



**Asia Harvest**

**2011**

**NEWSLETTERS**

*(Combined)*

# Asia Harvest



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

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March 2011 - Newsletter #108



## 2011 Annual Report

No Shrinking Back

# Asia Harvest Annual Report

by Paul & Joy Hattaway

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.” (John 15:1-2)*

It is with thankfulness that we bring you the summary annual report of our activities for 2010. It always humbles us to present such a report because it does not reflect “our” activities at all, for we are merely a link in the chain between you and the expansion of the kingdom of God taking place all across Asia.

Thank you for responding to the opportunities we present to transform lives in Asia through the Gospel. Every Bible placed in the hands of a spiritually-hungry believer, each evangelist and ‘living martyr’ supported, and every life impacted for Jesus Christ occurs because someone on the other side of the world cares enough to pray and help advance the Gospel in the darkest and most needy regions of Asia, where 60% of the world’s population lives and dies.

In recent months we sense the Holy Spirit has been challenging Asia Harvest to take new ground in the work He has called us to. We have been comfortable at a certain level of activity, but it is time to expand and see more people impacted by the Gospel. At the same time, the Lord has been bringing some key people into vital roles within our ministry, to help facilitate this coming growth.

In our experience, expanding to a new level of effectiveness in God’s work is like an army attempting to take an enemy’s island. To start, they must establish a beach-head on the island. Once they have gained a foothold they can expand outwards, until the enemy has been conquered and the captives set free. The most dangerous time is such a battle is always the earliest days. The enemy doesn’t want to surrender an inch of the ground he has held for so long, and the fighting is fierce.

In recent months this is how we have felt as a ministry. We believe, for example, that God wants us to print substantially more Bibles for the house churches in China, above and beyond the 500,000 to 600,000 per year we have been averaging. Experts say that every Bible provided to a Chinese believer results in an average of two to three people coming to know the Lord Jesus, so a marked increase in this project will result in literally millions of people being saved from the clutches of



hell. No wonder Satan is alarmed when God puts such plans in the hearts of His servants! He does all he can to interfere and stop the growth, but he will not prevail because of the power and strength of our Commander in Chief.

We accept this call to be more fruitful, and are willing to submit to God's pruning process (John 15). We realize it is the Lord who fights our battles, and we must be careful not to run ahead unprepared into the fight. By God's grace we will move forward, for the Lord has declared, **"My righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.' But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved."** (Hebrews 10:38-39)

We would appreciate your prayer support at this time. Please pray for God's protection and favor, and that multitudes of new people throughout Asia will soon worship the Living God. Pray new regions will be taken for the kingdom of God, and many captives will be set free. Thank you.

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*We are glad to present our Annual Report. It is a great joy to serve the Lord Jesus in Asia 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 coworkers. Hundreds of thousands of believers have been strengthened in their faith after receiving Bibles, and 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 or 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 workers of God's kingdom—the many Asian Christians whom we are privileged to assist and serve.*

*We are thankful for each person who prayed for us and our work, who encouraged us, or provided support 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!*

*While this world system seems to be rapidly falling apart at the seams, we are determined to serve our soon-coming King until the very last moment, before the sun sets and all labor will cease. The Lord Jesus said, **"As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."** (John 9:4-5)*

*On the following pages we present summaries of Asia Harvest projects in 2010. 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.*

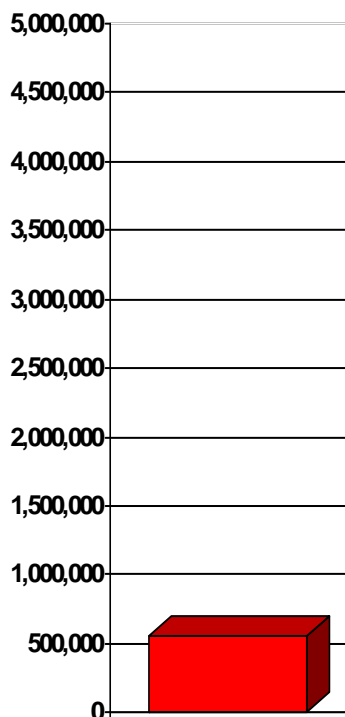
# CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

## *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 access to God's Word. Since we began printing Bibles inside China, we have supplied almost 3.5 million Bibles to the rural house churches, with 560,971 printed and distributed in 2010 alone. This figure represents **1,537 Bibles every day** throughout the year! Yet the need for God's Word remains great, especially in remote areas where the revival is burning brightest. One recent letter from a house church leader in Northeast China said:

"We are so thankful for the care and love of the brothers and sisters who have made Bibles available to us. These additional Bibles have resulted in a flood of new believers in our fellowships. In order to supply each new Christian with God's Word we currently need 340,028 Bibles. It seems that the more Bibles we receive, the more the need grows since the Bibles bring in new believers. I guess we could say this is a good problem to have – God is moving in a mighty way in China and we are privileged to be a part of His great work.

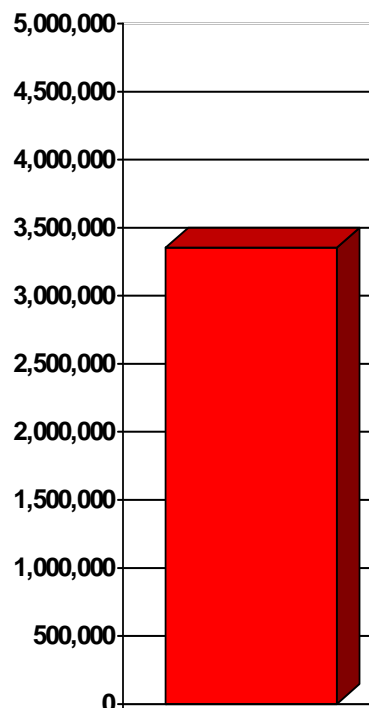
2010 Bibles  
printed: 560,971



There remains a critical shortage of Bibles in China because of the massive growth of the church in rural areas. Tens of 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 these new believers. They 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: 3,359,037



# SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

*Current Total: 189,577 Bibles printed in 31 different languages.  
Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.*

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 providing God's Word into the hands of as many believers as possible through the Southeast Asia Bible fund. Among the recent projects we helped with are printing 20,000 Bibles in the Sqaw Karen language of Myanmar (Burma), 12,000 White Hmong Bibles for Hmong believers in northern Vietnam, and 2,500 Bibles in the national Lao language of Laos. In coming months we have plans to provide 10,000 Wa Bibles to the Wa tribe of Myanmar and China; and 5,000 Koho Bibles to Vietnam. The Lord is always bringing new projects to our attention. Please pray for the Southeast Asia Bible fund and all those involved with providing God's Word to these precious tribes.



# ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

## *Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

*Because of your prayers and partnership, in 2010 we were able to support 447 Asian church-planting missionaries — working among 107 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, for example, 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 worker's prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.



*A group of tribal Christians in China, who have come to faith in Jesus Christ because of the work of evangelists we support through the Asian Workers' fund.*

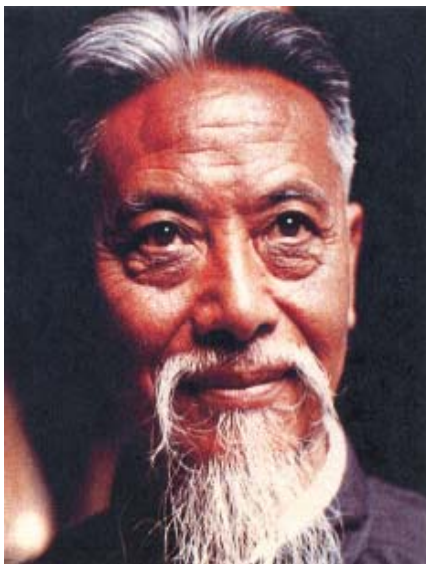


# CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

## *Supporting Christians disabled by Persecution*

*Because of your prayers and support we were able to help 760 living martyrs throughout 2010. This strategic project 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 wrote, "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 1,199 children in Vietnam in 2010 (9,037 since 1999).*

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

In all we do, the saddest thing we encounter is children who have been deformed through the use of Agent Orange chemicals that were sprayed during the Vietnam War. More than 40 years on, these toxins remain both in the ground water and food chain of the areas that were sprayed, and will remain for hundreds of years. The deformities of children affected by these poisons are so severe that they usually cannot be corrected by surgery.

Mr. Tam's son was one such case. The boy had twisted limbs which mean he will never walk, and a distorted face which means he will never speak. When we sat in the Tam family's tiny home, we saw a great tenderness and love towards the boy from his parents. Although faced with grinding poverty and raising a severely handicapped child, the love they displayed to their son touched our hearts. We provided the Tam family with a grant, to help them cope with the crushing weight of their circumstances. It will help alleviate their immediate needs, but also allow them to invest in a small enterprise to raise chickens and pigs, which will provide a vital ongoing income.

Most of all, we shared the Good News with them, telling how God sent His own beloved Son into the world to bring salvation to people just like Mr. and Mrs. Tam and their precious son.



*It costs just \$60 to help put a smile on the face of a child in Vietnam through Project Smile. Your prayers and support make a great difference to the Tam family and many others like them.*

# BACK TO JERUSALEM

## *Equipping Chinese Christians to serve as Missionaries*



We continue to serve the Chinese Church as they train and send cross-cultural missionaries to unreached people groups in Asia. This God-given vision to preach the Gospel to the unreached world is known in China as “Back to Jerusalem.”

One of the main ways we assisted this work in 2010 was by providing funds for training centers that are run and operated by the Chinese believers. These training centers are not merely theological schools like in other countries (although of course God’s Word is at the center of all activities), but they are practical places for equipping the saints so they can be the most effective ambassadors of Christ possible as they penetrate other cultures with the Gospel. They are taught foreign languages, acquire cross-cultural skills, and depending on their intended field of work, they learn how to effectively reach Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists.

In addition to the training centers, we continue to provide support to many Chinese missionaries on the field, and help in other practical ways such as providing resources for spreading the Gospel, buying motorbikes or bicycles to evangelists who serve in remote areas, etc.

Thank you for your participation in this strategic work. Please pray the Chinese Church will continue to take up the challenge to spread the light of Jesus Christ to the darkest corners of the earth.



## From our Mailbox

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"How are you? I just wanted to bless our brothers and sisters in China with more Bibles. I passed up buying some cookies and soda and instead have sent the money for nine Bibles. I don't tell you this to brag, I just try to think of creative ways to get the desperately needed Bibles into the hands of dear believers. I know I can't solve the problem on my own, but when I think of how precious my Bible is, I just want to do all I can. I try to encourage others to contribute to Asia Harvest for this reason also."

**Rich, New Jersey**

"Enclosed is a \$25 gift from our 2 year-old daughter. She desired to purchase Bibles for the Chinese believers with money she received for her birthday. God bless your work in Christ."

**Nathan, Minnesota**

*(In response to Asia Harvest helping earthquake victims in Tibetan areas of China):*  
"Dear Asia Harvest: The Chinese own America. Let the Chinese government provide the money. They and the Indians have the most cash now. We will serve our missionaries instead."

**Carrie, Texas**

"I have been trying to encourage the girls in our church about missions. One day we went for a walk and I prayed with the girls for God to bless our efforts to find a lot of pop cans to recycle. We are all rather poor, so if we want to have any money to send to missions work we must be creative. While we were looking for cans, an elderly couple stopped us and gave us cans to take in. They said they felt led to stop and give us these cans, and also gave us \$3 to add to it. We witnessed to them about the Lord and missions. So enclosed is our humble contribution. May God bless the work you do for Him. I'm sorry to say we are not sending much – just \$15.15, which we would like to be used to print Bibles for Christians in China. It is the total of what we got from recycling the cans and donations from the girls. They are 5, 7, 9, and 12."

**Elisabeth, Michigan**

"Remove me from your newsletter list immediately. I read your article called 'Chocolate Soldiers' and am offended. I find it condemning and my God is not like that."

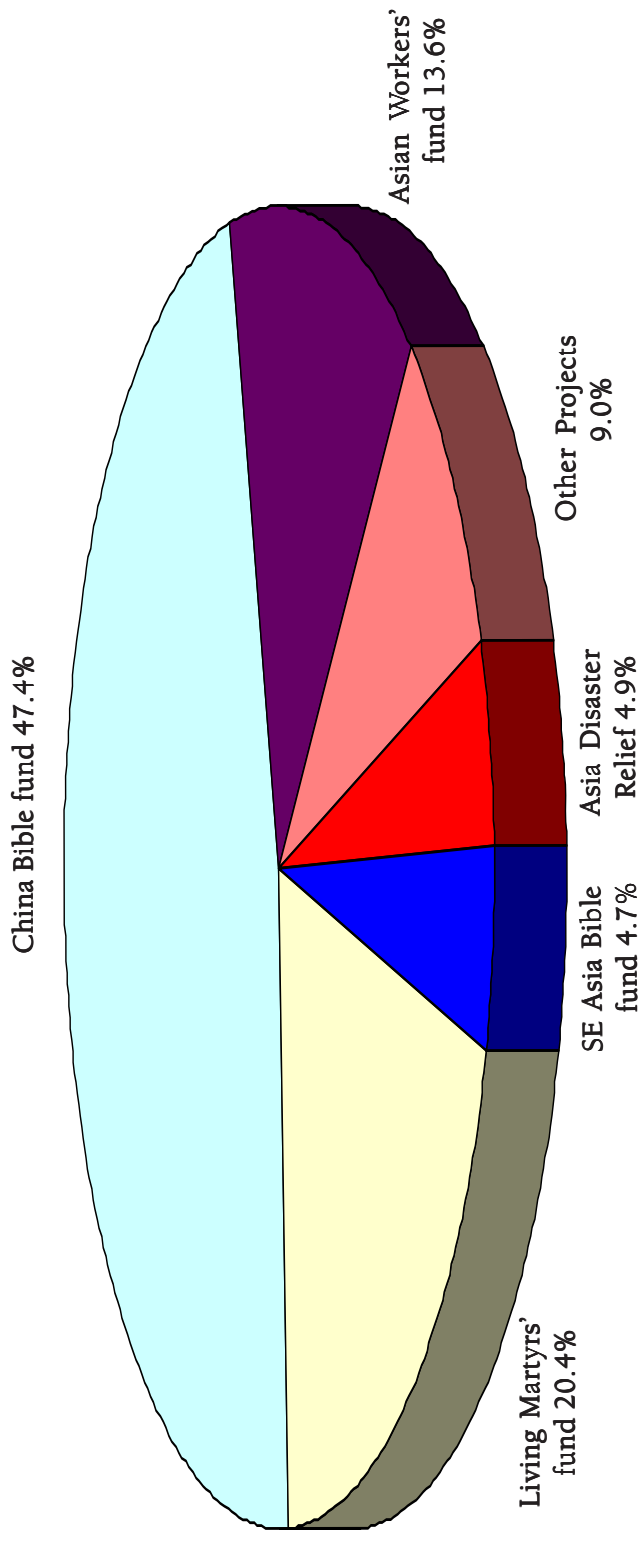
**Pam, Canada**

"I want to confirm that the article 'Chocolate Soldiers' in your newsletter is anointed of God. The Lord ministered to me just reading it tonight while I was eating my dinner. He told me He is with me in a mighty way. Thank you for your obedience."

**Rob, Texas**



# Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2010



## 2010 Financial Statement

Asia Harvest desires to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2010 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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# Asia Harvest



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**May 2011 - Newsletter #109**



## **An Emergency in China**

**Interview with Paul Hattaway, Part One**



# A Famine in the Land

by Wayne Graham

For years I have had the privilege of serving the church in China. The spiritual lives of these men and women have encouraged me to go deeper in my walk with God. One area in particular has impressed me—their hunger for the Word of God. Right now it can be said there is a famine in the land of China. This is ***“not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord”*** (Amos 8:11). There are tens of millions of Chinese Christians who are eager for spiritual nourishment, but are unable to feast on God’s Word.

Recently while visiting Beijing, I decided to spend an afternoon doing my own research to determine how easy it is to buy a Chinese Bible. Remember, Beijing is the capital of China, a modern, massive city with over 15 million residents. Most of China’s Christians live in remote rural areas thousands of miles away. I commenced my quest for a Bible at the huge Xinhua bookstore, considered one of the largest bookstores in the world. After speaking with several workers and the store manager, I was taken to a small section which had a few Christian books, but no Bibles. There were a few booklets about the Bible, but no complete Chinese Bible to be found anywhere. Next I went to the Foreign Language Bookstore and I found Bibles in English and several other languages, but not in Chinese.

The young lady at the store suggested I visit a local church to see if I could find a Bible there. By the time I arrived at the Wangfujing Cathedral I had been searching for a Chinese Bible for hours. I located a small bookshop operated by the church and purchased a Chinese Bible for the equivalent of \$4. I could have bought several Bibles if I had asked, but any larger order would have required permission and approval.

Can you buy Bibles in China? Yes. Is it easy? No. Imagine a Chinese house church pastor living in a small village in the remote countryside trying to get 50 or 100 Bibles for his congregation. He would face great difficulties logistically, legally, and financially. Thus the challenge is an issue of supply and demand. A limited number of Bibles are printed and sold in China, but literally millions of Chinese believers do not have access. The ‘food’ is not making it to those who are starving.

# AN EMERGENCY IN CHINA

## Straight Talk on the Need for Bibles

### An Interview with Paul Hattaway (Part 1)

For nearly a quarter of a century, Asia Harvest has been providing Bibles to the house churches in China. In the early years this consisted of hosting many short-term teams who would come to Hong Kong and carry Bibles in their bags and suitcases across the border into China. Starting in the late 1990s, we started printing Bibles secretly inside China. This greatly increased the quantity we could supply, while sharply reducing the cost per Bible. Overall, Asia Harvest has now printed and delivered almost 3.5 million Bibles to the house church believers in China.

We recently sat down with Paul Hattaway, the director of Asia Harvest, and asked him about the current need for Bibles in China, and why so many people around the world think Bibles are now freely available. Part One of our interview is below...

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**Asia Harvest:** *Let's get straight to the main topic of this interview. Are Bibles still needed in China?*

**Paul Hattaway:** Yes! But first, please let me thank everyone reading this interview who has prayed and given so that believers in China can have Bibles. On behalf of our brothers and sisters who now have God's Word to help them grow, thank you and God bless you!

Not only are Bibles still greatly needed, many Chinese church leaders are telling us the need is greater now than at any time since the 1980s. There is a growing emergency in China because of the lack of God's Word among the rural house churches. If this need is not rebalanced soon, I fear it will have dire consequences for the revival that has been burning so brightly in China for the last 30 years.

**AH:** *If there is such an urgent need for Bibles in China now, how come so few Christians around the world are aware of it?*

**PH:** There are several main reasons for this. The first is that providing Bibles for China (and many other countries) seems "out of fashion" in many churches today. Someone recently told a friend that helping get Bibles to China's Christians is "so 1990s!" It seems to no longer be the "in thing." If providing God's Word to hungry believers who can't access it is no longer a priority, may the Lord have mercy on us!

Another misconception is that many people believe China is now a rich country, so they no longer need our help. One American Christian recently told us, "We owe China billions of dollars, so they can take care of themselves."

The first thing to say to this statement is

that the Chinese government owning American debt does not mean the average person in China benefits in any way! About 90% of China's house church Christians live in rural areas of the country, often thousands of miles away from the glistening skyscrapers of modern cities like Beijing and Shanghai. The revival in China at the moment is burning brightest in remote provinces like Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Gansu and Qinghai. Thousands of people in these regions are coming to Christ daily, and they are among the poorest of the poor in China.

I wish I could take people who think China is now swimming in wealth to some of the areas we go. They would get the shock of their lives! The recently updated *Operation World* book lists the average annual US income at \$47,000 per person. The UK and Australia are slightly lower. China's average per-capita income is just \$3,200 per year, but there is a massive division between what those in major cities and those in the countryside earn. Many of the Christians



we provide Bibles to are among the poorest people in China. They are burdened by grinding poverty and struggling to survive on just a few hundred dollars a year. For most, even if they were able to access a Bible, they would struggle to afford one.

**AH:** *Most Christians have heard that Bibles are now legally printed inside China, so hasn't that taken care of the need?*

**PH:** You have raised the main reason why people are confused about the current need for Bibles in China. For years there has been a concerted attempt by the government-approved church to convince the world that Bibles are now freely available in China. They have successfully launched a global offensive via Christian radio, television and magazines to announce the "good news" that China no longer needs Bibles. Can you imagine any other country in the world saying they have no need for more Bibles? Yet the government church leaders in China—home to one-fifth of the world's population—say this with a straight face and many Christians foolishly believe them.

Some high-profile Western Christian leaders have joined in the chorus of support, reinforcing the false notion that China has plenty of Bibles. The propaganda campaign has been so successful that we regularly receive letters and emails from around the world, informing us that we are so out of touch we haven't realized that China is now "awash with Bibles."

It is true that for many years the government has allowed the printing of a limited number of Bibles in China. These are all produced at the Amity Press in the city of Nanjing, and each Bible has an official permit number.



I am thankful for every one of them!

These official Bibles are printed primarily for members of the state-sanctioned churches in China, known as the 'Three-Self Patriotic Movement.' There are approximately 20 million Christians in these churches. It is usually not difficult for Christians living in most major urban centers to buy a Bible at one of these churches. However, if you want to buy more than five or ten Bibles you will probably find it difficult, and questions may be asked about who they are for.

For the last 23 years we have been serving the unregistered house churches in China, who number more than 50 million believers. I can tell you that it simply isn't true that the official Bibles are freely available inside China for all Christians. It would be wonderful if it were true, but it is not the case.

**Each of the house church networks we serve have verified needs of hundreds of thousands of Bibles just to provide God's Word to their new converts!**

**AH: The Amity Press, which prints Bibles with government permission in China, report to have printed tens of millions of Bibles in China since its inception. Surely many of these find their way to the house churches too?**

**PH:** The numbers of Bibles reportedly produced by Amity Press are impressive. What they fail to mention, for some strange reason, is that two-thirds of the Bibles they print in China are for EXPORT! Amity Press has become one of the largest commercial printers in the world, and two-thirds of the Bibles they produce are in other languages and are exported out of China. If you have



a look at an English NIV Bible, for example, don't be surprised if it says it was printed in China.

The bottom line is that the Chinese Bibles that do remain inside the country are for distribution among members of the Three-Self churches. The more than 50 million house church Christians struggle to pick up more than a few crumbs that fall from the table of the registered church.

My heart breaks for these believers, and the way they have been neglected by much of the Body of Christ. More and more mission groups are signing up to work with the Three-Self Church in China, because it is safer for them to do so. What about the 50 million precious followers of Jesus among the "illegal" and despised unregistered house churches? Should we just ignore them and let them waste away without access to God's Word?

Although they wouldn't say so publicly, I know how painful it is to house church leaders when yet another big-name Western Christian comes to China and saddles up with the government. One world-famous preacher, convinced he was an expert after a week or two in China, even had the audacity to rebuke the house churches for their refusal to register with the Communist government. Such statements show a complete ignorance and disrespect for our brothers and sisters who have suffered so much for their faith and the principles they have taken a stand for. After 50 years of persecution, the house church Christians in China do not need further wounds at the hands of ill-informed Christians from other nations.

Many house church leaders have shared with us that they consider being deprived of Bibles as another form of persecution.

**We are not ashamed to say how privileged we are to serve the illegal and increasingly-neglected house churches of China. We aim, by God's grace, to provide as many Bibles to our dear brothers and sisters as the Lord grants us the resources to print and deliver.**

**AH: What do you say to those Christians who say we must obey the laws of the land, and the laws of China right now say you can not print Bibles except through the Amity Press?**

I agree that we should always obey the laws of governments and those in authority, as long as those laws do not go against the higher law of God. Jesus commanded us to go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all of mankind.

About 60 countries in the world today do not allow missionaries and are hostile to the message of Christ. Should we obey the laws

of the land and forget about the hundreds of millions of people who live in those countries? Should we let them go to hell without hearing about Jesus?

Was Daniel misguided when he refused to obey the law of the land to bow before an idol? Were Peter and John sinning when they defied orders to stop telling people about Jesus? Peter and John replied, **"Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we can not help speaking about what we have seen and heard"** (Acts 4:19-20).

I suspect many Christians today use the "obey the laws of the land" verse as a self-righteous excuse for doing nothing.

Jesus commanded us to feed those who are hungry, and in China today there are multitudes of His children spiritually starving because of a lack of God's Word.

We look forward to a day when Bibles are freely available to all people in China—including house church Christians. In the meantime, we continue to print as many Bibles as God grants us the ability to do.

**AH: Some people say the house churches should get their Bibles via the government churches. Is this possible?**

Some well-meaning missionaries have told me that official channels in China will provide Bibles to the house churches if we ask. I reply, "Great! We need 50,000 Bibles delivered here, and 35,000 delivered there," and so on. Immediately my friends' eyes look down, as they realize they can't help with so many. If we needed 50 or 100 Bibles it could be arranged, but such a tiny trickle of Scriptures is like trying to put out a raging forest fire with a garden hose!

Even if the house churches were able to access large quantities of Bibles that have been printed for the registered churches, this might temporarily alleviate some of their needs, but doing this would not add a single Bible to the total number available in China. In a way it would be like taking a bucket of water from one end of a swimming pool and pouring it into the other end.

**AH:** *How can people reading this interview respond?*

**PH:** On behalf of the Christians in China, I would firstly ask you to pray. The structure is already in place to supply many millions more Bibles to the house churches than are currently being provided. Please pray that the most basic need every Christian has—access to God’s Word—would not be hindered.

There is no point us trying to persuade people to get involved with this need by mere human strength or reasoning. Please ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God’s heart on this matter, so that more people and churches might respond to this need from a position of understanding and because they see a God-given opportunity to make a strategic difference in the lives of many.

Part of the problem is a lack of support. Quite simply, the more funds come in, the more Bibles we can print and deliver for \$1.80 each.

Amid all the talk of millions of Bibles needed, let’s remember that each individual person is precious to God. These Bibles go to real believers, young and old, who have been saved by the grace of God, and who desire to know more of the Lord Jesus. For this reason, every single Bible is precious and life-changing. Every donation to this

project is important and strategic, whatever the amount. Please also consider sharing the need for Bibles in China with your Christian friends and relatives.

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*In our next newsletter we continue our interview with Paul Hattaway on the need for Bibles in China. He shares new research on just how many Bibles are needed right now, and the impact the Scriptures are making in China today.*

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## Letter from a House Church Leader in Shandong Province

“You may have heard about recent drought in our area and how we will likely not have a wheat crop because the drought is so severe. What is not being reported is the spiritual flood we are experiencing at the same time. Many souls are coming to the Lord every day. Our churches have targeted specific regions and groups within our province with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so we can get the message out to as many as possible.

Many souls are coming to the Lord. We are even seeing God work through the drought, as many farmers have lost confidence in their own abilities and have opened their hearts to Jesus Christ.

**We urgently need 589,812 Bibles to provide one for each person in our fellowships.** With a Bible, they will be more effective in explaining the Christian faith to the farmers who are seeking and turning to the Lord. We ask God to pour out a special spiritual blessing on you for providing these precious Bibles to us.”



# Japan's Triple Disaster



No doubt you were as shocked as we were to see the images of the massive earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan on March 11. Tens of thousands of people were swept to death by the huge wall of water as it moved inland. The third part of this disaster, and potentially the most fatal, is the ongoing nuclear reactor meltdown. Within hours, Asia Harvest and our ministry partners were in contact with church leaders in Japan, who asked for prayer and help.

We immediately sent a message out to people on our email list, and many responded generously to our Asia Disaster Relief fund. We have so far sent \$51,000 to Japan, as well as connecting our coworkers with other churches and organizations that have given directly. The help we provided was initially used for basic necessities like food, water, medicine, and stretchers. Stretchers were required because many people, including the elderly, were sleeping on the floor in shelters, which added to their stress.

With an estimated 400,000 people staying in 2,200 shelters, the needs were huge. One group we sent funds to visited Miyagi, where they fed 3,000 desperate people. Many sobbed with gratitude, saying it was the first hot meal they had eaten since the tsunami.

The second stage of the assistance enabled 30 local churches to help people in the affected area. Purchases included hundreds of blankets and bicycles, several thousand adult and baby diapers, and 1,000 hygiene kits (containing soap, towels, face cloths, tooth brushes, toothpaste, etc.). The 200 bicycles we provided were specifically requested by Japanese Christians because there was no gas available, and many areas remain inaccessible to vehicles because of destroyed roads. Our colleagues have used the bicycles to deliver relief supplies to families. We also provided eye-glasses, because many people lost theirs during the commotion of the quake and tsunami. This was especially demoralizing for the elderly, as not being able to see clearly increased the trauma of their ordeal.

Our coworkers in Japan report that many people in the disaster zone are now open to the claims of Christ on their lives, and are appreciative for the loving help they have received from Christians both in Japan and from all around the world.

## ...and an Unreported Earthquake



The Lord Jesus foretold that there would be an increase in natural disasters in the world, including earthquakes, as we draw closer to His coming. We are certainly experiencing this at the moment!

Another huge earthquake, measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale, struck northeast Myanmar (Burma) on 24 March. It was largely unreported by the world media, which was focused on the disaster in Japan and unrest in the Middle East.

The quake struck in the 'Golden Triangle' region where the countries of Myanmar, Thailand and Laos meet. Dozens of tribes inhabit this dense jungle area. The worst-affected communities were in Myanmar, where at least 400 people died.

Whereas Japan is a wealthy nation where people have insurance and the government has the resources to help with long-term rebuilding, Myanmar is a desperately poor country. Most people's homes are simple structures made of bamboo or flimsy wood. Thousands of such homes were destroyed in seconds by the earthquake. As the affected region has a long history of conflict with the Burmese military, the national government has refused to help them. The people have been largely forced to care for themselves the best they can.

Having been based in northern Thailand for many years, Asia Harvest has many contacts in the area. This latest disaster provided another strategic opportunity to help those in need. For \$120 per family we have provided shelter, food, medicine, and clothing to those with nothing. Thanks to the generosity of many people who read of this need on our website, we have so far sent \$45,000 in assistance.

Please pray for the tribes of the Golden Triangle, many of which remain unreached by the Gospel. Pray this disaster will open hearts and thousands will not only find physical comfort, but salvation in Christ.

There is an ongoing need to help the victims of this "unreported" disaster. If you would like to give, please use the enclosed Response form and indicate your gift is for the **Asia Disaster Relief fund. 100% of donations received go directly to the need.** Nothing at all is deducted for administration or any other expense. We cover all such costs ourselves.



*A small boy in Myanmar having bamboo splinters removed from his face after the earthquake.*

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



*Current Total: 3,468,121 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 18% capacity.**

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

*Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 398 Asian evangelists working among 140 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: 214,874 Bibles Printed in 34 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 645 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 9,651 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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July 2011 - Newsletter #110



## **An Emergency in China**

**Interview with Paul Hattaway, Part Two**

# What Future for China?

by Brother Gary\*

I have known Paul Hattaway since 1992, when we first worked together delivering Bibles to house churches in China. In recent years we have increased our partnership together, and we look forward to increased synergy providing Bibles, as together we intensify our commitment to the priority of God's Word.

How can anyone seriously say there is no longer a need for Bibles in China? It is not only a problem of distribution, it is also a problem of basic supply. Not only is there a great shortage of God's Word among believers, there are countless tens or even hundreds of millions more people who are interested in Christ, but who will not make a decision unless they have an opportunity to read the one Book that truly represents what Christian faith is. How can new Christians, with no cultural background in Christian faith whatsoever, grow and know their Lord without His Word? Could you?

It is clear that the 21st century is going to be "China's Century". China is THE emerging superpower. What kind of China will emerge? Possibly a Christian China—but that cannot come to pass without Bibles. The greatest missions sending nation in history? Not without Bibles. The greatest wealth directed towards the cause of Christ worldwide? Not without Bibles. Political and military power harnessed for good? Not without Bibles.

What investment has a better guaranteed return than the Word of God? Where could that investment be more strategically directed than in China? And when more critically than right now? I know three different successful Christian businessmen who have been surprised to receive requests for help from Chinese house church leaders. They ask for one thing only — Bibles. They are hungry for the only Bread that satisfies, but there is a famine in the land. The printing capacity and the delivery networks already exist under the supervision of proven and honest men and women of God, most of whom do the work at considerable personal risk. The missing ingredient is simply the finances.

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*\* Gary is a long-term friend of Asia Harvest. He leads China Harvest, a ministry with a similar vision and heart to serve and equip the believers in China.*

# AN EMERGENCY IN CHINA

## Straight Talk on the Need for Bibles

### An Interview with Paul Hattaway (Part 2)

For nearly a quarter of a century Asia Harvest has been providing Bibles to the house churches in China. In the early years this consisted of hosting many short-term teams who came to Hong Kong and carried Bibles in their bags and suitcases across the border into China. In the late 1990s we started printing Bibles secretly inside China. This greatly increased the quantity we could supply, while sharply reducing the cost per Bible. Overall, Asia Harvest and our supporters have now printed and delivered more than 3.7 million Bibles to the house church believers in China.

We recently sat down with Paul Hattaway, the director of Asia Harvest, and asked him about the current need for Bibles in China. Following is the second and final part of our interview....

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**Asia Harvest:** *In our previous newsletter we ascertained that there is a huge need for Bibles in China among the house churches. Just how great is the need?*

**Paul Hattaway:** Our co-workers needed to answer the same question, so last year they asked many leaders of house church networks in China to survey their members and tell us of their needs. The result was staggering. Added together, ***the house churches throughout China urgently need 34 million Bibles***, just to provide the Word of God to all of their members. It would be many millions more if enquirers are considered, but our priority is to provide Bibles to as many believers as possible.

**AH:** *This is a huge number. How did the need get to be so large?*

**PH:** It has been stated that “every Christian in China is an evangelist,” and generally this

is true. In one sense, the problem of providing Bibles can never be fully met while the church is in revival.

The more Bibles that are printed, the more people get saved and the more Bibles are needed!

Many China ministries believe that, on average, ***two to three people come to faith in Jesus Christ for every Bible that is printed in China.***

For years one major mission group has said at least five people experience salvation for every Chinese Bible. Our experiences line up with these claims.

We have received numerous letters from church leaders telling us how they used to have 500 believers in their area, for example, but after we delivered a shipment of Bibles they grew to two or three times



that number in a short time. It is a great problem to have!

In the past, many missionaries to China were greatly discouraged because of the difficulty trying to reach people. The Welsh missionary Griffith John wrote, *“The good news is moving 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.”*

The seasons have changed, and for the past 30 years God has done a mighty work in China. Countless millions are meeting Him for the first time. Now is the time of salvation in China!

People reading this may feel that their own communities bear little resemblance to what is happening in China and many other parts of the world today.

Don't be jealous, however. For when God was powerfully visiting many parts of the Western world in past generations, China was blind and hardened to the Gospel message. Millions who perished are now burning in hell because of it.

**AH:** *When we share about the needs of China and Asia with Christians in our country, someone invariably says, “We have plenty of needs in our area too, so why should we worry about people on the other side of the world?” How do you respond to this?*

**PH:** Certainly there are needs everywhere, but there are a few different ways I would respond to this attitude. The first and most

important thing people need to consider is what does the Bible teach? God clearly reveals that His heart is for the whole world. Our God is a missionary God, who sent His own Son to reach the lost. He didn't command His followers to only go into their local communities, but to the ends of the earth. The disciples were told, ***“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem [the local area], and in all Judea and Samaria [neighboring regions], and to the ends of the earth”*** (Acts 1:8).

Notice the Lord didn't say they should “first” reach Jerusalem, “then” Judea and Samaria, and “ultimately” the ends of the earth. All three are to be done simultaneously. Christians need to be involved in reaching the far ends of the earth at the same time they are reaching their local communities.

People often think they are at the center of the universe, whereas God's primary concern is for the lost masses and people groups who have never heard the Gospel. If we count ourselves among His followers, we need to have an interest in the big picture. He cares for His lost sheep wherever they are, especially for those in the most remote and neglected lands.

Often during my travels in the West I feel a bit weird. We meet many sincere Christians who spend all their time and energy “reaching” towns in their country which already have churches on every street corner.

Then we travel thousands of miles through areas of Tibet or Central Asia where not a single church building can be seen. There are no Christian workers, and few people



have ever heard the Name of Jesus. Such things must look strange in heaven.

**AH:** *Many Christians don't help with needs on the other side of the world because they are unable to relate to those languages and cultures. How can this be overcome?*

**PH:** In regards to Bibles in China, we are all one family in Christ. We have millions of brothers and sisters in China starving without God's Word, despite there being a proven and efficient method to provide Bibles for just \$1.80 each. This opportunity should excite Christians who hear about it, regardless of where they live in the world.

Another way to look at things is from a strategic investment point of view.

Several years ago the *World Christian Encyclopedia* published a fascinating study on the financial cost of producing one new baptized follower of Christ in various parts of the world. This was calculated by finding

the total spent on all Christian activities (outreach, church buildings, Christian television and radio, literature etc.) in a country, and dividing the amount by the number of baptisms each year.

Incredibly, the study estimated that it costs \$1.5 million to produce every new baptized believer in the United States! Are these believers precious to God? Of course they are! But so are souls in China, the most populated country on earth, where about 1,300,000,000 people are lost in their sin and hell-bound.

Providing God's Word to fellow believers in China should appeal to all kinds of Christians. For those with a shepherd's heart, here is an opportunity to nourish and strengthen new believers with the Scriptures. For those with the heart of an evangelist, I can't think of a more attractive investment. \$1.80 will provide a Bible, which will bring an additional two or three

Chinese people (on average) to salvation. That's unbeatable investment value!

**AH:** *Can you share a little about why the Bibles we print in China are so inexpensive? Most people think \$1.80 is a very low price for a Bible. Other organizations charge anywhere from \$3 to \$10.50 for similar Chinese Bibles.*

**PH:** There are no gimmicks or trickery involved with our cost price of \$1.80 per Bible! If someone sends us \$1.80, then one Bible really is printed and delivered to a believer in China. If we receive a donation of \$180, then 100 Bibles really are printed and delivered.

The Bibles we print in China are full Bibles (not just New Testaments), excellent quality, with strong covers and binding. As a ministry, we have always wanted to supply as many Bibles as possible, for as economically as possible. After 3.7 million Bibles, we have yet to receive a single complaint from anyone in China!

The reason why our cost price is much less than most other organizations is something people who want to know will need to ask the other organizations involved. We are glad for every Bible that is produced for China. We just wish there were a lot more!

We do not use this or any other project as an excuse to raise funds for ourselves. Anyone who knows the way we operate will testify that we do so with a bare minimum of staff and overhead expenses.

Our goal is simply to do what the Lord has told us to do, and that is to provide as many Bibles as possible to His children in China. We have been doing this since 1988. This is a matter of life and death. We have been blessed to see the life-changing difference

God's Word makes when it is provided to a community, and horrified to experience the depravity and deception that envelops a people group or place when the Scriptures are absent or ignored.

We feel the time available to reach the lost is running out, and God's clock will soon strike midnight. There is no time to play games or make excuses. This is no time to live our lives like we will be on this earth forever, while the lost perish around us. May we pray like Moses, ***"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom"*** (Psalm 90:12).

Another key reason for the low cost of our Bibles is the diligence of our Chinese co-workers. They have spent a lot of time finding the most secure and economical way to print Bibles, because their motive is also to reach as many people with God's Word as possible.

**AH:** *How do you know that all the Bibles being printed in China are really getting delivered to believers?*

**PH:** Many people who are experienced in China Christian work have told us they are greatly impressed by the level of reporting we receive from our Chinese co-workers.

Within weeks of each print-run, we receive detailed reports showing us where every single box of Bibles ended up, along with extensive accounting.

We then have some Western colleagues who do "spot checks" to ensure the information we receive is correct, that the funds have been used with full integrity and the Bibles have been delivered as reported.

For partner ministries, we take the distribution reports and overlay the

information on maps of China, giving a powerful visual display of the locations in China their support has impacted.

This tested and effective method of providing Bibles to the hungry believers in China has not just fallen into place by accident. It has come about through many years of prayer, faith, and hard work by many people in China. Some have been arrested and imprisoned for their involvement, so it has also come at great cost.

**AH:** *The house churches in China need 34 million Bibles for their members. At \$1.80 each we would need \$61.2 million! ....*

**PH:** Let me interrupt you there. Such numbers often discourage people from thinking they can make a difference. When one missionary arrived in India he was asked, "How do you plan to reach a billion people?" He replied, "One at a time!"

In the same way, every single Bible that is printed makes a huge difference in the lives of those who receive it. These are people just like you and me. They are young men and women whose lives have been transformed by the Gospel. They are families who desire more of Christ, and who want to raise their children in a godly home.

After receiving a Bible, their faith is established and strengthened, and they in turn share the Gospel with their neighbors and friends.

Everyone reading these words can make a huge difference in China, regardless of whatever resources they may or may not have at their disposal.

Firstly, please pray for this project. We don't want to take on this need in our own strength, without God's blessing, because our endeavors will fall flat.

Believe me when I say that every person who becomes closely involved with the Bible project immediately finds themselves in an intense spiritual battle. Satan does all he can to disrupt and destroy this work. Please pray for God's power, protection, and provision to cover all who are involved in providing Bibles to the Chinese house churches.

Secondly, in this time of economic difficulty for many, let us remember the words of the hymn, "Little is much, when God is in it!" You don't need to be materially wealthy to make a great difference in people's lives in China.

Recently we received a letter from a friend named Rich, who lives in New Jersey. He wrote, "*How's this for a clever way of sending Bibles... I called up my private garbage collector and requested a smaller size can. Now I save \$5.40 every two months—just enough for three more Bibles!*"

With this simple action, Rich is able to provide 18 more Bibles to the believers in China each year. These 18 Bibles will result in between 36 and 54 people coming to know Jesus for the first time. I realize that this sounds too good to be true, except that all the evidence points towards it being true!

Therefore please don't think you are unable to make a difference in China. God always looks for an obedient heart, and is not impressed by the things that people are often impressed by.



**AH:** *At the same time isn't it true that those who do have a lot of resources at their disposal should also be involved?*

**PH:** Yes, of course. It is a huge responsibility to be a Christian with the means to help God's work. To those whom much has been given, much will be required.

May I be really blunt with you? The main reason 34 million Christians in China are without access to God's Word is not because China is a Communist nation, but because the priorities of the Church around the world has become so skewed.

Multitudes of believers are spiritually blind to things that matter most to God, and they major in things of little consequence.

You mentioned earlier that if we had \$61 million we would be able to provide God's Word to every believer in China who is without a Bible.

When we think of such a large number we may feel personally helpless, but is such an amount a lot of money for the worldwide Church to provide?

A few years ago my family and I were in the United States, where we visited some friends. They took us to see their church building where several thousand believers meet every week. As far as buildings go, the church was an impressive structure, but our friends explained the church was building another facility right next to the existing one.

The "old" building (which was actually quite new) would then be used for Sunday school classes and other purposes. The church had purchased a row of houses on an adjoining street, and demolished them to make room for more parking spaces. The total cost of this new church building was \$40 million.

I wonder what the leaders and members of that one congregation would say if we met with them and asked them to abandon their plans? Instead, they could remain in their existing building and use the spare money to provide more than 22 million Bibles to the Christians in China, who in turn would lead 40, 50, or 60 million lost souls into the kingdom of God.



The above example is just one congregation, in one medium-size city, in one state of America.

There are countless other examples of far more lavish expenditure on things God has little interest in. It is by no means just an American problem either. One church in Singapore has recently raised \$400 million to construct their new church building!

All of this must look very strange in heaven, the dwelling place of our God who *"is the Lord of*

*heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands” (Acts 17:24).*

So after sharing this perspective, let me ask you this rhetorical question: is \$61 million really a lot of money for the whole Body of Christ to provide so that all believers in China will have a Bible?

Could it be that the main reason the Gospel has yet to impact thousands of people groups in the world after 2,000 years is because Christians have their priorities all messed up?

I am reminded of a church in Australia who stopped supporting all of their missionaries, and instead used the money to pay for a 20-minute fireworks display. I'm sure it was an amazing show, but what does God think of such things? I could continue with many similar examples but they wouldn't be very edifying!

Our responsibility, in our own lives and families, is to earnestly seek the Lord and ask Him to make sure our priorities line up with God's priorities.

Bob Pierce, who founded World Vision, often prayed, *“Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God.”* The Lord answered his prayers, and today millions of children throughout the world are fed, clothed and educated every day as a result.

Please pray our Heavenly Father would break through the spiritual blindness. Pray the Holy Spirit would reveal God's broken heart about those in China and elsewhere who are without access to His Word.

*AH: Thanks for sharing your heart on the need for Bibles in China today. I think many readers will be surprised by the things you have shared. Is there anything you would like to say in conclusion?*

**PH:** I am thankful for everyone who has taken the time to read this interview. If all you have learned is the size of the need in China, then we have failed. I hope you can clearly see the exciting opportunities that exists to help meet this need.

On behalf of our neglected spiritual family who meet in China's house churches, I ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help provide Bibles, regardless of the amount. Every single Bible is important.

It is a great opportunity to be involved in transforming many lives from darkness to light through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our commitment to you is that we will continue to print and deliver as many Bibles to the Christians in China as we are able, as inexpensively as possible.

By God's grace we will not tire until the need is met, or the Lord Jesus returns for His bride!

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*If you would like to help support the need for Bibles in China, you can do so by post, using the yellow “Response form” in this newsletter. You can also set up one-time or monthly donations via our website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org). Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.*

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



*Current Total: 3,753,225 Bibles printed and delivered.*

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*Thanks to your support we are currently able to support 490 Asian evangelists working among 141 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*



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## SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

*Current Total: 222,179 Bibles printed in 34 languages*



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## ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND

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



Over the years Asia Harvest has provided relief assistance to the victims of natural disasters such as the earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the Tsunamis of Southeast Asia and Japan, 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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October 2011 - Newsletter #111



## Nuggets from the Harvest Field

Standing Firm in a Time of Shaking

# From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

*“Now he has promised, ‘Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’ The words ‘once more’ indicate the removal of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire.’” (Hebrews 12:26-29).*

Since the Lord Jesus first called us to serve Him in Asia, we have been privileged to be a link between the Church in Asia and Christians around the world. We get to travel to various countries, and meet believers from a myriad of cultures and backgrounds. It has given us a fresh appreciation for the Body of Christ.

Over the last few years many Christians we have met have reported that they are going through a shaking process. The kind of shaking people are experiencing varies from place to place, and from person to person. Many are under pressure financially, through health crises, marital struggles, persecution and discrimination, church splits, etc. People’s moral and ethical integrity is being tested and shaken. Many of our Christian friends in Christchurch, New Zealand, have had their nerves frayed by continual physical shaking with more than 7,500 earthquakes and aftershocks in the past year.

It is not only individual lives that are being shaken. Many churches and ministries have been experiencing a great shaking also. One of the world’s largest mission organizations, which has a history of almost 200 years, has experienced such major financial difficulties in the last few years that they have had to bring hundreds of missionaries home from the field.

We tell you this not to depress you, but hope that if you are experiencing a difficult time in your life, you will realize that God is busy purifying those He loves. He does this for our own good, and for His glory. Jesus is not returning for a messed-up bride. He is returning for a beautiful bride, for the Lord **“gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”** (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Because we live in a fallen world, much of the time we don't feel too radiant, holy and blameless, but God loves His children so much that He patiently helps us to become all that He intends. A large part of that process is allowing the Holy Spirit to shake our lives. He wants to shake out sinful patterns and thoughts, bad attitudes and practices, false ideas and beliefs. He wants to set us free from both legalism and licentiousness. When the shaking process is complete, we will be better equipped to serve and glorify Him.

Once we heard on the news that a wealthy businessman gave a brand new \$200,000 Ferrari for his son on his 18th birthday. Two hours later the teenager was dead. He had not been trained to receive such a gift and was unable to drive the car with the necessary level of skill and caution. Our Heavenly Father will not bestow His children with certain gifts unless they are equipped to handle them responsibly without disgracing His Name and hurting themselves.

One thing we have realized in our own lives over the years is that hard times and shakings are designed and permitted by the Lord for our own good. When things are comfortable we can easily slip into spiritual complacency. Lives that make a difference are often first tested in the furnace of affliction and difficulty. Times of ease, prosperity and idleness, on the other hand, often lead to sin. When King David chose to commit adultery and murder, Israel was experiencing a time of unparalleled prosperity and success.

The Church in China was feeble and struggling before Communism came to power. Decades of affliction have resulted in a strong and determined Chinese Church today, and there are now approximately 100 million more Christians than before their struggles began. It is not the persecution and shaking in itself that makes us holy. Rather, difficult circumstances drive us to God's Word, and it is the "washing with water through the word" which makes us holy.

Take note of what the Almighty God once told Israel: ***"See, I have refined you, though not as silver. I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another"*** (Isaiah 48:10-11).

The same is true for Christians today. The all-wise God will not let His Name be defamed, and He is shaking the Church. It needs to be shaken so that false believers will either repent or be separated from the flock. In the American 'Bible belt' the divorce rate and the number of unwed teen pregnancies is reportedly now higher than the rest of the country. Recently we read a shocking study into the state of Christianity in America. Researcher David Campbell questioned thousands of Christians throughout the nation and found that **83% of evangelical Protestants agreed that "good people" of other religions will go to heaven.**

Another study in *USA Today* reported that **52% of Christians in the United States believe that eternal life is not exclusively for those who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.**



From these surveys, it seems that the majority of professing believers no longer think Jesus is required to get into heaven. There seems to be a growing consensus among church-goers that we can make it on our own, and all “good people” will go to heaven. Not only does this directly contradict the Scriptures, it is a direct slap in the face of God, who sent His beloved Son to die on a cross for sinful mankind. If it is possible to get into heaven by being good, then Jesus obviously wasted His time dying such a cruel and painful death for all who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The Lord of Lords and King of Kings will not let His Name be defamed in such a disgraceful manner by a backslidden church, and so He is shaking His children all around the world. If you are going through a testing time, you need to realize that your experiences are common, and should be expected. The Bible addresses Christians this way:

***“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.... However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ... So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good” (1 Peter 4:12, 16-17, 19).***

There are great changes going on in the world. The number of earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural disasters seem to be dramatically increasing. The financial systems of the world are swaying back and forth, causing fear and trepidation in the hearts of millions. At such a time as this, God’s people need to rise up and live godly, uncompromising lives as we walk in His light. The Bible exhorts us to submit to God’s cleansing process so that we may be, ***“an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work” (2 Timothy 2:21).***

This is a time for every Christian to make a decision about the level of commitment they want to make to God. Those who are content to keep one foot in the world will soon find such a compromised faith impossible to maintain.

For those who don’t want to be mere church-goers, but who desire to know and obey the Lord Jesus more than ever, be encouraged! The Bible says we should ***“...not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).***

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Over the years we have recorded hundreds of testimonies told to us by Christian workers throughout Asia. In the remainder of this newsletter we would like to share a few of these to encourage your faith.

## THE MIRACLE MUSHROOMS

As a powerful revival swept across central China in the 1990s, many Christians responded to God's call to preach the Gospel in unreached regions of the country. Two teenage girls from central China travelled to remote Qinghai Province to reach the Buddhist ethnic minorities living there. They had no financial support, no return tickets and no contacts. The whole region was completely devoid of any knowledge of Jesus. After arriving, the duo's hearts were filled with compassion. They tried to share Christ's message, but the local women opposed them and drove them out of their homes. They were forced to sleep wherever they could find shelter: under bushes, in abandoned farm sheds, and the like. They were struggling, their stomachs were empty, and nobody would listen to the good news they desired to share.

One day the two girls heard about an abandoned cave that the locals avoided because they believed it to be haunted by ghosts. The girls saw this as the Lord's provision and prayed against any unclean spirits as they moved into their new home. The girls prayed for many hours with tears in their eyes, asking the Lord to help them. One night they were particularly downcast and hungry. They felt that unless the Lord did a miracle, they would die. They prayed until they fell asleep. In the morning they awoke to find that during the night mushrooms had sprouted right outside the entrance of the cave! They immediately boiled them, thanking God for their nutritious meal.

The next morning they woke to discover more mushrooms had grown up again during the night! This continued every morning for about a year. Even in winter these miraculous mushrooms never failed to appear, poking their heads up through the snow outside the cave entrance. The girls learned how to enjoy mushrooms in every possible way. They boiled them, fried them and steamed them. They always tasted delicious, because they were miraculous provision of God.

Gradually these two young women started to be accepted by the local community. They were able to lead some women to Christ. A small church was established for the first time in the region. After about a year, one of the young women secured a job washing dishes at a local restaurant. The very same day she commenced work the mushrooms stopped appearing outside the cave! For many years now the "haunted" cave has been used as a Bible training centre for new believers. Now hundreds of people have come to Christ in that area.



*A "cave church" in China.*

## THE BURNING TOOTH



Do you know that the country of Vietnam is home to about 150 different tribes and ethnic groups, each one having their own customs and language? Some of these tribes live in extremely remote areas in the mountainous central and northern parts of the country. Some tribes have embraced Christianity, but most remain completely cut off from the Gospel.

One such tribe is the Churu (pronounced “Ju-Ru”) people, who number about 15,000 people. They live in foreboding mountains along Vietnam’s border with Cambodia. For countless centuries the Churu people have lived in spiritual bondage under the power of local shamans, or witch-doctors. A number of years ago we were told the following testimony by a Vietnamese evangelist. The following events were witnessed by many people....

*“To reach the Churu people we walked for several days. Many wild animals and leeches inhabit this part of Vietnam. Each time we crossed a river or stream our legs and arms were covered with leeches. After many struggles we finally reached a Churu village.*

*A number of tribes in the mountains of Vietnam received the Gospel before missionaries were expelled in 1975, but the Churu inhabit such a remote area that missionaries were never able to reach them. Few outsiders had ever visited them, and they remained a completely unreached people group.*

*Within minutes of arriving in the village a large crowd gathered around us to hear what we had to say. Most Churu people were naked, even though it gets very cold in the mountains. They do not choose to go naked. They are simply so poor they cannot afford to buy or make even a simple cloth.*

*The witch-doctors among the Churu possess a lot of demonic power. All the villagers live in fear of them. If a witch-doctor places a curse on someone who is not a Christian, that person is sure to die. The people are also kept in poverty because of the evil men. Whenever someone is sick they must consult the witch-doctor, who demands the sacrifice of valuable livestock as offerings to the evil spirits, and as payment for his services.*

*We started sharing stories of Jesus with the Churu people, as the witch-doctor emerged from his hut and began to listen. We told the people Jesus could set them free from sin and*

bondage if they put their trust in Him, and that they did not need to remain under the control of demonic spirits. The witch-doctor began to stir the people up against us and we could see that a major spiritual confrontation was looming. We told the villagers not to be afraid because Jesus is the Living God and that all power and authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Him!

We told them how our God once proved He is the true and Living God by causing fire to fall from heaven on Elijah's sacrifice, while the Baal "witch-doctors" stood by powerless.

The main symbol of the witch-doctor's authority was a huge wild pig's tooth which he wore on a chain around his neck. The tooth had been handed down from generation to generation, and whoever possessed it had the right to lead the community and to mediate between the people and the spirit world.

The witch-doctor stepped forward, with a furious look on his face. He took the chain with the pig's tooth from around his neck and angrily shouted, "If your God can make this tooth catch on fire then we will believe in Him, but if it does not catch on fire we will kill all of you right here!"

As you can imagine we prayed very fervently and cried out to the Lord! Hundreds of Churu tribesmen gathered around and watched intently to see what would happen.

After praying for some time, suddenly the pig's tooth burst into flames by itself! The whole village saw it and were amazed. Many believed the message, and dedicated their lives to Jesus Christ.

Today we have a church of more than 300 Churu people. We constantly teach God's Word to them through stories because they are very simple people who struggle to understand concepts except in story form.

God's grace and love is resting upon the Churu Christians. For the first time ever they have joy and peace, and they no longer live under the power of demons. Jesus has set them free! We sent teams of strong young men back into the mountains with clothes and blankets to help our new Churu brothers and sisters.

We praise God that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"





## THE MAN WITH TWO HEADS

In 1994, in the town of Nanyang in China's Henan Province, an elderly well-known doctor named Chen developed a cancer in the side of his face. The cancer grew to enormous proportions until it looked from a distance as though he had two heads.

The ear on that side of his head moved a considerable distance from its normal position; as fluids congregated and made it balloon out. His appearance was so hideous that people frequently turned away in disgust and horror when he walked down the street. As his condition worsened, Dr. Chen suffered terrible pain and he was unable to sleep.

Dr. Chen and his 12-year-old grandson visited a physician and was plainly told there was nothing that could be done for him. Chen was instructed to go home, set his affairs in order, and prepare to die. The physician gave some poison to the grandson, advising him to slip it into his grandfather's tea so that his life would end 'mercifully'.

Later that afternoon, as the boy walked down the street, he wept uncontrollably for his beloved grandfather. The boy knew he couldn't do what the physician had asked him to do. His intense wailing and desperation caught the attention of people, including a house church evangelist who stopped Dr. Chen's grandson and asked what was wrong. The boy told the story of what had happened earlier in the day. The evangelist told him, "Whatever you do, don't put the poison in your grandfather's tea." He wrote an address on a piece of paper and said, "Please bring your grandfather to this address at seven o'clock."

In intense agony and distress, Dr. Chen and his grandson made their way to the address the evangelist had given them, not knowing what or who they would find there. When they arrived they found a house church meeting in progress, with a preacher sharing the Word of God. Despite Dr. Chen's shocking appearance, the preacher continued his message. After he had concluded, the evangelist laid



his hands on each of Dr. Chen's "heads" and prayed a simple prayer, asking God to heal him.

Dr. Chen returned home that evening with no apparent change in his condition. He fell asleep and woke up thirteen hours later, the first time in three months he had gained any good rest. The next day, however, he still had two "heads" and did not look any better. Chen and his grandson rushed back to the evangelist's house. The preacher told them not to worry, because God had already healed him and it would take a little time for the physical symptoms to reflect the spiritual reality of what had happened.

Dr. Chen's condition gradually improved over the following days. One week later he had been totally healed and his appearance had returned to normal. His ear returned to its normal position and even the stretched skin where his face had ballooned out now looked unscarred.

After Dr. Chen and his grandson became disciples of Jesus Christ, the doctor's conscience was troubled because for years he had deceived people by selling them fake pills which he knew contained no medicinal value. Chen repented, and immediately went to his medical clinic and threw the pills away. He kept the pill bottles, however, and made some new labels which said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be healed!"

Hundreds of people in Nanyang had seen Dr. Chen's condition before and after his healing, and nobody could dispute that a great miracle had taken place. The doctor became a bold evangelist, and by 1996 he had led more than 300 people to faith in the Great Physician.

## THANK YOU!



Our previous two newsletters outlined the urgent need for Bibles among the house churches in China. Many people have responded. The total number of Bibles we have printed in China since we started this project is approaching the four million milestone, and each one is a gift of love and sacrifice from Christians around the world.

Some people have expressed shock because they had believed the government's lie that Bibles are now freely available to all Christians in China. One missionary, who has served in China for many years, expressed relief that we so clearly laid out the reality and urgency of the situation in China. Many have labored away for years knowing the reality of the situation in China without hearing the urgent need for Bibles communicated clearly around the world.

Please continue to pray for his ongoing need.

On behalf of your brothers and sisters in China, thank you and God bless you.

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



*Current Total: 3,989,957 Bibles printed and delivered.*

We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term project 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 230,000 Chinese Bibles per month depending on incoming funds. So far this year we are operating at 32.0% capacity.**

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

*Thanks to your support we are currently able to support 494 Asian evangelists working among 141 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: 241,393 Bibles printed in 34 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.**

## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 704 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 **Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists in China and other Communist nations 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 10,265 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 Tsunamis of Southeast Asia and Japan, 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 2011 - Newsletter #112**



## **Showers of Refreshing**

**God's Kingdom Continues to Grow in Asia**

# Unexpected Detours

with Robert & Lisa Plumbridge

*Robert and Lisa are missionaries who work in a restricted Asian country, overseeing Asia Harvest projects. They recently shared an encouraging message and testimony with us, which we in turn would like to share with you in this newsletter...*

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All Christians find their walk with Christ can be very challenging at times, especially when they encounter the storms that life can suddenly throw at them.

Of course such turbulence is understandable when a person makes bad choices or acts with presumption and without discernment. But it can be very hard to understand when it happens to a believer who has done their best to walk obediently before the Lord. They may have done all they believe God is requiring them to do, yet events intervene that end up making us feel our vision may never be fulfilled.

In Acts 27 the Apostle Paul set sail for Rome. He believed God would have him stand before Caesar—the most powerful individual on the face of the earth at the time.

The journey began well. The sea was calm, and the winds favorable. After a while they arrived at their first port, Sidon. Paul saw that God had given him great favor. Julius, the Centurion in charge of the prisoners, told Paul he could go ashore unguarded and meet with his friends. The immensity of this favor becomes apparent when we remember that Paul was a prisoner, and the law stated that a Roman soldier would be executed if he allowed a prisoner to escape. Yet this Centurion allowed Paul absolute freedom to leave the ship and visit his friends in a foreign port!

As they set sail from Sidon, it would have been easy for Paul to rejoice in the circumstances, good weather, and incredible favor he had experienced. He was no doubt confident that God was going to allow him to plead his case before Caesar.

Then things began to change. We read in Acts 27:4-9 that they quickly encountered strong headwinds. It became difficult to keep the ship on course, and their progress was halted as the wind turned against them. Things worsened until in verses 14-18 we are told the weather abruptly deteriorated and became hurricane strength. The captain was unable to steer the ship. They threw the cargo overboard, and **“When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up hope of being saved.”** (Acts 27:20).



To encourage Paul in the midst of these horrendous circumstances, God sent an angel to him, telling him to take courage because he would live and stand before Caesar. After 14 days caught in the storm, the ship ran aground on the coast of Malta and broke up. (In the past we used to do a lot of scuba diving and we have been caught in wild storms at sea. These usually passed within a day or two. Fourteen days is simply unimaginable.)

Dumped on a cold beach, Paul tried to make a fire when a snake bit him on the hand! It must have seemed like God had forgotten the plan. Things were going from bad to worse, and weren't lining up with the vision Paul had to go to Rome and stand before Caesar.



Why did God allow these things to occur? Let us take a look at what happened from His heavenly perspective.

When the snake bit Paul, he shook it off and showed no ill-effects. The people previously thought Paul was an evil man whom God was determined to punish, but now they viewed him as a man of unique power.

Malta has a coastline 121 miles (196 km) long. Paul could have been shipwrecked anywhere along the coast, but it happened right in front of the estate of the most powerful man on the island, the Roman governor Publius. The father of Publius was suffering from fever and dysentery, a near-certain death sentence in those days. Paul prayed for



him and he was healed. News of this miracle went forth, and over the next three months, ***“the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured”*** (Acts 28:9).

Paul eventually arrived in Rome, three months later than he thought he would. History records that indeed he testified before Caesar.

The three elements of Paul’s “detour” were the storm, the shipwreck and the snake.

The storm blew them off the course **they had set** and pointed them in the **direction God wanted**. The shipwreck **stopped them exactly** where God wanted them to stop.

The victory over the snake bite was a demonstration of the power of God that opened the doors of Malta to Paul. What was the fruit of this detour? History tells us that Publius became the first Bishop of Malta and 2000 years later Malta is the nation with the highest percentage (98%) of citizens who regard themselves as Christians.

That is fruit which has remained!

Do you feel like you are in a storm? Maybe God is changing your direction for a special assignment. Do you feel you have been shipwrecked? Maybe God wants you to stop just where you are for this season.

Do you feel you have been bitten by a snake? If your focus remains firmly on God, that bite will be a sign and a wonderful witness to others of the power and goodness of God in your life.

Be encouraged. Storms, shipwrecks and snakebites can happen with relationships, health, finances, career and ministry (as with Paul), yet they can be part of a detour that can produce great fruit for God’s kingdom!

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We would like to share how God recently sent us on an unexpected detour, and brought about a great deliverance for one family.

We are privileged to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in a closed (Communist) country of Asia. Recently we were feeling exhausted after a very hectic month of ministry. Hundreds of people, by God’s grace, had been helped and many lives had been transformed by His love. At the end of the month we were looking forward to having a rest and recharging our spiritual, physical and emotional batteries. God, however, had a divine detour planned for us!

A local contact who was accompanying us said, “There is a very poor family living in a remote village who needs help. If you want, I can take you there.” We asked how far it would be, and were told it would be a 45-minute detour over a rough village road. We were resistant to the idea of going to this place. We felt we had done enough work for the month, and thought we could visit that family next time we were in the area.

We were about to tell our host that we couldn't go to the village, when the following question came to Lisa's mind, "What was the difference between the Levite and the Good Samaritan? The Good Samaritan stopped and helped."

Sometimes opportunities come at inconvenient times, but when we take those God-given opportunities we can be the answer to someone's prayer. We should always be ready to ***"Preach the word, be prepared in season and out of season"*** (2 Timothy 4:2).

We agreed to make the detour to visit this needy family.

After a difficult journey along a terrible pot-holed road, we arrived at the village. The first thing we heard when we opened our car doors was horrible screaming. It came from a 12-year-old boy who was possessed and tormented by demons. If you are one of those Christians who think demon-possession only happened in Bible times, come with us on such a trip and you will change your theology in an instant! This boy was in a similar condition to the demoniac described in the 5th chapter of Mark.

He had been possessed for some time and could not be controlled. His shrieks sounded like those of an animal, and made the hairs stand up on our necks. His family had been forced to build a small pen with wooden bars to contain him. He sat naked in this enclosure, a trophy of sin and Satan.

The boy's partially-paralyzed father shuffled forward to greet us. He shared how his wife's kidneys were failing, and how his elderly paralyzed father lay inside, close to death. While he was speaking, the man's sister painfully limped out of the house, both of her feet severely deformed and twisted. Every single member of the family was horribly afflicted in one way or another.

The father shared that things were so miserable that he thought his family was cursed. He told us, "I am desperate to be set free from this curse. Whenever anyone dies in the village I attend the funeral, hoping that somehow the spirits will take this curse away from our family."



Lisa asked if we could pray for the family. We noticed a statue of Mary in the corner of the room, as the family were nominal Catholics. When we asked to pray for them, the man went to light two candles. Lisa gently told him we would not be praying to Mary, but to the Lord Jesus Christ, for He alone is the one who took the curse and can set people free.

One of our team members knelt down and lifted the woman's soiled, diseased and deformed feet in his hands and asked God to heal her. The woman was shocked that anyone would touch her feet, and began to weep at this demonstration of God's love.



We then prayed in the powerful Name of Jesus Christ, binding and breaking all curses and demonic power that bound that desperate family.

Suddenly our host cried out, "The boy has stopped screaming! I have never heard him quiet and peaceful like this!"

We thank God we were able to pray for this family and helped them financially so they could buy some basic necessities. Last week we spoke with our host by phone. He said the family felt they had been greatly honored by our visit and the love of God that had been shown to them. We have sent some local coworkers to follow up with that family, and we believe they will continue to experience dramatic and life-changing transformation, as they **"turn from idols to serve the living and true God"** (1 Thess. 1:9).

Glory to God! We are glad He sent us on that detour, just as the Apostle Paul was many years ago when God sent him to Malta. May the Lord open our eyes to see the many opportunities we have to serve and glorify Him!

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM ASIA HARVEST



As this is our fifth and final newsletter for 2011, 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 2012 we hope, by God's grace, to continue serving the Church in Asia and we invite you to partner with us to see this happen. God bless you!



# From our Mailbox

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“God put his finger on this money last night and asked me to give it to print Bibles in China. I had been saving it for when I get married (I don’t have a clue when that may be), but obviously God needs it more than I do.”

**From a Sister in Indiana**

“Please take me off your newsletter list. I have been to China and know that Bibles are being printed there. Are you really sure you are doing the work of Jesus when you do things like this [supplying Bibles to Christians in China]? If you are, that is great, but for several reasons I question - strongly question - if Jesus himself would do what you are doing if He were here.”

**Paul, California**

“Just a short note to let you know how much I have enjoyed reading your last 3 newsletters; including the two about Bibles for China. I am thrilled to hear that your capacity to print and distribute Bibles within China has been raised from 200,000 to 230,000 per month. And, that as a ministry you have nearly hit the 4 million mark.

Having spent two months in China early this year in 16 different places, I was able to see the great need for myself. While I was in Beijing, I kept my eye out for Bibles and how hard they were to find; I had to go in to a 5 or 6-story bookshop just to find a handful and was then surprised at their cost - much greater than what your ministry can supply them at. I also felt at the time that they were ‘more for show’ in case foreigners came looking.

It is a MOST worthy cause to get the Word into the hands of the brethren who can read for themselves the precepts of God and go and do great exploits for Him. I heartily thank you for your ministry and the great grace and wisdom that rest upon you and your team, and pray that the Lord will give you the increase needed to bring glory to Him! A fellow labourer in the harvest, by His grace.”

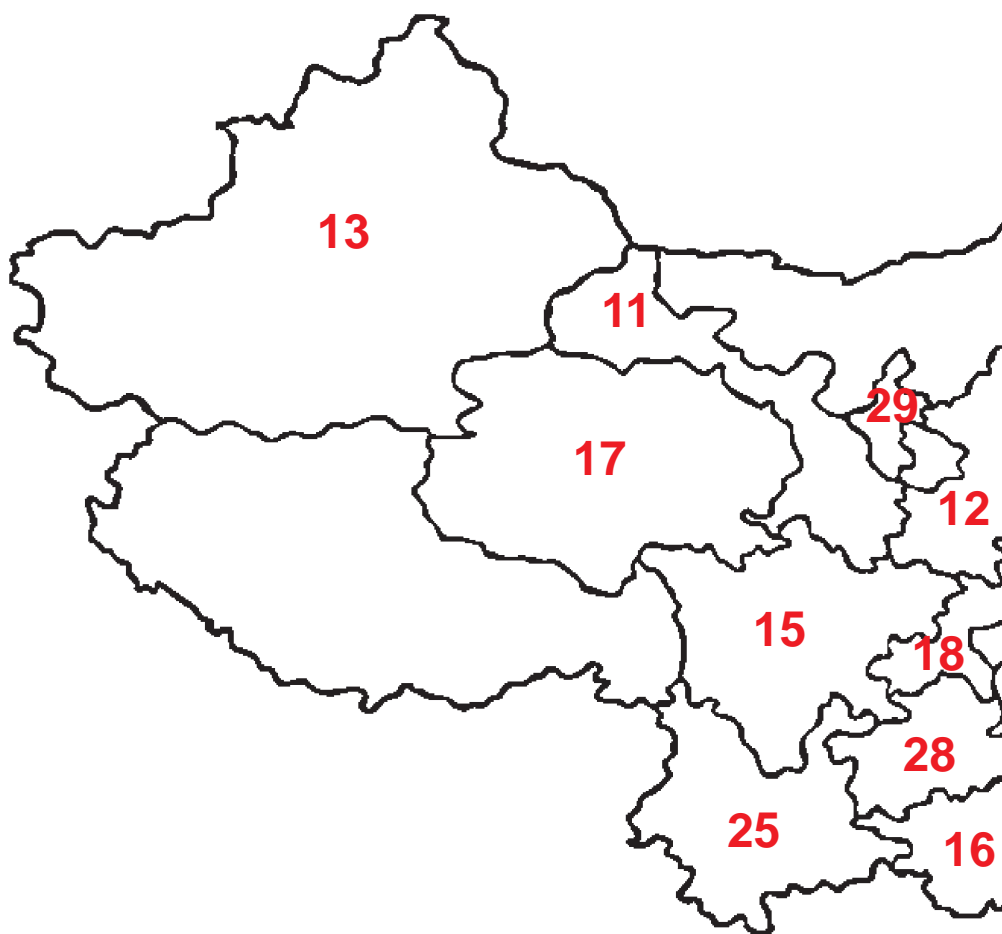
**Mathew, England**

“Thank you for your newsletter about the great need for more Bibles in China. Your note came just a day or so after I had prayed about where God would have us give. We prayed that God would use us to help bring others into the kingdom in some way. Then we received your newsletter saying that for EVERY Bible that gets distributed in China, there is a direct correlation to people being saved. I had never heard it stated that way before. I now find myself thinking... that hamburger and drink was two bucks – that could be another Bible for China.... Thank you for getting the word out and I pray your message will touch the hearts of others.”

**Gerald, Kansas**

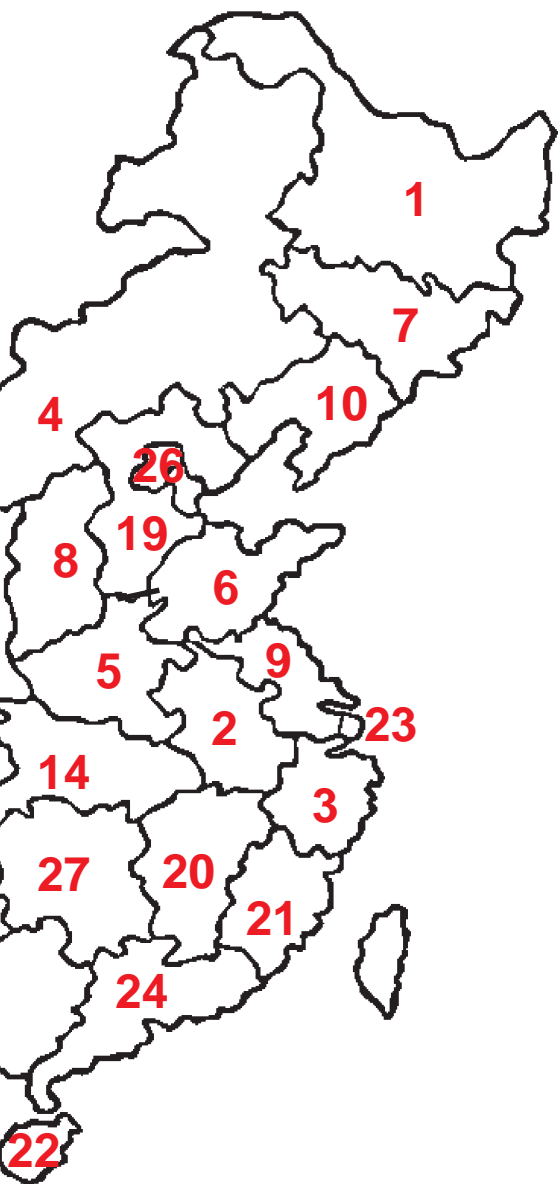


# CHINA BIBLE MAP



Thanks to the grace of God, and your prayers and generous support, Asia Harvest has now printed and delivered more than four million full Chinese Bibles to Christians in China. 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	Heilongjiang	386,704
2	Anhui	377,820
3	Zhejiang	322,187
4	Inner Mongolia	318,152
5	Henan	309,498
6	Shandong	277,102
7	Jilin	220,133
8	Shanxi	186,188
9	Jiangsu	153,402
10	Liaoning	147,346
11	Gansu	147,138
12	Shaanxi	129,378
13	Xinjiang	129,186
14	Hubei	125,806
15	Sichuan	124,194
16	Guangxi	123,086
17	Qinghai	119,694
18	Chongqing	107,254
19	Hebei	79,548
20	Jiangxi	74,592
21	Fujian	70,325
22	Hainan Island	69,149
23	Shanghai	51,586
24	Guangdong	40,812
25	Yunnan	30,703
26	Beijing	29,212
27	Hunan	12,888
28	Guizhou	10,718
29	Ningxia	5,735

**TOTAL 4,179,519**

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



***Current Total: 4,179,519 Bibles printed and delivered.***

We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term project 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 230,000 Chinese Bibles per month depending on incoming funds. So far this year we are operating at 37.0% capacity.**

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

***Thanks to your support we are currently able to support 497 Asian evangelists working among 147 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: 247,512 Bibles printed in 34 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.**

## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 708 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 **Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists in China and other Communist nations 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 10,338 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 Tsunamis of Southeast Asia and Japan, 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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