



Asia Harvest

2010

NEWSLETTERS

(Combined)

Asia Harvest



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

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March 2010 - Newsletter #103



2010 Annual Report

Trusting in the Strength of the Lord

Asia Harvest Annual Report

by Paul & Joy Hattaway

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength. Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.” (1 Corinthians 1:25-29)

Recently I visited a Christian bookstore. After looking around for a few minutes I was unable to find any books worth reading amid the rows of shallow and worthless “self-help” books with covers adorned by smiling, well-dressed preachers telling me how I can “maximize my potential.” As I went to leave, something in the corner of the store caught my eye. It was a set of “Samson muscles” that children can strap on to their arms to look just like Samson!

On the surface this toy is just a bit of harmless fun, but later I got to thinking how as Christians we often think God’s work can be accomplished by human strength, and in so doing we rob God of the glory due His Name.

The Book of Judges tells us that among Samson’s exploits, he tore a lion apart with his bare hands (14:6), struck down 30 Philistine men (14:20), caught 300 foxes and tied their tails together (15:4), slaughtered 1,000 men with a donkey’s jawbone (15:15), tore off the city gate of Gaza and carried it to the top of a hill (16:3), and finally, he pushed down the pillar holding up the Philistine temple, killing 3,000 people (16:30). Despite Samson’s moral failures, the New Testament lists him as one of the great heroes of the faith (Hebrews 11:32).

Did Samson indeed have huge bulging muscles like all the drawings of him in children’s Bible story books? Did he perform those mighty acts because of huge muscles, or because of God’s mighty power? Some Bible scholars believe the city gate and posts of Gaza, which Samson tore down and carried off on his shoulders, weighed about four tons. Could the strongest man in the world today lift four tons? Of course not! He would immediately be crushed like an ant. If Samson was a huge, strongly built man, would the Philistines have been so confused that they got Delilah to continually beg Samson to tell her the source of his strength?

No, Samson's superhuman strength wasn't the result of bulging muscles. The source of his strength was the Holy Spirit. Several times the Bible tells us that "The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power." I wonder if God made a point, and one day we will discover Samson was actually a small, scrawny man!

In Christian ministry we have also learned there are two ways to operate—in our own strength (which achieves nothing except burnout and frustration), or in God's strength (which achieves things of eternal value). As Christians we don't need "Samson muscles." Rather, we need to serve in humility and seek God's grace and strength. One day we will all be required to stand before God and give an account of our lives and work. May it be found that we didn't attempt to do God's work in our own strength, for such efforts will be shown to consist merely of "wood, hay and stubble." It will be ***"burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames."*** (1 Corinthians 3:15). May we rely on His divine power to motivate and complete the tasks He has called us to!

We are glad to present our Annual Report to you in this newsletter. It is a great joy to serve the Lord Jesus for another year, and we have been privileged to witness many people come to know Him for the first time through the witness of our Asian coworkers. Hundreds of thousands of believers have been strengthened in their faith after receiving Bibles, hundreds of Asian evangelists we support have led thousands of people to faith in Jesus Christ, among dozens of remote unreached people groups. More than 750 injured and ill Chinese church leaders have been supported through the Living Martyr's fund, and almost 1,200 children in Vietnam received free surgeries through Project Smile.

Our strategy has always been to operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, so that more resources get to the hands of the real frontline work of God's kingdom, done by thousands of Asian Christians whom we are privileged to assist and serve.

We are thankful for each person who prayed for the work in Asia, or encouraged us, or helped through giving last year. 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 has reached, we thank you for your wonderful participation!

On the following pages we present summaries of Asia Harvest projects in 2009. 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. Please pray we would not try to operate with "Samson muscles," but by the grace of God and His strength. Our prayer is that God would be glorified, for He alone is worthy!

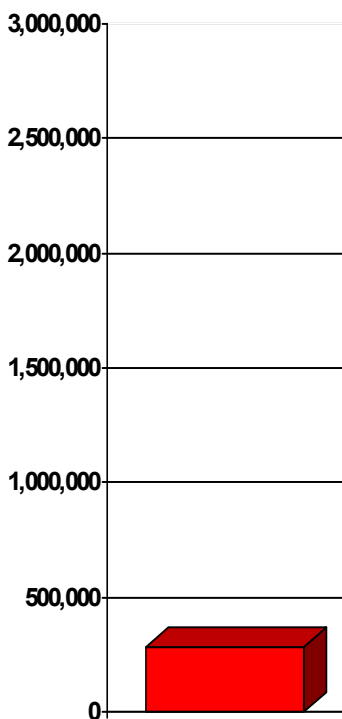
CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Equipping China's Christians with God's Word

We are thankful to the many people who pray and give so that Christians in China will have their own Bible. We began printing Bibles inside China in partnership with the house churches in 2000, and it took seven years before we passed the one-million milestone in 2007. Amazingly, by the end of 2009 the grand total has reached almost 2.8 million Chinese Bibles, with 284,559 distributed in 2009 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:

"This year has been a great struggle for us because of the lack of Bibles available. The quota allowed by the government for official Bibles to be printed has been slashed, so not only are there no Bibles available for our new believers, but also many mature believers have had their Bibles confiscated by the authorities in the past year. We desperately need 40,000 more Bibles before the end of the year to help us feed the flock with God's Word. Can you help?"

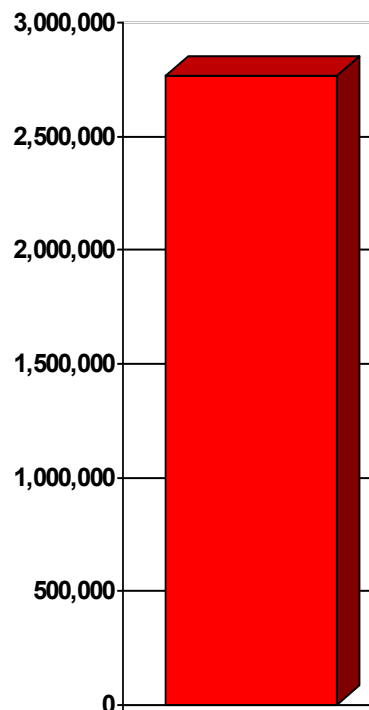
2009 Bibles
printed: 284,559



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: 2,767,757



A Letter from a Chinese House Church Leader to You



One of the biggest obstacles we face is a deficit of Bibles. In order to meet the new needs that have come up in the last few months in northern Sichuan – we need an additional 96,000 Bibles immediately. As our evangelists continue to minister we expect this number to increase rapidly. We also need 362,000 Bibles to meet the current need of our evangelists covering the rest of the province and

surrounding regions. We also realize that there are other church networks working in this area and although we do not know the specifics of their needs for Bibles; we know it is great and we wish for their needs to be provided for as well.

Let us express our gratitude to Asia Harvest and your supporters for your generosity in providing these Bibles for the people of China. We cannot find the words to express our thankfulness for the unselfish giving of those that have provided the Word of Life to us. We are especially surprised and grateful that in spite of these difficult financial times Christians from the West are still willing to sacrifice their hard-earned money to help us.

We are concerned about the direction of the West as many people seem to be rejecting the Way of the Cross and embracing secularism. We promise you that we will not forget your generous help during our difficult times – and if we are in a position to help you in future years we will do it in any way we can. For now – we do not have finances to help you; but we will pray for you; especially those of you that have made financial sacrifices so that we can have Bibles.

Our friends at Asia Harvest have told us stories of children who have given their savings so we can have Bibles instead of spending it on things they want, as well as many adults who work very hard and can barely make the payments on their houses; but still give so that the people of China can have Bibles. Our hearts are truly touched and we thank God for each of you and the selfless love you have shown to us! God bless you for all you have done for the people of China!

— From a brother in the Lord

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

*Current Total: 157,555 Bibles printed in 28 different languages.
Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.*



Southeast and South Asian countries like Vietnam, Laos, India and Myanmar (Burma) contain hundreds of different tribes, many of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages in the past. In some cases, these tribal believers have been deprived access to the Scriptures for decades and their situation is dire.

Last year we continued getting God's Word into the hands of as many believers as possible through the Southeast Asia Bible fund. The most recent projects we have helped with are printing 25,000 Bibles in the Kachin language of Myanmar (Burma), 13,500 Sgaw Karen Bibles for believers and refugees along the Myanmar-Thailand border, 5,000 New Testaments for the Jarai tribe in Cambodia and Vietnam, and 200,000 Gospel of Mark booklets in four South Asian languages, namely Bengali, Kannada, Urdu and Telegu.

Recently our colleagues told us what happened when he delivered a carload of Bibles to Christians from the Kachin tribe in Myanmar (Burma)....

When I arrived with 800 Kachin Bibles I had no idea what was awaiting me. We stacked the boxes on the church altar (see above picture) and the believers prayed for them. The pastor said they had been praying and waiting about 20 years to get Bibles. They said they were occasionally able to obtain a Bible or two, but they need 2,000 copies.

The local believers didn't believe the Kachin lady I worked with when she told them so many Bibles were coming. They thought she was joking, but they waited two hours in the church for our coming. I shared a bit, and they were hungry to get their copy. They wanted me to present each one with their Bible. Even children came, saying they were determined to learn to read so they can read their Bibles. They have friends in a neighboring area who urgently need 2,000 copies.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

Because of your prayers and partnership, in 2009 we were able to support 447 Asian church-planting missionaries—working among 107 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 churches 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.



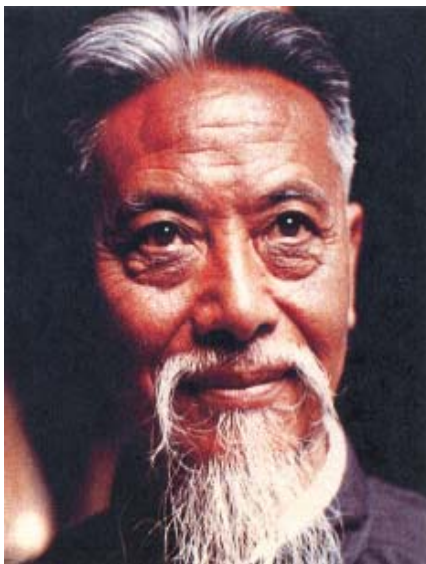
Some of the new believers from various tribes and ethnic groups who have come to faith in Jesus Christ because of the work of evangelists we support through the Asian Workers' fund.

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

Supporting Christians disabled by Persecution

Because of your prayers and support we were able to help 760 living martyrs throughout 2009. 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. 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 **\$35 per month each**. A prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to help you pray.



PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 1,190 children in Vietnam in 2009 (7,989 since 1999).

Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with cleft palate or cleft lip disabilities. Our coworkers also help children with various forms of cancer, burns, club-feet, and other disabilities. Many lives continue to be dramatically changed by this project. We received the following testimony from our colleagues in Vietnam:



When Doan was born with a cleft-lip, the other villagers said that his mother must be cursed, that she must have done great evil to have a son whose face was so deformed. Some in the village said that if you allowed her shadow to touch you, then your children would also be born with such a deformity.

As he grew up, Doan spent most of his time hiding inside the family hut. Whenever he ventured outside the other children would call him the “ugly boy.” Such was the level of his rejection that Doan always held his hands over his face. His impoverished parents could never afford the surgery to help their son, but one day they heard that a Christian group was providing free surgeries for children with cleft-lips.



When Doan arrived at the hospital he would not show his face. The painful memories of all the ridicule this little boy had endured was just too deep. He underwent the simple procedure, and just four days later the bandages were removed. From that moment, Doan's life took on a whole new meaning. He returned to his village and his life was transformed. Doan and his mother are no longer outcasts, and the wounds of rejection they carried for so long have started to heal. Doan can now smile, and he now starts each day with hope and expectancy.

It costs just \$60 to help put a smile on the face of a child in Vietnam through Project Smile. Please help children like Doan have a fresh start in Jesus Christ.

ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Transforming Lives and Communities with God's Love

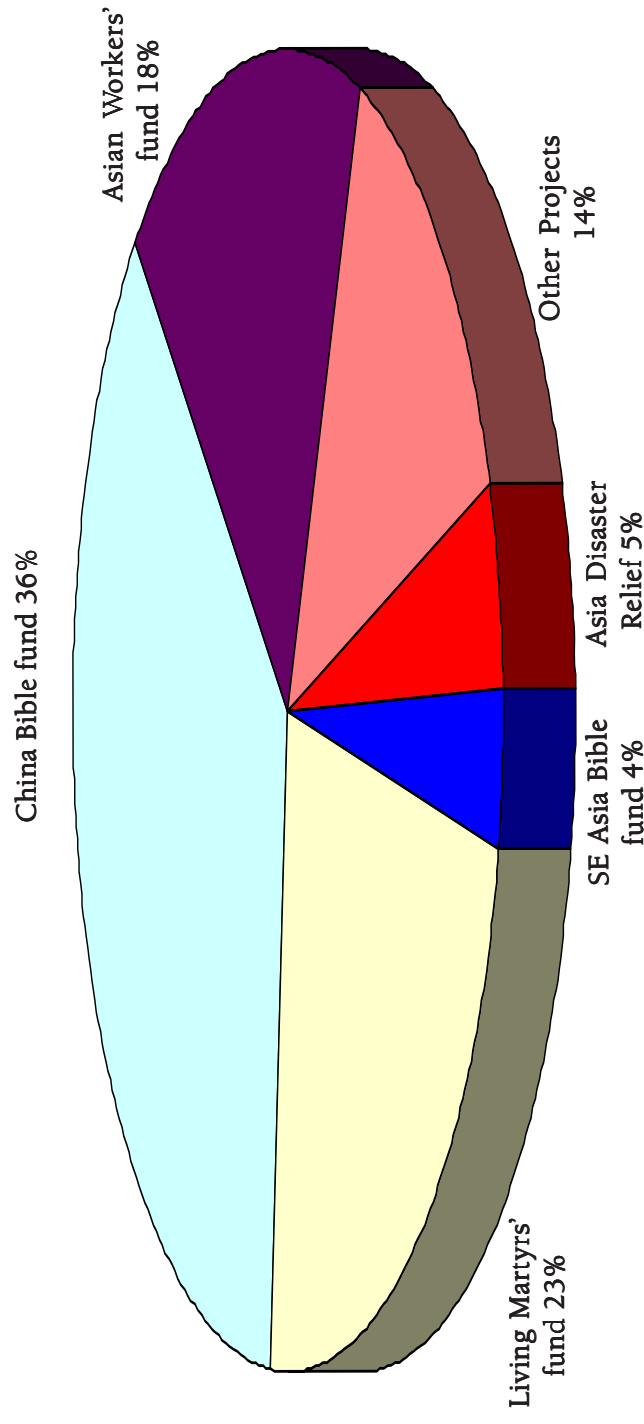


After the two terrible natural disasters that struck Asia in May 2008 we established the Asia Disaster Relief fund, to provide help to the victims of those tragedies, and to allow us to respond immediately whenever a disaster occurs somewhere in Asia. The devastating impact of the earthquake in China continued well into 2009, and we were involved with these needs extensively. The following letter was received from a Chinese house church leader, thanking Asia Harvest (and all those who prayed and gave to this great need)....

“Our province was hit by the massive earthquake, causing damage that is hard to describe unless you see it yourself. Since we know that God has control over all things; we believe He allowed this to happen to accomplish His ultimate purposes. In the hours following the earthquake we spent much time on our knees asking God what He was doing and what he wanted us to do. Within 5 hours we all sensed that God was telling us that He was opening doors in these areas that have been resistant to the Gospel. For many years we have been sending evangelists to the areas that were hardest hit by the earthquake and the people were not as receptive to the Gospel as many other areas. Little did we know that it might be such a huge event that would be the catalyst for opening up these areas and making the people receptive to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Our evangelists were warmly received by most communities as they brought relief supplies and helped rebuild the villages. As our evangelists worked as humanitarian aid workers, they also shared the Gospel and many souls have been saved. It is hard to know how many people have come to faith in Jesus Christ through this crisis since there are many other groups working here as well – but just with our evangelists we have witnessed over 17,000 people in the earthquake area who have entered into relationship with Jesus Christ. We also have more than 90,000 people that have expressed interest in knowing more about Christianity. We are following up with these people. We are working to disciple those who have become Christians and we believe they will become evangelists who will carry on spreading of the Gospel in these regions.”

Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2009



2009 Financial Statement

Asia Harvest desires to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2009 will soon be available to those who request it. Please write and ask if you would like to receive a copy.



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The Northern Khampa Tibetans

An Opportunity through Disaster

From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

Recently I boarded a flight out of Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal in the Himalayas, where we had been for meetings and to encourage some of the local workers. As the plane rose above the clouds I was hoping for views of Mount Everest, but the hazy, dusty conditions put paid to that. Instead, I settled into my seat at the back of the plane and flicked through a copy of *Time* magazine. One article caught my attention. It was titled, *Salvation Armies: Evangelical Christianity is Booming in Asia*.

It was both surprising and refreshing to read such a report in a secular magazine. It stated there were 101 million Christians in Asia in 1970, but this number had grown rapidly to 351 million by 2005, and was continuing to increase daily.

Indeed, God is doing a wonderful and powerful work throughout many parts of Asia, and it is a great blessing for us to be able to see and hear testimonies of communities bring transformed by the power of the Gospel. We have been privileged to serve in this part of the world and play a role as one small chain in the link of God's advancing kingdom.

Nepal is one country where the Church has experienced a dramatic surge. In the 1950s there were just 25 known Christians in the entire country, which is home to more than 100 different tribes and ethnic groups. By 1990, when I first went there, the Church in Nepal had grown to about 25,000 members. Today, many researchers believe there are around 600,000 believers scattered throughout the country. That represents a 24-fold increase just since 1990!

God has used circumstances to bring many Asian people into His kingdom. Do you know, for example, that thousands of Muslims in Indonesia have come to Christ in recent years because they have been turned off radical Islam and the growth of terrorism. Many Muslims have become disillusioned with their faith and have experienced new life in Jesus.

In Myanmar (formerly Burma), Christianity was treated with suspicion by the government leaders who suppressed it in favor of Buddhism. In September 2007, Buddhist monks led a protest in the streets of the capital city which was brutally put down by the military. Since that time, the authorities have shunned the Buddhists and have begun to show more favor to Christians. This appreciation grew as a result of the selfless and loving actions of many Christian groups during the destruction of Cyclone Nargis in 2008. One of our coworkers in that nation recently told us the churches in many parts of Myanmar are overflowing with people. Many fellowships have

experienced 400% or 500% growth in the last 18 months.

I have found that sometimes when Christians in other parts of the world hear about revival in Asia they feel somewhat disconnected, especially if they live in a country where the church is in decline, or stagnant at best. Some people who have not been to Asia presume things must be so wonderful and godly there that Asia does not need their help or concern any more. Such thinking is wrong! While it is true that God has been moving in many places of Asia, it is equally true that huge sections of humanity in Asia remain totally unreached and have never heard of Jesus in a way that would enable them to make a decision to embrace or reject Him.

If I could take you through the streets of large cities like New Delhi, Mumbai (Bombay), Hanoi, Kathmandu, Dhaka, Bangkok, Lhasa or Karachi, you would be overwhelmed by the poverty, mayhem, demonic oppression, and almost complete lack of knowledge of Jesus Christ. After more than 20 years in Asia we are still overwhelmed when we visit such places.

In rural areas, hundreds of millions of people continue to live in complete spiritual darkness. Two missionary friends recently reported how they shared the Gospel for hours with a family in rural China. Convinced they had made good progress, they asked the family if they had any questions. The mother asked one of the missionaries, "I am still confused about one thing. Which one of you is Jesus—you or this other guy?"

To put things in proper perspective, do you know that....

- While we rejoice over the 600,000 people in Nepal who are now Christians, it is a country of 30 million people, so just two percent of people in Nepal believe in Jesus Christ. Ninety-eight out of 100 people face an eternity in hell, and dozens of tribal groups in the country remain totally untouched by the Gospel.
- In China, where most experts today agree there are about 100 million Christians after 30 years of revival, this figure represents just 7% of the population. It is a big place! At least 200 ethnic minority groups in China have yet to be properly engaged by any Christian witness. Despite the advances in China, there are still untold millions of people who have never heard the Name of Jesus in their lives. The rate people are being saved in China is still lower than the birthrate, so every year there are more unsaved people in China than the year before.

In this newsletter we present a tremendous opportunity for the Gospel among one of the most needy and unreached people groups in China—the Northern Khampa Tibetans. No matter how bad things might be where you live, I guarantee they are not as bad as life among this group! For thousands of years they have been trapped in demonic darkness, captive to powerful evil forces. Let's pray for a breakthrough for the kingdom of God!

We thank Nancy Sturrock, who took most of the pictures in this newsletter.

THE NORTHERN KHAMPA TIBETANS

An Opportunity Through Disaster



C.S. Lewis once wrote, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us on our conscience, but shouts in our pains: It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

In recent years we have witnessed how natural disasters have opened up whole communities in Asia to the claims of the Gospel. The tragic tsunami, for example, struck in many parts of Asia that were among the most resistant to the Gospel. Today tens of thousands of people who lost everything in the tsunami have found

something, or Someone, more important than everything they lost.

The 2008 earthquake in Sichuan, China, struck in a region where the kingdom of God had struggled to make much of an impact. As a result of Christians helping those whose lives had been devastated, today tens of thousands of people in northern Sichuan are followers of Jesus Christ.

Recently, on April 14, another large earthquake struck western China—this

time centered on the remote town of Yushu in Qinghai Province. At the time of writing, more than 2,200 people are confirmed dead, countless injured, and thousands of homes have been reduced to rubble.

Every Christian will be aware that there is a remarkable increase in the number of earthquakes and other natural disasters occurring throughout the world today, just as Jesus predicted would happen in the lead up to His return (see Matthew 24). Instead of sitting on our backsides waiting for that glorious day, however, the Lord wants us to be actively winning people to Him while there are still opportunities. He told His disciples, ***“As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work”*** (John 9:4).

The Yushu earthquake took place at the very center of a completely unreachable people group, the Northern Khampa Tibetans, who are surely one of the most difficult groups to reach anywhere in the world because of the geographical, cultural, linguistic and spiritual

barriers that have prevented them hearing the Gospel for centuries.

The 150,000 Northern Khampa Tibetans are one of four distinct Khampa language groups in China, who together total more than two million people. They are among the toughest people in the world, living at





altitudes more than 10,000 feet above sea-level. Many Northern Khampa are nomads, inhabiting a high plateau where they herd sheep, goats and yaks. Life is difficult, especially during the long, bitter winter months when the temperature plummets to minus 20 degrees and their communities are snowed-in for extended periods. This harsh life on the bitter plateau results in an average life expectancy of only about 45 years.

When one anthropologist visited this group in 1964, he reported, "The Khampas stand a good six feet in height. They wear great heavy boots and flowing khaki robes that flap like whips when they walk. They have large fierce eyes set beside bead-like noses, and long hair braided and wound around their heads."

The Khampa are easily identifiable by the red and black tassels braided into their

hair. They say they wear these to protect their scalps during knife fights.

During our visits to this region we have seen both the best and worst of the Khampa people. On one hand they are usually extremely hospitable and kind to visitors, and always seem to be laughing and smiling. At other times, however, they can be threatening and violent, invariably after consuming alcohol. Khampa men are always armed with knives, guns or swords, and they are not slow to use them if necessary.

For centuries the Khampa region was an untamed, lawless one. The Chinese were too afraid to enter the area for fear of being murdered. It was not until the 1950s and 60s that the Chinese claimed control over the area, although revolts and unease have continued to the present day.

The Khampa profess to be Buddhists, although their Buddhist belief may be described as a veneer thrown over their real religious practices, which is the worship of fearsome and vengeful demons that must be placated by constant offerings lest they bring disaster on a community, family, or individual.

The Northern Khampa rely on demons, ghosts and the spirits of disembodied deities to guide their decisions. Many monks are able to call up fearsome demons, which sometimes visualize in front of them. They also worship Yama, the god of death. They believe he is the king of the underworld and that he controls the events of their lives.

In recent years a small number of brave Christians have begun working among the Northern Khampa Christians. Progress has been slow and difficult, but it is believed a very small number of Khampa have professed faith in Jesus Christ. Those who have become Christians face being ostracized by their own families.

Please pray the recent disaster will open many Northern Khampa Tibetans to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ask God to glorify His Name among these people, and to reveal His love and mercy to them.



How will they hear? For centuries the Northern Khampa Tibetans have lived and died without knowing what Jesus Christ died for them. Pray this generation will hear the Good News and believe in the living Son of God.

An Opportunity to Help Body and Soul



On April 14 a huge earthquake, measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale, struck the town of Yushu, home to 85,000 people and the center of the Northern Khampa Tibetan people. More than 90% of the buildings in Yushu collapsed. The above pictures show what the town looked like before the 'quake, and what it looks like now. At the time of writing, the death toll has reached 2,200 people, with many more missing and thousands of homes destroyed.

It is hard to imagine a more difficult and remote location for such a disaster to strike. Many of the villages that were devastated lie at high altitude, and temperatures are below freezing at night. Some of the Chinese soldiers sent to help have suffered from potentially-fatal altitude sickness.

Within hours of the earthquake striking, a team of Chinese Christians travelled to the disaster zone to help. Most of these believers were involved with the earthquake relief efforts in Sichuan Province in 2008. The combination of their loving help and bold witness for Jesus Christ saw thousands of people in Sichuan come to faith in the Living God.

In Yushu they initially provided blankets and warm coats to the people, and after surveying the needs they initiated a plan to initially provide at least 500 Emergency Aid Kits to the worst affected-families. The kits include:

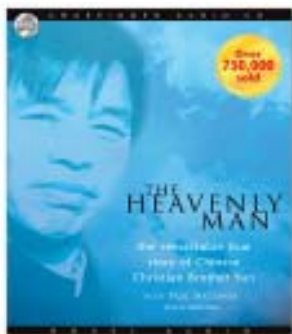
- 1 solar panel with battery lightning system and USB charger (pictured)
- 2 'sub-zero sleeping bags
- 10 pound (5 kg) bag of rice
- 1 bottle of cooking oil and one frying pan
- 1 first-aid kit with gauze, medicine, and bandages



Each kit costs \$100 to produce and deliver into the hands of the most needy families in Yushu Prefecture. If you would like to help with this urgent need it would be greatly appreciated. You can do so by sending a donation and marking it for the “**Asia Disaster Relief fund**” on the yellow Response form in this newsletter. If you are familiar with our work you will know that **100% of gifts to the Asia Disaster Relief fund will be sent directly to the need.** Not a cent will be used for administration or any other expense. We cover all such costs ourselves as it is the least we can do during such a time of need.

Please pray for the Northern Khampa Tibetans and all people affected by this earthquake. Pray the Name of Jesus will be lifted up in this needy area, so many people will be helped not only physically but also spiritually as they experience God's salvation through Jesus Christ.

CD Resources Available from Asia Harvest



The Heavenly Man Audio CDs

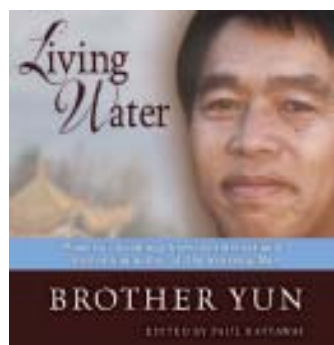
Now for the first time this bestselling biography of Brother Yun is available, professionally read onto a set

of 8 CDs. You can now listen to this God-glorifying testimony while in your car, at home, or wherever is most convenient.

Living Water Audio CDs

The powerful Bible teachings of Brother Yun are available in audio book form, read onto a set of 7

CDs. These simple yet profound insights into God's Word will challenge you and enrich your spiritual life.



Operation China CD-ROM

This classic book is available on CD ROM. It contains all of *Operation China*, which was described by OMF as "China book of the decade." The CD has an inbuilt search engine and you can access all of the stunning

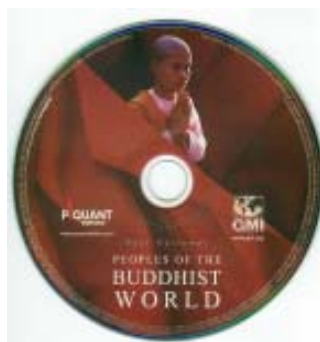


750 color pictures that helped the book make such an impact for the 490 unreached people groups of China.

Peoples of the Buddhist World CD-ROM

Peoples of the Buddhist World is the first ever attempt to profile all the Buddhist ethnic groups in the world. Beautifully illustrated with 500

superb color photographs to compliment the 238 prayer profiles, the contents of the book can be saved to your computer for easy access.



SPECIAL DEALS AVAILABLE TO OUR NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

You can order any one of the above CDs for \$20 including postage (to anywhere in the world). Order any two for \$30, three for \$40, or a set of all four CDs for \$50 (The normal retail price for all four is \$83). Please send a note stating which CDs you are ordering when you write to any of the Asia Harvest addresses listed on the back page of this newsletter. Alternatively, if you send a donation to any of our projects and would like to receive ONE of these CDs as a gift, please let us know and we will send you the one you request.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 3,003,823 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 446 Asian evangelists working among 107 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.



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

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 165,073 Bibles Printed in 30 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 707 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 8,382 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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July 2010 - Newsletter #105



Bibles for China

Are There Enough Bibles in China Today?

From the Frontlines

with Hammie & Alti

This guest editorial was written by Hammie and Alti, dedicated missionaries who work in some of the most remote and dangerous parts of Asia, among unreached people groups with no Gospel witness. They lead a ministry called the K2 Association.

On the video page at our website: www.asiaharvest.org we have a dozen excellent videos made by Hammie and Alti, under the heading 'Hidden Tribes of the Himalayas'.

Many years ago, two brothers in California decided to sell all their belongings and search for gold. After discovering a small strip of gold in the ground at one location, they purchased the surrounding land and constructed a mine to extract as much gold as possible from the ground.

After a few months it looked like there was no more gold to be found. The brothers were discouraged and sold all their equipment and rights to the land for a few hundred dollars. The new owner told the engineer who was working for him to keep on digging in exactly the same spot where the brothers first discovered their gold.

The engineer dug down just a few feet below where the brothers had given up and struck more gold! If the brothers had just a little more perseverance to keep on digging they would have been wealthy beyond their wildest dreams.

In the Christian life, we too can grow discouraged and give up too quickly. Consider these facts from the lives of several great missionary pioneers:

- ♦ William Carey worked and prayed for 7 years in India before he baptized the first believer. Today he is remembered as the “father of missions”.
- ♦ Adoniram Judson worked for 7 years in Burma before he won his first soul for God. He prayed 7 times a day and his prayers shook the country for God.
- ♦ Robert Morrison worked and prayed for 7 years before he saw the first Chinese person saved. Today China has the fastest growing Church in the world.

- ♦ Robert Moffat worked, prayed and waited for 7 years before he experienced the Holy Spirit moving in Africa.

In Asia there is a certain kind of bamboo plant. After planting the seed in the ground, the farmers water and fertilize it for the first year, but nothing happens. They faithfully water and fertilize it for a second year but still nothing happens. They water and fertilize it for a third year but still there is no sign of life. For a fourth year they water and fertilize the ground, yet still nothing happens.

Then, all of a sudden, during the fifth year it grows 30-feet tall in just 60 days!

For four years the farmers do not see anything happen, but they persevere, not becoming discouraged or giving up. Then in the fifth year they are richly rewarded for their patience and hard work.

If the farmers skip a year of watering and fertilizing the ground, the miracle does not happen. For those four years everything takes place underground where the eye cannot see. The seeds are sprouting and forming a solid base, and the roots reach down far into the soil. Those years of preparation are necessary for the amazing growth that occurs in the fifth year.

My dear friend, I know it must be difficult to keep on going when you don't always see the results you would love to see. Don't give up! Keep on doing what God has called you to do. Allow God's Word to encourage you, for it says: ***"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"*** (Galatians 6:9).

Don't give up like the gold miners in California who grew discouraged by their lack of progress. Keep watering the ground where you planted God's seed, and at the proper time you too will reap a harvest if you persevere.

There will be a breakthrough. There will be a harvest. There will be fruit, and there will be growth in His time. The Almighty God has declared, ***"my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it"*** (Isaiah 55:11).

Cover photo: A hand-copied Chinese Bible. During the 1960s and 70s the Word of God was so scarce in China that Christians often painstakingly copied the Bible by hand so they could read God's Word for themselves.

BIBLES FOR CHINA

Are There Enough Bibles in China Today?

It's hard to believe that it is just two and a half years since our newsletter #92 broke the news that we had passed the milestone of printing and delivering one million Bibles to China's house church Christians.

Thanks to the love of God and His people all around the world, last month we surpassed the three million Bibles mark. Glory to God! At the time of writing this newsletter the Lord has allowed us to put **3,022,783 Bibles into the hands of Chinese believers. It took us 7 years to get to one million, and just 2½ more years to pass three million.**

This exponential growth is amazing because the overwhelming majority of people who give to our work are not wealthy in the eyes of the world. Most of these Bibles have come from an accumulation of gifts from normal folk who work hard and love the Lord Jesus. **Last year the median size donation we received at Asia Harvest was \$63.** These Christians, from many different nations, appreciate the opportunity to help their brothers and sisters in China, even though they will probably never meet except in heaven. To everyone who has prayed for and given to this project, thank you!



Over the years as we have had the opportunity to minister in different parts of the world, we have encountered Christians who are confused about the Church in China.

Some have heard that there is now freedom of worship in China, while others are told there is still widespread religious persecution.

Some sources claim there are in excess of 100 million Christians in China, while others claim there are no more than 30 or 40 million.

And perhaps most confusing of all, some claim Bibles are now freely available and are no longer needed in China, while

other organizations claim there is a marked shortage of Scriptures and millions of believers are still without God's Word.

With such conflicting information, it is little wonder many Christians around the world are confused when it comes to China!

Part of the reason for the confusion comes from the deliberate spreading of misinformation. In the last few years there has been a concerted attempt by the Three-Self Patriotic Movement and China Christian Council (the official, state-sanctioned bodies for Christianity in China), to assure the world that Bibles are now freely available in China.

For those not familiar with China, the official state church is permitted to print a certain number of Bibles each year through the Amity Press, located in the city of Nanjing. These Bibles are generally provided to members of the official churches. However, in China approximately 70% of Christians attend unregistered house church fellowships that are not associated with the official churches. It is those tens of millions of believers that Asia Harvest is called to serve.

Officials from China have held press conferences in many nations to promote the stance that Bibles are now freely available in China. They have successfully launched a global offensive via Christian radio, television and magazines to break the

“good news” that China no longer needs Bibles.

During the past year we have received a number of letters and emails from people, asking why we still print Bibles in China. Some have even informed us that we are so out of touch we haven't realized that China is now “awash with Bibles.”

As we and our colleagues travel throughout China, we have never met a house church leader who is not thankful for the work of Amity Press, and indeed the house church believer thank God for every Bible produced over the years, “legal” or not.

However, it simply isn't true that the official Bibles are freely available inside China for all believers. This would be wonderful if it was true, but it is not the case.

Our friend Gary Russell of China Harvest recently gave the following helpful illustration about ministry in China:



CHINA BIBLE MAP



Thanks to the grace of God, and your prayers and support, Asia Harvest has now printed and delivered more than three million full Chinese Bibles to Christians in China since 2001. Our Chinese coworkers provide tremendous, detailed reports, which allow us keep track of every Bible we print and to create this distribution map. On behalf of all the believers in China, thank you and God bless you!

Bibles Delivered by Province:

1 Anhui	301,063
2 Zhejiang	265,822
3 Heilongjiang	265,605
4 Inner Mongolia	224,963
5 Henan	220,340
6 Shandong	196,648
7 Jilin	144,117
8 Shanxi	138,934
9 Jiangsu	113,018
10 Liaoning	110,154
11 Gansu	96,901
12 Xinjiang	90,496
13 Shaanxi	89,833
14 Sichuan	89,529
15 Hubei	89,483
16 Guangxi	84,244
17 Chongqing	82,199
18 Qinghai	73,075
19 Fujian	56,597
20 Hebei	53,647
21 Hainan Island	51,031
22 Jiangxi	45,738
23 Shanghai	34,100
24 Guangdong	29,392
25 Yunnan	28,871
26 Beijing	19,391
27 Hunan	12,119
28 Guizhou	10,078
29 Ningxia	5,393
TOTAL	3,022,783

“China is a waffle, a very, very big waffle—not a pancake. Pancakes tend to have butter and syrup distributed fairly evenly, whereas waffles may have butter in one square, syrup in others, both in others, and neither in others! Ridges between the China squares include mountains, sheer distance, ethnicity, language, generations, local authorities, and other factors. Foreigners commonly make the strategic mistake of biting into a square or two and then extrapolating that situation nationwide, hence so many conflicting reports even by relative experts, who feel they know about China because they have been there and seen it first-hand....

I know of one believer who went to Nanjing to purchase 1,000 legal Bibles for Christians in his home region. He did buy them and headed home—followed by the police. They handcuffed his hands behind his back and suspended him from the ceiling while they interrogated him, demanding to know where all the Christians live and who their leaders are. Foreigners may have seen him buy the Bibles and they may have formed a favorable impression, but they didn’t see him hanging from the ceiling.

I have another friend who, with his own eyes, has seen many thousands of legally printed Bibles in a government confiscation warehouse. Several major covert suppliers of Bibles to the house church networks of China report that all their best efforts combined meet far less than half of specific requests from Chinese churches, often a mere 10% of the present need.

Supplying Bibles inevitably and consistently generates a greater need for even more. In China the Bible has always been a key to conversions. It is common for one Bible to

result in several converts within months as it is shared. I know of one case in the early 1990s where a single Bible resulted in 10,000 conversions within three years!”

For more than 20 years we have served the house church networks in China. They obtain as many Bibles from the government-approved Amity Press as possible, but the amount they are able to source is only a fraction of the size of their need. While we agree there is a reasonable supply of Bibles available in the major provincial capital cities today, most house church Christians live in rural areas of China. The believers in many remote places where our Bibles are distributed, such as in Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang or Gansu, say they have little or no chance of obtaining a Bible from the registered churches. Many Christians live hundreds of miles from the nearest city where the government churches store Bibles, and even when they travel into the city to attempt to buy some they are often turned away, or are only able to get one or two copies when they need hundreds or thousands of copies just to equip the new believers in their area.

Some of the networks we serve need hundreds of thousands of Bibles each year just to nourish their new converts.

Friends with extensive experience in China recently told of a meeting they had with a house church pastor named Brother Shu. He told them, “I used to think that Chinese could get all the Bibles they needed nowadays. But I was humbled to find out I was so deceived! I’ve lived my whole life in the big cities, but then as I began to work more and more in remote rural areas, I found there are many hundreds of

thousands of believers in those places without access to any Bible!”

So far, by the grace of God, we been able to print and deliver over three million Bibles to the house churches of China. **In the first half of this year alone we have provided 255,026 Bibles, yet this is just a fraction of the size of the verified requests that come in to our coworkers in China.** We have requests from leaders of church movements all across China that have experienced explosive growth.

Here is just one letter we have received:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the West,

Thank you so much for how you have blessed our fellowships by providing Bibles for us. The growth in numbers and in spiritual strength that our fellowships have experienced in recent years is in large part due to our members having the Bible to feed upon daily instead of occasionally. In the past we were very happy to share one Bible for an entire group; some of our groups did not even have any Bible at all and we would borrow from other groups. Many times the group giving up their Bible was giving up their only copy. Thankfully in recent years Bibles have not been as scarce as before, but as the church grows so rapidly it seems that we need even more than we did a few years ago! Just to meet this need within our network alone, 2,138,000 copies are needed and that must be multiplied many times over to meet the current needs of all the house churches in China.

Thank you so much for sharing God's precious Word with us!

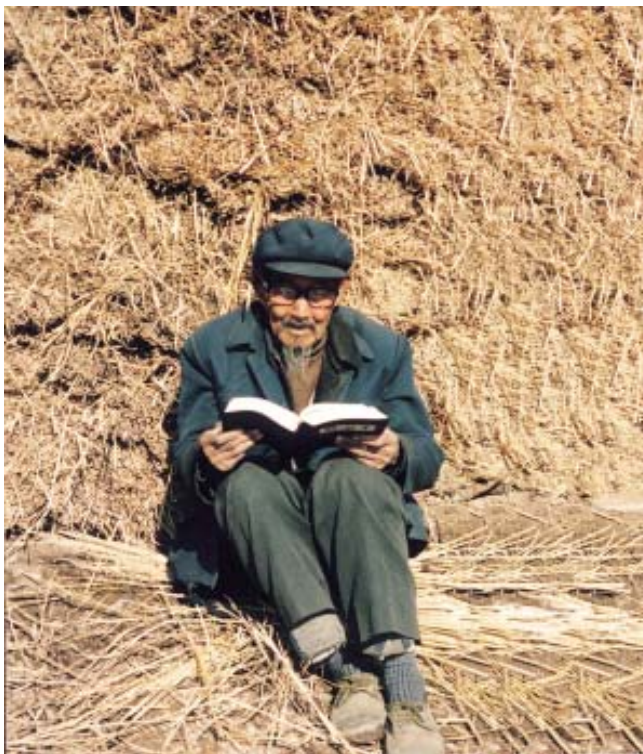
We pray for the day when God's Word will be freely available to all

Christians in China—whether they worship in registered or unregistered churches, and regardless of whether they live in large cities or in remote rural areas.

In the meantime, we continue to print as many Bibles in partnership with the house churches of China as we have provision for.

Due to our coworkers making every effort to streamline the project and seek out the best prices, each full Chinese Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver. **We invite you to participate in this opportunity to bless and equip the Church in China,** and to help the greatest revival in history continue by providing God's Word to His people.

We know of no other investment in God's kingdom where so little can make such a huge difference in the lives of so many people.



CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 3,022,783 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 454 Asian evangelists working among 108 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: 167,542 Bibles Printed in 30 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), Cambodia, and other Southeast and South Asian nations as the need arises. **Each Bible costs \$2.70 to print and deliver.**

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Because of your partnership we are supporting 676 living martyrs.



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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.

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Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 8,420 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 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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October 2010 - Newsletter #106



Answering the Question:
How Many Christians are in China Today?

How Many Christians are there in China Today?

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

Have you ever wondered how many Christians live in the world's most populated country? Right from the start of our long involvement in China, the question of how many believers are scattered throughout the land has been on the front of our minds. This question is not a new one. When the great Italian explorer Marco Polo returned from China 700 years ago, Europeans were amazed to hear about the churches and Christian monasteries he encountered in various parts of the country.

Since we started serving in Asia in the 1980s, we have found that many people around the world are eager to know how many Christians live in China. Most are aware that God has been doing something wonderful in China since the Communists came to power in 1949, but little research has ever been conducted to put a figure on this phenomenon. Estimates published in recent years give wildly divergent figures, ranging anywhere from 20 to 230 million!

In this newsletter we have done something quite different from normal. In the following pages you will see locator maps and statistical summaries for each of China's 31 major provinces, administrative regions, and municipalities. It should be noted that many of China's provinces have populations that would make them significant countries in their own right. Henan Province, for example, is home to just under 100 million people, which is more than any nation in Europe (not including Russia), and approximately five times as large as the population of Australia.

About ten years ago we started to collect information on how many Christians live in each part of China. The information was meticulously gathered from published sources and from our own contacts within the house church networks, and from many missionaries. This has been no small undertaking as China's 31 provinces are broken down into prefectures, which are subsequently divided into a total of 2,370 counties and cities.

Knowing how many Christians live in different parts of China is important for our work at Asia Harvest, as it helps us pinpoint where we should send more

Bibles to equip believers, and focuses projects like the Asian Workers' fund by showing us which parts of the country need the Gospel more than others.

As you read through this newsletter, most of the provinces of China may be completely unfamiliar to you, but you will immediately notice that in every part of the country the Church has grown exponentially since 1949—the year the Communists took over. Overall, our survey found that China has 24 times more Christians today than it did in 1949. Xinjiang in the northwest has 708 times more believers now than at the advent of Communism! What a marvelous testimony this is to the grace and power of God. No man-made system or government can thwart His plans for the nations of the world!

As you look over the figures of what God has done in China, we encourage you to keep a few things in mind...

- ♦ The Church in China has not grown by chance. Thousands of believers have been martyred over the past 60 years, and hundreds of thousands imprisoned and experienced deprivation because of their faith in Jesus Christ. The blood of the saints has been the seed of the Church in China.
- ♦ As you read about how revival has swept China, don't be discouraged if where you live has not experienced anything similar. Remember that just a generation ago there were very few Christians in the land. They have been catching up by the hand and mercy of God!
- ♦ Despite the spectacular growth of the Church in China, consider that today only 7.6% of people in the country are Christians. More than 92 out of every 100 people remain lost and hell-bound, perishing outside of the kingdom of God. House church leaders have told us how ashamed and burdened they feel that so many of their countrymen have yet to know Jesus as Lord. This motivates them to do whatever it takes to preach the Gospel to every ethnic group and in every city, town and village, and to do everything necessary to see Jesus Christ exalted throughout the land. It is a great blessing to be able to serve them in this mighty endeavor.

The information presented in the following pages is a basic summary of our research. On our website we provide estimates of how many Christians of different church affiliations live in each of China's 2,370 cities and counties, as well as an article explaining the methodology of how we conducted our survey. To access this information, please visit our website www.asiaharvest.org and then click on the button "**The Church in China.**" Our statistics are constantly being updated as new information comes to light.

ANHUI PROVINCE



Population:
64.2 million

Christians in 1949: **136,000**
All Christians now: **9.1 million** (14.2%)
Growth under Communism: **67 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 304,277 Bibles to the 5.7 million house church believers in Anhui)

FUJIAN PROVINCE



Population:
37.1 million

Christians in 1949: **194,700**
All Christians now: **5.1 million** (13.7%)
Growth under Communism: **26 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 56,597 Bibles to the 1.5 million house church believers in Fujian)

BEIJING MUNICIPALITY



Population:
14.7 million

Christians in 1949: **232,000**
All Christians now: **666,600** (4.5%)
Growth under Communism: **3 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 20,480 Bibles to the 413,000 house church believers in Beijing)

GANSU PROVINCE



Population:
27.3 million

Christians in 1949: **38,600**
All Christians now: **1.25 million** (4.6%)
Growth under Communism: **32 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 101,442 Bibles to the 750,000 house church believers in Gansu)

CHONGQING MUNICIPALITY



Population:
33.2 million

Christians in 1949: **75,000**
All Christians now: **2.6 million** (7.8%)
Growth under Communism: **34 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 82,199 Bibles to the 1.5 million house church believers in Chongqing)

GUANGDONG PROVINCE



Population:
92.7 million

Christians in 1949: **180,000**
All Christians now: **4.2 million** (4.5%)
Growth under Communism: **23 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 30,611 Bibles to the 2.6 mill. house church believers in Guangdong)

GUANGXI REGION



Population:
47.7 million

Christians in 1949: **56,500**
All Christians now: **970,000** (2.0%)
Growth under Communism: **17 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 86,712 Bibles to the 590,000 house church believers in Guangxi)

HEBEI PROVINCE



Population:
72.6 million

Christians in 1949: **402,500**
All Christians now: **5.6 million** (7.7%)
Growth under Communism: **14 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 54,828 Bibles to the 890,000 house church believers in Hebei)

GUIZHOU PROVINCE



Population:
38.3 million

Christians in 1949: **110,000**
All Christians now: **2.0 million** (5.3%)
Growth under Communism: **18 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 10,078 Bibles to the 1.1 million house church believers in Guizhou)

HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE



Population:
39.1 million

Christians in 1949: **18,700**
All Christians now: **3.8 million** (9.7%)
Growth under Communism: **203 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 275,985 Bibles to the 2.6m house church believers in Heilongjiang)

HAINAN ISLAND



Population:
8.2 million

Christians in 1949: **13,400**
All Christians now: **565,000** (6.9%)
Growth under Communism: **42 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 51,502 Bibles to the 450,000 house church believers in Hainan)

HENAN PROVINCE



Population:
99.3 million

Christians in 1949: **290,000**
All Christians now: **14.6 million** (14.7%)
Growth under Communism: **50 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 223,603 Bibles to the 8.8 million house church believers in Henan)

HUBEI PROVINCE



Population:
64.7 million

Christians in 1949: **206,000**
All Christians now: **2.6 million** (4.0%)
Growth under Communism: **13 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 92,137 Bibles to the 1.6 million house church believers in Hubei)

HUNAN PROVINCE



Population:
68.8 million

Christians in 1949: **55,000**
All Christians now: **2.3 million** (3.4%)
Growth under Communism: **42 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 12,119 Bibles to the 1.4 million house church believers in Hunan)

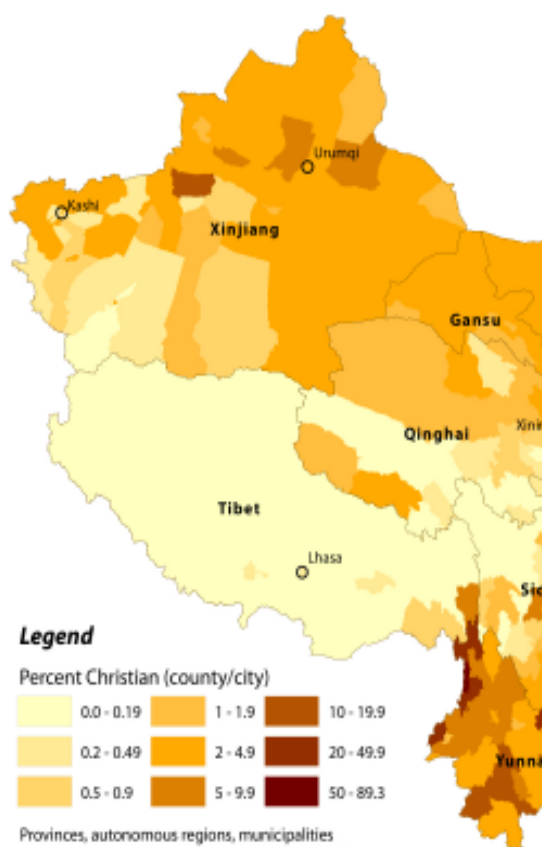
INNER MONGOLIA REGION



Population:
25.4 million

Christians in 1949: **180,000**
All Christians now: **2.3 million** (9.2%)
Growth under Communism: **13 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 232,363 Bibles to the 1.3 million house church believers in I.M.)

China *Christian percentage*



JIANGSU PROVINCE



Population:
76.4 million

Christians in 1949: **216,000**
All Christians now: **6.6 million** (8.7%)
Growth under Communism: **30 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 115,148 Bibles to the 2.6 million house church believers in Jiangsu)

JILIN PROVINCE



Population:
29.1 million

Christians in 1949: **67,000**
All Christians now: **2.1 million** (7.2%)
Growth under Communism: **31 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 150,080 Bibles to the 1.4 million house church believers in Jilin)

LIAONING PROVINCE



Population:
45.5 million

Christians in 1949: **73,600**
All Christians now: **3.2 million** (7.1%)
Growth under Communism: **43 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 110,507 Bibles to the 2 million house church believers in Liaoning)

JIANGXI PROVINCE



Population:
44.0 million

Christians in 1949: **120,000**
All Christians now: **2.3 million** (5.2%)
Growth under Communism: **19 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 47,506 Bibles to the 1.1 million house church believers in Jiangxi)

NINGXIA REGION



Population:
6.0 million

Christians in 1949: **40,000**
All Christians now: **230,000** (3.8%)
Growth under Communism: **6 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 5,393 Bibles to the 106,000 house church believers in Ningxia)

QINGHAI PROVINCE



Population:
5.2 million

Christians in 1949: **4,500**
All Christians now: **280,000** (5.4%)
Growth under Communism: **62 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 79,625 Bibles to the 217,000 house church believers in Qinghai)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY



Population:
17.9 million

Christians in 1949: **207,000**
All Christians now: **2.0 million** (11.2%)
Growth under Communism: **10 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 35,099 Bibles to the 910,000 house church believers in Shanghai)

SHAANXI PROVINCE



Population:
38.5 million

Christians in 1949: **133,200**
All Christians now: **3.4 million** (8.8%)
Growth under Communism: **26 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 92,318 Bibles to the 1.7 million house church believers in Shaanxi)

SHANXI PROVINCE



Population:
35.3 million

Christians in 1949: **185,000**
All Christians now: **2.9 million** (8.2%)
Growth under Communism: **16 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 141,336 Bibles to the 1.6 million house church believers in Shanxi)

SHANDONG PROVINCE



Population:
97.9 million

Christians in 1949: **414,000**
All Christians now: **5.0 million** (5.2%)
Growth under Communism: **12 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 200,018 Bibles to the 2.7 mil. house church believers in Shandong)

SICHUAN PROVINCE



Population:
89.6 million

Christians in 1949: **160,000**
All Christians now: **2.8 million** (3.1%)
Growth under Communism: **18 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 91,997 Bibles to the 1.1 million house church believers in Sichuan)

TIANJIN MUNICIPALITY



Population:
10.7 million

Christians in 1949: **57,000**
All Christians now: **397,000** (3.7%)
Growth under Communism: **7 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 0 Bibles to the 86,000 house church believers in Tianjin)

YUNNAN PROVINCE



Population:
46.1 million

Christians in 1949: **149,000**
All Christians now: **3.3 million** (7.2%)
Growth under Communism: **22 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 28,871 Bibles to the 1.5 million house church believers in Yunnan)

TIBET (XIZANG) REGION



Population:
2.8 million

Christians in 1949: **3,000**
All Christians now: **9,000** (0.3%)
Growth under Communism: **3 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 0 Bibles to the 1,200 house church believers in Tibet)

ZHEJIANG PROVINCE



Population:
49.5 million

Christians in 1949: **320,000**
All Christians now: **9.1 million** (18.5%)
Growth under Communism: **28 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 265,993 Bibles to the 4.1 mill. house church believers in Zhejiang)

XINJIANG REGION



Population:
20.1 million

Christians in 1949: **1,200**
All Christians now: **850,000** (4.2%)
Growth under Communism: **708 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 94,455 Bibles to the 680,000 house church believers in Xinjiang)

ALL OF CHINA SUMMARY

Population: **1,355,800,000**
Christians in 1949: **4,338,900**
All Christians now (7.6%): **103,470,000**
Growth under Communism: **24 times**

Asia Harvest has provided **3,093,276 Bibles** to the **53,139,000** house church believers in China.

Estimated number of Christians in China without a Bible: **34 million**.

Estimated new Christians in China:
9.1 million each year (25,000 per day)

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 3,093,276 Bibles printed and delivered.

We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term goal to provide Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests for God's Word from church leaders throughout the country. These Bibles are distributed free of charge, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival in China. **Each full Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

Update: House church contacts in China have recently conducted a thorough survey which found 34 million Christians throughout the country currently need a Bible.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 467 Asian evangelists working among 108 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: 175,692 Bibles Printed in 31 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), Cambodia, 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 677 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 8,470 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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December 2010 - Newsletter #107



Bread for the Hungry

Providing God's Word to Asia's Ethnic Groups

From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:8-11).

We remember the impact the above passage had on us when we read it for the first time as new Christians. God declares that His ways and thoughts are far higher than our own, which is a good thing! It humbles us to realize He is in control, and that we can trust His wisdom and guidance in our lives each day. The Lord went on to say that when His Word goes forth it doesn't return to Him void, but it achieves His purposes in the earth. His Word is not like the words of men! ***“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart”*** (Hebrews 4:12).

From the moment Asia Harvest was formed, printing and distributing God's Word has been a priority in everything we do. We achieve this through two major projects, the China Bible fund and the Southeast Asia Bible fund. In this newsletter we report on the progress of the Southeast Asia Bible fund, through which we have now printed the Scriptures in 31 different Asian languages. Most of these are for tribal believers in the southeast Asian countries of Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar (Burma) but occasionally we have also helped with needs in South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc.). In the coming months we will be involved with a project to distribute Arabic New Testaments inside Iraq. The distribution is done by bold and courageous local Christians who are willing to lay down their lives to see the people of that troubled country come to know Jesus Christ.

The Southeast Asia Bible fund is a flexible project. This year we have printed large, one thousand-page Bibles for Christians among tribes who have not had

access to God's Word for decades, and we have also printed hundreds of thousands of Gospel booklets, used for evangelism among unbelievers. The Southeast Asia Bible fund is an extremely necessary and strategic project simply because most Christian activity in Asia takes place among massive segments of the population, whereas the needs of smaller tribes tend to be neglected and left out of the budgets of most mission organizations.

In the early years of this project, the amount of Scriptures we printed was relatively low, but thanks to the prayers and generosity of God's people, it is a great blessing to now see truck and container loads of God's Word being delivered to remote areas of Asia. We can't think of any more effective investment we can make for God's kingdom than to print and distribute His powerful Word to people who are hungry to read it.

The cost effectiveness of investing in this form of ministry of God's Word is also without equal. This year, for example, we helped print 200,000 Gospels of Mark (50,000 each in the Telegu, Urdu, Kannada and Bengali languages of South Asia). The total cost was \$20,000, or just 10 cents per booklet! Only eternity will reveal how many thousands of people found Jesus through His Word. Tremendous testimonies have been coming in, attesting to the impact those booklets have had among people who had never before heard of Jesus. God's Word, once again, is not returning to Him empty.

In this newsletter we present a pictorial summary of several of the printing projects we have been privileged to be involved with this year. The joy and light seen in the faces of Christians receiving Bibles in their own language is precious.

Please pray for the continued success of the Southeast Asia Bible fund, and consider supporting it if God places it on your heart to do so.



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM ASIA HARVEST

As this is our final newsletter for 2010, 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 2011 we hope, with God's help, to continue serving the Church in Asia and we invite you to partner with us to see this happen. God bless you!



THE PWO KAREN

*Eastern Myanmar (Burma) and
refugee camps in western Thailand.*

Population: 1.1 million

Christians: 15%

In recent decades, the Pwo Karen are one of many ethnic groups to have experienced brutal genocide at the hands of the Burmese military. Tens of thousands have been slaughtered for no reason, and tens of thousands more have fled into refugee camps inside Thailand.

Last year, Pwo Karen church leaders met one of our coworkers and told him of the desperate shortage of Bibles among their tribe. For more

than a decade they had been searching for ways to obtain God's Word in their own language, but all to no avail. With the Pwo Karen so desperate and eager for spiritual truth, **we recently printed 7,500 Pwo Karen Bibles** which were distributed in both Myanmar and refugee camps inside Thailand.

Pwo Karen Christians wept to have God's Word in their own language again, and many unbelievers have experienced the salvation only found in Jesus Christ.



THE JARAI

Vietnam and Cambodia

Population: 350,000

Christians: 30%

The Jarai people live in the jungles of southern Vietnam and neighboring areas of Cambodia. Although the New Testament was first translated into their language in 1974, the Jarai Christians have had to endure many years without access to God's Word due to the difficulty of providing the Scriptures in Communist Vietnam.

We recently printed and provided 5,000 Jarai New Testaments to believers from this tribe in both Vietnam and Cambodia. They were overwhelmed with thanks to God for this blessing. One female believer wrote, *"I love Jesus Christ, but it has been difficult studying God's Word because there was only one Bible in our whole church. We begged God to provide more Bibles in our own language so we can love and serve Him more. When you came back to our village with so many Jarai Bibles, we were shocked with joy and amazement. We thank the Lord and we thank you for providing us with God's holy Word. May we know Him and serve Him more!"*

Please pray for the Jarai people. The majority of this tribe are spirit-worshippers, praying to the gods of fire and water. Pray the Gospel will spread freely among all Jarai people, overflowing to dozens of surrounding tribes.



EVANGELISM AMONG FOUR

This year we provided funds to print 200,000 Gospel of Mark booklets, which were distributed by local Christians among four of South Asia's largest language groups: **URDU** (spoken by more than 70 million people); **TELEGU** (more than 80 million); **KANNADA** (45 million); and **BENGALI** (250 million). All of these language groups are among the most unreached in the world, with less than one percent Christian.

A worker inspects a pallet of Gospel booklets before they are sent out of the print shop.



The quantity of paper used to print 200,000 booklets is great. This picture shows the pile of scrap paper just from trimming the edges of the pages.



SOUTH ASIAN MEGA-GROUPS

Working with local believers, the Gospel went out to 200,000 families, with most hearing the Gospel for the first time. The Christians are providing further help and follow-up for those interested in learning more about Jesus Christ, and many people have become children of the Living God. On these pages we present pictures from this strategic project....



Christians pray over boxes of Gospel booklets before boldly going out to share Christ with Muslims in their city.



An elderly man hears about the Way, the Truth and the Life for the first time in his life.

THE KACHIN

Myanmar, China and Thailand Population: 1.2 million Christians: 60%

The Gospel first came to the Kachin people of Myanmar (Burma) and China a century ago. They responded in large numbers, and ever since there has been a sizeable Kachin church. Because of the political situation in the countries where they live, the Kachin Christians have struggled to access Bibles in recent decades.

Earlier this year one of our coworkers told us what happened when he delivered a carload of Bibles to Kachin Christians: *“When I arrived with 800 Kachin Bibles I had no idea what was awaiting me. They said they had been praying and waiting about 20 years to receive the Scriptures. They said they were occasionally able to obtain a Bible or two, but they needed 2,000 copies. They wanted me to present each one with their Bible.”*

Thanks to your generous support, we provided funds for 25,000 Kachin Bibles. These were distributed by various ministries to appreciative Kachin Christians.



Recently, thousands of Kachin Christians gathered for a 100 year celebration since the Gospel first came to them (top picture); and a Kachin church leader prays over boxes of Bibles that Asia Harvest was privileged to provide through the Southeast Asia Bible fund.

Two teenage girls are given Gospel booklets as a local Christian shares Jesus Christ with them.



Hindu women in India gather together to study the Bible for the first time.



We don't have space in our newsletter to tell you about the many other projects completed through the Southeast Asian Bible fund in recent months. These include 50,000 Gospel booklets in the Shan language of Myanmar; 5,000 New Testaments for the Bru people of Vietnam and Laos; 5,000 Koho Bibles in Vietnam; 20,000 Bibles delivered to the spiritually hungry Sgaw Karen believers in Myanmar; newly-translated Scriptures for the Khmu of Laos, and so on. We have many more printing projects ready to go, including White Hmong Bibles for Vietnam, Kayah and Wa New Testaments for Myanmar, etc. For all those who have prayed for and given to the Southeast Asia Bible fund, thank you!

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 3,172,335 Bibles printed and delivered.

We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term goal to provide Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests for God's Word from church leaders throughout the country. These Bibles are distributed free of charge, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival in China. **Each full Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

Asia Harvest is able to print and distribute 200,000 Chinese Bibles per month depending on incoming funds. So far this year we are operating at 20% capacity.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 470 Asian evangelists working among 108 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.



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

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