



Asia Harvest

2016

NEWSLETTERS

(Combined)

Asia Harvest



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

www.asiaharvest.org

office@asiaharvest.org

February 2016 - Newsletter #134



2016 Annual Report

Perseverance

2016 Annual Report

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

In the final week of each year, after the commotion of Christmas has subsided, we like to set time aside to seek the Lord, and to ask Him to speak to us about the direction of Asia Harvest for the next year. In the past, many exciting things have been revealed to us. One year the Holy Spirit impressed on our hearts that He wanted to double the total number of Bibles we had produced in China. Without telling anyone, God brought in the funds needed to achieve that goal on the very last day of the following year!

At the end of 2015, as we prayed and asked the Lord Jesus to reveal His direction, the impression we gained may appear a little less exciting to some, but we believe He told us to persevere, and as the above verse says, “to let nothing move you.” Perseverance is a key to bearing fruit for the kingdom of God. All of us encounter hardships and trials in this fallen world, but it’s crucial not to give up when times look bleak. The Bible reminds us: ***“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”*** (Galatians 6:9).

The first Protestant missionary to India, William Carey, came to be known as ‘the father of modern missions’. When he was once asked for the secret of his success after decades of work in India, Carey replied, ***“I can plod. I can persevere in any definitive pursuit. To this I owe everything.”***

Serving the Lord can be adventurous at times, but like William Carey, as we look back over the years we see how God brought much growth in our work as we kept on doing the unglamorous everyday tasks He called us to do.

Many of those we serve on the mission field throughout Asia have also been called to stand and persevere in 2016. We write these words from the heart of Asia, where we have been meeting with various project leaders, praying together and evaluating various strategies for the advance of the gospel.

Last year, two men in ministries we are privileged to serve laid down their lives for the gospel. Both martyrdoms took place in India in the month of August. We would like to honor these two men, who were *"counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name"* (Acts 5:41).



Samuel Gonda, a 35-year-old evangelist and father of two, was forcibly carried off by four men in the middle of the night. In the morning his family found his dead body, but his spirit had already departed to be with the Lord Jesus Christ forever.

Another Indian evangelist **Guru Madi** (aged 28) had been threatened by local Maoists (Communists) because many of their members were being transformed by the gospel. They warned him to stop preaching, but he would not be silenced.

On 24 August 2015, a mob dragged Guru from his bed. His wife and two young children found his body a short distance away, with a bullet hole through his chest.



We are thankful for the faithful testimonies of Samuel Gonda and Guru Madi. They endured to the end, and have joined the roll of thousands of Christian martyrs down through the centuries who *"did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death"* (Revelation 12:11).

We thank everyone who prays and gives so generously to our work. Because of your help, we have provided long-term assistance to the widows and children of these two men, and will continue to do so for as long as it takes for them to move forward.

Thousands of other servants of God we work with throughout Asia were not called to suffer martyrdom last year, but all believers are called to faithfully persevere as they march forward, carrying the light of the gospel into this dark world, for this is how the kingdom of God is established. The Scriptures exhort us:

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 5:8-11).

As we pray with our colleagues throughout Asia, it's clear to us that God's children everywhere are under great pressure, in various ways. For example the Church in Nepal, still reeling from the massive earthquakes last year, are struggling to come to terms with a recent constitutional amendment, which makes it illegal for any person to convert from one religion to another. This change was clearly aimed at Christians, as the Lord Jesus has reaped a growing harvest from among the population of Nepal in recent years.

In India, many believers are deeply burdened because the schools have made daily yoga lessons compulsory for all students. Each lesson starts with a prayer to the sun god. The true followers of Jesus are once again being tested.

In Indonesia and other predominantly Muslim countries, many believers are feeling pressure from Islamic fundamentalism, as growing numbers of young Muslims are attracted to the warped ideologies of the ISIS death cult.

In China, Vietnam and elsewhere the battle is quite different, as Christians there are called to overcome the temptations and trappings of rampant materialism and consumerism, while retaining their passion for the Word of God.

Although the challenges you face will be different from those of your brothers and sisters in Asia, we encourage you to persevere, and we pray that in the coming year you will draw closer to the Lord Jesus than ever before. He has said, ***"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End"*** (Revelation 22:12-13).

In the remainder of this newsletter we share our Annual Report, detailing the help that Asia Harvest provided the Body of Christ throughout Asia in 2015.

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 hundreds of unreached people groups.

For more than 25 years our strategy has 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 are 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 we are supporting 1,089 Asian missionaries, serving among 594 unreached people groups. More than 24,000 people experienced God's salvation last year.



The Asian Workers' Fund provides support to evangelists in Asia who are involved with strategic work among ethnic groups that have never heard the gospel. By the end of 2015 we were privileged to support 1,089 evangelists among 594 unreached groups throughout Asia. These workers encounter many hardships and persecutions, but have persevered and are now seeing breakthroughs among many groups.

In 2015, those we support through the Asian Workers' Fund led **24,096 people to salvation in Jesus Christ**. A total of **81,310 conversions** have been reported since the project commenced. Hallelujah! This is even more remarkable considering most of them labor among some of the darkest and most unreached areas of Asia, including numerous Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist people 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 and worker updates are sent to every supporter of this project.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND

Providing Bibles to Asia's Christians

*Current Total: **642,087** Bibles printed in **69** different languages.
Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.*

Asia is home to many ethnic groups where 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.

In 2015 we printed 84,766 Bibles through the Asian Bible Fund. Last year we were privileged to provide God's Word in the following languages:

Assamese, Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Haka Chin, Hindi, Kannada, Konkani, Khasi, Kuki, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Marwari, Mizo, Mundari, Nepali, Oraon, Oriyan, Punjabi, Sadri, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Tidem Chin, Urdu, Wa.

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

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



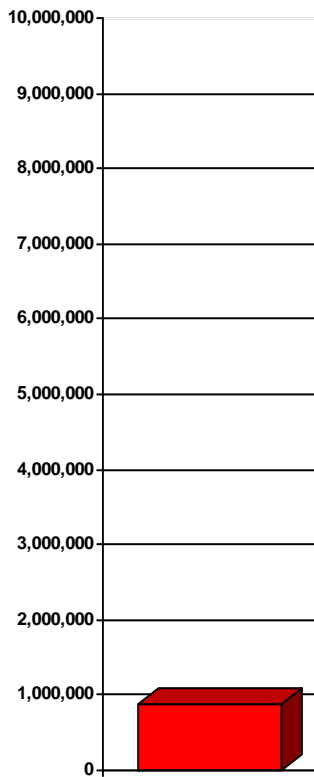
CHINA BIBLE FUND

Equipping China's Christians with God's Word

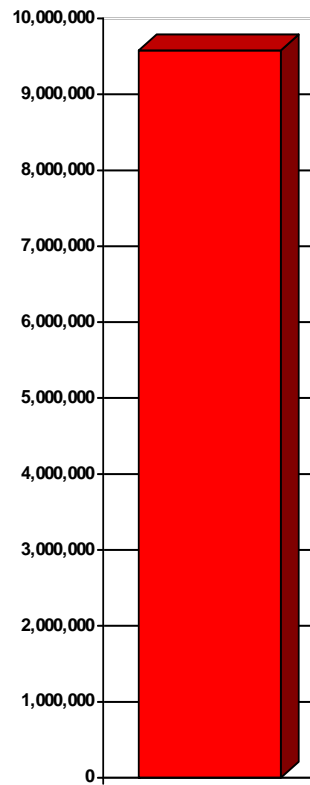
There remains a critical shortage of Bibles in China today because of the massive growth of the church in rural areas. Tens of millions of house church Christians are still unable to access God's Word. Our Bibles are distributed to all parts of China, helping establish new believers in the faith and adding fuel to the revival that continues to burn throughout the world's most populated country. **Each Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

Since 2000, we have printed and distributed more than 9.5 million Bibles to house churches in China, with **867,507** in 2015 alone. This represents **2,377 Bibles every day, 99 per hour, or one full Bible every 36 seconds** throughout the year. Each one is a miracle. Thank you for praying and giving.

**Bibles printed in
2015: 867,507**



**Total Bibles since
2000: 9,581,375**



The Big Event of 2015

Last year our activities were suddenly shaped by the massive earthquakes that struck the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal in April and May 2015. Our co-workers in Nepal were perfectly placed to help in the relief efforts, with much of their work already being near the epicenter of the quakes. They worked tirelessly, and always make sure the Good News of Jesus Christ was presented to those they helped physically. Thanks to a generous response from our supporters, we were able to feed and provide shelter to thousands of Nepalis from many ethnic groups. As the people of Nepal continue to



get back on their feet, our contacts have found the communities they serve possess a newfound respect for Christians, and the people have a new openness to the Gospel.

We assisted countless others throughout Asia in 2015 through the **Persecution & Relief Fund**. Believers received life-saving operations they otherwise couldn't afford, hundreds of widows and orphans were assisted in their distress, and numerous bicycles and motorcycles were provided to evangelists to help the Gospel go forth more quickly to reach thousands more people. In response to our October newsletter on Afghanistan, we have provided funds to construct fresh water wells in 20 villages of that war-torn nation.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity to this and all our projects in 2015. The Bible says that *"God's kindness leads you to repentance"* (Romans 2:4), and by displaying the love of God through practical methods, a great number of people last year were led to repentance and have experienced the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

Because of your partnership we are supporting 361 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** supports pastors and evangelists in China, Vietnam and elsewhere 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 15,422 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.

TESTIMONY CORNER

"On a recent trip I stopped to have dinner at a roadside hotel. While I waited for my food, an Imam (Muslim priest) sat down across from me. We began a conversation, and when he heard my family name he realized I come from a Muslim background. Intense questioning ensued because I was now a Christian, and I asked him what he thought of salvation.

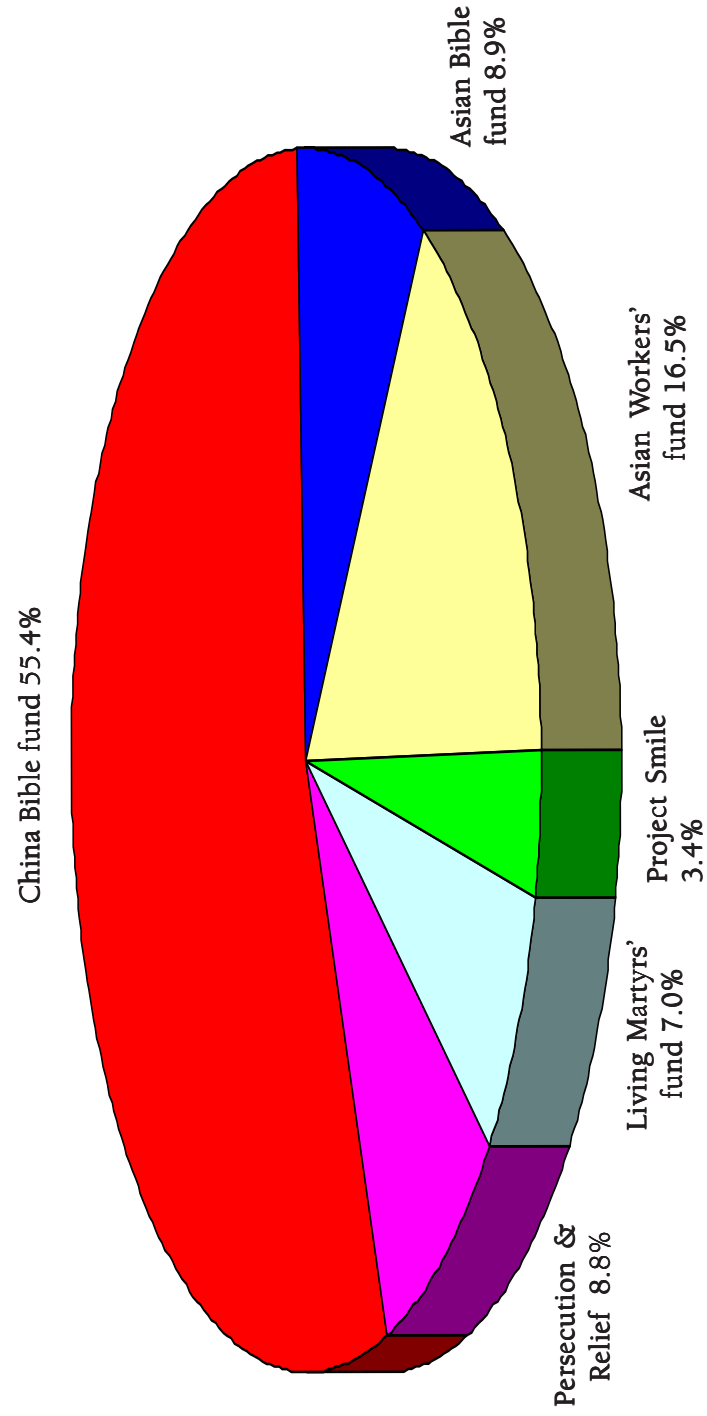


To him, salvation occurs when a Muslim makes a pilgrimage to Islam's most sacred site in Mecca. I took Scriptures from the Qur'an and the Bible and showed him that blood sacrifices are required to obtain God's forgiveness. I explained that it is now only through the blood of Jesus Christ that true forgiveness and salvation comes.

The Imam broke into tears as I shared the love of Jesus and I helped clarify all of his doubts about the Gospel. He found true salvation and was eager to share his new faith with other Muslims so they too can find the Truth!"

Brother Vimal, a former Muslim, is one of hundreds of Asian evangelists we support through the Asian Workers' Fund. We invite you to join us as we help them take the Gospel to the unreached peoples of Asia.

Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2015





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April 2016 - Newsletter #135



**Introducing the
BLESS THE CHILDREN FUND**

From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

"All your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace."

(Isaiah 54:13)

The world seems like a very dark and depressing place at the moment. If we spend too much time watching the news it's easy to think that evil is winning and God's kingdom is losing. Nothing could be further from the truth!

We recently spent an extended period of time meeting our project leaders throughout Asia. After weeks of praying and strategizing with these key co-workers, we felt greatly encouraged. Despite many hardships and struggles, the kingdom of God is advancing in extraordinary ways, and entire communities are being transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have been serving the Lord in India since 1991. To be honest, in the early part of those 25 years we often felt demoralized about the prospects for the Gospel there. Anyone who has spent time in India knows that it's a place of chaos and confusion, and we struggled to see how the myriad of more than 2,300 unreached people groups within that amazing country could ever be reached. More than once we said, "India is so complex that only God can reach it." Well, we have some good news: **God is reaching India!**

While the Gospel continues to face many barriers in the cities, where resistant Muslims and high-caste Hindus tend to live, the bulk of India's population lives in more-than one million rural villages. About 90% of those villages are inhabited by poor Hindus and tribal people, and it is among these precious groups that the Lord is reaping a mighty harvest.

If you are familiar with the work of Asia Harvest, you will know that China has been our major focus since we began in the 1980s. Indeed, we gained a reputation for knowing something about the Church in China, and even wrote several books on the mighty revival there. Now, we are seeing and hearing testimonies from throughout India that are very similar to stories that came out of China when the revival fires burned hot in the 1990s. We are excited to be in a position to help the kingdom of God advance in India, as we have in China. In fact, after much prayer and many

meetings with key ministry leaders, we would like to make a bold prediction: **In the next decade or so, India will be home to more Christians than China!**

Experts say India will surpass China as the world's most populated country just six years from now, in 2022. India's population currently stands at over 1.2 billion people. The government claims that 3.5% are Christians, which would give a total of about 42 million believers. However, every Indian church leader we know says the government's estimate is ludicrously low, and that the true percentage of Christians in India may already be at least 8 to 10 percent. If true, that would give a total number of between 96 to 120 million Christians in India today. Hallelujah!

The Holy Spirit is doing a powerful work throughout India, especially among the poor and downtrodden of society, and many are pressing into the kingdom of God. This is not going unnoticed. *The Hindu* newspaper on August 30th last year ran an article about religion in the large state of Odisha with the headline: "Population of Christians Grew by 478% in Odisha in 50 Years." The article summarized how Christianity in the state far outpaced Hindu and Muslim growth over that time.

While the population in many Western nations is aging, when you travel to a place like India you are instantly struck by the extraordinary number of children everywhere. In fact, 40 percent of India's population are children under the age of 15. For the kingdom of God to flourish throughout the thousands of ethnic groups in India, **the children must hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ!**

In the remainder of this newsletter we are honored to introduce a new project, which we have named the **Bless the Children Fund**. We are excited about the effect this project will have on the lives of thousands of families and their communities. Reaching children for the Lord Jesus has always been a major focus of Asia Harvest's work. We have provided help in many ways, including printing thousands of children's Bibles and story books, training workers in children's ministry, and supporting orphans. We have also been engaged in many humanitarian initiatives that are always accompanied by the proclamation of the Gospel. These include providing hundreds of wheelchairs to disabled children, supporting the children of persecuted church leaders in China and other countries, and rescuing girls from sexual slavery in South Asia.

We plan to continue supporting all these and more important initiatives through this new project. Even Project Smile, which has provided more than 15,000 surgeries to children in Vietnam over the past 15 years, has now been placed under the umbrella of our new **Bless the Children Fund**.

Blessing the Children of India



With a staggering 40 percent of the population of India aged 15 and under, now is the time to impact the future of this great country for Jesus Christ. We would like to share some ways our co-workers in India are doing this, by describing six effective steps they employ to reach precious children with the Gospel.

1. Vacation Bible Schools

In the next few months, all across India, untold millions of people will be busy working in the fields from morning until night, bringing in the harvest. This is the most crucial time of the year, because there is little government assistance in India. If the harvest fails, countless millions of people will struggle to survive. During this time, our Christian colleagues, who already serve God in more than 1,000 villages throughout India, offer free “Vacation Bible Schools” (VBS) to village children. This program actually dates back a long time, having been introduced by missionaries over 100 years ago. Parents are more than happy that someone has offered to look after their kids for up to ten

days while they gather the harvest, and they gladly send them along, knowing full-well that the program is run by Christians.

2. Cleaning the Outside

Many of the children who first turn up at the VBS have great physical needs, so before their spiritual needs are met, the children are given a good clean. Our Indian Christian brothers and sisters bathe the kids, give them a haircut, wash their dirty clothes, clip their fingernails and toenails, and generally scrub them up nice and new! They also feed the children healthy food, with hardboiled eggs, bananas and nutritious biscuits filling the bellies of the children. Many of them come from extremely poor families who struggle to survive from day to day. Incredibly, the cost of providing food to these precious children amounts to just 10 Rupees (about 15 cents) per day for each child.



3. Song and Dance

You are probably aware that Indians love to sing and dance. Their entire culture seems to be centered on music. After the children have had their physical needs met, our co-workers don't waste any time before they introduce the children to songs about Jesus Christ. Many wonderful Christian teenagers, like the ones pictured below, lead the way in teaching the Gospel to Hindu, Muslim and tribal children through song and dance (Note: on the Asia Harvest website we have some short video clips of children being taught about the Lord this way).



4. Teaching the Basics

Each child is then introduced to the basic truths about God and the Bible, starting with Creation and the Fall of Man, through to the Death, Burial and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The younger children are given large coloring books and pens, and are

taught Bible stories as they color in. Older children study more detailed aspects of the Gospel, and can ask questions as they interact with their Christian teachers. There are 5 different study books produced for various age groups, ranging from small children to 15 year-olds. Each book costs just \$1 to print, so a full set of books costs \$5 per child. This sounds inexpensive, although this year alone we are printing books for 30,000 children, so we would appreciate it if you could please join us in praying for this need.

5. Confused Parents Demand Answers!

Recently, the main Indian leaders of this work shared that after just the second or third day of the VBS, many parents come marching in, demanding to know what has happened to their children. "We want to give our lives to your God!" they exclaim. "In just a few days our children have been transformed. They are now obedient and respectful. They came home singing joyful songs that you have taught them. Our gods cannot change a person on the inside like this. Please help us! We want to know your God."



6. Joining God's Family

The Vacation Bible Schools take place every year, and are a tremendous way of introducing children to the faith. **This year alone, 30,000 precious children** in more than 700 villages throughout India will have their first contact with Christians through this strategic project. These children come from **132 different unreached ethnic groups**. Many go on to become mature followers of Jesus Christ, walking in His grace and knowledge. They, in turn, reach out to more children the following year. It is through projects like this that **India is being saved!**



In future newsletters we plan to share details of how the **Bless the Children Fund** functions in other countries of Asia, including China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Nepal and elsewhere. We invite you to join with us in praying for the salvation of Asia's children. By reaching them, entire communities and ethnic groups are being impacted for the kingdom of God.

The average cost of reaching a child through the Bless the Children Fund is just \$20. This includes all the materials and costs from when the children arrive, to the time they graduate from the courses as true followers of the Lord, including being provided with a Bible in their local language. If you would like to support this project we welcome you to do so. Support can either be mailed in to us by using the enclosed yellow Response form, or one-time and monthly donations can be set up online via our secure website at www.asiaharvest.org



India's future: Young Indian Christian children praying fervently over a map of India, asking for the salvation of Jesus Christ to come to their nation.



Teenage believers receiving their first Bibles.

TESTIMONY CORNER

"I was born into a Hindu family. We prayed to many idols and also worshipped nature. I had heard about Christianity but didn't understand why it was any different from other religions. My wife and I had a son. While I was away working as a driver he fell sick and was admitted to hospital. I rushed back home but by the time I arrived my beloved son had died.



Two evangelists heard the sad news and visited us. In her desperation, my wife asked them to pray for our son so that their God might raise him back to life. Before praying, they asked us to close our eyes. I did not believe, so I kept my eyes open. To my surprise, I saw the two Christians pray very intensely. When they finished their prayer my son sat up. He was alive! My heart leapt with joy to see this great miracle. I left my sins behind and became a lover of Jesus Christ. I committed my life to Him and received His wonderful salvation. I am now burdened to tell other unreached people what God has done in my life."

Surendra is one of hundreds of Asian evangelists we support through the Asian Workers' Fund. We have dozens needing support right now. We invite you to join us as we help them.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



We are currently supporting 1,420 Asian evangelists working among 814 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: 9,649,994 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: 655,975 Bibles printed in 69 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 **South-east Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere**. In China our China Bible Fund functions as a separate project.

Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.

BLESS THE CHILDREN FUND



*Your generous support has so far enabled **55,897** Asian children to hear the Gospel.*

The **Bless the Children Fund** introduces precious children to Jesus Christ in India, China, Vietnam, Nepal, and a host of other countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. The results of this project have been staggering. It costs an average of **\$20 to reach a child for Christ**.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **361** 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."

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PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



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

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June 2016 - Newsletter #136



State of the Nations

An Overview of God's Kingdom in Asia

From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

“But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool” (Hebrews 10:12-13).

Do you know that the practice of a king’s enemies becoming his footstool frequently occurred in Middle Eastern culture? Archaeologists have unearthed footstools with the faces of conquered kings carved into them, which enabled a victorious ruler the pleasure of looking down at his vanquished foes.

The Lord Jesus never minced his words. He told us the truth, but always offered hope even in the midst of the fierce storms of life. When asked about the signs of the end of the age, the Lord replied, ***“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come”*** (Matthew 24:12-14).

There is a rapid increase of wickedness in the world today, but we encourage you not to be one of those whose love for God grows cold. It’s easy to become cynical at the state of society and at much of what passes under the banner of Christianity, but we must fight against cynicism and press in to the heart of Jesus even more as the days become darker.

The only way to keep our love from growing cold is to be grounded in the Word of God and to daily surrender our lives to the Holy Spirit. The Bible promises: ***“Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”*** (James 4:8-10).

When the powers of darkness seem to be closing in and pressure from the world threatens to snuff out your light, it’s crucial to remember that Jesus is the victorious King! He conquered the grave, and ***“having disarmed the powers and authorities,***

he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Colossians 2:15).

The time is coming when Jesus will receive His mighty inheritance, and He will rule and reign over all the nations of the world. On that day all of His enemies will be made His footstool, and a loud voice in heaven shall declare, *“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).

In the meantime, God’s children must continue to patiently endure as His plans are fulfilled throughout the earth. If you belong to Jesus Christ, do not lose hope! Keep trusting God, and *“do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay...we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved”* (Hebrews 10:35-39).



STATE OF THE NATIONS

From time to time we like to present a snapshot of the state of the Gospel throughout Asia. In the following pages we provide a brief overview of nine countries Asia Harvest is working in. The statistics used are the latest from Joshua Project, who define a people group as “unreached” if less than 2 percent of its population are evangelical Christians.

While we have much to thank God for in Asia, the facts and figures are a sobering reminder of how much work remains to be done. Our life’s goal is to reach as many unreached people groups as possible with the salvation of Jesus Christ. We appreciate your prayers and partnership, as together we “look forward to the day of the Lord and speed it’s coming” (2 Peter 3:12).

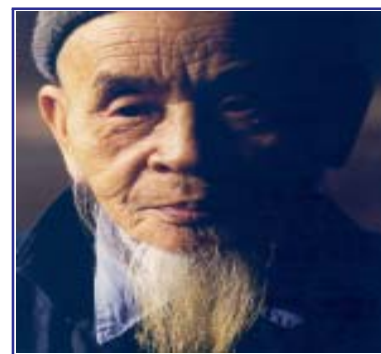
CHINA

Population:	1,388.2 million
Non-Christians:	1,279.9 million (92.2%)
All Christians:	108.3 million (7.8%)
Capital:	Beijing
People Groups:	550
Unreached:	456



Asia Harvest is helping to reach 33 people groups in China.

God continues to move powerfully throughout China. The greatest need remains for Bibles and discipleship materials to feed tens of millions of hungry house church believers. Most of China’s ethnic minority groups, however, remain unreached. The Gospel has spread rapidly among the Han Chinese majority, but has encountered strong ethnic, cultural, geographic and language barriers as it struggles to penetrate the more than 450 distinct (non-Han) minority groups in China. Hundreds of groups still lack a vibrant Gospel witness capable of impacting their population.



INDIA

Population: 1,282.8 million
Non-Christians: 1,254.6 million (97.8%)
All Christians: 28.2 million (2.2%)
Capital: New Delhi
People Groups: 2,234
Unreached: 2,018



Asia Harvest is helping to reach 368 people groups in India.

India poses the most complex challenge for the Body of Christ today. Home to more than 2,200 distinct people groups, the Gospel has flourished among some groups, but most remain devoid of spiritual light. India will soon surpass China as the world's most populated country, but 98 out of every 100 people remain lost and in desperate need of Christ's salvation.



NEPAL

Population: 29.4 million
Non-Christians: 29.1 million (99.1%)
All Christians: 0.3 million (0.9%)
Capital: Kathmandu
People Groups: 249
Unreached: 238



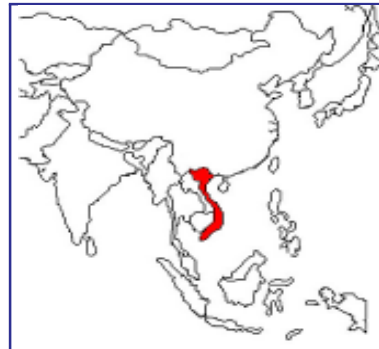
Asia Harvest is helping to reach 53 people groups in Nepal.

Living among the highest mountains on earth, more than 240 distinct tribes and castes inhabit Nepal. There were just 25 known Christians in Nepal in the 1950s, compared to more than 300,000 today. Some tribes have experienced revival in the past 20 years, but over 200 remain relatively untouched by the Gospel. There is much work left to do in Nepal.



VIETNAM

Population: 93.8 million
Non-Christians: 84.9 million (90.5%)
All Christians: 8.9 million (9.5%)
Capital: Hanoi
People Groups: 118
Unreached: 80



Asia Harvest is helping to reach 26 people groups in Vietnam.

The Gospel has spread inconsistently in Vietnam, and Protestant Christians make up only about 2% of the population. Most churches are in the south and central provinces, with fewer believers in the north. Dozens of tribes remain completely untouched by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please pray every segment of Vietnam will soon bring glory to the Living God.



LAOS

Population: 7.2 million
Non-Christians: 7.0 million (97.2%)
All Christians: 0.2 million (2.8%)
Capital: Vientiane
People Groups: 136
Unreached: 114



Asia Harvest is helping to reach 22 people groups in Laos.

Laos is one of Asia's forgotten countries. Because of its small population, many organizations don't consider Laos a priority, but it is one of the most ethnically-diverse countries on earth, containing 136 distinct tribes. Only a few dozen groups have a significant Christian presence, while more than 100 remain untouched by the Gospel. Please pray for their salvation.



MYANMAR (Burma)

Population: 54.4 million
Non-Christians: 49.6 million (91.1%)
All Christians: 4.8 million (8.9%)
Capital: Naypyidaw
People Groups: 153
Unreached: 49

Asia Harvest is helping to reach 13 people groups in Myanmar.

The spread of Christianity in Myanmar is uneven, with some tribes in revival while other areas are full of dead religion. There is a great need for the Scriptures and for discipleship. Please pray the 31 million Buddhist Myen people will soon know the Living God.



INDONESIA

Population: 254.2 million
Non-Christians: 221.7 million (87.2%)
All Christians: 32.5 million (12.8%)
Capital: Jakarta
People Groups: 779
Unreached: 221

Asia Harvest is helping to reach 66 people groups in Indonesia.

Indonesia is a paradox. It contains more Muslims than any other country on earth, spread across more than 750 distinct ethnic groups. God has moved powerfully, with more than 30 million Christians throughout Indonesia. With most believers being ethnic Chinese, over 220 people groups remain unreached. Please pray the Name of Jesus will be glorified throughout this large and important country.



CAMBODIA

Population: 15.9 million
Non-Christians: 15.4 million (96.8%)
All Christians: 0.5 million (3.2%)
Capital: Phnom Penh
People Groups: 42
Unreached: 30

Asia Harvest is helping to reach 12 people groups in Cambodia.

Cambodia was known as the “killing fields” in the 1970s, but a vibrant and growing church has risen from the ashes of that horrific genocide. While a number of tribes have embraced the Gospel in recent years, most of the 14 million Buddhist Khmer majority have yet to hear about Jesus. Please pray for their salvation.



BANGLADESH

Population: 159.8 million
Non-Christians: 159.2 million (99.6%)
All Christians: 0.6 million (0.4%)
Capital: Dhaka
People Groups: 316
Unreached: 283

Asia Harvest is helping to reach 43 people groups in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is one of the poorest and most unreached countries on earth, containing nearly 300 distinct ethnic groups who have yet to trust Jesus Christ. Nine out of ten people in Bangladesh are Muslims. Please pray the fame of the Lord will spread widely to every part of this large and needy land.



TESTIMONY CORNER



We are constantly blessed to read field reports from the hundreds of evangelists we support throughout Asia. One recent report grabbed our attention. In a remote area of Laos (a Communist country sandwiched between China, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia), our co-workers came across a village with a demon-possessed man who had been tormented by evil spirits for years. The locals had given up all hope, and had built a thick wooden cage (see picture) to restrain the man and to protect themselves from his violent attacks.

When the evangelists saw the caged man the compassion of the Lord came upon them. They prayed for him in the Name of Jesus, and the dark forces that had bound the man for years were demolished.

The change in the man's life was so dramatic that many villagers demanded to know the God who had done this great miracle. As a result, 34 people accepted the Lord Jesus Christ and are now meeting together in a house church, including the man who had been so wonderfully set free. Hallelujah!



These workers in Laos are among hundreds of Asian evangelists we support through the Asian Workers' Fund. We currently have dozens who need support. We invite you to join us as we help them take the Gospel to the unreached.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



We are currently supporting 1,489 Asian evangelists working among 661 unreached people groups.

The **Asian Workers' Fund** assists indigenous church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry to unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. 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: 9,922,568 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: 668,288 Bibles printed in 69 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 **South-east Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere.**

Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.

BLESS THE CHILDREN FUND



*Your generous support has so far enabled **56,883** children to hear the Gospel throughout Asia.*

The **Bless the Children Fund** introduces children to Jesus Christ in India, China, Vietnam, Nepal, and a host of other countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. The results of this project have been staggering. It costs an average of **\$20 to reach a child for Christ**.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **361** 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** supports pastors and evangelists in China, Vietnam, India and elsewhere 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.

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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August 2016 - Newsletter #137



Ten Million Miracles

Praise God for 10-Million Chinese Bibles!

Ten Million Miracles

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

“They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away... Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things” (Psalm 107:5, 8-9).

In this special Asia Harvest newsletter we give thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ. By His great power and grace we recently passed the all-time milestone of 10 million Chinese Bibles printed and delivered to house church Christians in China!

For us, this vision began in 1988, when God first called Paul to carry Bibles from Hong Kong across the border into Mainland China. Joy received a separate call a few years later, and we met on the mission field and later got married. For the first decade or so of our service, the only way to get precious Scriptures into China was by carrying them in bags and suitcases across the border. We hosted numerous short-term teams who hauled tons of Bibles to hungry Chinese believers. This method was exciting, but also costly and slow. By the late 1990s it was clear the need for Bibles among the house churches in China was so large due to revival, that carrying one bag at a time was never going to meet the need.

In the 12 years from 1988 to 2000, the teams we hosted carried a total of around 174,000 Bibles into China. Then in 2000 a door opened for us to work with house church networks to discreetly print Bibles directly inside the country. This development immediately opened up a whole new world of possibilities.

“With great thanksgiving to God I commend Asia Harvest and all of their supporters as they celebrate 10 million Bibles provided to the Church in China!

I have cherished my relationship with Paul and Joy since 1992, when we first met while distributing God’s Word in China. The need remains enormous, and Asia Harvest’s faithful consistent role has been vital over many years.

China is a huge nation, and while we are thankful that millions now have access to Bibles, we grieve that many millions of believers are still unable to access God’s Word—not counting the hundreds of millions of potential seekers.”

Over the years, Asia Harvest has consistently demonstrated the highest integrity, wisdom, and a servant heart to extend God’s glory and not their own. I hope the Lord will enable them to continue and even expand in the years ahead.

— Gary Russell, Director of China Harvest

Two Pivotal Events

Over the years the Lord greatly increased the number of Bibles we have printed and distributed in China. If anyone reading this newsletter looks at us and thinks we achieved this goal, they have completely missed the truth. This hasn't been a human accomplishment, but a miracle from the Living God.

Looking back, we can see how the Holy Spirit orchestrated certain events which proved to be major spiritual landmarks along the way. We have never publicly shared the following two stories before...

The first key event took place in central China in the year 2000, at a meeting with a group of about 40 house church leaders. One evening, a senior leader unexpectedly felt led by the Holy Spirit to pray for us. He consulted some of his colleagues, and a few minutes later a group of eight or nine men emerged from their dormitory, saying they believed the Lord wanted them to pray a special blessing over us. The leaders sat me down on a chair in the middle of the room. They laid their hands on my head and cried out in unified prayer, as they typically do in China.

After praying intensely for about ten minutes, the senior pastor said, "Brother Paul, we recognize the special gifts God has given you, and we ask the Holy Spirit to pour His blessings upon you and your family. May you be anointed with the power and presence of Jesus Christ, and may His favor rest on the work of your hands, so that millions of people will hear the gospel!"

In hindsight, it's clear that our work took off exponentially after that powerful prayer of blessing in China. The quantity of Bibles we provided experienced a dramatic and sustained increase from that moment on.

The second pivotal event occurred in 2006, in the small town of North Bend, Washington. We had traveled to the bedside of a dying man, Brother David, who wanted us to record his testimony. Brother David's emaciated body was literally being eaten up by diabetes. He was partially blind and deaf, and had suffered multiple heart attacks over the years.

Over the course of a week, David shared his remarkable testimony from the early 1980s, when he led a bold and courageous project that delivered one million Bibles by ship to a beach in Mainland China. David and the crew literally risked their lives, and by the hand of God, 232 tons of Bibles were delivered ashore to thousands of waiting Chinese believers, who had been starved of God's Word for decades. Brother David's story was published in the book, *Project Pearl: The 1-Million Smuggled Bibles that Changed China*.

Before we left his home, David shared with me how as a young man God had given him a vision to provide ten million Bibles to Christians in China. For years both before and after the risky boat delivery in 1981, he led initiatives toward achieving this goal, but then failing health took its toll. In total, he told me he had been involved in providing about two million Bibles to China, but he knew he would not be able to reach the target the Lord had given him.

David prayed for us and asked the Lord to transfer this vision to Asia Harvest, for the glory of God and the expansion of His kingdom in China. We agreed, and with tears in his eyes, he prayed the Holy Spirit might anoint our lives and work, so that at least ten million Chinese Bibles would be distributed to believers in China.

Brother David died in May 2007, but the graph on the following page reveals the results of his prayer. In subsequent years our project took off exponentially, and has continued strongly under the hand of God's blessing to the present day.

Our Secret Fundraiser

The famous missionary to China, Hudson Taylor, once wrote, **“God’s work, done God’s way, will never lack God’s supply.”**

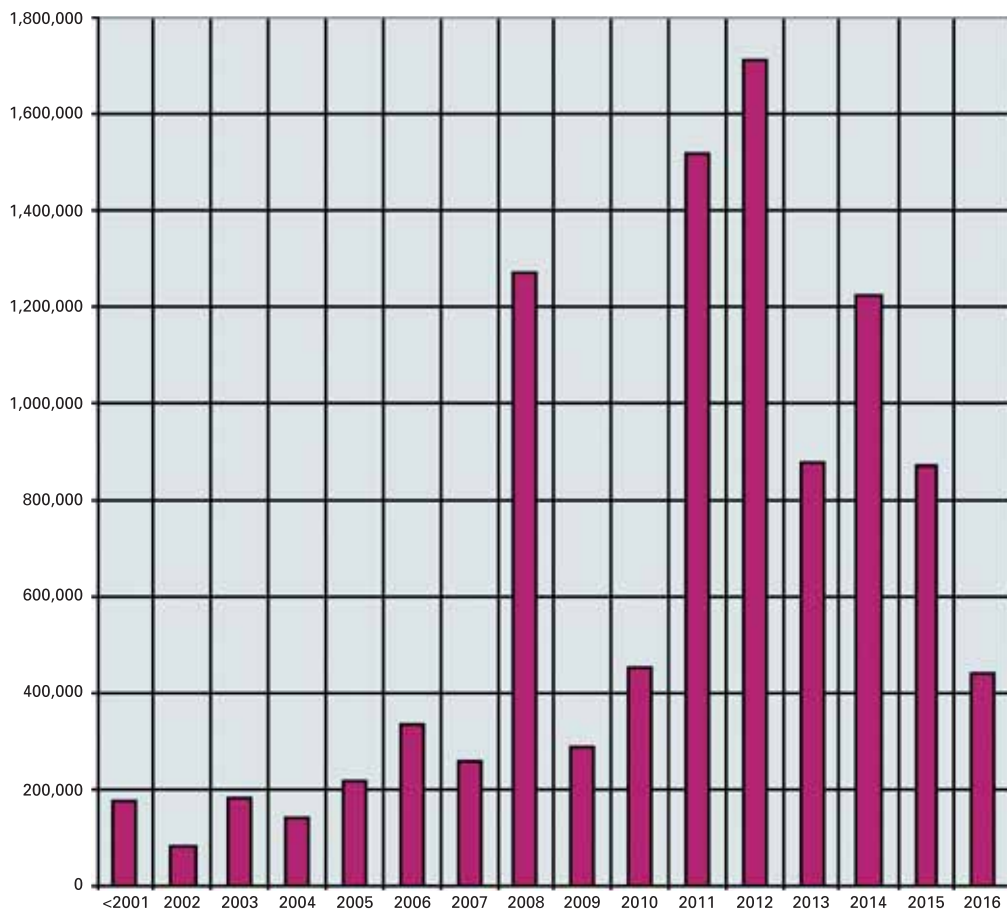
Over the years, some people have noticed the large quantity of Bibles we distribute, and assume we must be well connected to some rich and famous people. Nothing could be further from the truth, although we are joined to the richest and most powerful individual in the universe, who once declared, *“If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it”* (Psalm 50:12).

From the start of this project (and others) we have never begged or asked anyone for support, nor have we held fundraising programs or employed any gimmicks to try to get things done. All we have had is our free newsletter, and later our website, where people are welcome to pray and participate financially if the Lord leads them, without feeling compelled or manipulated.

By adopting this strategy and always seeking to put God's kingdom first, the Lord Jesus has honored His work and has been pleased to supernaturally provide bread to feed His hungry children throughout China's house churches.

From a human perspective, our ministry had no chance of producing significant numbers of Bibles. We have had one special advantage, however, which tipped the scales in our favor. **The Lord Jesus Himself decided to be our fund-raiser!** As this crucial project blossomed, the Holy Spirit moved on the hearts of many people to pray and give so that Chinese Christians-especially new believers living in impoverished rural areas-would have access to His Word.

Chinese Bibles Printed, 2001-2016



<	2001:	174,086	2009:	84,559
	2002:	79,440	2010:	449,860
	2003:	181,307	2011:	1,517,036
	2004:	142,724	2012:	1,711,067
	2005:	216,014	2013:	874,762
	2006:	334,362	2014:	1,221,418
	2007:	256,912	2015:	867,507
	2008:	1,270,320	2016:	437,159

TOTAL: 10,018,533 Chinese Bibles printed and delivered

CHINA BIBLE MAP



Thanks to the grace of God and your prayers and generous support, Asia Harvest recently passed the milestone of **ten million** Chinese Bibles printed and delivered to the house churches in China. Our co-workers provide detailed reports, allowing us to keep track of every Bible we print and to create this distribution map. On behalf of all the grateful believers in China, thank you and God bless you!

Bibles Delivered by Province:

1 Anhui	988,300
2 Heilongjiang	935,098
3 Inner Mongolia	870,677
4 Shandong	795,923
5 Henan	731,457
6 Zhejiang	683,412
7 Jilin	516,817
8 Shanxi	419,715
9 Gansu	357,184
10 Jiangsu	345,780
11 Sichuan	341,119
12 Liaoning	307,568
13 Guangxi	286,822
14 Hebei	284,639
15 Shaanxi	271,092
16 Jiangxi	268,308
17 Hubei	234,084
18 Qinghai	225,193
19 Shanghai	213,071
20 Xinjiang	204,763
21 Chongqing	200,716
22 Hainan Island	161,722
23 Fujian	140,822
24 Guangdong	79,553
25 Beijing	75,008
26 Yunnan	29,990
27 Guizhou	21,238
28 Hunan	13,050
29 Tibet	5,356
30 Ningxia	5,315
31 Tianjin	4,740

TOTAL 10,018,533

Instead of connecting us with a few large donors, the Lord chose to link us together with hundreds of normal believers throughout the world. We marvel at the wisdom of God in leading us to function in this manner. A few individual snowflakes can easily be brushed aside, but a multitude of snowflakes can join together to stop trucks and derail freight trains.

Over the years, the median size donation we have received is \$52, as the Holy Spirit connected us with many members of the Body of Christ. The number of Bibles we were able to provide grew rapidly, and God gained much glory for His Name.

We received many touching letters from Christians who sensed the Holy Spirit prompt them to support the Bible project. Some children broke open their piggy-banks and sent their hard-earned savings. One young American lady mailed a check for \$5,000, with a note explaining that she had been saving for her wedding, but the Lord directed her to give the money to print Chinese Bibles instead.

A dear sister in Europe, who has suffered many hardships throughout her life, wrote to us after sending a donation a few months ago. She said, **“I want to share with you that this moment is a precious and much desired occasion in my life. By the grace of God, with my recent gift I have now personally sent 100,000 Bibles to the suffering church. To reach this target took 40 years. Please pray that I may continue in my work for Him as I grow older.”**

What God Has Done

Some people assume that printing “illegal” Bibles inside Communist China must be a fairly straightforward task. If they tried it, they would soon discover that China has crafted one of the most sophisticated and intrusive security mechanisms of any country on earth. They are determined to control the population, and they don’t hesitate to crush any perceived threats to their authority. Printing or distributing Bibles this way inside China carries the risk of a three-year prison sentence without trial for those involved. Many have been willing to count the cost.

We bow in amazement before the One who said, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”* (Matthew 28:18), as we consider what the Lord Jesus Christ has achieved through the China Bible Fund. It is astonishing what He has done! Consider this astonishing fact: Most of the Bibles we produce are 5.7 inches (14.6 cm) in length. If each of the ten million Bibles was laid end-to-end, do you know how far they would stretch? The line would go 900 miles, or 1,460 kilometers!

Truly, our Lord *“is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!”* (Eph. 3:20-21).

Large quantities of Bibles cannot be safely produced and delivered inside China apart from the supernatural power of the Almighty God, and with hundreds of intercessors praying for divine protection over every step of the process. Each Bible produced and delivered under these circumstances really is a miracle.

The Future

The tragic reality is that the rural churches of China continue to experience a massive famine of God's Word today. Several years ago, an extensive survey by many church networks revealed a shortage of 34 million Bibles, just for each member of their fellowships to personally own a copy of God's Word.

Against all odds, the Lord has taken our small, insignificant ministry, and has provided ten million Bibles to His Church in China. Perhaps one day in the future, things will change and God's Word will be freely available in China. Until that time, as long as the Lord Jesus enables us, we will continue to supply as many Bibles as possible, at the cost of just \$1.80 per full Bible. All glory to the Lamb of God!

Each Bible has been a miracle. Please pray this project will only continue to function *“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty* (Zechariah 4:6).

To everyone over the years who has prayed and given, whether through Asia Harvest or other organizations, so that China's house church Christians would have access to God's Word, we say thank you!

“Greetings of love in the Name of our Lord Jesus the Christ. We weep with joy and delight each time we receive a new shipment of Bibles, and we thank our Heavenly Father for you, our brothers and sisters, who provide these most precious gifts. The Bible co-ordinator asked us to document how many Bibles we need to meet the current deficit if we are going to provide God's Word to every new believer in our fellowships. After much research we have discovered that number currently stands at 713,492 Bibles.

We look forward to meeting you all in heaven, where we can personally thank everyone who has provided the Bread of Life to us. Our lives have been eternally touched by your ministry, and many more souls will worship before the Throne because of your loving labors. May our Lord bless you and protect you from evil until we cross over to eternal rejoicing.”

— Brother Li, Senior House Church leader, Eastern China

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



We are currently supporting 1,512 Asian evangelists working among 702 unreached people groups.

The **Asian Workers' Fund** assists indigenous church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry to unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. 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: 10,018,533 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: 677,196 Bibles printed in 71 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.**

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BLESS THE CHILDREN FUND



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The **Bless the Children Fund** introduces children to Jesus Christ in India, China, Vietnam, Nepal, and a host of other countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. The results of this project have been staggering. It costs an average of **\$20 to reach a child for Christ**.

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

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Asia Harvest



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

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October 2016 - Newsletter #138



China's Forgotten Tribes

From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength... He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him” (1 Corinthians 1:25-29-13).

In our previous newsletter we shared how God has enabled us to reach the milestone of printing and distributing 10-million Chinese Bibles, over a period of many years.

Some of the feedback we received from believers was along the lines of, “Congratulations, you guys have worked hard!” and “What a great achievement!”

In our newsletter we emphasized how reaching that milestone was a great miracle of providence by the Lord Jesus Christ, and that without His supernatural power and protection it would be impossible to even consider such a project in a Communist country that seeks total control of its people.

A few years ago we visited a Christian bookshop. After looking around for a few minutes, we were unable to find any books worth reading amid the rows of shallow ‘self-help’ books telling us how we could ‘maximize our potential.’ As we prepared to leave, something in the corner of the store caught our attention. It was a set of ‘Samson muscles’ that children could strap on their arms to look just like Samson!

On the surface this toy seemed like just a bit of harmless fun, but we later thought about how Christians often think God’s work can be accomplished by human strength, and in so doing we rob God of the glory due His Name.

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

Did Samson indeed have huge bulging muscles like the drawings of him in children’s Bible story books and videos? Did he perform those mighty acts because of his huge

muscles, or because of God's mighty power? Some Bible scholars believe the city gate and posts of Gaza weighed about four tons. City gates at the time were often nail-studded and covered with metal to prevent them being burned during an attack.

Could the strongest man in the world today lift four tons, not to mention that he carried it for a distance of 36 miles uphill? Of course not! Anyone who attempted it would immediately be crushed like an ant. If Samson was a huge, strongly built man, would the Philistines have been so confused that they begged Delilah to find the source of his strength?

No, Samson's superhuman strength wasn't the result of bulging biceps. The source of his strength was the Holy Spirit. We wonder if one day we will discover that Samson was actually a normal-size man!

Over the years we have often come across the same misguided thinking in relation to God's work in Asia. For example, if a person looks only for human reasons behind how the Church in China grew to over 100 million people under Communist rule, they will invariably reach a skewed conclusion if they fail to realize the revival is a sovereign act of the Living God. Some people we know have come to China expecting amazing fellowship with powerful saints, but have been disappointed to find the Church there looks a lot like the churches in their homeland, with failings and weaknesses that cause it to depend on the grace of God. On the outside they make look the same, but on the inside the Lord has done a mighty work in China.

In Christian ministry we have learned there are two ways to operate—in our own strength (which often leads to burnout and frustration), or in God's strength, which achieves much of eternal value. As Christians, we don't need 'Samson muscles.' Rather, we need to humbly serve God and seek His grace and strength. One day we will all be required to stand before the Creator and give an account of our lives and work. May it be found that we didn't attempt to do God's work in our own strength, for such efforts will be shown to consist merely of "wood, hay and stubble." They will be ***"burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames."*** (1 Corinthians 3:15).

May we rely on the Holy Spirit's divine power to motivate and complete the tasks He has called us to do, for the Lord said ***"the Spirit gives life, the flesh counts for nothing"*** (John 6:63).

At the end of the day, may we be able to say with the Lord that the work He had called us to was done ***"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty.*** (Zechariah 4:6).

The Many Faces of China



One person who read our recent newsletter wrote to ask what our biggest battle has been over the years regarding the China Bible project. After thinking a few minutes, we realized the greatest struggle has not been with the Chinese government. Rather, the most difficult struggle has been a huge battle for the truth.

For almost 30 years, blatant lies and subtle propaganda have been spread around the Christian world claiming that there are plenty of Bibles in China today. Millions of Christians have believed these lies. Indeed, some of the most well-known names in Western Christianity have lent their voices to reinforce this deception. At the same time, we have met many house church leaders from all parts of China who beg us for Bibles, as they tearfully explain how new believers are perishing because of a famine of God's Word.

We have found that one of the main reasons people are confused when it comes to China is that it's difficult to grasp the massive size and scale of the country. People often assume the small slither of information or experience they have must apply to the whole country. For example, someone might travel to a big city like Beijing or Shanghai where they meet local Christians in a house meeting. If those believers have Bibles, a wrong assumption could be formed that what they experienced there must be the same everywhere in China, across

thousands of miles and more than 2,400 cities and counties that make up the world's most populated country.

Another deception that many believers around the world have believed is the notion that persecution of Christians is a thing of the past in China. In reality, things are currently very difficult for house church believers, with many leaders saying the persecution now is the worst it had been in 20 years. The Chinese government appears to be determined to crush the unregistered part of the Body of Christ, while at the same time they assure the world there is religious freedom and harmony.

In the last few years most of the publicity in the global Christian press has focused on the removal of thousands of crosses and the destruction of church buildings in Zhejiang Province. In our opinion, such things are of little consequence. The Holy Spirit doesn't dwell in crosses or man-made buildings anyway, but in the hearts of God's children. As one veteran China missionary recently commented, "The believers in China would much rather have crosses separated from their church buildings than to have their heads separated from their necks!"

Right now many house church leaders throughout China are missing or have gone on the run. Some are being detained at so-called "black jails" - secret facilities where the authorities torture people without trial and beyond the scope of public knowledge. As awful murder took place several months ago in Henan Province, when Ding Cuimei, a pastor's wife, was bulldozed into a pit and buried alive.

Please pray the severe persecution would result in the rekindling of revival throughout China, so that the Church would grow even stronger and larger!

In the remainder of this newsletter we would like to report on another face of China that many people are completely unaware of. While most Christians have heard about the revival fires that have burned throughout China for much of the past three decades, few are aware that this great land is also home to 500 non-Han Chinese ethnic groups, ranging from Turkic-speaking Muslims in the northwest deserts, to dozens of colorful and diverse tribal groups along the border with Southeast Asia. Of these 500 distinct people groups, **a staggering 410 are still unreached.**

We first encountered China's minority groups in 1988, and ever since they have been a major focus of the vision and work of Asia Harvest. In 2000 we published a large color book, *Operation China*, which profiled all the peoples of China and brought their existence to the attention of the worldwide Body of Christ. (The book & CD are still available from us if you're interested, and all the individual profiles from the book are freely available on our website).

Earlier this year we spent a wonderful time of prayer and fellowship with the leader of a great Chinese ministry to the unreached peoples of China. At one stage he showed us a video that made us weep with tears of gladness. What a blessing it was to see hundreds of minority people throughout China being baptized!

For the first time we are hearing of breakthroughs among many of China's smaller unreached people groups. Although the number of new believers is not huge at the moment, dozens are being saved here and there. Added together, the Gospel is beginning to flourish and lives are being transformed from darkness to light. On the following pages we present brief profiles of six of China's minority groups. Our co-workers currently have local evangelists ready to serve among each of these groups.

If you believe the Lord would want you to help one or more evangelist among these groups, we invite you to support them through our [Asian Workers' Fund](#) at \$25 per month each. One hundred percent of donations received go to the workers on the field. If you would like to support a worker among one of the following six people groups, please note the name of the group when you send your gift. A laminated prayer card will be sent to each donor, and a written update is sent every six months to those who continue to support a worker.



AMDO TIBETANS

Population: **1,080,000**
Christians: less than 0.1%

More than one million Amdo Tibetans inhabit the towns and plains of the Tibetan Plateau in western China. Many are nomads, moving frequently to new areas when their yaks, sheep and goats need new pasture. There are thought to be no more than a few hundred Christians among the four different Amdo language groups. Please pray many would soon hear of Jesus Christ.

BAI

Population: **2,400,000**

Christians: 2%

The Bai are the descendants of the powerful Nanzhao kingdom which ruled southwest China about 1,500 years ago. Today almost 2.5 million friendly Bai people inhabit the towns and villages around the ancient town of Dali. Most have never heard the Gospel in their lives, although there are moderate numbers of Bai Christians in various locations.



PUMI

Population: **45,000**

Christians: 1%

Living not far from the Bai people in southwest China, the Pumi tribe number about 45,000 people. Most Pumi are poor, hard-working farmers. In recent years small numbers have placed their trust in the Lord Jesus for the first time. Our co-workers are working hard to train these Pumi believers to take the Gospel to the hundreds of villages that have never heard of Jesus.

DE'ANG

Population: **20,000**
Christians: less than 1%

Although only 20,000 De'ang people live in China, they have three different subgroups each speaking their own language. An additional 700,000 live across the border in Myanmar (Burma), where they are better known as the Palaung. New believers are often severely persecuted by the Buddhist monks among this tribe.

We are supporting evangelists reaching this group in both China and Myanmar through the Asian Workers' Fund.



SHUI

Population: **500,000**
Christians: less than 1%

The majority of the 500,000 Shui people in China are animists, who worship elements of nature like rivers, mountains and even large trees. Most have never heard of Jesus Christ. We are helping a few Shui Christians who have a passion to reach their own people for Jesus. Please pray for a breakthrough among this unreached group.

TESTIMONY CORNER



We are constantly amazed at the need for the Word of God throughout Asia. We have the great privilege of providing the Scriptures to believers who are unable to access them. Our co-workers recently met this 84-year-old believer in Myanmar (Burma), who shared her astonishing story:

"I was born in December 1931. My parents were very poor so I started first grade when I was 13 years old. There was only one Bible in our village and it belonged to our pastor. I really wanted to have my own copy, so I have been praying to God for a Bible since 1945, when I was 14. Whenever I saw the Bible in the pastor's hands, I really wanted to have my own, so I kept praying.

"I was very hungry for the Word of God and I desperately wanted to read it, but there were no Bibles available. This was truly heartbreaking for me and I became so discouraged that for a time I stopped praying to have a Bible. But then someone gave me the Book of Mark. I was elated and I read it whenever I could. I almost memorized the whole book, and it strengthened my faith. By the grace of God, today I received the full Bible from you for free. This is amazing. Only God can do this. He has answered my 71 years of prayer for a Bible. The Lord is so good to me. My favorite Scripture is Psalm 23. I send my thanks to all who donated, supported and brought this precious Bible to me. I will always read it. God bless you all."

This dear sister received a Bible through our **Asian Bible Fund**. We have provided the Scriptures in 72 different languages through this crucial project. Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and distribute. Thank you for your prayers and support.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



We are currently supporting 1,663 Asian evangelists working among 744 unreached people groups.

The **Asian Workers' Fund** assists indigenous church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry to unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. 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: 10,075,921 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: 701,426 Bibles printed in 72 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 **South-east Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent**, and elsewhere.

Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.

BLESS THE CHILDREN FUND



*Your generous support has so far enabled **58,706** children to hear the Gospel throughout Asia.*

The **Bless the Children Fund** introduces children to Jesus Christ in India, China, Vietnam, Nepal, and a host of other countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. The results of this project have been staggering. It costs an average of **\$20 to reach a child for Christ**.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **368** 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** supports pastors and evangelists in China, Vietnam, India and elsewhere 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.

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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Reaching Asia's Children

From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

“Do you hear what these children are saying?’ they asked him.

‘Yes,’ replied Jesus, ‘have you never read, ‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?” (Matthew 21:16).

One of the first things people notice when they come to various parts of Asia is how many children there are everywhere. In countries like India, Nepal, and Indonesia, around one-third of the population are children aged below 14. Perhaps the youngest population of all the countries we work in is found in Laos, where it's not uncommon for families to have 7, 8, or even 10 children.

The devil, with the help of wicked men, has always known that the future of any movement depends on its youth. The evil one has focused many of his most severe attacks on children, whether by Pharaoh at the time of Moses, or Herod's slaughter of the children in Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus.

In China—where the economic future and social fabric are under strain because of the terrible ‘one-child policy’ of the past three decades—the Communist government has long been terrified of Christian activity among children. While evangelists often faced two or three years in prison if caught preaching the gospel to adults, those engaged in outreach to children invariably faced more severe punishment and harsher prison sentences.

Although it may go against conventional wisdom, over the years we have seen how the Lord has penetrated entire communities by first reaching the children. When God gets a hold of them, their dramatic change in behavior is a powerful witness which convinces adults of the power of the gospel. Countless rebellious and unruly kids have been transformed by the Holy Spirit into obedient and respectful children.

We know from Scripture that Satan's primary desire is to usurp God and attempt to steal His glory. A big part of the enemy's plan is to corrupt the young generation, so that they will grow up without faith in God and unable to discern right from wrong. We can see evidence of this around us every day as society decays.

On the other hand, children who have been redeemed by the Blood of Jesus Christ are tremendous weapons for the kingdom of God, and a powerful force for good in their schools and communities. The devil trembles whenever the Holy Spirit brings children into the kingdom of God. King David once proclaimed, ***“Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”*** (Psalm 8:2).

In this, our final newsletter of 2016, we would like to share with you a wonderful opportunity to help the Church in Asia reach tens of thousands of precious children with the gospel in the coming months. Please pray for this project and prayerfully consider if you might be able to help get God’s Word into the hands of children throughout Asia.



Sharing God's Word with the Children of Asia



One of the greatest joys we at Asia Harvest have experienced over the years has been to see and hear reports of how the Word of God has transformed entire communities. We don't just mean that powerful preaching has achieved such results, but the seed of the printed Word of God itself has found much fertile soil in the hearts of multitudes of people.

On countless occasions after giving out a gospel booklet, or an evangelistic tract, people's consciences have been pricked and the Holy Spirit has convicted them of sin. Truly, ***"the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"*** (Hebrews 4:12).

We realize that in your part of the world society may have become hardened against the Christian message for a variety of reasons, but throughout Asia—especially in those places that have yet to hear about Jesus Christ—there is a great hunger to read and listen to the Bible. Many times we have seen both young and old people captivated when they are first exposed to the life and teachings of Jesus. We have even had groups of people chase us down the street begging for a gospel booklet so they can take it home and study it with family members and friends.

This month, we would like to present a tremendous opportunity to reach many children through our **Bless the Children Fund**. Our co-workers in different countries of Asia have been pleading for more good printed material specifically designed to reach children with the gospel. The desired books have already been translated and used in the past, with great success.

In one country of Asia (which we aren't able to name for security reasons), 30,000 Children's Bible Story books were printed and distributed a few years ago across a wide geographical area. The church leaders who oversaw the distribution are humble believers who avoid exaggeration, so they set up a database to carefully track the number of solid decisions for the Lord that resulted from the project.

After months of research they reported that ***"more than 10,000 came to faith in Jesus,"*** and were being discipled by local believers! We were overjoyed to hear this news, and rejoiced to think that 10,000 children were now following the Lord who otherwise may have grown up without ever knowing His Name. "Oh no, you misunderstood!" our co-workers replied. "We didn't say that over 10,000 children have placed their trust in the Living God. Our research has found that more than 10,000 **families** are currently being discipled!"



We believe one of the key reasons for the success of this project is the quality of the books themselves. They are beautifully illustrated in full color, and the children who receive these books treat them as precious gifts. Each of the Bible stories is presented with a Scripture verse to help readers meditate on what they have just read, followed by three questions pertaining to the page they have just studied.

The books are such a blessing that they are read multiple times, and talked about at school and among friends. Neighbors frequently come together to discuss the Bible with one another, and in many villages and towns children gather to read the stories as a group, like in the picture below.

One of the unexpected blessings of this project is that not only have thousands of children reached out to Jesus Christ, but their parents have also found Him! In some places the families may have already been nominal Christians, but their understanding of the Bible greatly increased as they read the books together. In many other instances, adults did not understand God's Word because they are illiterate, or semi-literate. The books helped them grasp the reality of the Lord Jesus.

The ministry leaders were so encouraged by the past fruit of this project that they have requested to do it again this year in different regions. Much planning has already been done. Follow-up teams are poised to help people take the next step in their relationship with God. **This year, they have requested 50,000 children's Bible story**



books, which they will distribute to children through a network of churches in time for Christmas, and into early 2017 if necessary.

In another country, our co-workers have also requested 50,000 of the books in their language by the end of the year. They have teams of pastors, evangelists and Bible teachers waiting to bring in the harvest. In total, after much prayerful consideration, we have committed to print 100,000 Children's Bible Story books. **The average cost per book, for printing and delivery, is \$1.70.** We therefore need \$170,000 to complete this project, and we trust the Lord will provide.

Few things are as dear to God's heart as reaching children with the message of salvation. Based on past results, we anticipate that tens of thousands of families will put their trust in Jesus Christ.



Please pray for the success of this project as it unfolds in the coming months. Ask God to protect and grant favor all those involved, so that His Name may be glorified and thousands of children will come to know God as their Heavenly Father.

If you would like to support the project financially, please return the enclosed yellow form along with a gift designated to the **Bless the Children Fund**. Alternatively, you may give via our secure website (www.asiaharvest.org).



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM ASIA HARVEST



As this is our final newsletter for 2016, 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. Next year 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!

TESTIMONY CORNER



In a recent newsletter we shared an astonishing testimony about an 84-year-old tribal woman in Myanmar (Burma) who finally received her own Bible after 71 years of praying for one. We thought her testimony was an isolated one, but our co-workers recently came across this dear 81-year-old man, from the same tribe, who has a remarkably similar story to tell. Here is part of his testimony:

"My name is Saw and I was born in August 1934. I am now 82-years-old and I am part of the Karen tribe. I was brought up in a Buddhist family.

Because of war between my people and the Burmese military, my family was forced to move from place to place during my childhood. When I was 12-years-old my parents were killed by the army. I was completely devastated and I didn't know how to go

forward with my life. The foundations of my life were suddenly destroyed and my existence felt meaningless.

At my lowest point I was invited to stay with a Karen pastor and his family. I will always be indebted to their kindness to me. In 1952, when I was 18, I accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He transformed me from the inside-out and for the first time I felt the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit in my heart.

I regularly attended church and was an active believer, but in our congregation there were no Bibles except the pastor's personal copy. I had never even touched a Bible, because I thought they were so rare and precious that only the senior leader of a church had the right to touch one.

Since 1952 I have continually asked God to help me have my own Bible, so I can know and obey His Word. After 64 years, the Lord has answered my prayers through your ministry of love! I tried to pay for it, but was told it was a free gift. I praise God and I promise I will always pray for you."

Brother Saw recently received a Bible through our **Asian Bible Fund**. We have provided the Scriptures in 72 different languages through this crucial project. Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and distribute. Thank you for your prayers and support.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



We are currently supporting 1,678 Asian evangelists working among 752 unreached people groups.

The **Asian Workers' Fund** assists indigenous church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry to unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. 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: 10,175,618 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: 705,391 Bibles printed in 72 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 **South-east Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent**, and elsewhere.

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BLESS THE CHILDREN FUND



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