



**Asia Harvest**

**2009**

**NEWSLETTERS**

*(Combined)*

# Asia Harvest



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

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March 2009 - Newsletter #98



## 2009 Annual Report

From Ashes to Beauty

# Asia Harvest Annual Report

by Paul & Joy Hattaway

*Something beautiful,  
Something good;  
All my confusion  
He understood;  
All I had to offer Him was  
Brokenness and strife,  
But He made something beautiful  
Of my life.*

— Chorus of “Something Beautiful.”

One of our favorite songs is “Something Beautiful”. The words of the chorus reflect what Isaiah prophesied of the coming Messiah thousands of years ago: *“He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair”* (Isaiah 61:1-3).

As we reflected on 2008 in this Annual Report, it became clear that our work last year was largely overshadowed and dominated by two catastrophic events in the month of May. Early in the month a powerful cyclone lashed areas of southern Myanmar (Burma), killing over 100,000 people and leaving millions homeless. We were still planning our response to this when a massive earthquake struck China’s Sichuan Province on May 12, leaving 80,000 dead, five million homeless, and multitudes traumatized.

In the midst of these horrendous tragedies and overwhelming confusion, Jesus began to touch lives, through His followers. He did what He always does, offering hope and peace to shattered lives, taking their strife and pain and making something beautiful out of it. Although it is difficult to estimate, it is clear that many thousands of people caught up in these disasters have found salvation in Jesus Christ because of the loving witness they received from Christians who responded to their needs.

During 2008 the ministry of Asia Harvest grew and expanded in many ways, as the Lord refined us and the way we function so that we could be more effective and fruitful for the kingdom of God. This has resulted in fresh opportunities and new strategic partnerships with members of the Body of Christ.

Despite the grim economic conditions around the world, in 2008 we received substantially more funds than any previous year since we began serving in Asia more than 20 years ago. Indeed, giving in 2008 more than doubled from the previous year (an increase of 125%). This meant we were able to print more Bibles, support more evangelists, provide more free surgeries for children in Vietnam, etc than ever before. The vast majority of donations we receive are in the \$25 to \$50 range, from normal people who count it a blessing to be able to help the Gospel flourish among the unreached in Asia, one life at a time.

Our strategy has always been to send the resources that come into our hands to the places they are needed the most on the front lines in Asia. We operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, which means that in the West we have just a few hard-working administrative workers. The real frontline work of God's kingdom is done by thousands of Asian Christians whom we feel privileged to assist and serve.

Our vision is 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 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! We pray you have received the spiritual grace of God through giving that Paul spoke about in 1 Corinthians 8:7: *"But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving."*

On the following pages we present summaries of Asia Harvest projects in 2008. 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!

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*Front cover: The most striking image for our work in 2008. Piles of rubble remain where a school once stood before the devastating earthquake in Sichuan Province, China, which killed 80,000 people and left 5-million homeless. Only the basketball court remains clear of rubble.*

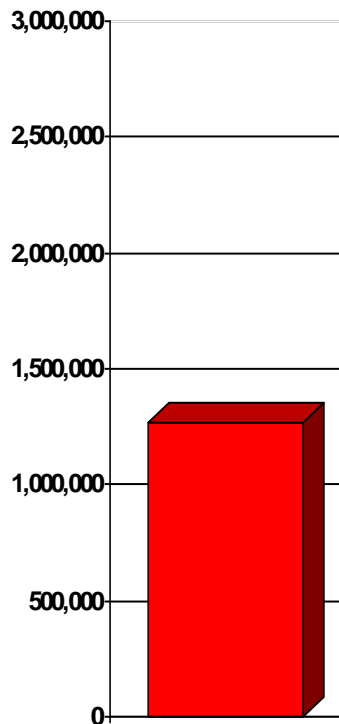


# CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

We are thankful to the many people who pray and give so that Christians in China will have their own Bible. We began printing Bibles inside China in 2000, and it took seven years before we passed the one-million Bible milestone in 2007. Amazingly, by the end of 2008 the grand total has reached almost 2.5 million Bibles, with funds received to print and distribute 1,270,321 Chinese Bibles in 2008 alone! 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:

"We received 4,100 Bibles from you. Praise the Lord! In the past 12 months the Lord has 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."

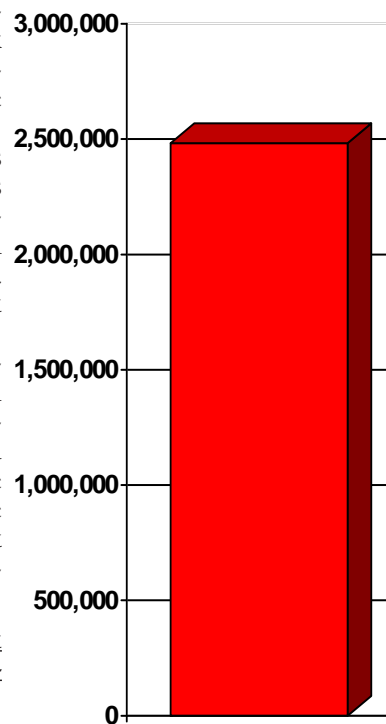
2008 Bibles  
printed: 1,270,321



Although a limited number of Bibles are now allowed to be printed inside China, there remains a serious lack because of the tremendous growth of the church in rural areas. 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 for free 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: 2,483,198



# SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

*Current Total: 136,471 Bibles printed in 21 different languages*

The Southeast Asian countries of Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar (Burma) contain more than 400 different tribes, many of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. In some cases, missionaries worked 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 continued our help of getting God's Word into the hands of as many believers as possible. The most recent projects we helped with were printing 5,000 Bibles each in the Koho and Bru languages of Vietnam and Laos. We also provided funds for 50,000 Gospels of Mark in the Shan language of Myanmar and Thailand.



Several more projects are currently 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 2008 Asia Harvest provided funds to produce and distribute 43,834 Bibles in tribal 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

*Because of your prayers and partnership, in 2008 we were able to support 394 Asian church-planting missionaries—working among 96 different unreached tribes and people groups.*

The Asian Workers' fund provides 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 strengthen their ministries and providing support in a non-controlling manner to those who are serving God wholeheartedly.

The fruit of their work can be clearly seen as thousands of people found faith in Jesus Christ last year, with dozens of church fellowships established in some of the darkest parts of Asia. In China we are privileged to support many Chinese house church evangelists who are taking the Gospel to the ethnic minority groups in the country, including in Tibet and the Muslim-dominated Xinjiang Region. They have encountered many hardships and persecutions, but have persevered and are now seeing dozens of people come to faith in Jesus.

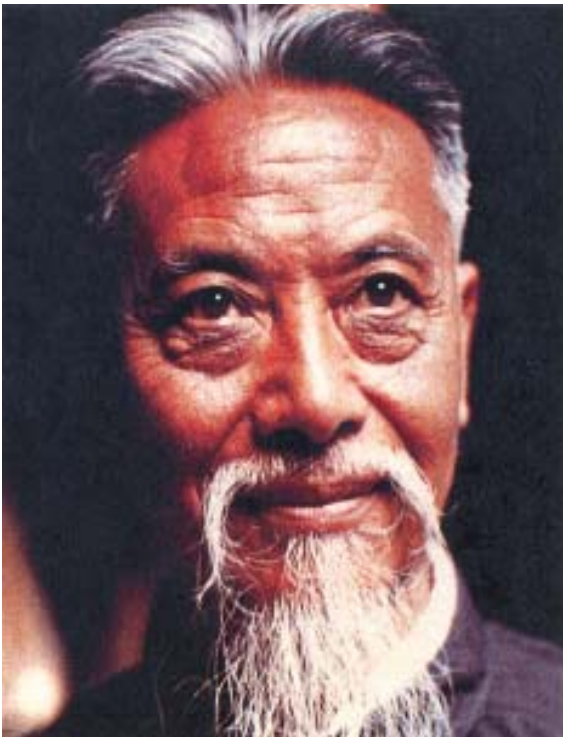
This work is constantly expanding and new workers are being recruited. You can support one or more of these workers with a gift of **\$25 per month each**. A laminated prayer card of a worker is sent to every supporter of this project.



*A group of new believers in the Himalayas, near the India-Tibet border. These and many other new believers are led to faith in Christ every year by evangelists supported through the Asian Workers' fund.*

# CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

*Because of your prayers and support we were able to help 1,215 living martyrs throughout 2008. 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. Bob Fu of the China Aid Association recently reported that despite the Olympics and a huge propaganda campaign by China to show a nice face to the world, "Persecution of Christians in China took a dramatic upswing in 2008."

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 supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to remind you to pray.



# PROJECT SMILE

*Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 1,176 children in Vietnam in 2008 (6,799 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 disabilities. We received the following testimony from our colleagues in Vietnam:*

In all we do, the saddest thing we encounter are the children who have been deformed through the Agent Orange chemicals that were sprayed during the Vietnam War. Forty years later those poisons remain in both the ground water and food chain of the areas sprayed, and will remain for hundreds of years to come. These children's gross deformities are so severe that they often cannot be corrected by surgery.

Mr. Tam's son was one such case. This boy's twisted limbs mean he will never walk. Yet as we sat in that tiny home, we saw a tenderness and such loving care from a couple saddled with



both poverty and a severely handicapped child. Mr. and Mrs. Tam knew their plight was tough, but the love they had for their son touched our hearts. When we encounter families like the Tam's we make a grant to them, to help the family cope with the crushing weight of their circumstances. The grant helps their immediate needs, and also allows them to invest in some small enterprise such as raising chickens or pigs, which will generate a vital family income.

Many families just like the Tams have had their burdens eased by such grants, it is another facet of what we do. Thank you for your partnership which means we can help the poor, while sharing the source of that help, the Lord Jesus Christ.

# ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND

*In 2008, Asia Harvest was able to help tens of thousands of people afflicted by natural disasters in Asia. Many found Jesus Christ as a result.*

*After the two terrible natural disasters that struck Asia in May 2008, we established the Asia Disaster Relief fund, not only to provide help to the victims of those tragedies, but also to allow us to respond immediately whenever a disaster occurs somewhere in Asia. Since the launch of this fund we provided \$437,527 to help transform the lives of people affected by the devastating cyclone and earthquake.*

In Myanmar (formerly Burma), we worked closely with our Malaysian representatives, who had many years' experience working in relief situations. Within days, they had distributed four container loads of food, water, medical supplies, plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, blankets, and other necessities.

In Sichuan Province, China, the size of the need was so great that we realized the need to work with four different Christian ministries in order to be most effective and to reach as many people as possible. One of our contacts launched a program to provide "Emergency Aid kits" to families in the worst-affected areas. The kits included a 9 sq. meter (97 sq. feet) tent



(pictured), flashlights, cooking utensils, blankets, first aid supplies, and other essentials.

**In total, we were able to provide 2,363 tents and emergency kits in China.**

As winter approached, the need focused on helping the people survive the harsh winters in Sichuan. We provided thousands of blankets, coats and clothing. Even now, ten months after the earthquake struck, our coworkers are still busy helping people. By demonstrating the love of God in such a practical way, and by boldly sharing their faith, **thousands of people have put their trust in Jesus Christ.**

## Important News



**AN URGENT NEED IN INDIA** — If you have been following the News reports on our website in recent months, you will be aware that a massive persecution of Christians commenced in the Indian state of Orissa last year, leading to the deaths of more than 500 believers, with thousands more left homeless and destitute.

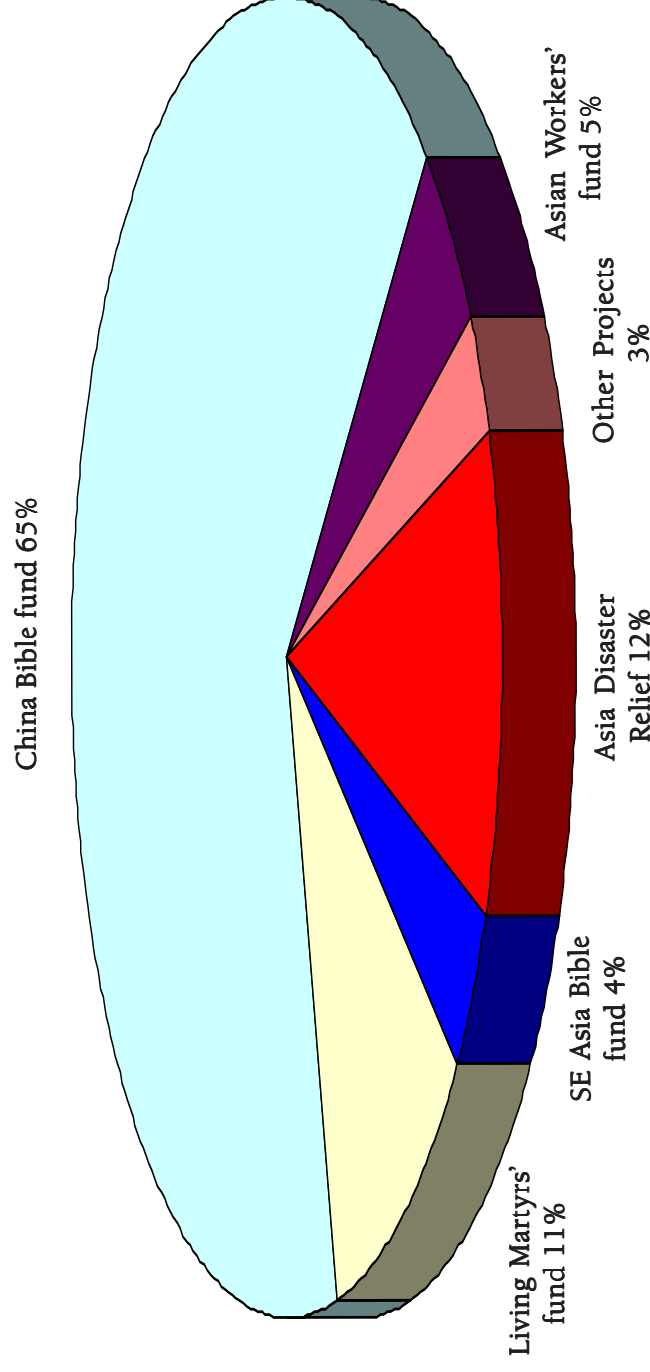
One of the families Asia Harvest supports through the Asian Workers' fund has an effective ministry in Orissa. They recently reported that more than 35 Christians from 9 families are now living in their home, having come in from outlying areas where persecution had devastated their lives. Three widows are among the 35 refugees. These women's husbands were buried alive late last year by fanatical Hindus. Other Christian women had been raped, while most of the men had barely escaped with their lives, and were badly beaten and injured.

We have an urgent need for people to pray and financially help these followers of Christ. The immediate need is to provide \$100 for each family per month so that they will have basic necessities such as food, clothing, and blankets. Longer term, plans are to construct simple bamboo homes for these families, and a piece of land has been obtained for this purpose. Each home will cost \$1,300 to build.

Please pray for the physical, spiritual and emotional well-being of these precious brothers and sisters. If you would like to contribute financially to their needs, please make a donation by credit card on our secure website, to the **Asia Disaster Relief fund**. Alternatively, please send a check to one of our Asia Harvest offices, along with a note, "For the believers in Orissa." 100% of donations received for this purpose will be sent directly to Orissa. Nothing will be taken out for any expense. Thank you.

**CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT** — In 2008 Asia Harvest concluded our help of this project, having met the objectives we sent out to achieve at the start. By God's grace our coworkers in China were able to train and equip 3,792 Chinese house church Sunday school teachers. As a result, many thousands of children have come to know the Lord. Thank you for all who have prayed for and supported this project.

# Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2008



## 2008 Financial Statement

At Asia Harvest we desire to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2008 is now available upon request. Please write and ask if you would like to receive it.





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# Asia Harvest



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May 2009 - Newsletter #99



**Back to Jerusalem**  
God's Call to the Chinese Church

# Message from a Chinese Prison

by Peng Ming



In 2004, a 52-year-old Chinese Christian named Peng Ming (pictured) travelled to Thailand to visit his elderly parents. He was lured into the neighboring country of Myanmar (Burma), where he was kidnapped at gunpoint by eight Chinese special agents. After being taken back to China, Peng was falsely charged with engaging in terrorist activities, and sentenced to life in prison in October 2005. All of this took place even though the United States government had granted Peng Ming refugee status in the U.S. For more than three years he has been held in a heavily guarded prison cell in Hanyang, Hubei Province. Peng has suffered terrible health problems, including a severe case of kidney stones and a massive heart attack. His

medical needs have been ignored by the prison officials, who continue to punish him with sleep deprivation and malnourishment.

On 22 January 2009, Peng Ming wrote a letter to his parents and friends. He had heard about the economic meltdown going on around the world and alluded to it in his letter. We hope the words of this faithful servant of God will encourage you, as it comes from someone deep in the furnace of affliction because of his faith. We thank the China Aid Association for making this letter available.

*Dear Dad, Mom, and friends,*

*How are you doing? I am so glad to say “Happy Chinese New Year” with Spring Festival on the way. I hope you have good health, happiness and great faith. God has always been blessing you and me.*

*My dear parents requested that I should possess a positive attitude to deal with my current situation. I have completely eliminated anxiety and loneliness from my heart, and I am now enriched to spend every day peacefully. As my father*



said, this is a learning opportunity, a special school, to study hard in order to learn lessons and to ultimately choose the right path for my future.

As for my suffering, in fact, God put me to the test.... I firmly believe that He will use me.

Regarding the current economic crisis in the United States, I read an article a few days ago, entitled "The more intense the economic recession, the more Americans believe in Jesus." This confirmed my point of view: God is giving a wake-up call to the world through the economic crisis, especially to Americans. An extravagant lifestyle is not pleasing to God, and it is not sustainable. God's authority is in charge of the entire world. People may be enriched to a small degree by material possessions, but we must never forget God's will and His work on the earth....

God be with us,

Peng Ming

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*Please pray for Peng Ming as he continues to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in a Chinese prison. Pray God's will be done in his life, and that his spiritual life will continue to be enriched even as his body suffers injustice.*



# BACK TO JERUSALEM

## God's Call to the Chinese Church to Complete the Great Commission

### *A Quick Reminder of what "Back to Jerusalem" is About*



Back to Jerusalem is the name given to the Chinese church's vision to send missionaries outside their borders to fulfill the Great Commission. The vision was first given to the Chinese in the

1930s, when small groups of brave evangelists headed into the Muslim areas of northwest China with plans to establish churches along the Silk Road in a westward direction, all the way "back to Jerusalem." Their efforts were delayed when the Communists took over China in 1949, and slammed the borders shut. Many of the original Back to Jerusalem missionaries (including some pictured above) were imprisoned for many years, and the vision went into hibernation for the next three decades.

In the 1980s the vision was renewed among the Chinese house churches, as believers read their Bibles and realized that they too must obey the command of Jesus to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). They realized missionary work was not just for Westerners, but for all followers of the Lord. Their Bibles contain the exact same command as ours.

Today there is an ever-increasing awareness of the Back to Jerusalem vision among China's Christians, and a growing number are volunteering to go as missionaries. Training schools are operating both inside and outside China, and exciting reports of what God is doing through the Chinese missionaries have begun to emerge from the nations where God sent them.

### ***What Back to Jerusalem is Not***

Firstly, Back to Jerusalem should *never* be seen as an organization or particular church or mission group. It is not an organization, but a vision that God has given the whole Chinese Church. There may be different missions and individuals involved with serving that vision, but they should never claim any kind of ownership of it.

Some have presumed that ‘Back to Jerusalem’ must be something to do with the Chinese wanting to rush to Jerusalem and preach the Gospel. This is not what it means at all.

Back to Jerusalem refers to the Chinese church’s vision to reach all the nations located **between** China and Jerusalem. This should be exciting news to all of us, because that region is home to all of the unreached spiritual “giants” in the world today— Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. This region is also known as the “10/40 Window,” meaning it lies between 10 and 40 degrees north of the Equator (as indicated by the red lines on the map below). In this window, stretching from North Africa to China, live 95% of the

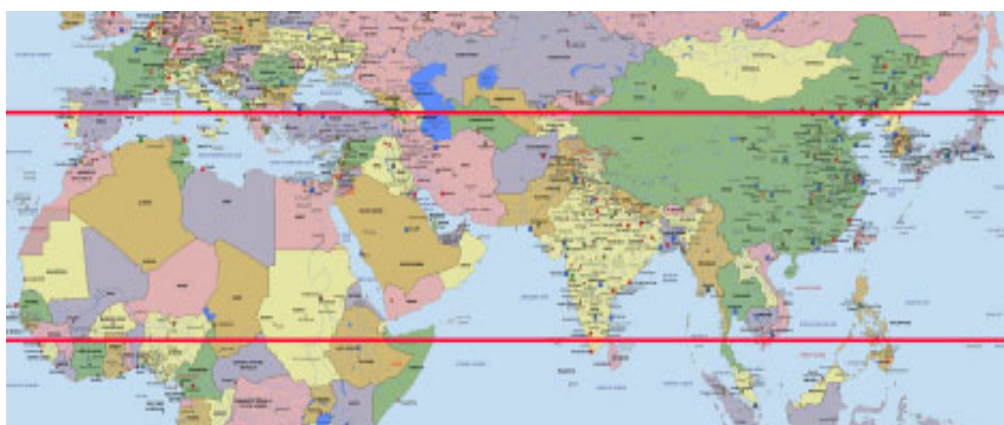
remaining unreached people groups in the world, and more than two billion people who have yet to hear a clear presentation of the Gospel.

The Chinese church desire to obey the command of Jesus by sending missionaries to these areas and groups that many Western Christians consider too difficult to penetrate with the Gospel.

### ***A Chorus of Criticism***

Whenever someone in the Bible received a God-given vision to do something, criticism and mockery was not far behind. Think of Noah, Moses and Aaron, David, and Nehemiah to name just a few. The Apostle Paul wrote, ***“A great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.”*** (1 Cor. 16:9)

In September 2002, I (Paul) was asked by a number of senior house church leaders in China to attend a meeting where they discussed their plans for “Back to Jerusalem.” They wanted to share their vision with Christians around the world, and asked if I would write it down in a book.





In 2003 *Back to Jerusalem: Called to Complete the Great Commission* was published. The book was appreciated by many Christians, who realized God had used the last 50 years of persecution in China to train and prepare believers to reach into the hardest areas on earth with the Gospel. Others mocked and ridiculed the vision, including many mission leaders who were quick to point out the Chinese Christians are “uneducated peasants,” forgetting that the Bible is full of examples of God using simple people to accomplish His purposes throughout the earth.

Some mission groups felt threatened by the book. When the vision was shared with the mission leader of one major denomination in America, a concerned look came across his face, and he asked, “If the Chinese are going to reach the Muslims and Buddhists, what will be left for us to do?” Those people who think that missions is “The West to the Rest” are unable to accept that things have changed, and God is using whomever He wants to expand His kingdom.

While the book continued to bless and inspire “normal” Christians, a number of

people attacked the Back to Jerusalem vision, because they felt threatened by its core message. These organizations are still trying to send foreign missionaries IN to China, so the announcement that the Chinese church was planning to send large numbers of missionaries OUT of China challenged their existence, and threatened to hurt their funding.

In the intervening years we have watched with bemusement as many of the “experts” in the West continue to ridicule the Chinese church and their missionary vision, giving lots of reasons why they can never do it, while at the same time the Chinese have been doing it, quietly continued on their way, training and sending out more workers and seeing their vision begin to come to fruition!

The good news is that Back to Jerusalem is not a man-made vision at all! It was given by God to the Chinese Church nearly 70 years ago. What critics or supporters have to say about it in the end will bear no relevance on whether or not the Chinese Church obeys the call of God. In fact, it could be said that God has used the critics to keep the real Back to Jerusalem movement undiluted from too many

harmful Western influences. For that the Chinese house churches are thankful.

We are reminded of the classic quote by the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt: *"It is not the critic who counts. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best, knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."*

### **What's Happening Now?**

The missionary vision of the Chinese house churches has continued to grow steadily over the last several years. While the number of workers and the scope of their labors is still just a small stream, that stream is slowly increasing in velocity and promises to become a mighty river in the future.

Although the sensitive nature of the Back to Jerusalem work means we are not permitted to provide specific information with names or exact locations, we are able to share a general overview and some testimonies. One report that came across our desk is from a Chinese evangelist serving in a Muslim country as part of the Back to Jerusalem vision. He wrote:

***"During the month of Ramadan, when all Muslims fast between sunrise***

***and sunset, two of us also felt that Jesus wanted us to fast, but unto Him. We fasted for 40 days, and many wonderful things occurred during this time. I met a woman who had breast cancer, and was fearful of dying. I prayed for her, and the next day she went to her doctor and he said he could not believe the results! She went back for further testing and the doctor pronounced her completely free of all cancer! She has now begun to follow Jesus. Praise the Lord.***

***In this country there are a small number of Christians, but most of them live in fear of persecution and never share the Gospel with anyone. We have been praying that they would stand up and be bold like Jesus told us to, and not to hide their lights under a bushel. Please pray with us that this would happen."***

The following testimony was told to us by an American evangelical missionary who has spent many years living and working in the Middle East:

***"While visiting Jerusalem, I attended a small church one Sunday morning. After the service I chatted with the pastor, who mentioned that I should talk to a new Israeli***





*believer and get the story of how he had come to know Jesus Christ. I went over and introduced myself to this man, and he began by telling me a remarkable story....*

*This man was a shop owner. He was working one day when a Chinese Christian entered the shop and told the Israeli that he had a message from God for him. The two had never met before. The Chinese Christian then proceeded to tell the Israeli man, by word of knowledge, several things in his life that he was struggling with, things even his own wife didn't know. The shop owner was shocked and a little afraid. He realized there was no other way the Chinese visitor could have known these facts unless God had revealed them to him. The Chinese believer also told him that he had a disease, and that God wanted to heal it. Even as the Chinese man spoke, this Israeli felt the healing power of God flow through him.*

*Before leaving, the Chinese visitor told the shop owner to go to a nearby church and ask the pastor to explain the salvation and healing that Jesus Christ brings. In utter astonishment, the Israeli man did just that, and the pastor led him to Christ.*

*When I heard this incredible story, I realized that if Chinese missionaries able to hear the Lord like this were released in the Middle East, the impact would be beyond what we could imagine."*

Many Back to Jerusalem missionaries are beginning to see God move through them and fruit is being produced for the kingdom of God. The workers have overcome many obstacles, and are learning to be excellent witnesses in the cultures they have been sent to.

At the same time there is an awareness that the workers need more thorough training in both the Bible and cross-cultural and language skills to enable them to be more effective on the mission field. This training has become a priority for many church groups, and there are now many training centers inside China and a few in other countries.

In addition, materials have been produced on DVD, books, and even by shortwave radio broadcasts that specifically help train the Chinese church for missionary work.

The Chinese believers have always seen the task of reaching Muslim and Buddhist minority groups inside China as a crucial part of the Back to Jerusalem vision. Not only do they want to see those groups in relationship with the Lord, but they realize there is no better place for hands-on training before they head outside China.

There is also a growing awareness that the most effective way to reach many ethnic groups may be to win some of their people to the Lord in China, and then equip them to cross the border and share the Gospel with their cousins in a neighboring country. Instead of a Chinese evangelist going directly to reach people in Kazakhstan, for example, it would be more effective to send a Kazak Christian from China across the border to Kazakhstan, where he will already understand the language and culture of the target group. This type of strategy is bearing much good fruit. While we were preparing to write this newsletter, a coworker in China sent us a report that through his ministry 320 new believers were baptized in 2008, and churches were planted among 13 different ethnic groups!

## ***How Asia Harvest is Helping***

We consider the Back to Jerusalem vision as being at the heart of what we do as a ministry, and how we want to help see the unreached people groups of Asia and beyond come to a saving knowledge of God's grace.

Asia Harvest is serving the Chinese house churches in several ways in relation to the Back to Jerusalem vision. For example, we have provided the funds for a strategic training program, which is operating right now. This program is training more than 30 believers from a variety of different ethnic backgrounds, providing them with a solid Biblical base for their faith as well as imparting vision for them to return home with a plan to reach out both to their own tribes and people from other unreached groups.

We have also formed a partnership with a Chinese-led organization that is specifically targeting Muslims with the Good News of Jesus Christ. They have seen many Muslims come to know the True God. We recently received pictures of the first ever known church fellowship among a Muslim group considered one of the hardest to reach in the world. The sight of these once hard Muslim men, now children of the Living God, sitting in a circle on the floor intently studying the Bible together brought tears to our eyes.

Asia Harvest has been providing support for this ministry and its workers, so that they can serve God more freely and fulfill the call God has placed on their lives. God has honored their faith. This ministry is

growing quickly, and now many of its leaders are themselves former Muslims!

Similarly, we are supporting evangelists as they reach into Buddhist people groups both inside China and across its borders. There are many exciting testimonies from this work also.

The support for these projects has been provided through gifts we receive marked for "Back to Jerusalem" on the yellow response forms in our newsletters, and through donations placed over our website. If you would like to participate in this important and strategic work, either by prayer or giving, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please pray the Back to Jerusalem vision would continue to flourish into a mighty movement that will flood the darkest nations on earth with the glorious light of Jesus Christ, so that His great salvation would be known to all mankind.



***If you have never read the 'Back to Jerusalem' book we believe it will encourage and inspire you as you learn what God is doing today through the Chinese church. If you send a donation to any Asia Harvest project, please note that you would like a copy of Back to Jerusalem 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.***

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



*Current Total: 2,502,537 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 congregations. 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 397 Asian evangelists working among 98 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*



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

## SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 140,369 Bibles Printed in 22 languages*

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

## CHINA LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 926 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 injuries or illness caused by persecution. 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 of this project.

## PROJECT SMILE



*Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 6,859 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 helps 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. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.





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# Asia Harvest



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

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July 2009 - Newsletter #100



## The Father's Heart

Reaching Tribes in Remote Asia

# From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

Welcome to Asia Harvest newsletter number 100! Our first newsletter was sent out to about 50 people, more than 21 years ago in April 1988. Since then we have been humbled and amazed to see God grow His kingdom in Asia. We thank the Lord Jesus for connecting us with many Christian friends like you, who share the same vision and concern for the unreached people of Asia. Thank you for your prayers and support throughout the years. God willing, we plan to continue serving the church in Asia until Jesus returns. We can not think of any greater honor and privilege.

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*“Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together” (John 4:34-36).*

In our previous newsletter we shared about the Back to Jerusalem movement of the Chinese Church, and included some testimonies of how Chinese believers have begun to preach the Gospel among Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists. We were quite surprised by the overwhelming response to the newsletter. Many people wrote to say how deeply touched they were to hear of how God is moving in other parts of the world. Others lamented how much of a struggle it is in their own countries, as people’s hearts appear to be getting harder, and the pessimism of economic gloom is enveloping them.

God is moving in tremendous power and grace in many parts of Asia, and we are continually hearing from our coworkers about how breakthroughs are occurring in various places, of large numbers of new believers being baptized, and of Christian fellowships being formed among some of the world’s most isolated and unreached tribes and ethnic groups. We have come to realize that such experiences in Asia are considered quite “abnormal” by many Christians in other parts of the world. Although we move back and forward between the Church in Asia and the West, most of our Christian experience has been in the heart of Asia. I (Paul) began work as a missionary in China as a new believer at the age of 19, and Joy when she was 20. We met on the mission field and were

married a few years later. I guess in many ways we have not fully realized the deep struggle and disillusionment many Christians around the world feel.

We want to encourage you not to lose heart if you are experiencing difficulty in your Christian life and witness. There are different seasons, both in the natural world and in the spiritual. You will have heard how tens of millions of Chinese people follow Jesus, and how countless miracles have occurred the length and breadth of that great country. Do you realize, however, that it was not always like this in China? Griffith John, a missionary to China's Shandong Province a century ago, sent this sobering report: *"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."*

Today that same place where Griffith John and other missionaries faithfully labored for so many years—Shandong Province—is home to approximately 4.5 million Christians! Jesus said we should pray to "the Lord of the Harvest" to send more laborers into the field. Our God is not only the Lord of the harvesters, He is the Lord of the harvest itself! He knows when it is ripe, and can give effective strategies to show His children how to bring in the crop at just the right time. When Griffith John first went to Shandong Province the harvest was not yet ready to be gathered. In later years it was, and an abundant yield for the kingdom of God has resulted.

You too may live in a place where people's hearts seem as "hard as steel." Don't be discouraged! Continue to seek the Lord, and He will keep your heart soft and clean. Keep walking faithfully and in obedience to His Word, and share the Good News about Jesus whenever you can. And above all, be sure not to forget that God is still in control of everything!

In the marvellous book of Job, God finally interrupts the aimless advice of Job's friends and asks him, **"Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me"** (Job 41:11). Another translation says, "Who could confront me and get by with it? I'm in charge of all this - I run the universe!" Job was rendered speechless by God's glory and power, and humbly concluded: **"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted"** (Job 42:2).

Friends, keep seeking the Lord, and pay much closer attention to His Word than to the daily news, politics, or latest economic woes. These things are real, but Jesus Christ is much more real! Cling to Him and trust Him with all your heart, and He will never abandon you. Placing your focus on the things of this world will only bring depression and despair. Placing your focus on Jesus will bring life and vision to your soul.



# THE FATHER'S HEART

## Helping Asian Christians Take the Good News to Asia's Unreached Tribes

### *At the Heart of what we do*

We want to thank you for your continued prayers and partnership in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout Asia. Such words are often used lightly, but at Asia Harvest we mean them sincerely. Thank you!

In the past we wrote several large color books such as *Operation China* and *Peoples of the Buddhist World*, which profiled hundreds of unreached people groups in Asia, introducing them to Christians around the world. *(By the way, these books are still available. See the bookstore at our website for details, or write and ask).* It has been thrilling to hear how God used those books to mobilize new workers for the harvest, and subsequent breakthroughs occurred among groups that were previously untouched by the Gospel.



For example the **Mosuo** people, a Tibetan Buddhist group who live around the remote Lugu Lake in southwest China, were completely unreached in the late 1990s. Today there

is at least one house church in every Mosuo village!

The small **Baima** tribe of China, numbering about 10,000 people, had absolutely no knowledge of the Gospel until the first team of Christians went to reach them several years ago.



Recently we were overjoyed when a missionary told us that 273 Baima people now follow the Lord!

Many of you stand in committed prayer for the evangelists we support. They need that! Let us share a testimony of how your prayers have made a real and vital difference.

In our December 2001 newsletter (#64), we wrote about the desperate needs of the many tribes in the remote state of Arunachal Pradesh, in northeast India. Arunachal Pradesh is sandwiched between Tibet and India in the midst many peaks over 25,000 feet high.

One of the tribes we wrote about in that newsletter was the unreached **Apatani**, a



*Jesus Christ."*

We have the privilege of informing you that God heard your prayers! After we used your gifts to the Asian Workers' fund to support Asian evangelists reaching out to the Apatani for several years, we recently received the below picture of a new and thriving Apatani church packed with vibrant believers, in the same place that was

group numbering about 23,000 people. We included this picture of an Apatani woman with a tattooed face, and concluded by asking readers to *"Please pray the Apatani would soon believe and trust in*

once trapped in deep spiritual darkness and bondage. Hallelujah!

### *God's Heart for the Nations*

People sometimes ask us what is the most important project we are involved with. That is a difficult question, because we consider all of them important! If they weren't important and strategic for the kingdom of God, we wouldn't get involved in the first place. Having said that, the one project that perhaps encapsulates the very core of what we do is the Asian Workers' fund.

This is because we believe it is at the very center of God's heart too. Jesus said He will not return until ***"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 Greek word used for “nations” both in the above verse and elsewhere in the New Testament is “*ethne*.” This word means ethnic groups, not political countries. God is not merely looking to have followers in every country. If this was so, then Jesus should have returned already for there are Christians today in every country on earth. Rather, God’s plan is for every ethnic and linguistic representation of mankind to be represented in heaven.

The great news for Christians everywhere is that we know God’s plans *will* be accomplished! In Revelation we read that the four living creatures and 24 elders, “**sang a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation [ethne]. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth’**” (Revelation 5:9-10).

This is why we consider the Asian Workers’ fund as being at the heart of what we do. The brave evangelists who are reaching the lost nations of Asia have encountered remarkable success, as the Holy Spirit frequently empowers and gives them favor with God and men. Last year, one ministry we support saw 901 people come to faith in Jesus, and 73 new church fellowships were established. These new believers come from about 25 different ethnic groups (ethne).

Another ministry we support reported that 516 tribal people in China believed

the Gospel last year, and so far 320 of them have been baptized. These new believers come from 13 different ethnic groups. It is a tremendous blessing to see God’s plan of salvation unfold in front of our eyes, and the Asian Workers’ fund has proved crucial in seeing this happen.

### ***The Asian Workers’ Fund***

Having shared some of these wonderful testimonies of what God is doing in Asia, please understand that there are still thousands of ethnic groups that have yet to be reached. The job is still far from being completed. Experts say there are approximately 12,000 ethnic groups in the world today, and about 4,000 could still be considered unreached by the Gospel. Most of these are located in Asia.

Twenty years ago, the Lord began to position Asia Harvest as a link between the Church in Asia and Christians around the world. One of the most critical challenges we have faced, and continue to face, is the need to assist evangelists in unreached areas. We established the Asian Workers’ Fund to help these dedicated believers. Through the years it has grown until Asia Harvest now works with more than 400 evangelists, who serve the Lord among about 100 different unreached tribes and ethnic groups throughout Asia.

We established the Asian Workers’ fund with several guiding principles. For example, we only give through existing Asian church structures or mission groups. We do not try to send any workers out ourselves. This way, the support can be given in a healthier way

that builds up the local Body of Christ. We also only support pioneer evangelists, and not pastors. We believe pastors should receive support from the flocks they shepherd. Our aim is to help frontline evangelists who have left their homes and traveled to unreached areas to proclaim the Gospel. Without this help, they would not be able to go.

Our Asian brothers and sisters are often called to endure much hardship. Their call is not easy. They are often arrested, beaten by villagers, robbed, and abused. They boldly continue marching forward, however, determined not to lose sight of their goal to advance the kingdom of God.

Through them, the living water of Jesus flows to many dry and thirsty communities. Last year alone, approximately 7,000 people found Christ because of these dedicated preachers. More than 200 churches were established in places where there were previously none, bringing light to communities who have been in bondage to Satanic forces for generations.



One of the Chinese ministries we support is called to reach Muslims for the Lord Jesus. Although it is a new ministry, they have already had the privilege of leading many Muslims to salvation. About

15 years a friend and I had to flee the **Dongxiang** area in northwest China while

the police searched for us, after we entered that dark place seeking ways to penetrate it with the light of the Gospel. The Dongxiang are notorious for controlling the drug trade in that part of Asia and for being fanatical Muslims. We often thought if God can reach the Dongxiang then He can reach anyone.

Last year we received a picture showing the first ever Dongxiang Christian fellowship! To see former Muslims—now redeemed by the precious Blood of Jesus Christ—intently studying the Bible together was a great encouragement.

We also support many evangelists in Vietnam. One of them, Brother Benjamin, recently sent the following report which is indicative of what he and many other evangelists are experiencing. He wrote:

*“Some of the people who live in a nearby village didn’t like it when I came to visit and were very much against the Gospel. We knew that the best thing we could do was to pray for them. On one of the days we visited, one of them came to us and said, ‘I want to hear about Jesus.’ We saw that he had a genuine desire to learn about the Lord. We talked about Jesus and explained the Gospel to him and he received the Lord!*

*Now he often comes with us on our mission travels and his whole family is worshipping the Lord. Praise God! In the last three months I have shared the Good News with 37 people and 10 have accepted Christ. This brings our fellowship to a total of 109 precious souls.”*



### ***An Urgent Need***

At the moment our commitments to these workers has outstripped the funding coming in to help them.



We are currently lacking support for 80 Asian evangelists, most of whom are working among China's ethnic minorities, among tribes in the Himalayas (Tibet, Nepal, India and Bhutan), and in

the mountainous tribal areas of Southeast Asia. They labor in some of the most isolated areas on earth. Some have to walk several days along mountain trails just to reach the nearest road. We are humbled by their courage and dedication. Few people will ever hear their names in this world, but we know they will be richly rewarded for their obedience and sacrifice in heaven.

**Would you, your family, or your church please consider supporting one or more of these courageous evangelists?**

I know that many of you are struggling financially. It is not an easy time to ask for this, but a monthly donation of \$25 (or \$300 per year) would make a tremendous difference in their lives. It would allow them to carry out the work God has called them to.

Few of us can go where they go, but each of us can partake in the joy of their reward.

Would you also please pray for them as the Lord leads you? If you sense that the Lord is calling you to help the Asian Workers' fund (or any of our projects), please fill in the enclosed Response Form and send it to us. Alternatively, either one-time or recurring monthly donations can be made by credit card at our secure website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

We will send a prayer card of a worker to each regular donor, and a written update of their progress at least once a year.

We can never express how much we appreciate your involvement in our lives and ministry. We covet your prayers, as we know that without fervent prayer under-girding our efforts, little could be accomplished.

If there is anything we can do for you, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. It is always a privilege to hear from you.



## Update from Orissa

A few months ago we sent a prayer request on behalf of persecuted Christians in Orissa, India, who had been driven from their homes by fanatical Hindus. More than 500 Christians have been killed in the turmoil.

Thank you for your prayers and generous help. Because of it, we were able to help the 35 Christians from nine families who had been left destitute by the brutal persecution. Food, blankets, clothing, medicine and other necessities were provided. A series of simple houses was constructed (see picture below) so that the believers could restart their lives.

As the support continued to come in, we were able to expand the help to many other Christian families devastated in Orissa. This help includes repairing 100 houses that had been damaged by the attackers, providing pigs, goats and poultry for families, providing them with a source of ongoing income, and establishing other small business initiatives such as tools to start bicycle repair shops and barber shops. All of these activities have been designed to help our brothers and sisters in Orissa recover from their horrifying ordeal. They have expressed their heart-felt thanks to every person who has prayed for them and helped them get back on their feet. God bless you.



## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



*Current Total: 2,520,389 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 congregations. 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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*Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support \_\_\_\_*



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## SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 144,812 Bibles Printed in 23 languages*

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*(The Voice of the Martyrs)*

The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists who are unable to work because of injuries or illness caused by persecution. 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 of this project.

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*Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 6,964 children in Vietnam.*

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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. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.





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### *UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND*

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# RESPONSE FORM

*Help Make a Difference in Asia*

One-time or recurring monthly credit card donations can also be made to any of our projects at our secure website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

- ☐ I am praying for Asia Harvest and the work in Asia  
☐ I have changed my address. Please use my new address written below  
☐ Please remove my name from your mailing list  
☐ Please send the Asia Harvest newsletter to my Christian friends (provide details)  
☐ Enclosed is a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be used as indicated below:  
I would like to get receipts ☐ By email ☐ By post ☐ No receipts needed

**WHERE NEEDED MOST** ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**CHINA: BIBLE PRINTING** ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$1.80 per Bible, including delivery)

**ASIAN WORKERS' FUND** ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$25 per month, supporting Asian missionaries in the most unreached areas of Asia)

**CHINA LIVING MARTYRS' FUND** ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$25 per month, supporting Christian workers disabled by persecution and illness)

**SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE PRINTING** ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$2.70 per Bible, including delivery)

**VIETNAM: PROJECT SMILE** ☐ \$60 ☐ \$120 ☐ \$240 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Cleft-palate, cleft-lip, club foot, and other operations for Vietnamese children)

**BACK TO JERUSALEM** ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Helping the Chinese Church to send missionaries to Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus)

**ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND** ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Transforming lives with God's love during natural disasters)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please turn page for more information.....*

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## **About Asia Harvest**

Asia Harvest is an inter-denominational Christian ministry working in Asia to see effective churches planted among unreached people groups. We work alongside local Asian church leaders, helping and equipping them to focus on reaching the lost. Asia Harvest newsletters are sent out free of charge to raise awareness of the Kingdom of God in Asia and opportunities for Christians around the world to be involved. Send your name and address if you would like to receive them. Correspondence should be sent to the Asia Harvest address nearest you. Asia Harvest is a 'faith' ministry supported by God's people as He leads them to give. Asia Harvest is served by a board of respected mission leaders, each with many years of experience in Asia. Asia Harvest is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible organization in the United States, and annual financial statements are available upon request. In the rare case of a project being over-supported, Asia Harvest reserves the right to allocate funds to a similar project that is lacking in support. Personal or bank checks in any major currency can be sent to support projects, our general ministry fund, or the personal needs of Asia Harvest workers. Alternatively, one-time or recurring monthly donations can be safely and easily made to any of our projects via our secure website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

# Asia Harvest



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

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

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September 2009 - Newsletter #101



## The Galilee of China

Inside China's Mighty Revival



# From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

*"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come" (Ephesians 1:18-21).*

In recent months a number of friends have told us they are greatly alarmed by political and economic developments in their country that have started to change life as they have known it. There is much fear for the future as power-hungry leaders push through agendas that have the potential to further destroy the fabric of society, while at the same time crushing future generations with a colossal debt burden that they have no chance of ever paying off.

As Christians we should be concerned about any activity that goes against God's principles and Word, but we should also be careful not to get so focused on the things of this world that fear grips our hearts and we are plunged into hopelessness.

Hope is a wonderful gift from God. It helps us get through difficult times, and allows us to prioritize our lives to seek God's purposes instead of our own. The Bible says that hope makes us "very bold" (2 Cor. 3:12), but conversely, hopelessness and despair will sap our energy, cloud our judgment, and take our focus away from Jesus.

We need to make sure our hope is invested correctly. Who is your hope set upon? The Apostle Paul wrote, *"In our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us"* (2 Cor. 1:9-10).

Our hope must not be in politicians, lawmakers, or any man. It must not be in money or economic recoveries (see 1 Timothy 6:17), or any other earthly

thing. The Bible makes it clear where our hope is to be: *"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."* (Colossians 3:1-4).

If you are a child of God, therefore, we encourage you to make sure your hope is in the right place, or rather, in the right person. The Lord Jesus Christ is our hope. When our confidence and hope is in Him, our life is anchored and we will sleep well at night, regardless of the circumstances and storms all around us.

One of the greatest weapons available to us is hope. We must hope in Jesus and His promises that those who walk with Him will one day be with Him forever. We hope that God will one day right all that is wrong with this world, and we hope that our own marred state will be made whole when Jesus returns for His bride. For *"we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure"* (1 John 3:2-3).

Many times we are asked how believers in countries like China and Vietnam have been able to endure decades of harsh persecution and imprisonment. There are many lessons we can learn from them, as we have no doubt there are very difficult times ahead for real Christians regardless of what country you live in.

After spending many years around persecuted believers, we came to realize that they have learned to place their hope completely in God. The circumstances of their lives have been so difficult that they have abandoned hope in the things of this rotten and corrupt world. They have seen that the world offers nothing but pain and confusion. Too often believers in "free" countries have placed our hope in our church buildings or leaders, our schools, programs and education.

We believe God is helping Christians around the world reprioritize their lives, so that we will once again put our relationship with Jesus above everything else. Let's live as pilgrims passing through this world, and not as though it is our final destination.

Friend, if you have allowed the things of this world and the burdens of life to take you away from your first love - Jesus Christ - we encourage you to stop, spend time with Him, and once again place your hope and trust in Him, for He alone is worthy!

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*Cover picture: Four Christian women from Henan Province, China, after their baptism in 1899.*

# THE GALILEE OF CHINA

*We are glad to announce the release of our second book in the 'Fire & Blood' series on the Church in China. Volume 2 profiles Christianity in Henan Province.*

*While the book contains numerous modern-day accounts of miracles and how God has worked powerfully in Henan, for this newsletter we have decided to go back in time and profile the ministry of the Canadian missionary Jonathan Goforth, who was used mightily by God to bring revival to the province in the early 1900s. Such was the impact of his ministry, Goforth came to be known as 'China's greatest evangelist.'*

*Godly preachers like Goforth set an example for the current day revival in Henan that has resulted in the province having approximately 14 million Christians today - more than any other province in China.*

*The following article is adapted from 'Henan: The Galilee of China.' We pray it will encourage you. Information about how to order the book can be found on the insert sheet in this newsletter.*

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## **Jonathan Goforth — 'China's Greatest Evangelist'**

The aptly-named Jonathan Goforth ranks among the greatest foreign missionaries of his era. He was an instrument used mightily by God in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Goforth was born on a farm in 1859 near Thorndale in Ontario, Canada. The seventh of eleven children, he gave his life to Jesus Christ at the age of 18 and soon commenced his ministry of winning others to faith.

Goforth's interest in missions piqued after he heard an appeal by a veteran missionary. The young Canadian met Rosalind in the spring of 1885. She had been praying for a husband who was fully dedicated to God and His work. Later that year they were engaged after Jonathan asked Rosalind, "Will you join your life with mine for China? And will you give me your promise that *always* you will allow me to put my Lord and His work first, even before you?" She immediately replied, "Yes, I will *always*."

Rosalind soon got her first taste of the sacrifice she would encounter during her life as the wife of Jonathan Goforth. Her dreams of an engagement ring were dashed when he told her that the money he would have spent for a ring was instead used to purchase Christian literature.

## ***The Search for God's Power***

After arriving in China the Goforths settled in northern Henan Province, which was to be their home for decades to come. The early years of ministry in Henan proved difficult, and the powerful revival that God brought to China



*Jonathan and Rosalind Goforth*

through the Goforths in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century almost never took place. During the 1900 Boxer Rebellion, Jonathan was almost killed by bandits, who hacked him with swords to his back, neck, and head. He managed to escape with his life by the providence of God, and the shell-shocked Goforth family left China to recover from their ordeal.

Jonathan returned to China in 1901 a changed man. He had been grieved by the dead Christianity he encountered at home, and was also dissatisfied by the lukewarmness he saw among the Christians in China. Many in the churches had accepted a new liberal Christianity, which made them carnal and cold-hearted towards the things of God.

Goforth studied the Bible for an answer, declaring that, "Every passage that had any bearing upon the price of, or the road to, the accession of power became life and breath to me."

He read many books on revival, and was deeply impressed by the writings of Charles Finney. As he prayed, Goforth felt the Lord

impress on him that revival would be poured out on any servant who confessed their sins, repented, and obeyed everything the Holy Spirit told them to.

In 1906 Goforth was preaching in a remote town when he fell under heavy conviction. The Lord commanded him to go and reconcile himself with a Christian brother. Goforth tried to argue with the Lord, pointing out that the point of contention was the fault of the other man. He tried to continue preaching, but his message was awkward and without power. He stopped speaking, bowed his head, and promised the Lord he would go and see the man immediately after the meeting. The whole spiritual atmosphere of the meeting changed, and many tearful confessions of sin were made throughout the congregation. In the following months the same happened at every meeting Goforth spoke at. The Holy Spirit moved in a mighty way, and many wrongs were made right.

For the next decade Jonathan Goforth led revival meetings all over China. Often he would preach for eight hours a day, to crowds of up to 25,000 people. Thousands of sinners experienced the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and multitudes of Christians were awakened to a more vital relationship with God. The meetings were often characterized by public confession of sin and repentance.

### *When Heaven Came to Anyang*

A series of revival meetings was arranged in the Goforth's home town of Anyang. As the power of God was manifest in the



meetings, many attendees rushed back to their villages and encouraged their relatives and friends to come and experience God for themselves. On one occasion the meeting place was packed out, and the large adjoining pavilion that had been erected for the meetings could not contain the crowds.

So many people were gripped with the fear of God that they desired nothing more than to confess their sins and be cleansed by the Blood of Jesus Christ. As a result, Goforth was unable to deliver any message for the remainder of the meetings. Visitors, who travelled from outlying areas to attend the meetings, were often deeply affected by God's Spirit even before they had arrived at the church. Many people were found kneeling on the street or in their rooms, confessing their sins and desiring to enter into right relationship with Jesus Christ.

On the seventh evening one of the missionaries confessed that he had been opposing Goforth, and telling others that reports from the evangelist's meetings in other parts of China were fabricated. He asked Goforth to forgive him, then turned and asked the whole church to forgive him.

Another of the missionaries heard many school boys confessing their sins publicly, in deep anguish of spirit. The missionary mocked this in his heart, believing the boys were just mimicking the earlier confessions of the adults. He didn't believe teenage boys could possibly perform the kinds of sins and depravity that they were confessing. Gradually, however, the Holy

Spirit had mercy on the man and he too came under the transforming power of God. He admitted his pride and foolishness, and vowed to never again pretend to know more than the Holy Spirit. Goforth wrote,

*During these last days a number, who had held out up till then, felt that things were becoming too hot for them and tried to run away. But they found out what a difficult thing it is to escape from a seeking God. Some only got half way home, when the pressure became so unbearable that they had to turn around and come back. Others got all the way home, but, finding no relief, they returned.*

One wealthy man, to whom the thought of confessing his sins in public was abhorrent, came back to the church and begged for the chance to nail his sins to the foot of the cross. When he found a long line of people waiting in line for the opportunity to give their confessions, he cried out, "I can't wait. I'll burst if I'm not given a chance to confess my sin right away." Then followed the confession—coming like a torrent, bursting through the dam which had tried to hold it in check.

Before the revival there were only about 100 Christians in Anyang, out of a population at the time of 250,000. That means that just one in every 2,500 residents in Anyang knew Jesus Christ.

Today the gospel seeds that were sown a century ago have produced a bountiful harvest in Anyang. There are presently about 200,000 believers throughout

Anyang City and the surrounding county. The population is just over two million, meaning that today one in ten people in Anyang are followers of Jesus! The efforts of the Goforths and Chinese pioneers laid the groundwork for a wonderful harvest of souls for the kingdom of God in Anyang, and throughout all of Henan Province.

In 1918 Goforth led revival meetings among Chinese soldiers under the command of General Feng Yuxiang. After two weeks of powerful preaching, a Communion service was held for those who had consecrated themselves to Christ, with nearly 5,000 officers and soldiers participating (see the picture below). Goforth reported on one of the meetings:

*As General Feng prayed, the tears rolled down his face until there was a pool where he knelt on the platform. While he was praying,*

*officers all over the place were crying and sobbing and confessing their sins. It was a never-to-be-forgotten scene as the Holy Spirit came down and swept over that great gathering of officers and men, cleansing and purging, and purifying and reviving.*

### ***Yang the Champion Boxer***

The town of Guangshan was visited by Goforth in December 1915. During eight days of meetings there, 154 people were baptized and thousands more heard the gospel for the first time.

One of those who came to Christ was a man named Yang, a former champion boxer. He had been the greatest prize-fighter in the region, and nobody had ever knocked him out. Many had lost their fortunes betting against Yang, and they consequently harbored a grudge against him.



*Jonathan Goforth preaching to thousands of Chinese soldiers in 1918. Five thousand soldiers confessed faith in Christ after two weeks of meetings.*

When news got around that the great fighter Yang had become a Christian, his enemies saw it as an opportunity to get revenge on him. One day, while Yang was in the marketplace, a mob of men surrounded him and almost beat him to death. He was found by some friends and carried home. The missionaries wanted the perpetrators arrested, but Yang begged them not to get involved, and refused to bring charges against his attackers.

A few months later he had recovered from his injuries and was again seen walking around the town. His enemies were furious, and decided this time they would finish him off. Yang was so terribly beaten the second time that for months his family despaired of his life. He slowly recovered, and again insisted that no charges be brought against the thugs. Goforth recalled,

*As soon as he had recovered, he went around the country preaching the gospel. He died a few years after I met him. But it was not before he had led many of his old enemies to Christ. He left a church of 600 members in his own village, and ten other churches scattered throughout the surrounding country.*

Heaven came down to Henan during those blessed days, and thousands of people entered into relationship with Jesus Christ for the first time. Many Christians repented of their sins and found new freedom in their lives.

People who had stolen items from their neighbors returned them, and sick marriages were restored to health. Many opium addicts were wonderfully and

powerfully delivered, and never returned to the drug again. Perhaps the greatest result was the new unity and love that developed between Christian leaders.

### *Lives Well Spent for Jesus*

For almost 50 years Rosalind proved a wonderful partner to her husband. Following the call of God cost the Goforths dearly, and five of their eleven children were buried on Chinese soil. Rosalind never doubted Jonathan's love for her, but she often struggled with the level of intense commitment he had to the Lord and his work.

In the early 1930s Jonathan's eyesight started to diminish. He became totally blind and the Goforths retired to Canada in 1934, where the man dubbed 'China's greatest evangelist' went to his eternal reward two years later at the age of 76.



**We believe 'Henan: The Galilee of China' will encourage and inspire you as you learn what God is doing today in China. If you send a donation to any Asia Harvest project, please**

**note that you would like a copy of Henan book 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.**

## Update on the China Living Martyrs' fund

More than eight years ago we established this crucial project after being asked to do so by a group of senior Chinese house church leaders. Since that time we have been amazed and thankful to see how the Holy Spirit has led many Christians to pray for and support the injured and sick believers in China who are supported by this project.

From the start we have kept the amount of support for the China Living Martyrs' fund at \$25 per month. However, after consulting with our colleagues, it has become clear that the rising cost of living in China means that **we now need to increase the support level of this project to \$35 per month**. We hope this is not an inconvenience for anyone. All other Asia Harvest projects remain at the same level as before and we do not anticipate any need to change these any time soon.

## Paypal

We have been asked by a number of people recently if Asia Harvest have a Paypal account, for those who wish to contribute to our work that way. We do, and our Paypal email address for donations is **paypal@asiaharvest.org**

## Asia Harvest Website is New & Improved

The Asia Harvest website has been refreshed, with several new features that you might find helpful and interesting, as well as many free resources. Please check out our site at: **www.asiaharvest.org**

Some of the new features include:

- We now have more than 20 video clips on our video page, including several videos of Brother Yun preaching, as well as clips profiling various unreached people groups in Asia.
- How much do you know about Asia? We have a multiple-answer quiz, which we think you will find challenging and informative.
- We now have a huge number (more than 1,500) full-color Asian people group profiles free for you to download and print. Most of these are pages taken from our books like *Operation China* and *Peoples of the Buddhist World*. Please feel free to use this resource extensively.



## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



*Current Total: 2,577,208 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 congregations. 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 419 Asian evangelists working among 104 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*



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

## SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 147,217 Bibles Printed in 24 languages*

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

## CHINA LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 751 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 injuries or illness caused by persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through a gift of **\$35 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every regular supporter of this project.

## PROJECT SMILE



*Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 6,989 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** helps 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 earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the Tsunami, and a host of other disasters in India, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.



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# Asia Harvest



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

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## **'Chocolate Soldiers'**

**A Challenge from a Chinese Christian Leader**



# From the Frontlines

with Wayne Graham\*

\*Wayne Graham is an experienced mission leader and an Asia Harvest board member.

***“Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them” (Hebrews 11:36-38).***

As part of my calling, I get to meet with many Christians in my home country, the United States, and throughout Asia. In the past year or so, I have seen that countless Christians who love the Lord Jesus Christ have a growing sense that something big is about to happen - that a flood of evil is on the verge of being released upon society. This feeling is especially true with Christians in America, as political and economic developments are poised to change our nation as never before.

Though in America we are blessed with the freedom to vote for those in government, our brothers and sisters in China have not had this privilege. Recently China “celebrated” the 60th anniversary of Communist rule. In all that time there has not been a single election. I am concerned that as Christians we have put too much emphasis on electing the right officials to bring about social transformation. In China, Christians are crying out to God in prayer to change their nation and at the same time they are preaching the Gospel throughout the entire country and beyond. Nothing changes a nation like individual hearts transformed by the power of God.

Today in China you will find Christians in business, government, education, arts, entertainment and media. They are bringing the life and principles of God’s Kingdom to a nation that is searching for truth and a foundation to sustain a growing economy with over 1.3 billion citizens.

I would like to encourage all true followers of the Lord: Don’t worry, and don’t be afraid! Like our brothers and sisters in China, let us be bold and preach the Word of God in our nation while praying for God to heal our land. The Bible clearly states that there will be a day when darkness is allowed to flourish. Jesus said, ***“For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth”*** (Luke 21:35). But in the preceding verse he told the disciples, ***“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap”*** (Luke 21:34).

In the early 1950s the Church in China faced many of the same pressures that Western Christians fear are coming now. There were many dark years of persecution, but that was not the end of the story. All “rights” the law of China provided for free worship were taken away, but that was not the end of the story. Every church building was closed down and pastors were removed from their positions. Thousands were imprisoned, and many died. But that, too, was not the end of the story.

In the early years of persecution, many Chinese believers gave up their faith and denied Christ in the face of pressure. Some historians say as many as 70% of the 750,000 church-goers at the time denounced the Lord. As China slammed its doors shut, the rest of the world was sure there would be no Christians left at all, if and when China ever opened again.

In the late 1970s the doors to China did begin to open, and Christians who traveled there were amazed to discover that not only had the Church survived, in many places it had multiplied. Yes, there is much to celebrate after 60 years of Communist rule. A strong and vibrant Church has emerged, and most researchers agree there are around 100 million Christians in China today! God has done a mighty miracle in the world's most populated nation, and the number of His children has grown from less than a million to 100 million. To God be the glory!

God's people in China chose to be bold and courageous, and not to melt with fear when the heat came upon their lives. They have played a major role in transforming their nation, and continue to do so, one life at a time. The work in China has been the hand of God, and not the hand of man. The end of the story of God's plan for China is still being written, but it is glorious!

If you believe difficult times are about to come upon your nation, do not cower and do not hide your light. This is not the time to build a bomb shelter while you wait for the Lord to return! Be strong and courageous, and realize it will be a great opportunity to reach out for Jesus and see a harvest of souls, just like what has happened in China. He is in total control, and we can be ***“confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”*** (Philippians 1:6).

### CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM ASIA HARVEST



As this is our final newsletter for 2009, 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 2010 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!

## CHOCOLATE SOLDIERS

*In keeping with the theme of this newsletter, we want to encourage you as a Christian to stand firm for God, and to be bold and courageous even if the world unravels around you.*

*The following article is adapted from 'Living Water' - a book by Chinese church leader Brother Yun. It is a glimpse into the kind of teaching and lifestyles that many house church believers in China hold to. We pray it will encourage and challenge you, as it does us.*

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***"A chocolate Christian dissolves in water and melts at the smell of fire. Living their lives in a glass dish or in a cardboard box, each clad in his soft clothing, a little frilled white paper to preserve his dear little constitution.... God never was a chocolate manufacturer and never will be. God's men are always heroes. In Scripture you can trace their giant foot-tracks down the sands of time."*** — C. T. Studd, former England cricketer, and missionary to China and Africa.

All throughout the Scriptures we read about how God used people to accomplish His purposes on the earth. We read countless accounts of God transforming normal people into warriors for His kingdom. Often the Bible mentions such people in passing, such as, "All these were descendants of Asher—heads of families, choice men, brave warriors and outstanding leaders...men ready for battle" (1 Chronicles 7:40).

Strangely, in some churches today Jesus Christ is portrayed as an oversensitive, weak man. While Jesus is symbolized as a lamb, we should not forget that He is also symbolized as a lion! The Jesus who gently played with little children and gathered them to his lap also made a whip and caused a riot in the temple courts.

Jesus is tough, manly, noble, and the personification of courage. He is a warrior of the highest rank, the Commander in Chief of the Lord's armies, the One with fire in his eyes and a double-edged sword in his hand.

Millions of Christian women around the world are lamenting the absence of strong and godly Christian men in the Church. Jesus is too.

God wants more warriors in His Church. He is looking for people who are serious about Him, who are strong in character and integrity, and who are disciplined like a soldier. Did you know that "*the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him*" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

In China I have known many courageous men and women of God. They have been so overwhelmed by the love of God, that they have no hesitation in dedicating the rest of their lives to do whatever it takes, and whatever it costs, to see as many people as possible know Jesus.

Caleb was one man who had a warrior spirit in him. He was not just a physical warrior, but all of his battles were also fought in the spiritual realm as he had to

deal with numerous situations requiring the Lord's wisdom and guidance. The spirit of a warrior is not dimmed by age or time. Even near the end of his life, Caleb declared, *"Here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then"* (Joshua 14:10-11).

Often preachers talk about how God wants to "raise up an army," but in many parts of the Bible we see that God was first and foremost interested in raising up an individual, and from that individual came great deliverance for God's people. We can see this in His dealings with Moses, Noah, David, Elijah, Jeremiah, Paul, and so on.

Quantity is never as important to God as quality. He doesn't need an army of people to accomplish His purposes. Just a few obedient servants with the anointing of the Holy Spirit on their lives can bring about great things for the kingdom of God.

In the Book of Judges we find a wonderful story of how God routed the Midianites with quality, rather than with quantity. God had told Gideon to strike down the Midianites (see Judges 6:16). A large army mobilized to fight against the enemy forces, but God surprised Gideon by announcing, *"You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead'"* (Judges 7:2-3).

Twenty-two thousand soldiers turned back that day.

Be careful not to miss the reason why God wanted to shrink this army to a smaller size. He was concerned that Israel might boast

that their own strength had saved them once the victory was completed. Our God has declared, *"I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another"* (Isaiah 42:8).

Gideon's original army of 32,000 men had decreased by more than two-thirds, but God was not finished. By observing whether the men knelt down and drank water from the spring of Harod with their hands, or lapped it up like dogs, God refined the number of eligible soldiers down to a paltry 300!

To the natural mind this situation was hopeless. How could 300 men defeat the entire Midianite army that was boldly arrayed against it? To God, however, this represented no problem at all, for *"Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few"* (1 Samuel 14:6).

If we could just catch a glimpse of His power and greatness we would never be the same again! When the Lord is involved, He *"will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven"* (Deuteronomy 28:7). Moses asked, *"How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the Lord had given them up? For their rock is not like our Rock, as even our enemies concede"* (Deuteronomy 32:30-31).

Child of God, do you have a glimpse of how great Jesus is in your life? Do not be afraid of the devil, for He is merely like a dog on a leash. God allows the devil to attack us from time to time to keep us sharp, but he can never destroy us, for *"the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world"* (1 John 4:4). The Lord





into a pile. A chocolate soldier looks strong while conditions are favorable, but when he is placed under pressure he collapses because he is empty inside. Jesus talked about a man who received the seed of the Word of God with joy, *"But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away"* (Matthew 13:21).

Jesus said of his followers, *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one"* (John 10:28-30).

God is calling for disciples who are steadfast warriors of the Gospel. They may not look like warriors on the outside, but that is not what matters. What matters is what can be found on the inside, for *"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:6-7).

There are many Christians today who look like warriors for the Lord on the outside, but in reality they are chocolate soldiers, about whom the Bible says, *"If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength!"* (Proverbs 24:10).

A chocolate soldier outwardly looks the same as a real soldier until the heat comes on him. All of a sudden he starts to feel uneasy, fear takes control, and he melts

The reality is that we are all chocolate soldiers until Jesus starts to build a solid foundation in our life. One of the key components to developing godly character and resolve in our life is persecution. Paul wrote, *"We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope"* (Romans 5:3-4), and *"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong"* (1 Corinthians 16:13).

The Lord Jesus taught His disciples the benefits of "standing firm" in the face of opposition: *"All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved"* (Matthew 10:22); and *"By standing firm you will gain life"* (Luke 21:19). We are exhorted to *"Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart"* (Hebrews 12:3).

If you want to be a warrior for Jesus Christ, you will first need to submit to God and allow Him to build character, perseverance, endurance, patience, hope

and courage into your life. These attributes are given to those who desire to serve the Lord, *“so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”* (2 Timothy 3:17).

The Lord Jesus wants to develop a holy stubbornness inside of you—one that refuses to buckle to Satan or compromise with the world. He wants to train you up as a true soldier for the Gospel, and not a chocolate soldier who melts with fear when placed under pressure. Stand up right now and call on the Lord Jesus to change you from being a chocolate soldier to one who will *“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus”* (2 Timothy 2:3).

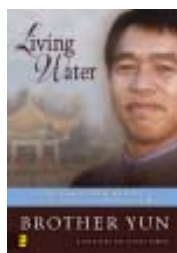
As you begin to serve God wholeheartedly as a soldier of Jesus Christ, you will need living water to flow and refresh you and your colleagues in battle. The Bible contains a powerful story of how God sent water to save the combined armies of Judah and Israel as they went to fight against the Moabites. To reach the battle, the armies marched through the Desert of Edom. The harsh conditions took a toll, and *“After a roundabout march of seven days, the army had no more water for themselves or for the animals with them”* (2 Kings 3:9).

The parched Israelites stopped in a valley and sent messengers to ask Elisha what they should do. Elisha replied, *“This is what the Lord says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water; and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink. This is an easy thing in the eyes of the Lord; he will also hand Moab over to you”* (2 Kings 3:17-18).

Even if you find yourself in a spiritual desert, and hear death knocking at your door, God is able to send a flow of His

living water to you. There is nowhere on earth that God cannot reach you. Even though the armies were stuck in the middle of a barren desert, *“The next morning, about the time for offering the sacrifice, there it was—water flowing from the direction of Edom! And the land was filled with water”* (2 Kings 3:20).

This was not a small trickle of water that God sent to help His warriors. It seems it was more like a large lake, because the next morning the Moabites saw the reflection of the rising sun in the water from a distance, and thought it was a huge pool of blood. They raced down to collect the plunder only to be routed by the Israelites. As you enter the battle against Satan and his forces, God’s living water will give you the edge you need to rout the enemy. Stand firm, and don’t become like a chocolate soldier. There will be times during the battle when you will desperately need God’s intervention. You should stop and seek the Lord, and He will provide living water to refresh and invigorate you.



‘Chocolate Soldiers’ is chapter 19 of the book **LIVING WATER** by Brother Yun. If you have not yet read this life-changing book, you can order it for \$17 (including postage) from us, or 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. *Living Water* is also available as an audio book.



## From our Mailbox

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"A great move of God is taking place here in prison because of your books! We have 21 people here who have read *The Heavenly Man*, and many have read all the books you sent us. They have changed lives. Our group has decided to send support to help you print 50 Bibles for the Christians in China, and we also want to support two evangelists for the next year. I'm sure you understand how much of a sacrifice this is for the brothers here. As inmates we can only earn between 10 cents and 80 cents an hour for the labor we do. With that money we have to buy things like shoes, clothes, snacks, and \$2 for electricity. May the Lord lead and guide you in all that you do. May His wings shadow you from the enemy."

**From a prisoner, Arizona**

"I want to be a missionary when I grow up. Soon I am going to Mexico with my mom. We will go up in the mountains to preach. I have been praying for you. I sent you 5 dollars. I like you. You're doing good!"

**Lydia (age 8), Alaska**

"I need to share something profoundly joyful—and you will understand why. In 1991, we taught English at a university that was specifically designed to propagate Communism to ethnic minorities in China. We were the first Christians ever hired there. The student we were closest to often told us about her home village, near a lake, and the tribes who live there. We tried to visit, but were denied permission. Through the years, we've prayed often and fervently for them. This morning, we got your newsletter in the mail. We cried when we read that today there is a house church in every village around that remote lake! I never expected to see the answer in my lifetime...yet, not only did the Lord answer, but through you He found a way to let us know about it. We were in China 10 years before our first convert."

**Diane**

"I heard of Asia Harvest through my grand-daughter. You had written her a personal letter in response to a five dollar donation she had saved up to send you. It really impressed me that you would take care of a five dollar donation that came from a little girl's heart by responding back her in the way you did. She has shared newsletters you have sent to her with me. I know she prays over what you send. Thank you so much for what you do."

**Peggy, Arkansas**

## **“Christian Elephants” Attack Persecutors in India**



In 2008, a severe persecution of Christians broke out in the Indian state of Orissa. The end result saw more than 500 Christians murdered, and thousands of others injured and homeless after their houses were reduced to ashes. As a result, Asia Harvest responded and helped the persecuted believers, including building homes for many families. Recently, a strange and dramatic event took place in Orissa, which has many people talking and wondering.

In recent months, herds of wild elephants have stormed villages that are home to some of the worst persecutors. In one village where in August a year ago the Christians had to run for their lives while their homes were being destroyed by rioters, a herd of elephants emerged from the surrounding jungle, the Restoration India Mission

reported, “Exactly one year later, at the same time of the day, the persecutors had to run for their lives, from nothing less than a herd of wild elephants! These elephants first attacked a rock crusher machine owned by a key leader of the persecution movement. They then went on to destroy his house and farm. Gaining momentum, they rampaged through other non-Christian homes, demolishing gardens and singling out the homes of persecutors, leaving Christian homes untouched. People ran to the police station to report the disastrous news. In one case, a police jeep that attempted to drive away the herd was attacked and the occupants barely escaped. Truly, God is the avenger of the helpless. These strange attacks have spread, and according to a newspaper report the elephants have already destroyed more than 700 houses in 30 villages, and killed five people.



Nobody in this area has seen or even imagined the unique appearance of a herd of wild elephants such as this. The elephants are not ordinary elephants; they appear to be on a mission. Typically, smaller elephants enter a village first, appearing to survey the community. They then rejoin the herd, and larger elephants soon follow and get the job done. “Just what is their job?” you might ask. We think that it might have something to do with avenging the blood of martyrs. In fact, the fear of God has fallen on the local people, who have labeled these elephants, ‘Christian elephants.’”



## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



*Current Total: 2,644,870 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 congregations. 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 432 Asian evangelists working among 104 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*



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

## SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 149,295 Bibles Printed in 28 languages*

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

## CHINA LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 706 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 injuries or illness caused by persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through a gift of **\$35 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every regular supporter of this project.

## PROJECT SMILE



*Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 7,915 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** helps 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 earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the Tsunami, and a host of other disasters in India, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.



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