



**Asia Harvest**

**2014**

**NEWSLETTERS**

*(Combined)*

# Asia Harvest



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

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March 2014 - Newsletter #123



## 2014 Annual Report

Focusing on What Matters

# Asia Harvest Annual Report

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

As a family we get to meet Christians in various nations from various ethnic, social and church backgrounds. This gives us an opportunity to see and hear how believers are doing, and we try to encourage as many as possible to remain steadfast in the faith.

Over the past several years we have become increasingly aware that many Christians we meet—whether they be from India, Indiana, Beijing or Birmingham—are struggling in many areas. They are being tested in their marriages, jobs, finances, health and moral purity. Many have told us that “whatever could go wrong has gone wrong” in their lives. Satan knows his time is short, and the heat is being turned up everywhere on those who identify themselves as followers of the Lord Jesus.

We meet believers who have become disillusioned in their walk and service for God. There seems to be two different traps that many struggling Christians we meet have fallen into.

On one side of the path lies the danger of legalism. Countless people have been crushed by legalistic church environments, where unbiblical rules, regulations, traditions and ‘principles’ are forced upon them. Environments like this are toxic, and over time many people simply give up because they can’t endure the burden and shame of living by rules they are unable to keep.

Multitudes of people who believe in Jesus Christ have found themselves trapped in a spiritual desert. Legalism is a vicious yet subtle master. It promises living water for your thirsty soul but ends up giving you a mouth full of gravel. Young people are deserting such churches in droves, running in the opposite direction to get as far as away as possible.

If you are a believer who finds yourself in this position, we encourage you not to give up on Jesus. Realize that Satan is a very cunning foe, and his favorite strategy is designed to rot Christianity from the inside out. He doesn’t care what we believe, as long as it isn’t the Gospel that gives life and nourishment to our souls. The Bible says, *“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ... These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ”* (Colossians 2:8,17).



Friend, if you find yourself trapped in a cycle of continually striving and failing to obey human rules, we encourage you to keep placing your hope and trust in Jesus and continue to feed on His Word. The reality is always found in Jesus Christ, not in obeying rules and man-made traditions.

Many believers we meet have fallen into a ditch on the other side of the road. These brothers and sisters believe aspects of the 'prosperity gospel'. Perhaps for a while all seemed well in their lives, but as the poisonous teaching worked its way through they found themselves growing progressively more distant from the Lord. After a while their faith began to falter and their heart grew less responsive to the Word of God. The poison of the prosperity Gospel will always bring death and destruction to a believer's life unless the Great Physician removes it from their system.

The Bible warns us with great clarity about the perils of this false gospel. Paul told the Galatians, ***"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel, which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!"*** (Galatians 1:6-8).

Be aware that the 'prosperity gospel' goes much deeper than just matters to do with money and finances. It is a general and wide-spread philosophy that says if you follow the Lord your life will go well and each day will be better than the previous one. This belief system teaches that if you do and say certain things, then your life is guaranteed to get progressively better.

The truth is that Jesus said if we follow Him we must take up our cross daily (ie. prepare to be crucified). He promised the world will hate us and persecute us. Jesus didn't tell us these things to make us scared. On the contrary, He told His followers, ***"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"*** (John 16:33).

Often people who believe the prosperity gospel collapse as soon as hardship and trials come along. When things start to go wrong, the false foundation they have built their lives on begins to disintegrate.

How can you tell if such poison is in your system? There are a few things to check for. Over time the prosperity gospel results in a believer losing the fear of God. Sin becomes tolerated and practised, rather than being something to be feared and discarded. This false teaching is so destructive that a believer may start their Christian life humbly bowing before the Lord Jesus, but within a few years they ascend His throne and act as if God is their servant and they have the power to order Him to do what they want. The Apostle Paul spoke of the need for believers to ***"hold on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith"*** (1 Timothy 1:19).



If you are a Christian who finds yourself struggling because of false teaching you have believed, we encourage you not to give up! As long as you have oxygen in your lungs there is hope! The antidote for those who have fallen prey to the prosperity gospel happens to be the same as for those ensnared by legalism. **The answer is Jesus!** The reality is found in Christ.

As the world grows darker, we need to humble ourselves before the Living God and plead with Him to help us steer clear from the two dangers of legalism and false teaching. Both are places of destruction that millions of believers have fallen into. If you are struggling, don't hide from God like Adam and Eve did, but rather come running into the arms of Jesus. Remember these wonderful words of the Lord, and allow them to soak into your heart and mind:

*“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.... All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”* (John 6:35, 37-40).

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We are thankful for the opportunity to share our Annual Report, detailing the help that Asia Harvest provided the Body of Christ throughout Asia in 2013.

Each year that we follow and serve the Lord Jesus brings with it a new emphasis. Looking back on last year, we believe the Lord challenged us to refocus our efforts on the things He has called us to, and not to be distracted by anything that might seek to take our focus off the one thing that matters—pleasing our Heavenly Father.

It has been a great privilege to serve the Lord in Asia for another year, and we are blessed to be a link in a chain that has resulted in many people coming to know Him. Last year more than a million believers were strengthened in their faith after receiving God's Word through our Bible projects, and the hundreds of Asian evangelists we support led thousands of people to faith in Christ among dozens of remote unreached people groups. In 2013 we were also blessed to help 740 injured or ill church leaders through the Living Martyr's fund, while 1,587 children in Vietnam received free surgeries through Project Smile.

For more than 25 years our strategy has always been to operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, so that resources get to the hands of the frontline workers of God's kingdom—the many Asian Christians we feel honored to assist and serve. We are thankful for each person who prayed for and supported our work last year. Without your vital partnership none of these things would have occurred.

# ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

*Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

*Because of your prayers and partnership, in 2013 we supported 756 Asian missionaries — working among 378 unreached tribes and people groups.*



***Tribal believers in India who met Jesus Christ through the witness of evangelists we support through the Asian Workers' fund.***

The Asian Workers' fund provides support to evangelists in Asia who are involved with strategic work in areas that have never had a Gospel witness. We work alongside Asian Christian leaders to help strengthen their ministries, while supporting those who serve God wholeheartedly.

At the start of 2013 we supported 359 evangelists among 172 different ethnic groups. By the end of the year the project has more than doubled in size. We are now privileged to support 756 workers among 378 unreached groups.

In recent months alone we have been blessed to start supporting **65 new workers in India** who are ministering among 45 unreached groups; **24 in Nepal** among 7 groups; **21 in Bangladesh**, **28 in the Philippines** reaching 7 Muslim tribes; **22 new workers in Laos**, **11 in Indonesia**, **15 in Cambodia**; and dozens more workers in countries like **China**, **Vietnam** and **Pakistan**.

The fruit of their labors can be clearly seen. Thousands of people found faith in Jesus Christ last year, and dozens of churches were established in some of the darkest parts of Asia. The evangelists encounter many hardships and persecutions, but have persevered and are now seeing breakthroughs among many groups.

The Asian Workers' fund is constantly expanding and new workers are being recruited. We invite you to support one or more Asian missionaries with a gift of **\$25 per month each**. A laminated prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.

# CHINA BIBLE FUND

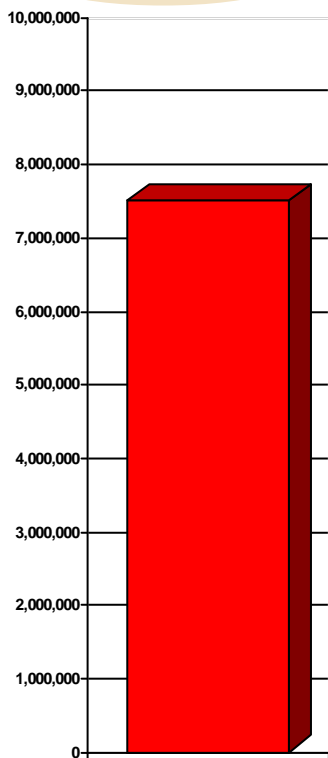
## *Equipping China's Christians with God's Word*



There remains a critical shortage of Bibles in China today 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 throughout China in a long-term strategy to print Bibles for these new believers. They are distributed to all parts of China, helping establish new believers in the faith and adding fuel to the revival that continues to burn throughout the world's most populous country. **Each Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

Since 2000, we have printed and distributed over 7.5 million Bibles to house churches in China, with **874,685** distributed in 2013 alone. This figure represents **2,397 Bibles every day** throughout the year. An evangelist recently wrote to us from Shandong Province:

Total Bibles since  
2000: 7,503,182



“When the Gospel was first shared with us in 2012 we did not have any Bibles but we felt such a hunger to know more about the Truth. We cried out to the Lord with burning desire to know more about Him. In May 2013 the Lord answered our prayers and all our fellowship leaders and evangelists have received Bibles. We fell down on our faces before the Lord weeping with joy as we thanked the Lord for providing us the Bread of Life. It was explained to us that God's Word was provided by Christians around the world who sacrificed their hard-earned money so we could have Bibles. We are just peasants from the countryside, so we don't understand much about the world outside of China. Everything outside China seems so foreign and strange to us; but we now feel this strong connection to God's people around the world that provided us with Bibles even though they have never met us. Although we don't know you by name; we thank you from the depths of our hearts for providing these Bibles to us. We believe that in heaven God will introduce us to those whom provided Bibles and we look forward to worshiping the Lord with you! Until then may God's grace and peace be with you.”



# ASIAN BIBLE FUND

## *Providing Bibles to Asia's Tribal Christians*

*Current Total: 383,556 Bibles printed in 48 different languages.  
Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.*



Asia is home to many ethnic groups where the people have been deprived access to God's Word, sometimes for decades. The **Asian Bible fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages throughout Southeast Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere. **Each Bible costs \$2.70 to print and deliver through the Asian Bible fund.**

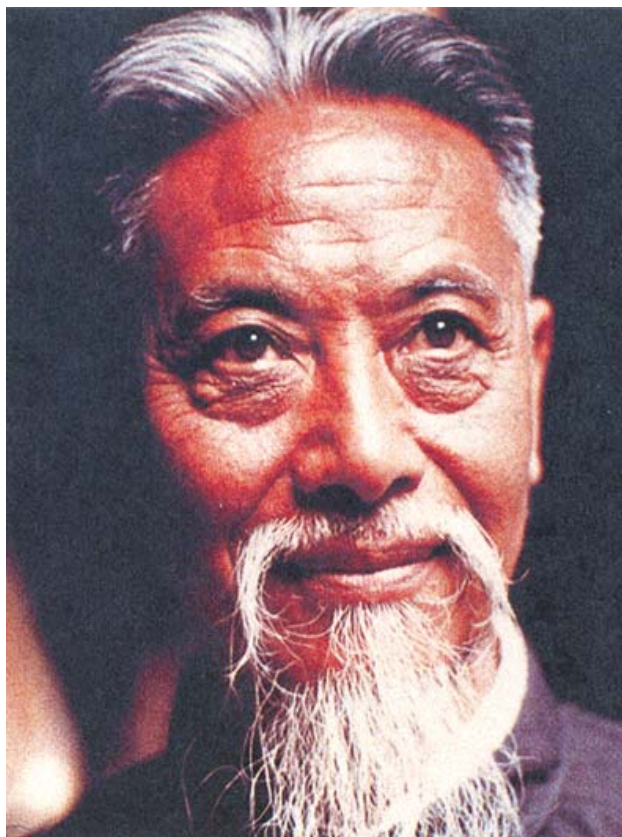
Please pray for our project and all those involved with providing God's Word to the precious tribal Christians of Asia.



# LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Supporting Christians disabled by Persecution*

*Because of your prayers and support we were able to help 760 living martyrs throughout 2013. This strategic project has been a tremendous blessing to the Church in Asia.*



*A martyr has been defined as “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.”*

In parts of Asia today, many Christians are still beaten and persecuted for their faith. Church leaders have provided us with lists of hundreds of Christian leaders who have been disabled or who face long-term illness or injury as a result of persecution and imprisonment.

**The Living Martyrs' Fund** assists pastors and evangelists in China, North Korea and Vietnam who are unable to work because of persecution.

They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. The families of imprisoned Christians are also supported. A Chinese church leader wrote to say,

*“The Living 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 the person to help you pray for him and his family.

# PROJECT SMILE

## *Helping Children in Vietnam*

*Your generous support brought smiles to the faces of 1,587 children in Vietnam in 2013 (13,375 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 are dramatically changed by this project. We recently received the following testimony from our co-workers in Vietnam:*

We stood at the hospital gate watching the arrival of the latest bus load of children coming to us for cleft-lip and palate surgeries.

We noticed a young woman was holding back from the others in the group. She was very timid, and had positioned a tattered scarf across her face. As the children gathered in the entrance hall, she continued to stand at the back. We went over to speak with her, but she couldn't look into our eyes. When she reluctantly removed the scarf from her face we saw the scar of a deep wound that had twisted her face.



We found out her name was Lien. She had heard we were taking children for surgery. Although she knew she was too old to be included, she realized this was her one chance to put a lifetime of pain of rejection behind her and lead a normal existence.

For years she had been an outcast. She cowered in fear, afraid we would tell her we were unable to help someone her age. For us, however, her age was not a concern. This was an opportunity to give a young woman hope, and to do it in the Name of Jesus. When we told her that we would happily accept her for surgery her eyes brightened and she shed tears of joy.

Years of despair began to melt away during the time Lien stayed at the hospital. When the time came for her to return home, the damage to her face had been repaired and over time the confidence and beauty returned to her countenance. Lien will also never forget the message of God's love in Jesus Christ that our coworkers shared with her. Thank you for sharing and giving to those in need like Lien.

*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.*



# PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND

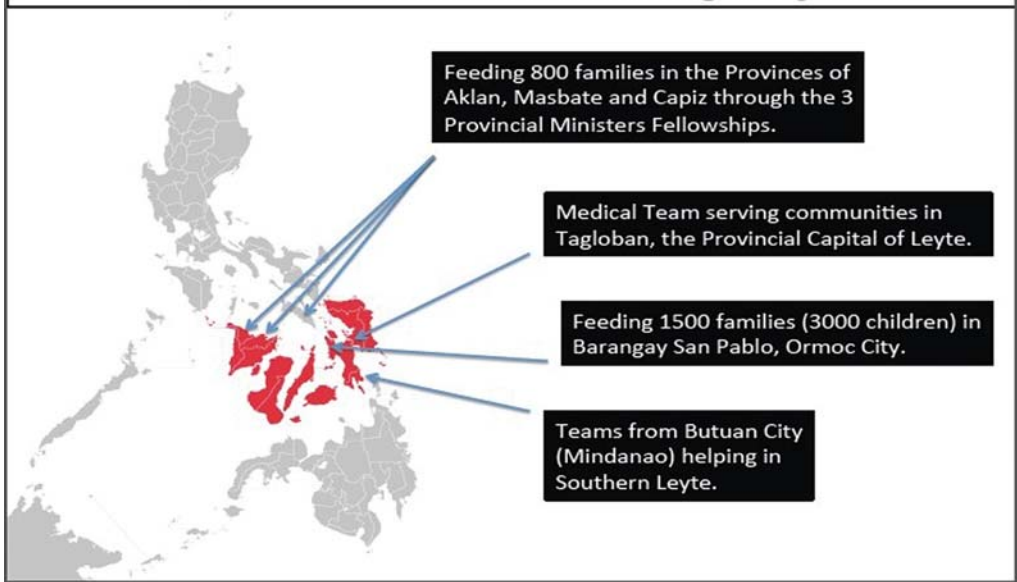
*Transforming lives from ashes to beauty with God's love.*

In 2013 we were glad to help many people throughout Asia whose lives had been decimated by natural disasters and persecution. The major event of the year, and greatest opportunity to help, came in November when Typhoon Haiyan devastated the central Philippines. Our help was co-ordinated through STAMP, our Malaysian representatives. They had workers quickly on the ground, streamlining relief efforts with local churches.

Thank you for standing with us and for being His hands of healing to these precious lives. **Please continue to pray for the 13 million affected people. One million lost their homes and 4.6 million children continue to need help.**



**These are the places that we are helping ...with food and water, medicine and some basic things they need.**



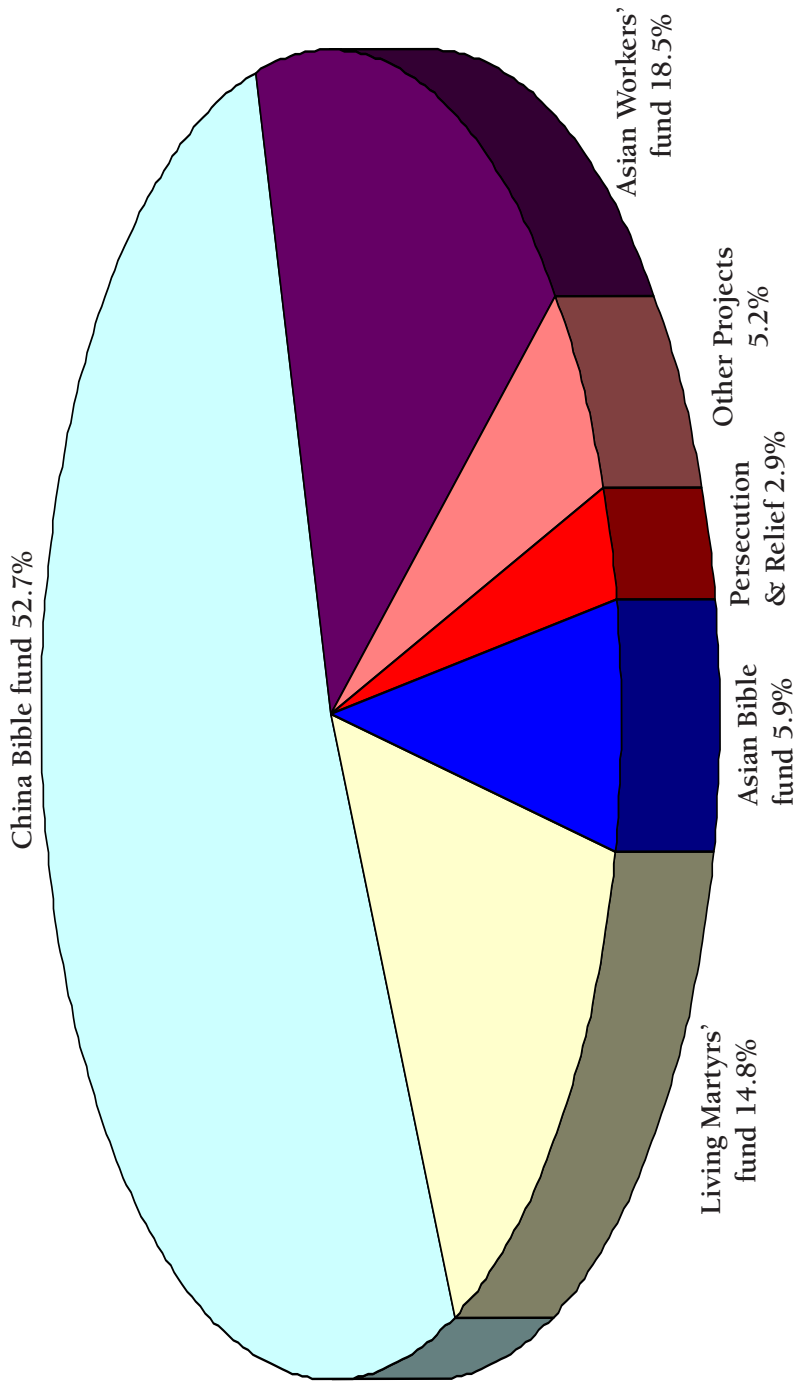
Feeding 800 families in the Provinces of Aklan, Masbate and Capiz through the 3 Provincial Ministers Fellowships.

Medical Team serving communities in Tagloban, the Provincial Capital of Leyte.

Feeding 1500 families (3000 children) in Barangay San Pablo, Ormoc City.

Teams from Butuan City (Mindanao) helping in Southern Leyte.

# Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2013





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# Asia Harvest



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June 2014 - Newsletter #124



## Winds of Change in China

# From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

*“Since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God” (1 Peter 4:1-2).*

In our March newsletter we exhorted readers to keep walking in God’s grace and truth, and to beware of the twin pitfalls which all Christians much avoid—legalism on one hand, and the false prosperity Gospel on the other. Having seen the faith of countless believers shipwrecked by these two distortions, we wanted to encourage all who love the Lord Jesus to continue in God’s Word and relationship with Him.

Quite a few people has strong reactions to our message, both positively and negatively. Helen from Australia wrote, “Many thanks for your wonderful message to us in the March newsletter. It was very powerful and it has strengthened me so much. I feel greatly encouraged.”

Stan from Illinois shared: “I couldn’t agree with you more. The Christian life is not about living up to a standard; it is about living under an influence. The influence is the Holy Spirit, of course. Legalists think about living up to the standard. Prosperity gospel people do not think about living under the influence, only about the benefits that the influence is supposedly guaranteed to bring. Hebrews 11 is the chapter that really puts the nails in the coffin of the prosperity gospel. That chapter lists the heroes of the faith, but they fall into two categories—those who get rescued and those who meet horrible deaths (sawn in two, etc.) What strikes me is that BOTH categories are held up side by side as models of genuine faith. There is no hint that the rescued ones had more faith or better faith than the ones who died for Christ. It’s the total opposite of the prosperity gospel explanation of suffering.”

On the other hand, others challenged us for mentioning the Prosperity Gospel in a negative light. One man wrote, “I felt very discouraged after reading Paul and Joy’s message. If our churches are too legalistic and others teach false doctrine, what is the answer? Are we not to continue to invite our neighbors to church even when they never come? Our church is dying in our small community. We are all over the age of 50. What can we do?”

Friends, we believe one of the major problems in the Church today is that much of what is portrayed as faith is actually just humanism with a Christian veneer thrown over the top. For example, Western culture teaches that from an early age, “You can be whatever you want, and you can do whatever you put your mind to.” Is that true? Certainly not! On the contrary, we can be what *God* wants us to be and do what *He* calls and empowers us to do, if we walk in obedience to Him. We meet many Christians who have become

disillusioned because they were told they hold the keys to a successful life, if only they strive hard enough, or believe strongly enough. Then as the years pass by and their hopes and dreams fail to materialize like they expect, they grow increasingly despondent and their hope fades. Disappointment sets in—even bitterness towards God—even though He has never once told a person to try to fulfil their own dreams and desires. When the inevitable trials and hardships of life come along their faith crumbles, just as Jesus warned in the Parable of the Sower: *“The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away”* (Matthew 3:20-21).

Humanism is rampant in many parts of the Church today. In subtle ways it places people in God's position and attempts to place God in our position. Everything is turned upside-down. In the Bible people were exhorted to believe in God, but these days we've heard preachers tell their audiences that God believes in them! We are told to trust ourselves, but Jesus said we should trust in Him. Humanism says people are basically good, but God's Word declares, *“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”* (Jeremiah 17:9).

The Prosperity Gospel is not merely about financial matters. It is a broader philosophy that believes if a person follows Christ then things will generally go well for them in this life. Such a teaching is popular and enticing, but is it Biblical? Did you ever consider that of the 12 men Jesus called to be apostles, ten were murdered for their faith, one (John) died in exile on a small island, while one committed suicide? Was something wrong with the apostles' faith? How about Christians in China, Iran, North Korea and a host of other nations who are beaten, imprisoned and even killed because of their love for Jesus? We have even heard people say that persecuted believers need to trust God more in order to “experience the victorious life” that the Bible promises!

Such talk is nonsense to anyone who has swallowed the lies of the humanistic 'Prosperity' Movement. The Scriptures state that even the Lord Jesus *“learned obedience from what he suffered”* (Hebrews 5:8). If the sinless Son of God needed such a lesson, how much more do we!

The true Gospel has not changed, and never will. God's kingdom always advances through human weakness, not strength;—for when we are weak, He is strong. This is the truth, whether we like it or not. Those who really want to follow Jesus must find the true Jesus of the Scriptures, not the twisted caricature of the Lord that is often portrayed today. Only knowing the true Jesus will set people free to know and obey the will of God.

Whenever God has moved in awesome power throughout history there has been no room for humanism in the Church. Christ alone is exalted, and all people are humbled. May we learn this lesson in our own lives and churches. Any true faith will display the equation shared by John the Baptist: *“He must become greater; I must become less”* (John 3:30).

# Winds of Change in China

*Christians around the world continue to be fascinated by the Church in China—the world's most populated country. The nation is going through rapid transformation economically, socially, culturally and spiritually. We examine how these changes are affecting the kingdom of God in China, and specifically how it may affect some of the projects we implement there.*

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Often as people grow older they long for things to stay still, so they can get their bearings, put down roots, and enjoy a consistency in their lives. Things never seem to work out that way, however. The world is in a constant state of transformation, and our time can easily be spent trying to catch up with the changes going on around us.

Of all the places in the world we know, nowhere is changing as swiftly and as dramatically as China. In part, this is because of the draconian decades of hard-line Communist rule, when the nation closed its doors to the rest of the world from the 1940s to the late 1970s. Feeling left behind by these lost decades, China has frantically been catching up since at breakneck speed.



*The uncomplicated China of yesteryear — Until a few decades ago almost everyone in China wore blue 'Mao suits' (blue was the cheapest material available at the time).*





*China Today — One of countless new shopping malls that fill the cities of modern China.*

We have been greatly privileged to serve the Lord Jesus and His Church in China since the late 1980s. The pace of change has been so swift during that time that often when we meet younger missionaries starting out, it's difficult to describe what China was like back then without sounding like 'old fogies' reminiscing about things "back in the day"!

Just a little more than 20 years ago the streets of cities like Beijing and Kunming were filled with bicycles and donkey carts. Today they have become mega-municipalities with glistening skyscrapers, congested highways and all the latest shopping malls and facilities like any other major world city.

More changes seem to occur in five years in China than in a generation in other parts of the world. Consider this for example: The first place many visitors to China see is the town of Shenzhen, just across the border from Hong Kong. It was a farming village in the 1970s, then a sleepy town with about 50,000 people in the 1980s. Remarkably, today Shenzhen is a massive, modern city, home to more than 8 million people!

## New Challenges for the Church in China

The rapid transformation in Chinese society is inevitably also influencing the way the Church functions. For decades the Body of Christ experienced the largest revival, numerically speaking, in the history of Christianity. One of the foundations for the revival was suffering and sacrifice. The Church gave their all to Jesus, and He used them for His glory in a marvellous way so that today there are at least 100 million Christians in China.

Late last year the government made two announcements. The first was that they were relaxing the one-child policy that has been in place since 1979, and which has wreaked havoc on the family structure of the nation.

The second announcement they made did not receive widespread coverage in the media, but it has major ramifications for the Church: **The Chinese government announced it was immediately closing down all prison labor camps.**

For decades, prison labor camps were dark, abominable places where hundreds of thousands of Christians were sent as punishment for their belief in Jesus. Many were never heard from again.

Countless faith-filled testimonies, like that of Brother Yun in his biography *The Heavenly Man*, included accounts of the brutal punishment metered out in those awful places, where prisoners were forced to work 14 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week.

A few years ago I was present at a meeting in a remote area of China with about 30 house church leaders. At lunch time the main leader stood up and announced, **“Let’s thank the Lord for the food, and then everyone who has spent time in a prison camp for the Gospel can start eating!”**

Every head turned around and stared at me, and people began to chuckle under their breath. They knew their foreign guest had probably never been imprisoned for the Lord before. All the other men and women in the room had spent time in prison labor camps, some for decades.

Sensing that I was feeling a little anxious, the Chinese broke into hearty laughter and then lovingly served me first.

Labor camps caused untold suffering to multitudes of believers and their family members in China. Now, all of a sudden with the stroke of a pen, they have been consigned to history!

Of course this change doesn’t mean that persecution has ceased in China. In fact, just recently reports have emerged of church buildings being demolished and of believers being arrested and fined. As long as the kingdom of God continues to clash with the kingdom of darkness there will be hardship and suffering for those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Christians in China continue to be fined, harassed, and discriminated against because of the Gospel. While prison labor camps have been closed, please note that these were not the same as general prisons, where people can still be sent without trial for up to three years. The labor camps, however, were the staging point for the most severe persecution.





The Chinese Church has now entered into a new phase. It is wonderful news that the labor camps have been abolished, and severe persecution has undoubtedly decreased from the levels of the past.

We should be thankful for the positive changes. They are the direct result of the Lord's intervention and His gracious response to decades of prayer.

Most of us would agree that if our lives were under constant threat of being fined, beaten and imprisoned, then news that labor camps have become a thing of the past would be greatly welcomed!

As the winds of change continue to blow throughout China, a fresh and difficult challenge has emerged.

A wise friend of ours summed it up this way:

**"For more than 30 years God tested the Chinese Church with persecution, and they endured faithfully. Their faith was purified and they won tens of millions of people into God's kingdom. Now God is testing the Church in China with an even greater challenge: Prosperity."**

Church history shows that Christians are strongest when they are united against opposition, but when times are easy our faith tends to grow weaker. Is this principle true in your own life, and in the churches in your part of the world?

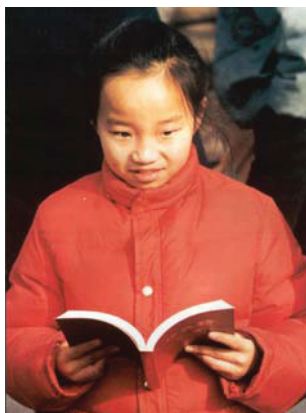
It was also true in the Old Testament, as Israel struggled to break free from the cycle of pride and laziness caused by prosperity. God summed up the plight of His chosen people this way: ***"I cared for them in the wilderness, in the land of burning heat. When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me"*** (Hosea 13:5-6).

## **A Note of Caution**

Friends, please continue to pray fervently for God's will to be done among His children in China.

Even though believers now face some different challenges than previous generations, the Body of Christ in China remains huge and influential.

Recently, *The Telegraph* newspaper in the United Kingdom ran a surprising story under the headline: 'China On Course to Become World's Most Christian Nation Within 15 Years.' The article claimed: "Mao thought he could eliminate religion. He thought he had accomplished this. It's ironic—he failed completely."



need for some time to come is the **China Bible Fund**. There are other factors at play which cause the dire shortage of Bibles in China, especially among the rural house churches we are privileged to serve.

While the economy is growing in many parts of China, all Bibles printed

Although the Chinese Church may function differently going forward, the fact remains that there are tens of millions of people who have been purchased by the Blood of Jesus throughout China. They love Him, and they will continue to testify about what God has done in their lives.

These disciples of Christ are well aware that there are more than one billion lost souls in China, among hundreds of unreached ethnic groups, and that their work is far from finished!

Although systematic, government-orchestrated persecution of Christians is definitely decreasing in China, it would be a mistake to assume that there is no longer any persecution. It persists, especially in rural areas away from the public gaze.

## The Need for Bibles

We constantly review and tweak the projects we help with, as we desire to be involved in the most strategic opportunities for the advancement of God's kingdom in Asia.

While things are changing quickly in China, one project that will remain a great

outside the control of the government-approved church are considered 'illegal'. Those involved with their production or distribution continue to risk arrest and prison without trial.

Secondly, almost all of the Bibles we print inside China are for rural believers in farflung provinces. Despite the economic boom in other parts of China, people in rural farming communities remain extremely poor by any standard, and in fact their plight has been exacerbated by the soaring cost of living. Millions of house church Christians remain unable to afford Bibles, even if they were able to access them. These factors have resulted in millions of believers being starved of God's Word. They are forced to survive on the few crumbs they are able to gather from beneath the table of the registered churches.

As long as the need for God's Word exists, we pray the Lord will give us resources and opportunities to help meet that need. One of our key leaders recently told us, "***For as long as God gives me breath, I want to continue providing Bibles to believers who are unable to obtain them from any other source.***"



## Living Martyrs' Fund

Since the start of the new Millennium we have supported more than a thousand persecuted church leaders and their families in China through the **Living Martyrs' Fund**.

In the last few years, as the level of persecution has lessened, we have noticed a decrease in the severity of the injuries these believers suffer. The worst injuries and illnesses occurred when church leaders spent time in prison labor camps.

Now that the camps have closed, we expect the number of believers needing help will diminish over time. In the meantime, we will continue to evaluate the regular reports we receive from those we assist through the project.

Despite the changes affecting China, we will continue to support many church leaders who have severe and long-term ailments as a result of persecution received in the past.

**Many are permanently disabled and will require assistance for years to come.**

They are unable to work, and in a nation where there is no unemployment or disability benefits, these men and their families often live in dire poverty. The support they receive through the Living Martyrs' Fund makes a huge difference in their lives. It enables them to purchase basic necessities like food and medicine.

Responding to the changing needs, in the last few years we expanded the Living

Martyrs' Fund to include persecuted Christians in Vietnam and North Korea.

While the level of persecution may be reducing in China, there are no such changes underway in North Korea! It remains the number one persecutor of Christians in the world, and the needs there are staggering.

**In upcoming newsletters we plan to share more details about ways you can pray and help the kingdom of God advance in North Korea.**



*Pray the Name of Jesus would continue to be glorified throughout China as one generation hands the baton of the Gospel to the next generation.*

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

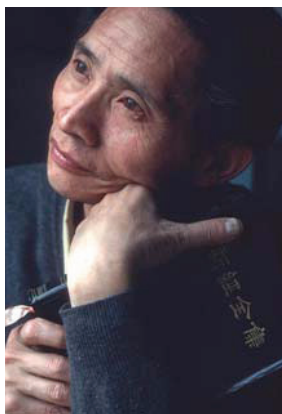


*We are currently supporting 798 Asian evangelists working among 440 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*

The **Asian Workers' Fund** assists indigenous church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry to unreached people groups in Asia. These servants of the Lord have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances.

You can help support these dedicated workers for **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular donors of this project.

## CHINA BIBLE FUND

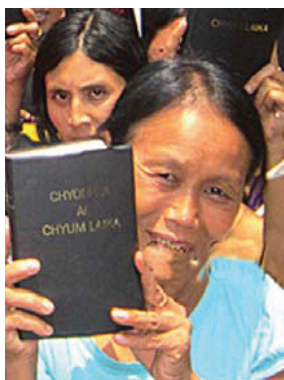


*Current Total: 7,628,696 Chinese Bibles distributed.*

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 Body of Christ and helping add fuel to the revival in China.

Each full Chinese Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.

## ASIAN BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 396,053 Bibles printed in 48 languages.*

Asia is home to many ethnic groups where people have been deprived of God's Word, sometimes for decades. The **Asian Bible fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in Southeast Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere. The one country where the Asian Bible Fund doesn't apply to is China, where our China Bible Fund functions as a separate project.

Each Bible costs \$2.70 to print and deliver through the Asian Bible Fund.

## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 766 living martyrs.*



"A martyr has been defined as "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 **Living Martyrs' Fund** assists pastors and evangelists in China, Vietnam and North Korea 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 supporter of this project.

## PROJECT SMILE



*Your generous support has so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 13,515 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 of **\$60 changes a child's life**. A laminated prayer card of a child helped through Project Smile is sent to all donors.

## PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



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

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided assistance to the victims of natural disasters that have struck Asia. 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 many people have come to know Jesus Christ. This project also provides physical and spiritual relief to Christian communities and families throughout Asia who have been affected by persecution.



## Asia Harvest Addresses

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# Asia Harvest



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

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August 2014 - Newsletter #125



## God's Solution to Terrorism

# God's Solution to Terrorism

We live in an increasingly dangerous world, with terrorism—specifically Islamic terrorism—on the rise in many areas. Even places long considered peaceful have recently been shaken by evil acts. The city of Kunming in southwest China—a place we have spent much time over the years—was left reeling in March after eight Uyghurs (a large Muslim group in northwest China) stabbed 29 people to death and injured 140 more inside the Kunming train station.

Many people have opined as to why Islamic terrorism is on the rise. The world offers human reasons behind the problem: social displacement, cultural and ethnic conflict, political corruption, economic inequality, and more. While there is no doubt all these factors contain an element of truth, what does God say about the real cause of global terrorism, and what does the Bible say about how to prevent it from spreading?

In this newsletter we would like to look at **five key reasons** behind this global problem, and share **five insights** into what we believe is God's solution. One thing for sure: the world is oblivious to the true source of terrorism, and what we share will never make it into the world's media. Some of our statements may not be politically correct in today's age where good is called evil and evil good, but our concern is not to be politically correct, but Biblically correct.

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## #1: The Battle is Spiritual

The first point the world misses when evaluating terrorism is that it comes directly from Satan. Jesus stated, ***"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"*** (John 10:10). Every act of murder and terror is an act motivated by Satan. He is the Father of terrorism. With each passing day, Satan is becoming more active in the world. ***"Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short"*** (Revelation 12:12).

While God expects civil governments to stem crime and protect their citizens, dropping bombs on Muslim communities will never result in the eradication of terrorism. In fact, it tends to stir up the pot and exacerbate the problem. The world doesn't believe in a literal devil, so they have no way of discerning the cause of acts of evil. The Bible puts it bluntly: ***"The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit"*** (1 Corinthians 2:14).

## #2: Terrorists Confuse Light and Darkness

**Did you ever realize that about half of the New Testament was written by a former terrorist?** The Apostle Paul was full of hatred and envy at the success of a new group called Christians, and his passion spilled over into violence and murder. It's a good thing the Lord didn't give up on Paul. We are still benefiting from his life and ministry two thousand years later.

The strongest enemies of the Gospel often confuse light and darkness. The Lord told us a day will come when *"anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them"* (John 16:2-4).

## #3: The Rise of the Church

One reason for terrorism you will never see reported in the media—even though terrorist leaders including Osama Bin Laden have often alluded to it in their speeches—is the growing influence of Christianity in Muslim nations.

The stark reality is that many Christians in countries like Syria and Iraq face death right now. In the city of Mosul alone—a city that has a Christian history dating back 1,700 years—terrorists have given all Christians three choices: pay a huge "tax", leave and never come back, or die. As a result of this tidal wave of terror, the number of Christians

living in Mosul has fallen from 60,000 in the year 2000 to zero today.

In many parts of Asia, Christians and Muslims lived alongside one another for generations without any great trouble, but in recent decades the church has grown both numerically and in influence, which has caused a violent reaction.

Thousands of Indonesian Muslims have been transformed by Jesus Christ. Local religious leaders felt threatened by these developments, so they recently lashed out and murdered a number of family leaders who had converted to Christ.

God's plan to bring the salvation of Jesus Christ to every ethnic group is progressing, and will not be thwarted! We anticipate that the more the Church grows, the more terrorism will continue to expand. Yet the more the Church is persecuted, the more it will grow, just like the children of Israel in Egypt: *"But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites"* (Exodus 1:12).

## #4: Frustration and Envy

As the church has risen up and millions of lives have been transformed by the Holy Spirit, the leaders of other religions have been faced with a difficult reality. They know that their religions offer people little hope of real transformation. They may be able to give people discipline or focus them on a common goal, but only Jesus Christ has the power to change evil to good and to bring light and life to communities that



for generations have lived in darkness and death.

When people are faced with a decision between following Jesus and the desire to retain centuries of tradition, they often choose to strike out against God's people. Most are unwilling to face the reality that their own belief system is devoid of any real life-changing power.

The Lord Jesus summed it up: ***"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God"*** (John 3:19-21).

## **#5: The Role of Shame**

Most Westerners don't understand the huge role that shame plays in Islam and other religions (including legalistic strains of Christianity). Shame is a powerful driving force that can compel people to take violent action.

Do you know that many Muslims feel deep disgrace that one billion of them are unable to wipe one tiny nation, Israel, from the face of the earth?

Millions feel shame that their religious zeal and dedication fails to give them inward freedom, while Jesus Christ is freely giving others hope, peace and joy.

The shame of realizing they and their ancestors have believed a lie is too much for most to consider, so they channel their frustrations and into violence against the Church, even to the point of being willing to murder their own family members who become followers of Jesus.



There are countless examples of the role of shame in terrorism around the world. The Mullahs and clerics of Iran continue to kill and punish Christians for their faith, including our good friend Saeed Abedini who has been imprisoned for the last two years because of his love for Jesus.

Like schoolground bullies, they think that inflicting pain on Christians shows strength and power, but in reality it just shows how empty and spiritually impoverished they are.

Meanwhile, the light of Jesus continues to shine through the good deeds of Christians. The evidence of the transformative power of Holy Spirit in believers' lives is undeniable. Even while

writing this newsletter, we received the following report from one of the Asian missionaries we support. After their team provided free medical and dental clinics for 700 people in a poor Muslim area, they wrote, ***“One of the Muslim leaders told us he wanted to know the teaching of Isa (Jesus) because of the care and love he has witnessed from us. An increasing number of people are attending our Bible studies and weekly discipleship training.”***

The unselfish and compassionate acts of God's people are gradually winning over the hearts and minds of many Muslims who are receptive to the truth. For, ***“It is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people”*** (1 Peter 2:15).





## #6: Fear Not

If you have placed your trust in Jesus Christ, please don't lose heart at the darkness that is enveloping the world around you.

We recently heard that the exhortation for God's people to "fear not," or "Be of good courage" appears 366 times throughout the Bible—**once for every day of the year and an extra one for leap years!**

God is still on His throne, and His plans both for our lives and for this world will be fulfilled if we endure and don't lose heart. Our Lord encouraged us, ***"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows"*** (Luke 4:7).

## #7: Cleanse our Hearts

As Christians, our aims and desires should be the same as the Lord's. He is our boss, and our greatest goal should always be to love Him and do His will by reaching out to others (even terrorists) with the Good News of salvation.

We need to be careful that our hearts don't grow bitter over the wickedness all around us. Let's focus first and foremost on the wickedness in our own hearts, and ask the Holy Spirit to cleanse us from sin and hate. Last year one of our Asia Harvest newsletters included a picture of a group of Muslims as this newsletter does. One subscriber was distressed and demanded to be removed from our newsletter list. He wrote, ***"I am deeply offended by the picture of Muslims in your newsletter. I find it hard to even pray for them that they find Christ as Savior."***

We started our article with the point that all terrorism is from Satan. He would like nothing more than to choke the life out of Christians' hearts through fear and anxiety. May the Lord set us free so that we don't become unwitting victims of terrorism through the snare of bitterness.

We need to constantly ask the Holy Spirit to cleanse and purify us from all unrighteousness. Let us bow before Him and pray the words of David, ***"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me"*** (Psalm 51:10-12).

## #8: Spread the Gospel!

Despite many obstacles and dangers, the kingdom of God continues to advance in Asia among many Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist people groups. Last month we were blessed to receive pictures of the baptism of 18 former Muslims, including two imams (Islamic priests). Their faces were full of light and joy as they emerged from the water as new creations, their old sins washed away!

This is what it's all about. We must not stop reaching out to Muslims and others who need Jesus. In sport, it's often said that "the best form of defense is attack."

Similarly, the best strategy to stop the spread of worldwide terrorism is for the Church to share the truth and light of the Gospel, in the hope that some will believe and put their trust in Him. The best way to dispel darkness is still to simply turn on the light!

***This, dear friends, is God's solution to terrorism... Preach the Good News to all creation!*** Only Jesus working in the lives of people will bring freedom. May we never be embarrassed to tell the world that Jesus is the answer. If we don't tell them, they have no chance of ever knowing God's salvation. ***"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile"*** (Romans 1:16).

A generation ago, the mission statesman Brother Andrew wrote this about the threat of Communism: **"If you do not go to the heathen with the Gospel, they will come to you as revolutionaries or as occupying forces."**

If the Church grows disillusioned and weary of spreading the Good News, the scope of worldwide terrorism will expand quickly. ***"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"*** (Galatians 6:9-10).

## #9: Forget the Sentiment

Please don't think that before you can do anything to reach Muslims and others that you first need to have a deep emotional connection or feelings of love toward them. It certainly helps, but Jesus loves the unlovable and reaches the unreachable!

If you came across someone drowning in a river, would you stop and consider whether you have feelings of love for that person, or even if you like them? Hopefully not! What a drowning person needs is to be rescued before it's too late. By doing all you can to help a perishing soul you are displaying true love to them.



We must love our enemies, and the greatest act of love we can show them is to lead them to salvation in Jesus Christ, who taught His followers: ***"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect"*** (Matthew 5:43-48).

## #10: Jesus Wins!

We once heard a story about Bible college students who had spent weeks studying the Book of Revelation. At the end of class one day, a group sat down in the school gymnasium, and discussed among themselves what the main theme of Revelation was. They all had different convoluted views and theological explanations, but no one was able to grasp the mystery of the last Book of the Bible.

Across from them, the elderly school janitor was enjoying a sandwich as he read his Bible during a break. The students, in a half-mocking tone, decided to ask this man what he thought the main theme of Revelation was.

"Simple," he replied without hesitation: **"Jesus Wins!"**

Friends, in our newsletter we have touched on a number of causes for terrorism, but through it all, please never lose sight of the fact that Jesus wins! He is already the victor through His death and resurrection, and even though it's difficult to see God's unfolding purpose when evil seems so prevalent, be confident that Jesus remains fully in charge, and is working everything out for His purposes, both in your own life and in the world.

The Lord has a plan that cannot be thwarted. He is busy saving some from among every tribe, language, nation and people group on the globe! Included in this number will be many former terrorists and those who are enemies of the Gospel. Jesus has always pursued those who need Him the most, for ***"it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners"*** (Mark 2:17).

God loves the hundreds of millions of lost Muslims in the world and desires to know them as His children.

At the moment we must work hard to see the kingdom of God expand, but the day is coming when terrorism will be no more, and all the enemies of God will be put under the feet of Jesus. In that day, a trumpet blast will sound, and "loud voices in heaven" will proclaim:

***"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever"*** (Revelation 11:15).



## Helping Others Get the Job Done

On the front cover of this newsletter is a picture of Uygur (pronounced 'wee-gur') men praying at a mosque in Kashgar, northwest China. This is the same group that has spread terror throughout parts of China in recent months.

There are less than 1,000 Uygur Christians in all of China, compared to 13 million Muslims. Reaching them with the Gospel is a difficult and risky task. As you look at the faces of the men in the picture, do you wish they would know Jesus Christ as Lord, but have no idea how you could help that become a reality?

We would like to share a wonderful opportunity that exists to help reach the Uygurs for Jesus. **We currently need support for more than a dozen Asian missionaries working among the Uygur people through the Asian Workers' fund.** It's a great privilege to help sow the seeds for a breakthrough among this and many other unreached people groups.

"I come from a Muslim family. I had an experience where my son became sick and died. Even though I was a Muslim, I prayed that if the Prophet Isa (Jesus) really died and rose again, then He could also make my son live again. And He did it! My son was raised from the dead! Through this miracle, I became a Christian. I also gave my son a new name, changing it from Usman to Paul. I was baptized and later attended Bible school. I have served God ever since."

*—Testimony from one of the missionaries we support in Indonesia*

We have found that while all efforts to establish the kingdom of God are greatly needed, the most effective way to reach the Uygurs has not been through Western missionaries, or even Chinese missionaries. Rather, we have come to see that the most effective and long-lasting results occur when Uygur Christians reach their own people.

They put their lives at risk to do this work, and they need prayer and support to enable them to go more places and minister more effectively.

Please prayerfully consider taking advantage of this opportunity to help establish the Gospel among these needy groups, so that not only will Uygurs be reaching Uygurs for Christ, but Kazak believers will be taking the Gospel to Kazaks, Kirgiz to Kirgiz, Hui to Hui and so on.

If you would like to support one or more missionary through the Asian Workers' fund, please visit our website, or fill out the enclosed Response form and post it back to us. If you specifically want to support a worker among one of the groups mentioned above (**Uygur, Kazak, Kirgiz, or Hui**), please let us know. We will allocate a worker to you, and will send you a prayer card with basic information about the evangelist and their ministry for the Lord. For those who continue to help, we provide six-monthly updates so you can continue to pray for them.

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*Your generous support has so far helped bring smiles to the faces of 13,607 children in Vietnam.*

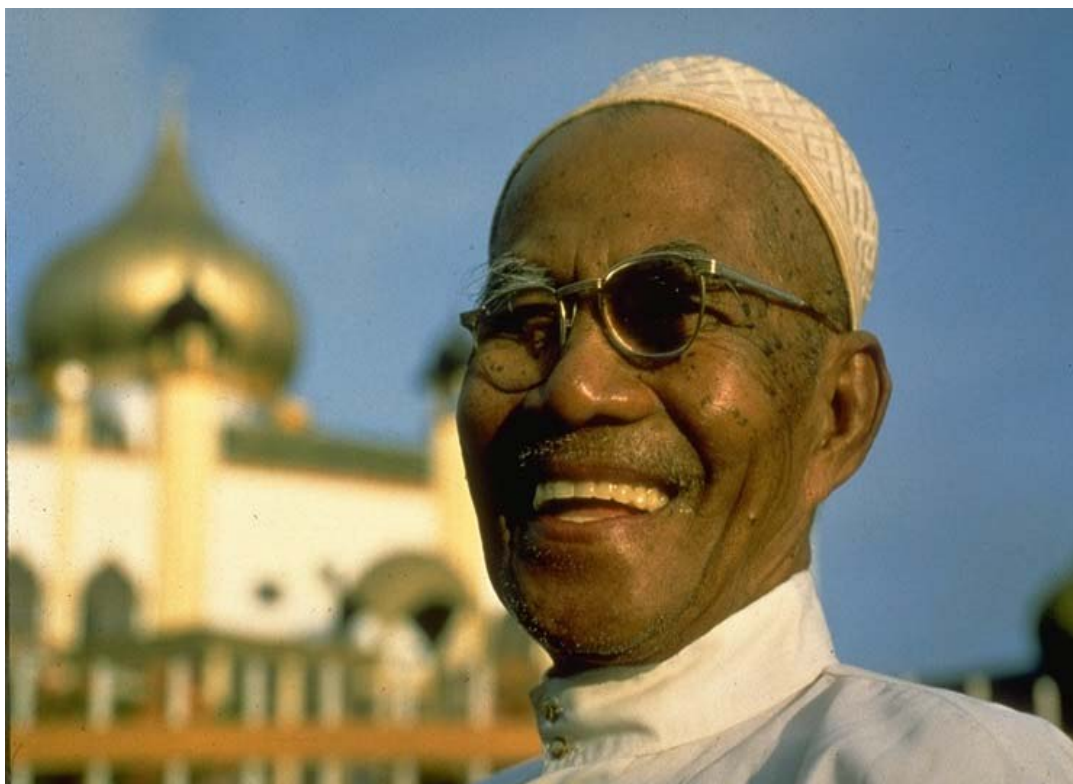
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# Asia Harvest



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

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October 2014 - Newsletter #126



## North Korea

### The Opportunity of a Generation

# North Korea

## The Opportunity of a Generation

Do you know much about North Korea? Most people around the world know very little about this isolated country sandwiched between China and South Korea. You may have heard that North Korea has been led by a dynasty of oppressive leaders all with the family name of Kim, that they have secretly developed nuclear weapons, or that President George W. Bush included North Korea in his “axis of evil.”

There is so much more to North Korea than meets the eye. **Here are some surprising facts** you may not know:

- 1.** North Korea experienced a massive revival in the first half of the 20th century, with millions of people coming to faith in Jesus Christ. So many churches sprung up throughout the land that by the early 1940s, approximately 30% of the population in the city of Pyongyang (now the capital of North Korea) were church-going Christians, earning the city the nickname, “Jerusalem of the East”. Billy Graham’s late wife, Ruth, attended a Christian boarding school in Pyongyang as a teen in the 1920s.
- 2.** In the 1950s the brutal Korean War resulted in the Korean Peninsula being divided into the Communist North and the democratic South, a division that remains to this day. Virtually all Christians in North Korea were either killed or fled south, forming the basis for the sizeable percentage of South Korea’s population who are Christians today.
- 3.** North Korea’s Communist founder, Kim Il-Sung, came from a devout Christian family. His father was a Presbyterian minister. Once Kim gained power in 1948 he established a bizarre personality cult, set himself up as a god, and launched a horrific persecution against Christians, inventing new and demonic ways of torturing and killing people.

Christian history is littered with wonderful opportunities which were sadly squandered. In the year 1266, the great Emperor of the Mongol world empire, Kublai Khan, requested that 100 missionaries be sent to his palace in Beijing. He laid down this challenge to Marco Polo: “Send me a hundred men learned in your religion, who in the face of these sorcerers will show their mastery by making the sorcerers powerless to perform these marvels in their presence. Then I will be baptized, and all my magnates and barons will do likewise, and their subjects in turn. Then there will be more Christians here than there are in your part of the world.”

By the time the first team of missionaries arrived in China 28 years later, Kublai Khan was already dead and the Mongol people had embraced Buddhism, which remains their religion to the present time. A golden opportunity was missed.

Centuries later, in 1945 a devastated Japan lay in ruins in the aftermath of World War II. The U.S. General Douglas MacArthur stated, "Japan is in a spiritual vacuum. Send 5,000 missionaries and 10 million Bibles and Japan will be filled with Christianity." Few Bibles or missionaries were sent, and Japan remains Buddhist to the present time. Only about 1% of Japan's 125 million people are Christians today. Another great opportunity was lost.

Many Christian and human rights organizations inform the world about the gruesome abuses that take place in North Korea. There are thousands of Christians currently languishing in North Korean prison labor camps, facing dastardly tortures that are comparable to anything depraved men have inflicted on one another in the history of humanity. In this newsletter we have decided not to focus on the rampant persecution in North Korea, but rather we would like to share a wonderful opportunity that exists for Christians around the world to help our brothers and sisters in this needy country.



*People in North Korea bowing down and paying homage before the 'Grand Monument' statues of Kim Il-Sung and his son, Kim Jong-Il. How long will it be before the 25 million people of North Korea once again worship Jesus Christ?*

## A Famine of God's Word



Due largely to corruption and wicked practices, North Korea has been experiencing a food shortage for years. Hundreds of thousands of people have died of starvation, while the leaders indulge themselves in opulent palaces equipped with all the latest luxuries, including a theme park and wave pool!

In the six decades since the advent of Communist rule in North Korea, a famine of God's Word has also been prevalent. Anyone caught reading a Bible is considered a threat to national security. They may be executed, or sent to a prison labor camp for years, which is often considered a worse fate than death.

Only heaven will reveal the multitudes of North Korean Christians who have been martyred for their faith. Their names are unknown to us now, but the Lord Jesus knows them, and He will honor them with a martyrs' crown (Revelation 2:8-10).

Here at Asia Harvest our first connection to providing Bibles to Christians in North Korea dates back to the early 1990s, when we helped carry suitcases full of Korean Bibles to the border areas between China and North Korea.



Over the years our involvement in North Korea has been sporadic, responding to specific needs as they have arisen. For some years we have discreetly helped provide Scriptures to North Korea through our **Asian Bible fund**.

For years the Gospel has been quietly advancing in North Korea, through much blood and suffering. We have been networking with Korean partners in low-key but effective ways to provide God's Word to help strengthen the underground church. Due to the need for security we have never before produced a newsletter that specifically talks about North Korea.

Now, however, after much prayer and discussion with our Korean partners, we are ready to announce a new initiative which we believe will greatly impact not only the persecuted Church in North Korea but potentially the entire nation....



## The Saenuri Bible

Despite living under one of the most oppressive regimes in world history, North Korean Christians have clung on to the grace of God. Estimates vary greatly, but most researchers believe there are between 200,000 to 300,000 Christians in North Korea today (approximately one percent of the population).

The North Korean church is deeply “underground”. There are no public meetings or physical church buildings. The government does all it can to keep Bibles out of the country, but God’s people are desperate to feed on His Word. For many years people have done what they can to supply the Scriptures to this needy nation, often at great personal risk. **Multitudes of North Korean Christians have lost their lives because of their desire to read the Word of God.**

Apart from the dangers involved, another problem for North Korean believers was recently explained in the below letter we received from an experienced Korean mission leader...

### **A Letter from**

*“For years, North Korean Christians have told us they have an extremely difficult time understanding the Bible. This is because the existing translation uses archaic Korean vocabulary derived from Chinese and Japanese, and is full of foreign concepts.*

*Additionally, the language in North Korea has changed drastically. In 1969m Kim Il-Sung ordered his country to return to a “pure” Korean language, erasing all words from foreign cultures, including the vast vocabulary derived from Chinese and many Japanese words adopted during the Japanese occupation of Korea. Using the existing South Korean Bible has also proven problematic. North Korea has alienated its language from outside influences, creating a vocabulary that is unique to the 25 million people of*

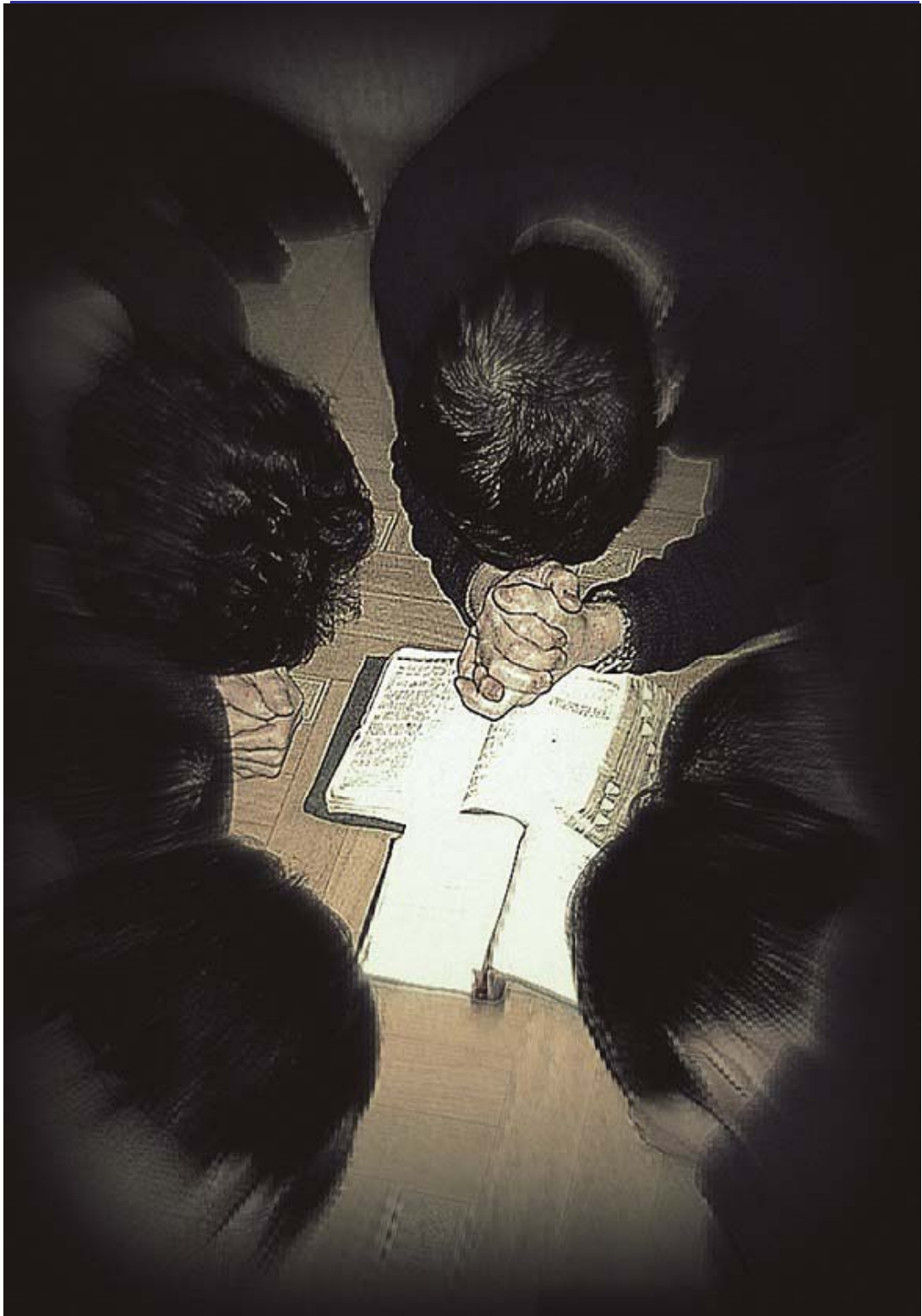


### **North Korea**

*North Korea. Having a translation that is appropriate for North Koreans will allow the Gospel to spread quickly. Still separated from the rest of the world, the church in North Korea needs a Bible they can understand.*

*Fifteen years ago, God brought together a team of Korean theologians and experts in Hebrew and Greek, and gave them a vision to translate the Scriptures in a more accurate form for North Koreans to better understand the Bible.*

*The New Testament was completed several years ago and is currently in use. The Old Testament has recently been completed. **The full Bible is therefore now available and will provide a huge boost for the Gospel in North Korea. Please help. It is truly the opportunity of a generation!***







## How to Help

We hope to provide many Saenuri Bibles to the North Korean Christians. To start with, our coworkers have asked for 10,000 Bibles.

The printing process is already underway, and experienced workers are poised to safely deliver them to contacts inside North Korea.

We need funds to print these first 10,000 Bibles. **Each Bible costs US\$7.65 to print** (or 4.80 British Pounds / 6.00 Euros / \$8.80 Australian dollars).

We invite you to prayerfully consider this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many North Korean Christians.

If you would like to help, you can do so either by giving via our secure website ([www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)) or by *selecting "Asian Bible fund" on the enclosed yellow Response form and sending it back to us along with your donation.*

*If you mark "North Korea" anywhere in your communication to us we will ensure your gift is only allocated to this project.*

Whether you would like to participate by supporting financially or not, we do ask for your prayer support for the project, the Lord's protection over the workers involved, and most of all, that the Name of Jesus Christ would be exalted over the country of North Korea. Thank you!

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



*We are currently supporting 1,032 Asian evangelists working among 598 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*

The **Asian Workers' Fund** assists indigenous church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry to unreached people groups in Asia. These servants of the Lord have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances.

You can help support these dedicated workers for **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular donors of this project.

## CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 8,572,947 Chinese Bibles distributed.*

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 Body of Christ and helping add fuel to the revival in China.

**Each full Chinese Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

## ASIAN BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 411,080 Bibles printed in 49 languages.*

Asia is home to many ethnic groups where people have been deprived of God's Word, sometimes for decades. The **Asian Bible fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in **Southeast Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere.** The one country where the Asian Bible Fund doesn't apply to is China, where our China Bible Fund functions as a separate project.

**Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver through the Asian Bible Fund.**

## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 336 living martyrs.*



"A martyr has been defined as "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 **Living Martyrs' Fund** assists pastors and evangelists in China, Vietnam and North Korea 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 supporter of this project.

## PROJECT SMILE



*Your generous support has so far helped bring smiles to the faces of 13,660 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 of **\$60 changes a child's life**. A laminated prayer card of a child helped through Project Smile is sent to all donors.

## PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



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

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided assistance to the victims of natural disasters that have struck Asia. 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 many people have come to know Jesus Christ. This project also provides physical and spiritual relief to Christian communities and families throughout Asia who have been affected by persecution.



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# Asia Harvest



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

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December 2014 - Newsletter #127



## God's Greatest Missionary

# From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

*“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:12).*

**“The greatest missionary is the Bible in the Mother tongue. It never needs a furlough, and is never considered a foreigner.”**

— Cameron Townsend, Founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators

Providing God’s Word to the Body of Christ in Asia has been the cornerstone of Asia Harvest’s ministry since we started more than 25 years ago. We still remember how nervous we felt the very first time we approached the x-ray scanner at the Chinese border with a heavy suitcase full of Bibles. God graciously allowed us to get all the Bibles through that day, but on dozens of subsequent occasions we were “caught” and our Bibles confiscated.

Back in those days (in the late 1980s) we sat spellbound as stories were relayed from remote corners of China about the dramatic and desperate need for God’s Word. One report emerged from the mountains of southwest China. A Chinese missionary had visited a remote valley where there was rumored to be a small number of churches. After two days of hiking through the mountains, he was nearing a village when he came across a distraught man on the trail. The man looked like he hadn’t slept for days, and was mumbling to himself.

Alarmed, the missionary asked the man what was wrong and if he could help his state of mind. After calming him down, the upset man said, “I am a Christian, but I am lost and going to hell. I have not heard the audible voice of God, and today is the third day since I became a Christian. I was on my way to throw myself off a cliff at the top of the mountain when you met me.”

The missionary asked the man to take him to his village so he could meet the other believers in the church to hopefully get to the source of the misunderstanding. After much discussion, the missionary discovered the problem....

None of the Christians living in that valley had ever seen a complete Bible. Instead, somehow **they had come into possession of a single page of the Scriptures, and that was all they had to base their faith on!**

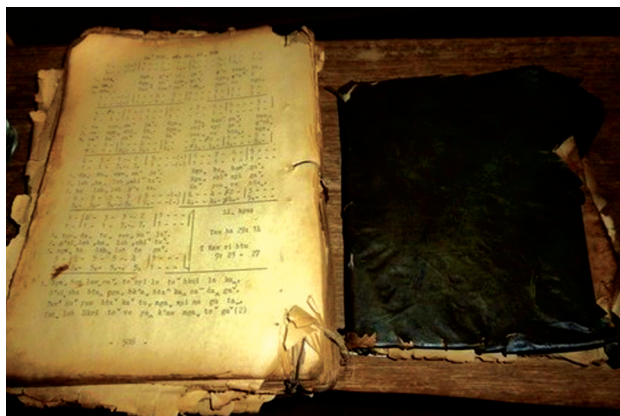
That one page was from the Book of Acts, chapter 9, when Saul was confronted by the Resurrected Christ. Saul was thrown to the ground and heard the audible voice of Jesus ask him, *“Saul, Saul, who do you persecute me?”* (Acts 9:4).

The missionary remained in the valley and taught the believers for several days. Complete Bibles were later carried in to help them gain a more rounded knowledge of the Word of God.

### ***Our Greatest Privilege***

The need to get God’s Word into the hands of hungry believers has never left us, although over the years the methods for us achieving that goal have changed dramatically. In the late 1990s we started printing Bibles directly inside China and other countries in the region. In our last newsletter we shared about a new project we are involved with to provide the Scriptures to the persecuted church in North Korea. **It is one of more than 50 different Asian languages into which we have been privileged to print and deliver Bibles. In many cases the Christians who receive them have been unable to source the Scriptures for years, sometimes even decades.**

Our coworkers frequently travel to remote regions and meet with Christian leaders, who share their great need for Bibles. Often they find a whole region will only have a few tattered copies of the Scriptures. Hundreds of believers are forced to depend on those crumbling Bibles for their spiritual sustenance. Note: The photo below, taken this year, is of a Bible presented to us by Lahu tribal believers in Myanmar (Burma). At least 40 years old, the cover has fallen away, all the pages are loose, and the edges have been devoured by moths.



Our project leader was able to reconstruct the original plates of this Bible and reprint thousands of new copies for the thankful Lahu believers.

Over the years, we have often shared about the need for Bibles in China and other parts of Asia. People have prayed and responded generously, and the number of Bibles we

have been able to provide has exceeded our expectations! Yet the need remains great, and countless millions of Christians in Asia are still unable to access God's Word because of hostile governments, war, poverty, and other reasons.

## ***Effective Evangelism***

In the past we have shared about the soul-winning benefits of providing the Scriptures to hungry believers. In China, feedback has suggested that an average of two or three people come to Jesus Christ either directly or indirectly after Bibles are sent to churches. We know of numerous instances where the church in an area has doubled after receiving a shipment of Bibles.

Indeed, as evangelism is at the core of what we do at Asia Harvest, each year we also print more than a million booklets of the Gospel of Mark in many languages, which are used exclusively for evangelism among Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and other non-Christians in Asia. Thousands of people have come into the family of God as a result, and are subsequently discipled by the Asian ministries we partner with.

Now, we would like to focus on another major benefit of providing God's Word to believers. To some, this reason may not sound quite as exciting as the evangelism stories, but it is crucial to the well-being and development of the kingdom of God in Asia. The second major benefit is...



## ***Sound Doctrine***

Asia is full of strange and bizarre religious beliefs. Numerous cults and sects flood the continent, and it is a constant battle for Christian leaders just to keep the most dangerous heresies from infiltrating and destroying their flocks. For example, in China a cult called the Eastern Lightning continues to ravage churches throughout the country. At the core of the strange movement is the belief that Jesus has been reincarnated as a woman and is living in central China, waiting for the right time for her identity to be revealed to the world.

When you read this you may think, "That's ridiculous! No Christian would ever believe such nonsense." Well yes, but in a country where Bibles been limited to members of the



government-approved church in a deliberate attempt to strangle the massive house church movement, many believers with a shallow knowledge of the Bible have been easy pickings for this cult. While in some parts of China the church has strongly resisted the Eastern Lightning, in other areas the impact has been devastating. Several years ago we met a senior house church leader responsible for many churches in northwest China. With tears in his eyes, he recounted how the cult had specifically targeted their congregations. Consequently, in just two years **the number of fellowships under his leadership had shrunk from 400 to 250.**

This brother is a godly, mature man who loves the Lord Jesus with all his heart. With the Scriptures and Bible teachers in short supply, however, his leadership team had simply been unable to withstand the onslaught of the cult.



## ***Poisoned Cows***

Earlier this year we read about a strange situation that occurred in a farming area in New Zealand. Without warning, one farmer found that his cows were falling sick and dying. The illness was a great mystery, and the farmer had never experienced anything like it before. He called in health inspectors who tested the farm's water supply for contaminants and conducted other environmental tests. While all this was unfolding, more cows fell sick and died. Soon almost his entire herd of 100 cows was sick.

When the results came back from the laboratory, the cause of the cows' sickness was found to be lead poisoning. The lead readings were off the chart, and the remainder of the herd was slaughtered. The farmer was baffled. A further autopsy of one of the dead cows revealed the cause.

A rifle range was located near the farm. Over time, hundreds of stray bullets and casings had landed in the adjacent farmland. They were inadvertently mulched up with the grass to produce straw, which was then fed to the livestock. The tiny specks of lead, too small to see with the naked eye, had poisoned the cows.

False Bible teaching can have the same impact on a believer that the lead poisoning had on the herd of cows. Over time, wrong teaching produces wrong thoughts about the character of God. This manifests in our lives as sinful behavior, which ultimately leads to spiritual death (alienation from Jesus Christ). **For this reason all Christians should pay careful attention to what we are being fed.** First and foremost, if we don't know God's Word ourselves, we will not be able to discern if fragments of poison are part of our regular spiritual diet.

### ***A Warning to Leaders***

In many Christian circles the last thing people want to hear about is “sound doctrine.” Such topics are considered too negative or controversial. While many Christians go to great lengths to appear happy and ‘successful’ to others, they have been slowly feeding on false teaching for years, and over time their spiritual life has grown progressively worse.

Surely nothing is more important in Christian work than the teaching of sound doctrine. This is particularly important for those involved in Bible teaching or missionary work. Many Christians think that being politically correct is more important than standing up for truth, even the truth of God's Word.

The great British preacher Charles Spurgeon once taught about the grave responsibility preachers have to teach sound doctrine. He said, *“Ensuring a printing press is correct has to be done with great care since thousands of copies will be faulty if the proof sheet is not as it should*



be. Similarly, a minister should be seriously earnest to teach truth because his people will imitate him. If the town clock is wrong, half the watches in the place will be set to the wrong time.”

For good reason the Scriptures warn, “**Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly**” (James 3:1).

The Apostle Paul gave a dire warning about the dangers of false teaching when he wrote, “**If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!**” (Galatians 1:9).

All who work in Christian ministry should carefully study 1 Timothy chapter 4, which instructs us about the perils of false doctrine. The passage concludes with this exhortation: “**Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers**” (1 Timothy 4:16).

At Asia Harvest, we are constantly doing all we can to ensure that we, and those we work with and support, are upholding and teaching sound doctrine, and not compromising any of the essential truths of God’s Word. We consider this the first and most basic of our responsibilities. If we don’t ensure the message we are spreading is accurate and true, then everything we do is in vain, and all we could look forward to would be the judgment of God for misrepresenting the truth of the Gospel that His beloved Son sacrificed His life for!

### ***God’s Antidote***

The most effective way we know to counteract error and heresy in the Asian church is to provide as many Bibles as possible to serious believers who desire to know and obey the Scriptures. For many years we have seen that God’s Word truly is “living and active”. We have seen the Living Word transform lives as people have read it and allowed their minds to be renewed and transformed by it.







We have seen heresies crumble and crooked teaching made straight by the power of the Holy Spirit confirming the Word of God. Because He is alive, the Word of God Himself, Jesus Christ, can rightfully claim: *“my word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it”* (Isaiah 55:11).

### ***A Reality Check***

Many people ask us, “Aren’t there already enough Bibles for people in Asia today?”

Here are some shocking statistics which may provide a reality check....

There are **7,000 languages** in the world today.

Of these, only **513 have the full Bible** available.

**In Asia, 1,600 languages have no**

**Scripture available at all, not even a single book or portion of the Bible.**

**Half the people in the world have never even seen a page of the Bible in their lives!**

Getting God’s Word to those people is our priority and focus, and we invite you to help get this done.

### ***A Wonderful Christmas Gift***

We pray you and your loved ones will enjoy a blessed and restful Christmas this year. As you do, we invite you to consider two things...

Firstly, where does the Bible sit as a priority in your life? Do you read it and long to obey God’s Word? Or has your heart grown cold over the years? Nobody has ever fallen away from God while remaining strong in His Word; and nobody can love Jesus Christ and grow in His grace without first loving His Word. The two are mutually inseparable. Our relationship with God is directly related to our relationship with His Word. ***“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away”*** (Matthew 24:35).



It's not too late to cry out to God. Ask Him to change you and to renew a desire and hunger for His Word.



Please consider how you can help our fellow Christians in Asia this Christmas. We operate two main Bible projects: the **China Bible Fund** (costing just \$1.80 to print and deliver a full Chinese Bible) and the **Asian Bible fund** through which we have printed the Scriptures for believers in more than 50 different Asian languages, in many nations including *North Korea, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan* and elsewhere.

We know of no greater investment a Christian can make in God's kingdom than by helping other hungry believers have access to the Word of God. **The Bible truly is "God's Greatest Missionary".**

*If you would like to help, you can do so either by giving via our secure website ([www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)) or by selecting one of our Bible projects on the enclosed yellow response form and sending it along with your gift.*

*Whether you would like to participate financially or not, we do ask for your prayer support for these projects, the Lord's protection over the many workers involved, and most of all, that the Name of Jesus Christ will be glorified in His Church throughout Asia, and lifted up for all people to see and hear the message of salvation. Thank you!*

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



*We are currently supporting 1,028 Asian evangelists working among 604 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*

The **Asian Workers' Fund** assists indigenous church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry to unreached people groups in Asia. These servants of the Lord have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances.

You can help support these dedicated workers for **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular donors of this project.

## CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 8,617,051 Chinese Bibles printed and distributed.*

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 Body of Christ and helping add fuel to the revival in China.

**Each full Chinese Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

## ASIAN BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 471,076 Bibles printed in 50 languages.*

Asia is home to many ethnic groups where people have been deprived of God's Word, sometimes for decades. The **Asian Bible fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in **Southeast Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere.** In China our China Bible Fund functions as a separate project.

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