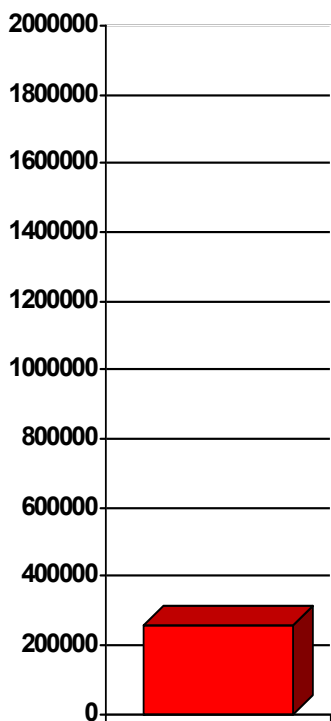
CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Equipping 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. In 2007 we passed the milestone of printing and delivering one million Bibles to the house church believers in China, and by the end of the year the total had reached more than 1.2 million. By the grace of God and the diligence of our coworkers in China we were also able to lower the cost of our Bibles from \$2.25 to just \$1.80, including delivery. The need for God's Word remains great, especially in rural areas where the revival fires are burning most brightly. We continue to receive many requests for Bibles from house church leaders throughout the country. One recent letter said,

"Praise the Lord for the Bible delivery we received recently. We don't want to sound greedy and ungrateful, but could you please send us more? We need at least 60,000 Bibles this year just to keep pace with the growth the Lord has given us in recent years."

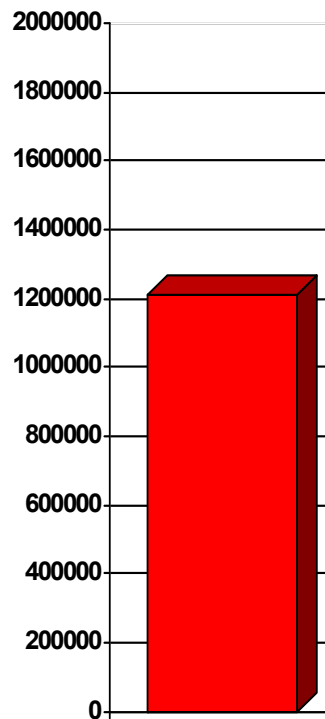
**2007 Bibles
printed: 256,895**



Although a limited number of Bibles are now allowed to be printed inside China, there remains a serious lack because of the tremendous growth rate of the church in rural areas of 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 \$1.80 to print and deliver.

**Total Bibles since
2000: 1,212,860**



SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

Current Total: 93,850 Bibles printed in 21 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 when they were expelled by the new Communist government. Since then, these believers have been deprived of the Scriptures.

Last year we increased efforts to print Bibles in nine different languages of Vietnam (Stieng, Jeh, Koho, Mnong Ralam, Hre, Churu, Mnong Gar, Bahnar and Bru). Thanks to the generous participation of Christians around the world, in 2007 we provided funds to complete several of these projects, while several more are in progress now, with translations being double checked before printing commences. This strategic project is an ongoing one, as there are many other tribal groups in desperate need of God's Word in their own language.

Because of your gifts, in 2007 Asia Harvest provided funds to produce and distribute 56,636 Bibles in many different languages of Southeast Asia. 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.



ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

Because of your prayers and partnership we were able to support an average of 350 Asian church-planting missionaries every month throughout 2007.



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 thousands 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 Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), and 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 people come to faith in Jesus.

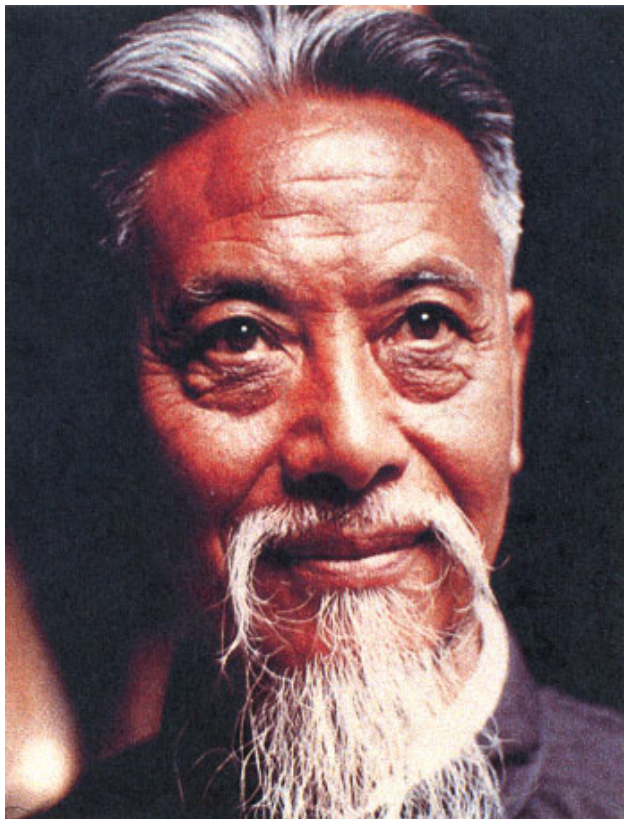
The workers we are privileged to support in the Himalayan region continue to enjoy great success. In 2007, in the north Indian state of Arunchal Pradesh alone, they baptized 795 new believers and established 22 churches among many different tribes. God has been moving powerfully in this remote and untouched part of the earth. The evangelists have witnessed many outstanding miracles, including people being completely healed from cancer, leukemia, blindness, tuberculosis, and other serious afflictions.

Through your prayers and generous gifts, we were able to support many new evangelists in 2007. This work is constantly expanding and new workers are being recruited. You can support one or more of these workers with a gift of **\$25 per month each**. A laminated prayer card of a worker is sent to every supporter of this project.

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

Supporting Christians disabled by Persecution

Because of your prayers and support we were able to help 1,130 living martyrs throughout 2007. This has been a tremendous blessing to the Church in China.



"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)

In China today, many house church Christians are still beaten and persecuted because of their faith. Over the years, many have been tortured and some have even died because they love Jesus.

House church leaders have provided us with 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 persecution and imprisonment.

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. The families of imprisoned Christians are also supported. A house church leader recently said, "The Martyrs' 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.

CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Equipping the Church to Reach China's Children

In 2007, Asia Harvest was able to help the Chinese house churches train and equip 1,184 Sunday School teachers (3,517 since 2005). 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 is 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.



PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 942 children in Vietnam in 2007 (5,623 since 1999).

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

What caught our attention was Giau's beautiful eyes, and the mask covering her mouth.

"Why is she wearing a mask?" we asked. Without speaking the child's mother pulled the mask down. We were stunned at what first appeared to be a piece of black banana protruding from her mouth. But this was not a banana, it was her tongue, black and swollen, forcing the child's mouth permanently open.

Giau's mother was desperate until she heard on the radio of our free surgery program. Giau was one of many to arrive at the hospital that week. For most it was to have cleft lips repaired, but for Giau it was a matter of life and death. The tumor in her tongue meant the clock was ticking, for without surgery her life would soon be cut short.

It was a complicated and risky operation, but thank God as the days passed her discomfort subsided and for the first time in a long time, Giau smiled.



Other Projects



In 2007 Asia Harvest was involved with a host of other projects throughout Asia. Some of these are highly-sensitive initiatives in nations where the government strongly persecutes Christians, so we are unable to even mention these in our newsletters. Some projects that have made a great impact for God's kingdom include:

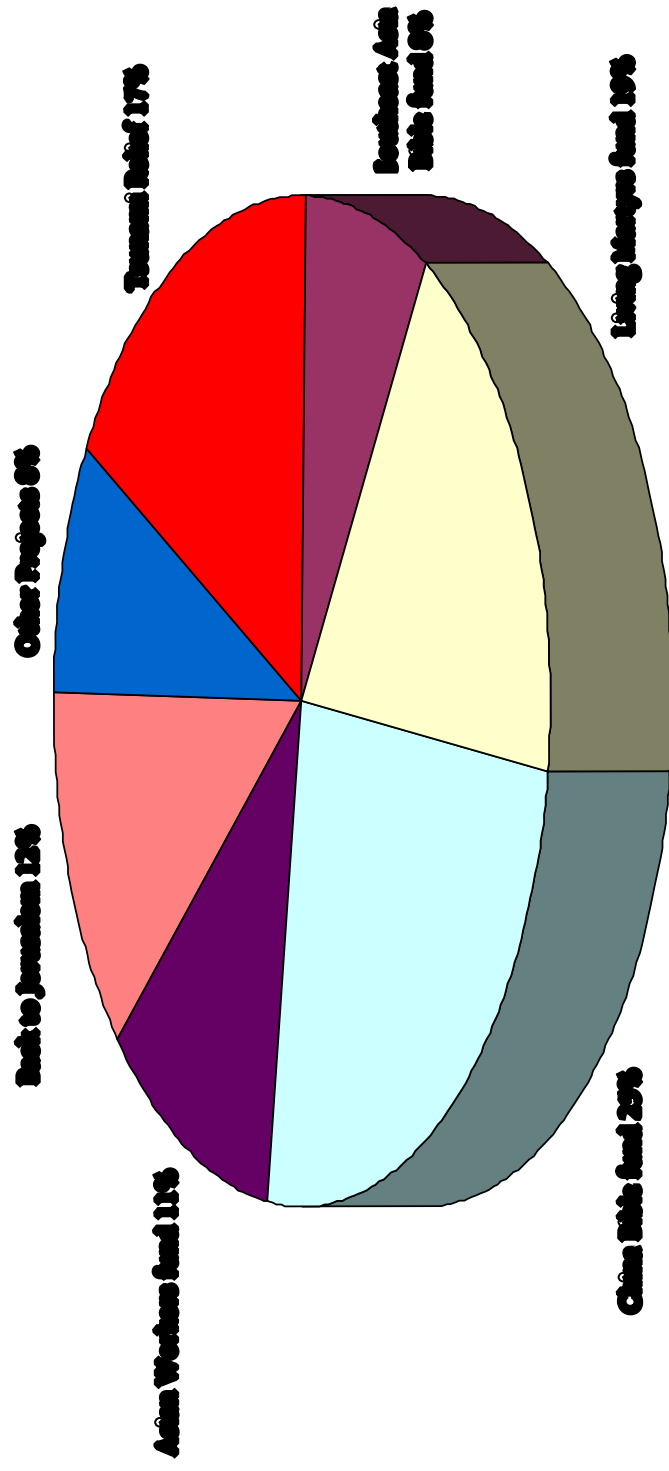
TSUNAMI RELIEF - Last year we concluded helping victims of the Tsunami which struck Asia at the end of 2004. Our role was to help channel funds to where they were most needed. The result is that many communities have been able to get back on their feet, and the Gospel has been presented to them both in word and in deed. In

2007 we were able to send a total of **US\$312,845.42** to help in the rebuilding, most of which was sent through us by a Christian organization that specializes in helping such needs around the world. Since the tsunami struck, we have sent a grand total of **\$2,107,920.63**. Every cent of this has been sent to the neediest areas. We did not use any part of it for administration or any other purposes. This project has now been wound down, and we believe many people have found Jesus as a result. Thank you for your prayers and participation!

KASHMIR EVANGELISM - In one fanatical Muslim area of Asia, we have been partnering with a local Christian ministry for almost a decade, helping them reach the lost through supporting evangelists, and by funding training classes and Bible correspondence courses. The results have been remarkable, and many people who used to be fanatical for the devil now serve Christ wholeheartedly. They are willing to lay their lives down so that their countrymen might experience salvation in Jesus Christ.

BACK TO JERUSALEM - Asia Harvest continues to support initiatives connected to the Back to Jerusalem movement - that is the vision of the Chinese Church to send missionaries into the Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu nations between China and Jerusalem. This region contains more than 5,000 unreached ethnic groups, and the fewest number of Christians anywhere in the world. Although the number of missionaries leaving China is still modest, we are encouraged by the many good reports we have received from different countries. Please pray God would continue to bless, strengthen and empower the Back to Jerusalem vision.

Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2007



2007 Financial Statement

At Asia Harvest we desire to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2007 is now available upon request. Please write and ask if you would like to receive it.



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Project Pearl

The 1-Million Bibles that Changed China

From the Front Lines

with Paul Hattaway

In 2005 I picked up our telephone and heard the voice of Brother David on the other end. “Paul,” he said, “I believe the Lord wants you to write a book with me on Project Pearl. When can you come?” A few months later I had the privilege of sitting next to David’s bed in his home near Seattle, in America’s picturesque northwest. This servant of God, who had lived his life like few other people, appeared to have almost literally burned out for God. After suffering a series of heart attacks, the scourge of diabetes had severely ravished David’s once-powerful frame, now some 100 pounds lighter than at his prime.

Although Brother David’s body was struggling, his mind and memory remained razor sharp. His recollection of names, dates and details was extraordinary. Moreover, David’s spirit reflected the beauty that only someone who has met the Lord in the Most Holy Place can possess. Through decades of being refined in God’s fiery furnace, he had experienced fellowship with Jesus Christ in a new, fresh and vital way.

Project Pearl, which Brother David led in 1981, is surely one of the most courageous acts of faith and love ever performed by God’s people in the last century. Christians in China had been deprived of God’s Word for decades, and many believers at the time were too scared to carry even a single Bible with them when they visited China. The Body of Christ in China was spiritually starving, and something had to be done.

This book tells the story of how Brother David and 19 other missionaries risked their lives by taking a large boat, with one million Chinese Bibles (232 tons) in tow, past the Chinese naval patrols and onto a beach in southern China, where thousands of Chinese Christians had gathered to take the Bibles away. It was an extraordinary miracle, and one that provided a massive spiritual boost to the Church in China, which has grown in leaps and bounds since. Many leaders in China believe Project Pearl was a key element in the revival that has burned in China for the last 25 years.

I had heard about Project Pearl before, but as the details of this remarkable event were unfolded, I realized that here was a story that needed to be told to a generation of Christians around the world who struggle for role-models of what it means to know and serve God. Today there are many Christians who want to give a message, but few whose lives have been so shaped by the cross that their lives *are* a powerful message. There are many with theological training, head knowledge and degrees, but few with a message from the furnace of affliction.

Just weeks after I recorded Brother David’s testimony for his book, the doctors told him they would have to amputate parts of three more toes on his left foot. This would

"The story of an impossible mission" – Jackie Pullinger

project pearl



THE 1 MILLION SMUGGLED BIBLES
THAT CHANGED CHINA

BROTHER DAVID
with Paul Hattaway

tend to slow down most people, but not Brother David. Remarkably, in late 2005 he made yet another trip to his beloved China to meet with house church leaders and plan new strategies for the kingdom of God. Months of planning had to go into finding an airline that could accept his wheelchair and walker, hotels in China with ramps and facilities, and a thousand other things. When the Chinese Christians saw him they hugged him dearly and tears rolled down their cheeks. Here was a warrior of the gospel—someone who had been literally willing to die to bring them the Word of God during their darkest hour of suffering; Someone who brought them food when they were hungry, water when they were thirsty, and clothes when they were naked. There are thousands of missionaries working in China today, doing a myriad of different activities, but those who can claim to have been serving the Lord in China as far back as the Cultural Revolution in the 1970s can be counted on one hand. Brother David is one of them, and the Chinese have long memories.

In many ways *Project Pearl* is also an historical record of what *Time* magazine described as “A remarkable mission...the largest operation of its kind in the history of China.” Some Christians and even mission leaders, strongly disagreeing with the *Time* description, denounced the whole operation in the secular press. The backlash was severe, and all kinds of lies were circulated around the globe that the Bible delivery had been a terrible failure, that most of the Bibles had been washed out to sea, etc. This intense controversy, born partly out of ignorance, jealousy, and in some cases a deliberate effort to cause mischief, has continued more than 25 years to the present day. Even as news that this book was being published began to circulate, some Christians began to again gnash their teeth in anger and express their displeasure.

I decided to be open and fair by including many responses—both positive and negative—that came about after Project Pearl. These are included in a chapter called “Sweet and Sour.” Our hope is that these letters and responses will provide the reader with a balanced view of the impact of Project Pearl, when one million Bibles were boldly smuggled into China in a single day.

I pray this book will testify of God’s greatness and love for people, and will encourage many in the realization that He can use an ordinary person who is willing to take Him at His Word.

We believe this book will bless and inspire people so much that we want to get it into the hands of as many as possible. If you send a donation of any amount to any Asia Harvest project, please note that you would like a copy of Project Pearl and we will send you one. If you can not afford to send a gift, please let us know and we will send you a complimentary copy anyway. Otherwise, information on how to order Project Pearl can be found in this newsletter.

PROJECT PEARL

The 1-Million Smuggled Bibles that Changed China

by Brother David with Paul Hattaway

“Project Pearl is the story of an impossible mission made possible through an ordinary man filled with the heart and power of Jesus. Brother David is a warrior who wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. Yet it also tells of the man I have known for decades who was gentle, kind and used the weapons of faith and prayer and wisdom to bring about a miracle for the sake of his beloved China and his wonderful Savior.” – Jackie Pullinger: Pastor and author of “Chasing the Dragon”

“I consider it a rare privilege to have been considered a true friend by this saintly brother. To me, he has always been ‘closer than a brother’ Overall, there is no other Christian I can recall in the four decades of my own Christian life who has so consistently exhibited such an absolutely Christ-like attitude towards life and towards other Christians; even his adversaries.... Quite simply, he is the most remarkable Christian missionary I have ever met.” – David Aikman: Journalist and author of “Jesus in Beijing”

On 18 June 1981, a huge barge containing one million Chinese Bibles slipped through Communist border patrols and anchored off a beach in south China. Two hours later its precious cargo had been successfully delivered into the hands of Chinese Christians who had been starved of access to God’s Word since the 1950s. PROJECT PEARL is the remarkable story of this bold and courageous project, which was led by Brother David. Along with 19 crew members, he was willing to risk his life to bring the Word of God to the hungry Chinese.

Time magazine described Project Pearl as “A remarkable mission...the largest operation of its kind in the history of China.” A quarter of a century later reports are still being received from China of the tremendous impact those Bibles had on entire communities. Chinese Christians consider Project Pearl a pivotal point in their history, and a key event which contributed greatly to the mighty revival presently sweeping the world’s most populous nation.

Finally, after more than 25 years, Brother David extensively shared this tremendous story of faith and courage for the first time. Relive the adventure and struggles, and marvel at how God took a normal, football-loving, stocky American and used him powerfully for His kingdom.

A God-Given Vision

As with all great acts for God in the Scriptures and throughout history, Project Pearl began when God gave a vision to one of His children. Brother David and his family were missionaries in the Philippines in the 1970s, when the Lord told David to work in China, because the doors for that mighty land were about to open.

Brother David visited many different mission organizations and told them what the Lord had said, but they scorned the young man and said that after having firmly shut its doors to the outside world for more than 20 years, and with Chairman Mao seemingly in total control, it was impossible that mission work would again take place in China.

Despite much discouragement, God continued to mold David and lead him towards ministry in China. To start with, David and his team managed to get a few hundred copies of the Scriptures into China from neighboring countries. This grew to thousands, and then a project where 30,000 Bibles were carried into China and delivered to the believers.

After that successful delivery, the Chinese house church leaders told Brother David that they really needed one million Bibles, as soon as possible. This figure staggered the missionaries, yet they believed God was able to do the impossible, and they prayed.

Over time, through a series of miracles documented in the book, God led Brother David and his team to purchase a tug boat, build a huge submersible barge, and print



How much space does one million Bibles require? A crew member walks on some of the 232 one-ton waterproof blocks of Chinese Bibles loaded on the barge.

one million Chinese Bibles. All of this without any starting funds at all!

Project Pearl is much more than the story of what happened with the Bible delivery, as dramatic as that was. It is also a record of how God deals with people, how He brings life to situations that seem dead, and how He uses normal people to do His will, despite all their faults and weaknesses.

For the purposes of this newsletter, we would like to jump to an extraordinary testimony that happened after the one million Bibles were delivered in 1981. Anyone serving the Lord in China hears of many amazing events that God has done over the years, but this story is one of the most remarkable we have ever heard. It has become part of the rich history of the Chinese revival, and is retold in chapter 28 of the book:

Pastor John's Testimony

Pastor John, who was in his 70s, agreed to receive a consignment of 10,000 Bibles on the day following the delivery. He was thrilled and overflowing with joy to participate in this way. His role was to receive the Bibles and distribute them among the many needy believers in his area. When the consignment of Bibles arrived at his home, John wept and hugged them with pure joy, thanking God for allowing them to have so many copies of His precious Word at one time.

After the authorities were notified of the Bible delivery the situation became so tense that John decided it was prudent to store the 10,000 Bibles until the pressure had eased. The weeks passed but the situation



remained tense so he asked a Christian farmer to hide the Bibles under his barn. The authorities were sure John was one of the main participants in the project, so they arrested him and took him to the local prison, even though there was no evidence of his involvement.

The infuriated interrogators shouted questions and abused the venerable man of God, who just closed his eyes and prayed silently. They wanted the names of the leaders of Project Pearl, but there was no way John would betray his brothers and sisters in such a way. His refusal to answer enraged the men even more, so they dragged him from the interrogation room and into the prison courtyard, where he was made to stand on a wooden box about four feet high and less than a foot wide.

Seeing that the old man would not bow to their intimidation, the guards bound John's hands behind his back, and placed a noose around his neck. A guard climbed up on the roof of an adjacent building and fastened the rope to a beam. "Now let's see how calm you are, old man!" they sneered. "The moment you grow tired you will fall off the box and die! This is all your own doing. Get ready to meet your God!"

Two guards remained behind to witness the faithful pastor's death, while the others walked off, mocking John's faith and laughing at his predicament. Instead of stumbling, however, the humble pastor felt a surge of power enter his body. His legs seemed to strengthen, and he boldly proclaimed the gospel to the two guards. The sun went down, leaving the guards surprised that the old man had not yet collapsed.

The following day dawned to find John still standing on the small box. His throat was dry, but a shower of rain refreshed him. The guards resumed their positions, sure that any minute the Christian prisoner would collapse and hang himself. The hours passed, and the only sound heard in the courtyard was that of John preaching the gospel in a loud voice. He told the guards that He was not afraid of death because Jesus Christ had already made a place for him in heaven. One of the men laughed and replied, "Old man, if I get to be your age and look as unhealthy as you do, I won't be afraid to die either!"

The bored guards turned their attention on gambling with one another. This greatly encouraged John as he thought about the similarities with the Roman guards gambling for Jesus' clothing as He hung on the cross.



The beach near Shantou, in southern China, where thousands of Chinese Christians gathered on 18 June 1981 to receive the one million Bibles.

Incredibly, the second day ended, and the pastor remained standing.

The same happened on the third day, then the fourth, fifth, and sixth! The other guards heard that the old man was still alive and they came to see for themselves. Other prisoners heard of the incredible miracle and gave glory to God. The longer John remained standing on the box without food or rest, the more the fear of God began to grip all who witnessed the extraordinary event.

As each day passed, John's physical condition worsened. His legs swelled up to twice their normal size and at times they shook uncontrollably from cramp. On the 11th day John started to feel weak and was close to collapse. The Holy Spirit sustained him, however, and he carried on. John had now become something of a spectacle, and news of the miracle had reached outside the prison walls. Some of the leading officials and men of the town came to see it for themselves.

On the 13th day a strong storm swept in and heavy rain lashed John's body, soaking him to the skin. As the box beneath his feet shook from the wind, John realized that he could hold out no longer. Every sinew in his body had been strained beyond endurance. His limbs were numb, and his torso ached for a moment's respite.

John closed his eyes as his legs gave way, and the beloved pastor fell unconscious as the noose tightened around his neck.

About ten minutes later John opened his eyes to find himself stretched out on the prison floor. His whole body was in

excruciating pain, especially his arms which had been tied behind his back for almost two weeks. Now that the ropes had been loosened, the blood rushed to his limbs and caused intense pain. Not knowing what had happened, John finally became aware that someone was trying to help him sit up, and a bottle of water was being pressed against his chapped lips. A few minutes more passed before he was able to make out that the person was one of the guards who had been assigned to watch him die. The second guard was nearby.

"Please don't die! We want to know your God!" the men pleaded. "Please, uncle, help us to know your Jesus!"

"Why?" John asked in a faint whisper.

They explained to John that when his legs had finally collapsed in the midst of the storm, his body hung in the air, swinging back and forth from the overhead beam. Then, a moment later, a bolt of lightning suddenly illuminated the courtyard, cutting the rope just above his head and causing him to fall to the ground. Shaking with fear, the two guards dragged the unconscious prisoner inside and tried to revive him.

Pastor John gradually regained his strength and led the two desperate men to faith in Jesus Christ. Dozens of other guards and prisoners who heard what happened also repented of their sins and placed their trust in the Lord. Realizing that they risked the wrath of God if they continued to persecute the elderly Christian, the authorities released him from prison. John returned home, and later dug up the 10,000 Bibles and distributed them among the believers.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 1,359,363 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 \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

ASIAN WORKERS FUND

Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 376 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, at **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card will be sent to all regular donors.

CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Current Total: 3,648 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.

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 118,357 Bibles Printed in 21 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.**

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS FUND

Because of your partnership we are supporting 1,088 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 of \$25 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 5,728 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.



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AIR MAIL

Asia Harvest



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

www.asiaharvest.org

office@asiaharvest.org

August 2008 - Newsletter #95



Asia Disaster Relief fund
A Pictorial Story of one Chinese Village

The Asia Disaster Relief Fund

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’” (Matthew 25:34-36).

Dear friends, In May we sent a message to everybody on our email list, detailing our plans to help the victims of two massive natural disasters in Asia - the cyclone that killed approximately 100,000 people in Myanmar (Burma) in early May, and the earthquake that has killed 80,000 and left five million people homeless in China's Sichuan Province on May 12. We received a strong response from people on our email list, but we realize there are many who read this newsletter who don't have email. *(By the way, if you would like to be added to our email list, please send us a message at office@asiaharvest.org and we will be glad to add you. We generally only send out emails for urgent matters, and usually no more than several messages per year).*

I was in neighboring Thailand when the Myanmar cyclone struck. We experienced some strong winds and rain, but never imagined that just across the border so many people's lives were being destroyed. Since that time, we have been helping the efforts of our Malaysian representatives, who have many years' experience working in relief situations. They have distributed four container loads of food, water, medical supplies, plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, blankets, and other necessities.

Just as we were discussing how we could respond to the need in Myanmar, the massive earthquake struck China's Sichuan Province. The towns near the epicenter of the earthquake were completely obliterated, and about 5 million people are homeless as a result. At Mianzhu, every single member of three house churches (approximately 100 believers) were killed by the quake. They were among 80,000 people who perished.

We immediately got in touch with friends in this part of China. Over the years we have seen that the best way to help in such situations is to network with other members of the Body of Christ who are able to help most effectively. Our contacts launched a program to provide "Emergency Aid kits" to people in the worst-affected areas. The

kits, which cost US\$110 each, include a 9 square meter (97 square feet) tent, flashlights, cooking utensils, blankets, first aid supplies, and other essentials. The help is now moving more towards helping the people rebuild their homes and lives.

In response to these disasters, we launched the “Asia Disaster Relief Fund.” So far more than 1,000 Emergency Aid kits have been provided. This work is spearheaded by Chinese house church leaders, many of whom travelled to Sichuan in response to the compassion of Christ in their hearts. By demonstrating the love of God in such a practical way, and by boldly sharing their faith, we have received a report that **more than 3,000 people have bowed their knee to Jesus Christ!** A coworker reported that when they delivered supplies to one village, an evangelist remained behind and preached the Gospel. He wrote, “Every person present at the meeting, which appeared to be the entire village, received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! The man who first received a tent, now uses that tent as the location of the church meetings.”

Over the years we have responded to numerous emergency situations brought about by natural disasters in Asia. These include devastating cyclones in India and Vietnam in 1999, major earthquakes in India and Afghanistan in 2001 and Kashmir in 2005; and of course the Tsunami which struck many Asian countries in 2004. In all of these disasters we have seen that people’s hearts become open to the claims of Jesus Christ, and many people have met the Lord for the first time, while tens of thousands of precious people have been able to survive and restart their lives.

When the two recent disasters struck, we realized that we were not in a strong position to help immediately because we didn’t have an ongoing fund for such relief work. Subsequently, we have decided to launch a long-term project, the Asia Disaster Relief fund, which will allow us to respond immediately when a crisis occurs. From this newsletter onward, and on our website, people can now donate to this important fund.

In this newsletter, we have decided to do something different. We believe the saying, “A picture paints a thousand words” is true, so the rest of this report is simply a series of pictures from China, taken by one of several ministries we are supporting through the Asia Disaster Relief fund. These pictures show how Christians responded to the needs of this one village, which is located near Beichuan, the epicenter of the quake. We thank David Darg of Operation Blessing for allowing us to use these photographs.

If you would like to donate to the Asia Disaster Relief fund, you can do so either by credit card over our secure website: www.asiaharvest.org, or by filling out the yellow Response form in this newsletter and returning it along with your donation. **We guarantee that every cent will be sent directly to the relief efforts. Nothing will be taken out for administration or any other expense.**



At 2:28 p.m. on 12 May 2008, a massive earthquake struck China's Sichuan Province. This village, near Beichuan, was just one of thousands decimated.





The first response was to provide medical attention and temporary shelter to the inhabitants of the village.





Every home in the village was destroyed, so tents and temporary buildings were erected to house the people, including many elderly and children.





After the initial shock subsided, the entrepreneurial skills of the Chinese race began to show through. The villagers extracted wire and copper from the rubble, loaded it onto their vehicles, and took it to the town to sell as scrap.





The rebuilding stage included restoring fresh water to the village, and providing a diesel-operated generator.





Although there is a long road to recovery ahead for this village, life is beginning to get back to normal thanks to the love of Christians who helped them. There are countless other villages not so fortunate as this one. Can you help?



CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 1,372,050 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 \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

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SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 125,635 Bibles Printed in 21 Languages

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ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND



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

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided relief assistance to the victims of natural disasters such as the 2008 earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the 2004 Tsunami, and a host of other disasters in India, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. At the same time as providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.



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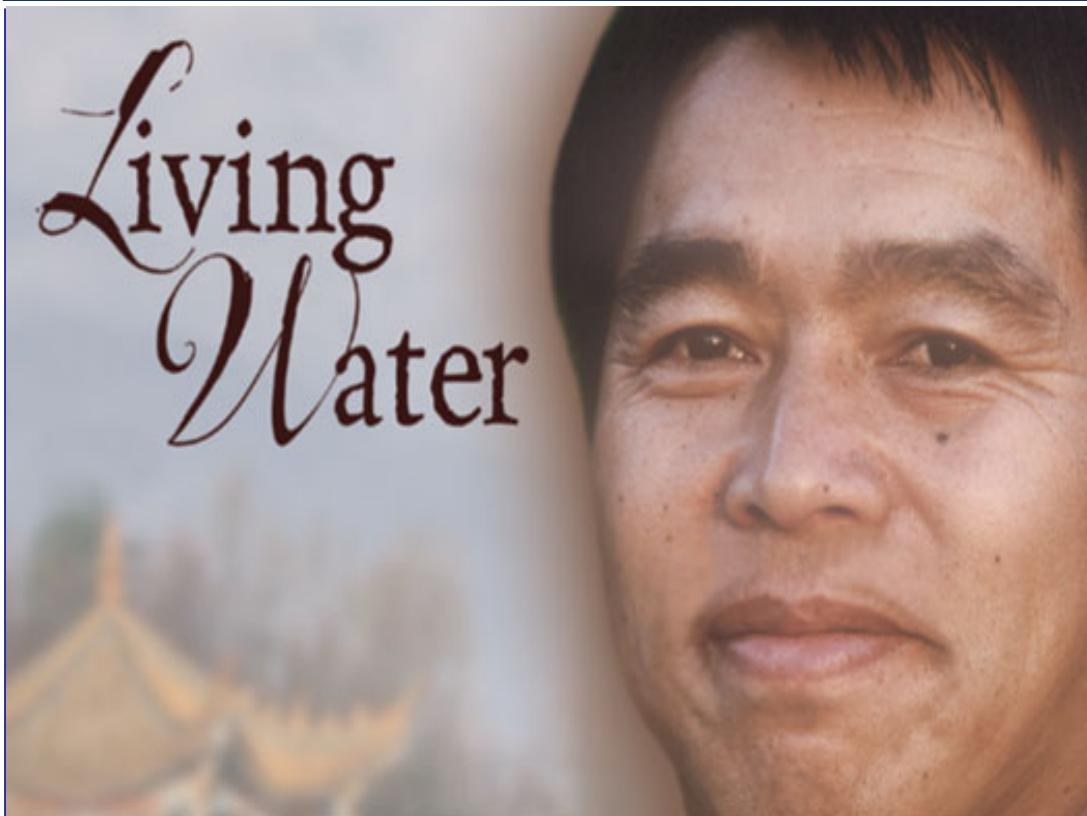


Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe! (Joel 3:13)

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October 2008 - Newsletter #96



Living Water

A Powerful New Book from Brother Yun

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)

Brother Yun’s testimony, recorded in *The Heavenly Man*, has deeply impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people around the world since its publication in 2002. Indeed, you may have first heard about us and the work of Asia Harvest after reading *The Heavenly Man*. It was a joy for us to be invited to play a small part in bringing to you a new companion volume, *Living Water*.

In 1997 Brother Yun left China and began ministering to people all over the world. Since that time he has shared in more than 1,000 meetings in nations throughout Africa, Asia, North America, the Middle East, the South Pacific, as well as almost every country in Europe. He speaks of Christ’s love and His call for wholehearted commitment in a compelling way, and many people have been blessed and transformed through Yun’s message.

When we reflect on our friendship with Brother Yun, we think of his living model of what it means to remain truly humble. He is always willing to serve any person he encounters without the slightest hesitancy or reserve. Yun shares the Word of God just as passionately in large meetings with thousands of people as he does in small Bible studies with a few individuals. He consistently shies away from any desire for celebrity or the public praise of men, and can often be found staying for hours to pray with those who come forward after he speaks. He does not merely say a few words and move on. He takes a genuine interest in each person and gives them his full attention, just as Jesus did. On many occasions we’ve seen Yun kneel down and ask the people in the prayer line to pray for him.

This new book, *Living Water*, is arranged in three parts. Part One, “Freedom in Christ,” contains messages relating to the spiritual life of the believer, particularly about the need to remove all that can potentially block our relationship with God. These foundational principles lay the essential groundwork for the later chapters.

Part Two, “Streams of Living Water,” is about equipping believers for service in God’s kingdom. Brother Yun teaches God’s requirements for surrender, obedience and



Living Water

The powerful companion to the
international bestseller *The Heavenly Man*

BROTHER YUN



EDITED BY PAUL HATTAWAY

sacrifice, and that His kingdom advances through weakness rather than human strength. Yun takes the reader graciously by the hand and shows them how living water can flow from within every Christian, bringing refreshing to many thirsty souls.

Part Three, "Soldiers for Christ," explains the obstacles and storms that disciples are likely to encounter in their lives. However, Brother Yun shows that such hardships actually aid the Christian in their spiritual journey. These insights are drawn from Yun's personal experience enduring torture and pain for the sake of the Gospel. Despite his harsh experiences, Yun's life and ministry is marked by infectious joy, zeal for God, and love for his fellow man. How this can be the case in spite of all he has undergone will provide tender but practical encouragement.

Within these messages, *Living Water* includes many accounts from Yun's personal life. He openly shares his struggles, and he's frank about the long process of refining and shaping through which God has led him. Yun's teaching, therefore, carries the ring of authenticity. Brother Yun spent decades in China in the midst of the revival fires. He has seen God move in ways that many of us can only imagine. Yet, he often grieves to see among God's people a lack of obedience and a loss of true zeal for God. From a spirit of love and humility, Yun shares principles the Lord has taught him.

We pray that *Living Water* will bring relief to millions of Christians whose walk with God has become dry and barren. The source of living water is singly and undeniably found in Jesus Christ alone.

Repentance is a topic many Christians today don't like to hear about. The 19th-century British preacher Joseph Parker said, "The man whose little sermon is 'Repent' sets himself against his age, and will for the time being be battered mercilessly by the age whose moral tone he challenges. There is but one end for such a man - 'off with his head!' You had better not try to preach repentance until you have pledged your head to heaven."

In the next few Asia Harvest newsletters, we plan to bring you some selected chapters from *Living Water*. In this issue we are reprinting the first chapter of the book, on Repentance. Today the message of repentance is as unpopular as ever. Not only do we as Christians need to repent for salvation, but we need to walk in daily repentance and humility before the Lord.

We believe this book will bless and inspire people so much that we want to get it into the hands of as many as possible. If you send a donation of any amount to any Asia Harvest project, please note that you would like a copy of Living Water and we will send you one. If you can not afford to send a gift, please let us know and we will send you a complimentary copy anyway. Otherwise, information on how to order Living Water can be found in this newsletter. Living Water is also available in audio form.

LIVING WATER

by Brother Yun

“Brother Yun is fervent and fiery for Jesus. I’m sure that he will be among the Lord’s anointed of the next generation, who build the kingdom of God in the toughest places on earth. I appreciate and honor this servant of God.” – Reinhard Bonnke: German evangelist and founder of Christ for All Nations.

“Brother Yun’s life is one so totally captured by Jesus that no imaginable hardship or persecution can stop him from being more than a conqueror.” – Rolland & Heidi Baker: Missionaries to Africa and directors of Iris Ministries.

“Living Water will brace you and invigorate you as few other Christian books have. It will change your life.” – David Aikman: Journalist and author of “Jesus in Beijing”

Chapter One: Repentance

“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent” (Rev. 3:19).

One of the greatest missionaries to China in the twentieth century was a single Norwegian lady named Marie Monsen. Although I was not even born when she ministered throughout my home province of Henan, I heard many stories from elderly brothers and sisters who knew her and were blessed by her ministry.

Marie Monsen was a Lutheran missionary, but her fervency and uncompromising message frequently put her at odds with her missionary society. Church leaders told me how much Monsen loved the Chinese people, especially the family of God, and how she was willing to do whatever was necessary to serve Jesus. In those days (the 1920s and 30s), life was extremely difficult for foreign missionaries in China. They had to contend with terrible opposition everywhere they went, mobs of bandits roaming the countryside and a devastating civil war.

Monsen had one main message that she preached everywhere she went. She taught that to be a follower of Christ, a person has to first thoroughly repent of their sins. By that she didn’t simply mean that people must confess their sins and ask forgiveness. That was only the first step. She meant that their whole lives, desires, motives and plans must

be surrendered to God. Each Christian must die to self and completely hand their past, present and future over to the Lord Jesus Christ. One of her favorite Bible passages was Romans 12:1-2: *“I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

On occasions the holy anger of God came upon Marie Monsen, and she often convicted her fellow missionaries and the Chinese church leaders of their lukewarm commitment and secret sins. Many were told they were hypocrites, and Monsen was never afraid to set forth the standard of God’s holiness. Monsen frequently asked



missionaries if they had ever really experienced a rebirth in Christ, and if they had completely surrendered their lives to Him. This must have come as a shock to many missionaries who, it was supposed, had forsaken all to serve Christ on the other side of the world. More than a few of them, however, were convicted by the searching light of the Holy Spirit and could not confidently say that they had ever been converted. Monsen led a number of her fellow missionaries into a personal relationship with Jesus.

Because most of the Henan Christians in the pre-Communism era had been so strongly challenged to thoroughly repent and be in right relationship with God, they were able to better withstand the storms of persecution that buffeted the Chinese Church throughout the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. I have heard countless stories of men and women who sacrificed their lives as martyrs for Jesus during this time. One pastor had a noose placed around his neck and was made to stand atop three tables stacked on top of each other. The pastor’s wife, children and extended family were all called to the police station to witness the scene. The officers gruffly declared, “You have two options! Either you choose to continue believing in Jesus, or you deny Jesus. Make your choice now!”

The aged pastor looked down into the eyes of his beloved family, but he knew what he must do. He calmly announced, “Even if you cut off my head and my blood covers the ground, I will never deny Jesus.”

Immediately the officers kicked the legs of the bottom table, causing the structure to collapse. In an instant the noose tightened and the pastor went to be with Jesus Christ forever.

Due to the example of many God-fearing people like this, the church in my province, which had numbered only in the tens of thousands of believers prior to 1949, today numbers in the millions. Disciples from Henan have been sent out all over China as ambassadors of the Good News.

As I have traveled around the world I have come to realize that the kind of message Marie Monsen and other missionaries preached in China is much needed today. Repentance is a foundational key to the Christian life, but in many places it has been a neglected doctrine. In countless churches today, preachers have watered down their message so that it does not bear much resemblance to the gospel as outlined in the Scriptures.

Instead of people hearing that God’s kingdom is available to all those who are willing to forsake the world and wholeheartedly follow Jesus, thousands of sermons are preached every Sunday where Jesus is presented as a Savior only, but not as Lord and Master. People are told “Jesus will help you, bless you, forgive you and empower you.” But very little is said about repentance, humility and sacrifice.

You see, we are all called to run a race for Jesus, and repentance is the start line of that race. It’s futile to try to run the race if you never made it to the start line to begin with! This is the problem with many believers today. They are trying to follow the Lord, but they have never truly repented and surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ. The result of the false gospel so prevalent today can be seen in churches full of half-hearted Christians whose lives are still centered on selfishness and the principles of the world.

Jesus came to bring the kingdom of God to the earth. He came to completely transform individuals, families and nations from the inside out—a radical revolution that would change the world through obedient, blood-bought servants who are willing to bow their knee and say, “Lord, after all you have done for me, what would you have me do for you?”

Jesus wants us to either be with him or against him. He told the church in Laodicea, “*I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth*” (Revelation 3:15-16). This message from the resurrected Lord must have been

an awful shock to the Laodicean Christians! They were well off, comfortable and self-sufficient. They probably thought that Jesus was proud of their achievements, and appreciative of their pious acts. Instead of patting them on the back, however, Jesus exposed the reality of their spiritually diseased condition: *"You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see"* (Revelation 3:17-18).

Why did Jesus say these harsh words? Did He hate the Laodicean believers? Certainly not! In fact, His motivation—as always—was one of love, tough love. He loved the Laodiceans so much that he could not sit idly and let them perish in their sin and selfishness. *"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent"* (Revelation 3:19).

Repentance is both the first step to walking in the kingdom of God, and the key to continuing in a place of obedience and submission to the Lord. The very first message Jesus proclaimed in his ministry was, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near"* (Matthew 4:17). Without a deep experience of repentance in our lives we will continually struggle with basic sin and never mature as believers.

The devil doesn't care if you have served the Lord in the past. What makes him frightened is if you are living for Jesus Christ *today*, relying and trusting Him right *now*, and being

willing to obey the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We may look like we belong in the kingdom of God, and we may be successful in tricking other people, but the all-knowing God cannot be fooled. We have to submit to Jesus as



Brother Yun praying with people at a Chinese church.

Lord and King if we want to dwell in His kingdom. We cannot trick God, whose “solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: ‘The Lord knows those who are his,’ and, ‘Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness’” (2 Timothy 2:19).

Jesus longs to have us all at His wedding banquet, but we cannot enter if we continue to live according to the principles of the world. The parable of the wedding banquet says: “When the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are invited, but few are chosen’” (Matthew 22:11-14).

God knows who is a citizen of His kingdom and who is an impostor. If we have received an invitation to the wedding feast of the kingdom of God, we must wear the clothes that He tells us to, and not our own. We must accept His Word and live by it, aligning our lifestyle and choices to match the commands of the King. This is repentance.

Repentance is such an integral part of Christian life. In fact, without repentance it is impossible to live in the kingdom of God. Living with one foot in God’s kingdom and one foot in the world is no different than an unfaithful spouse with two lovers. James put it quite bluntly, “You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?” (James 4:4-5).

John similarly wrote, “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the carvings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever” (1 John 2:15-17).

One day we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and be required to account for our lives. Now is the time to repent, before it is too late! “In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31).

Dear friend, if you sense the conviction of the Holy Spirit tugging at your conscience, then fall on your knees and cry out to God from a repentant heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to take full control of your life and to help you daily walk in humility and dependence on Him.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



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

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Forgiveness

The Path to Freedom

From the Front Lines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

The last few months have seen fear and alarm spread around the globe as the economies of most countries have experienced a severe shaking. Stock markets have plummeted, banks and companies have failed, and millions of jobs have been lost.

Several years ago a colleague and I visited the headquarters of Overseas Missionary Fellowship in Singapore. OMF was founded as the China Inland Mission by Hudson Taylor in 1865. For decades they were the only Christian organization forging ahead with the Gospel in interior areas of China, and many Chinese church leaders to this day consider the current revival sweeping their nation owes much to the efforts of those faithful missionaries and their Chinese coworkers.

The staff at OMF kindly allowed us to spend as much time as we needed going through their library and archive room, copying old books and magazines, which we have since used to produce several books on Christianity in China. As I read through these rare documents, I realized there were several times when the economic climate of the day deeply affected the mission's work. Donations dropped dramatically during World War I, and the missionaries in China had to adjust their lives and budgets accordingly. Some returned home. The same happened during World War II. In between, the Great Depression of the 1930s ravaged the world's economy, and the mission's income fell to just a fraction of what it had been previously.

During all these times, the leaders of the China Inland Mission didn't complain. They weren't running a business, but were serving the Lord in a ministry that He had established. During times of plenty, they served as the Lord provided. During times of difficulty, they continued to serve faithfully, even if it meant personal hardship.

A number of people have contacted us and asked how the present economic developments will affect the work of Asia Harvest, and whether we are taking any preventative actions.

To begin with, we are thankful that 2008 has been a record year for giving to our projects, and we have been able, by God's grace, to print more Bibles than ever before, support more evangelists, etc. We thank the Lord Jesus Christ for every person who has helped His work through their prayers, participation and giving. Secondly, from the very start of Asia Harvest more than 20 years ago we have been acutely aware that it is God who must be the motivator, empowerer and leader of this organization. We have never gone out to actively fund-raise or anything like that — our goal has always been to simply serve as a link between the Church in Asia (especially those unreached and more difficult areas), and Christians around the world.

We present certain strategic projects in our newsletter which we feel the Lord would like us to help with, and people give as they sense the Holy Spirit prompting them to get involved.

For these reasons we hope people who support our work do so because they want to be involved with a great **opportunity** to help expand the kingdom of God in the unreached areas of Asia, and not from any sense of **obligation**. For the Apostle Paul wrote, *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"* (2 Cor. 9:7-8).

Our philosophy is really simple: If the Lord provides, then we pass it on to the front lines in Asia where resources make a great difference. If the funds dry up in the future, we will continue to serve to the best of our ability. We believe this kind of outlook helps us not to worry about what tomorrow may bring, and enables us to serve with peace and joy in our hearts now.

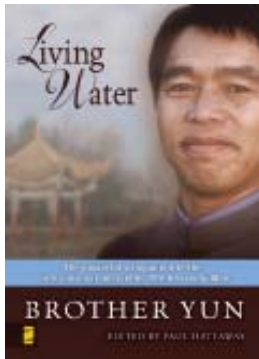
We don't know what the world's economy will do in the future, but we do know that Jesus is in control of everything! As Christians we should not fear, but should trust in His unfailing love. Don't be depressed by what you hear on the news! Our attitude should be the same as that of Jesus, who said, *"As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work"* (John 9:4). Paul taught that our attitude should be like, *"those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away"* (1 Cor. 7:30-31).

In the meantime let's not focus on the world's economies, but let us heed the words of Jesus: *"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own"* (Matthew 6:32-34).

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM ASIA HARVEST



As this is our final newsletter for 2008, we want to thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support throughout the year. We pray the risen Jesus Christ will truly be part of the Christmas and New Year period for you and your family. In 2009 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!



LIVING WATER

by Brother Yun

Chapter 3: Forgiveness

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.* (Psalm 130:1-4)

Have you ever been treated unjustly? Has someone hurt you without cause?

Unless you have been living in an isolated cave all your life, the answer to these questions will surely be yes.

The world is full of bitterness and unforgiveness. It could be said that whole spiritual and political structures are founded and based on bitterness.

There is just one solution to the threat of terrorism in the world today. Military power will never solve the problem, for you can not overcome a spiritual disease with guns and bombs. The only hope is for a genuine God-sent revival to sweep millions of people into the kingdom of God, changing individuals from the inside out, and replacing hate with love, and bitterness with forgiveness. The living water of Jesus can enter communities where terrorism is fostered, bringing new life and hope through the cross of Jesus Christ.

As I have traveled around the world meeting numerous Christians, I have become aware that many have long struggled to forgive other people who have wronged them. I believe it is only through relationship with Jesus Christ that we can start to walk in the freedom that comes from a life of forgiveness.

Unforgiveness soon becomes bitterness, and nothing will choke the streams of living water that are meant to flow from your life than a root of bitterness. The root can grow so large that a person's whole personality is twisted and deformed by it.

The first step for anyone to become whole in Christ is to accept responsibility for their own sins and failures. There is no point blaming anyone else, regardless of what terrible things have happened to you. When someone hurts us, our natural response is to pull back and withdraw. We are created in such a way that we want to avoid pain. But then, something takes place that requires us to make a vital decision. When we pull back from a person who has caused us pain, we must decide whether or not to let bitterness into our heart.

Bitterness is what happens to you when you will not forgive. Bitterness is to hold on to an injustice that has been done to you. The Bible indicates that when a Christian is destroyed by bitterness it not only ruins them, but other people as well: ***"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many"*** (Heb. 12:15). A bitter person tends to spread the poison in their hearts to others around them. Friendships often break up through bitterness, and then mutual friends are forced to choose sides, which leads to more trouble and pain.

Bitterness is a toxic root that grows in the garden of your heart if left unchecked. Usually we do not see the root, just the surface problem. Many people spend a lot of time and effort trying to beautify the outside of their lives, pulling up the surface weeds, when in actual fact they need to go below the surface and dig up the root.

The verse in Hebrews about a root of bitterness starts by saying, ***"See to it that no one misses the grace of God"*** (12:15). Another translation talks about "pulling back" from the grace of God. Bitterness does exactly this. It causes a person to pull back from the grace of God.

The first time I was arrested for the Gospel in China was very difficult. Somehow in my heart I thought that as a servant of God I was entitled to special treatment in prison. I did receive special treatment, but not the kind I was hoping for! I was severely beaten until my whole body was covered in blood and bruises, and much of my hair was torn from my scalp.

For a time I harbored bitterness against the men who had done this to me, but the gracious Lord Jesus taught me that there is absolutely no point in holding unforgiveness against anyone, regardless of what they have done. Unforgiveness would only achieve two things. Firstly, it would harden my heart and cause a root of bitterness to take hold, and secondly my relationship with Jesus Christ would be damaged. I came to realize that self-righteousness had risen up in my heart. In effect, I was saying to God, "Everybody else should get what they deserve, but don't we have a special relationship with grace for me?"

It doesn't work like that.

Jesus taught ***"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy"*** (Matt. 5:7). God wants us to forgive others of their offences as he has forgiven us of our sins and offences. In fact, Jesus tied our forgiveness to whether or not we are willing to forgive others. He said, ***"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins"*** (Matt. 6:14-15).

There is only one way to dig out the stubborn root of bitterness from our hearts.

It is to forgive.

Too many of God's children have lost their way and live in spiritual captivity because of unforgiveness. They can't hear God's voice and their lives are directionless and joyless.

How are we to forgive others? The Apostle Paul told us, ***"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you"*** (Eph. 4:32), and ***"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you"*** (Col. 3:13).

We are to forgive others the same way that the Lord Jesus forgave us. How did He forgive us?

Unconditionally.

Freely.

Generously.

And without keeping a record of past wrongs.

Don't think that the person who has wronged you must first ask for forgiveness before you can give it. This is a dangerous way of thinking. Even at the very moment that the angry crowd were baying for His blood, Jesus prayed, ***"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"*** (Luke 23:34).

I know many disciples in China who have spent decades of their lives in prison for the sake of the Gospel. Despite unmentionable cruelties being done to them, these men and women are free! Long ago they forgave their persecutors, even though the prison guards and police officers never came to them and asked. Dear friend, even if somebody has committed the most heinous sin against you, and has never admitted it or shown the slightest inclination to do so, you still must forgive them. If you can forgive them from your heart, you will be free and the prison doors that have kept you confined will be opened.

Reconciliation requires two parties to come together and sort out their differences. Forgiveness requires only one. We forgive not to set the other person free, but to set

ourselves free. If that person wants to be free, they will have to go to the Lord. We don't have to carry the burden of bitterness any more!

Forgiveness does not mean that people who have committed heinous crimes will get away with it. Not at all. Rather, forgiveness is the act of releasing our own desire for vengeance, and leaving it in God's hands. Listen to what the Bible says:

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head'" (Romans 12:18-20).

The Gospel is about restoring our relationship to God, and also about restoring our relationships with other people. When we fail to show this in our lives, our witness is rendered powerless. In effect, our mouths would be claiming that God can forgive our sins, but our actions would be showing that we are unwilling to extend that forgiveness to others.

Jesus taught, ***"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that.... But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful"*** (Luke 6:32-33, 35-36).

You may be reading this book and thinking, "You don't understand. I have a right to feel the way I do. All this forgiveness talk is easy, but I have tried it and it didn't change me much." Other people have told me, "You can't ask people who have been through the most horrific situations to forgive those who did these acts against them! You can't put this extra burden on the victims."

People who think like this have never understood what forgiveness is all about.

Forgiveness is not a burden. It is an offer.

I have also had some difficult experiences in my life. I have had sharp metal needles jabbed under my fingernails until I passed out from the pain. My legs have been smashed by prison guards. On one occasion my body was so destroyed that when my family members came to the prison they did not recognize me. They told the guards they had brought out the wrong man, and only when my mother noticed my birthmark did they realize it was me. I have been lied about and denounced by other Christian leaders so many times I can't recall. Yet by the grace of God I have freely forgiven all of those who brought pain into my life.

Joseph was another man who could easily have become bitter. Did you ever think about what he faced? As a 17-year-old boy, Joseph was betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery to a foreign land. In Egypt he was falsely accused of attempted rape and spent years rotting in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

All of this happened to Joseph after God had given him a vision.

I'm sure Joseph struggled with bitterness. I'm sure he often thought, "How could my brothers do this to me?" There were countless ways that Joseph could have justified it if he felt bitterness in his heart, but he didn't. Faced with all these temptations, Joseph was able to realize that he belonged first and foremost to God, and he chose to live according to the laws and principles of His kingdom.

During those years of struggle, God was forming a message in Joseph. He was learning about forgiveness. Later, Joseph would not just be able to speak about forgiveness. He would be a living testimony to it.

You may have heard a hundred sermons on forgiveness before, but the only way those messages will become a reality in your life is when you receive an opportunity to forgive someone.

Joseph had a choice. He could either become bitter and hard at his experiences, or he could become like soft clay in the hands of the Potter. He chose the latter. We know that Joseph did not become bitter, because he was well-liked in the prison. Bitter people are never well-liked.

God eventually turned Joseph's situation around and he was miraculously promoted from the prison to being the second in command in all of Egypt. The Bible says that **"Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt"** (Gen. 41:46). It had been 13 long years since Joseph's brothers had mistreated him.

We cannot find a trace of bitterness when Joseph finally came face to face with his brothers. He could easily have used his new powerful position to get revenge, but we read of nothing but love for those who had wronged him. Joseph's brothers were afraid and on one occasion even asked, **"What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"** (50:15). They need not have worried, for such was the change God had brought about in Joseph's character that he struggled to hold back the tears of joy when his brothers stood before him.

Joseph had become a broken man with a deep trust in God. He was able to tell his family, **"Don't be afraid.... You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them**" (50:19-21).

Whatever painful experiences you have had in your life, I also encourage you to freely forgive, because Jesus has forgiven all of your sins and offences.

Jesus invites you to walk with Him on the path of forgiveness—the path of freedom. Forgiveness is a great gift that God has given us so we can survive in an evil world where people hurt us, betray us, and do terrible things to us. When we have learned to live in a flow of forgiveness we will be living in freedom.

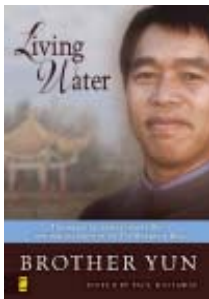
Dear friend, I encourage you to put this book down and spend some time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to show you if there is anyone you hold unforgiveness against in your heart. You might consider getting a pen and piece of paper, and write down the names of those who have wronged you in the past, whom you have yet to fully release to the Lord.

Then ask God to forgive them by name, and ask Him to help you release those people into His hands, and to set you free. A heart of bitterness and unforgiveness is like a prison. It not only binds others, but it also destroys you. Jesus is the great gardener, and He is able to uproot even the deepest root of bitterness in your heart.

I exhort you in the name for Jesus Christ to get rid of all bitterness and learn to forgive, before it develops a deep root that is difficult to weed out of your life. The Bible says, ***“If you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such ‘wisdom’ does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice”*** (James 3:14-16). Praise the Lord! He can set you free.

Jesus wants your life to have living water flowing from it, bringing blessing and refreshing to others around you. Forgiveness is an essential step in the process of becoming a vessel of blessing. As you head into the future with your past wiped clean, ask Jesus to teach you how to walk in forgiveness, so that future offenses will be quickly put aside and handed to God.

Then you will truly be free!



LIVING WATER by Brother Yun

We believe this book will bless and inspire people so much that we want to get it into the hands of as many as possible.

If you send a donation of any amount to any Asia Harvest project, please note that you would like a copy of *Living Water* and we will send you one. If you can not afford to send a gift, please let us know and we will send you a complimentary copy anyway. Otherwise, information on how to order *Living Water* can be found in our October newsletter or at our website. *Living Water* is also available as an audio book.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 1,468,256 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 \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 381 Asian evangelists working among 107 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.



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

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 132,387 Bibles Printed in 21 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.**

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

Because of your partnership we are supporting 1,181 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 of \$25 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 6,267 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.

ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND



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

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided relief assistance to the victims of natural disasters such as the 2008 earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the 2004 Tsunami, and a host of other disasters in India, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. At the same time as providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.



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