

Asia Harvest 2020

NEWSLETTERS
(Combined)

Asia Harvest



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

www.asiaharvest.org

office@asiaharvest.org

February 2020 - Newsletter #163



2020 Annual Report

Real Faith in Perilous Times

From the Frontlines

“Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.’

But the men who had gone up with him said, ‘We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.’ And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored.... We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them” (Numbers 13:30-33).

In this famous account of the twelve spies, we see one of the fundamental differences that separate mankind. Two of the twelve believed God, and He ultimately allowed them to see the Promised Land decades later. The unbelief of the ten other spies, however, infected the rest of the Israelites, and as a result they wandered around the desert for 40 years before perishing.

Did you ever consider God’s feelings about the bad report of the spies? He was so angry with them that a short time later He threatened to wipe out Israel because of their disobedience. The negative report of the ten spies paralyzed the people with fear. By being filled with unbelief, they were essentially saying God cannot be trusted and His Word is not true.

Joshua and Caleb were honored by God, and a generation later, after millions of Israelites had died and their bones had crumbled to dust beneath the desert sands, those two men of faith were still following God and trusting Him with all their hearts, as evidenced by Caleb’s remarkable declaration of faith when he was 85: ***“So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then.”*** (Joshua 14:10-11).

How could an old man in his mid-80s be so full of life and energy that he was ready to rush into battle for God? What was the main characteristic of Caleb’s life that made him like this even in his old age? **Surely it was his faith!** Caleb still had great faith. He trusted and loved God, and believed the Lord could do whatever He wished.

Cover photo: *An old nomadic woman in a remote part of western Mongolia hears the gospel for the first time and receives a Bible, after evangelists traveled hundreds of miles through the snow to share Jesus in the unreached area.*

If you've been around church life for any length of time, you will have met some Christians who are old in years but full of life like Caleb. They have a positive outlook on life because they trust and believe in the Lord Jesus, and they have battled against despondency and lack of faith for many years. These are battles we all must have.

On the other hand, you may also have met younger people who are inwardly decrepit. These kinds of people are miserable to be around. They only see the negative side of others and of every situation, and what is supposed to be refreshing, living water flowing from them has turned into a bitter brook.

The good news is that it's not too late for us to repent and to have true, trusting faith in our Heavenly Father! We can ask Him to set us free from doubt and fear so that we may walk hand in hand with Him, and be a vessel of life and encouragement to everyone we meet.

Severe persecution is underway in many of the countries we work in. Those we serve in Asia need a supernatural impartation of the Holy Spirit to enable them to overcome and to be more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. Please pray for us as and our co-workers, as we pray for you, to stand firm in God's Word and in His grace as we come toward the end of the age.

LATEST NEWS FROM CHINA

Many people have asked us for more information about what is happening in China, as the Communist Party continues its campaign to control, and ultimately try to eliminate God's people.

We are limited in our ability to share everything in our paper newsletters, so in the coming months we plan to issue a series of Email newsletters every few weeks on the latest situation in China. These will have detailed analysis and a number of links about the dire challenges facing the churches.

For those who don't have internet access, we will issue a few paper newsletters in the coming months that give a summary, but for more detailed information we encourage you to sign up to our Email newsletters via our website: www.asiaharvest.org

2019/20 Annual Report

In the remainder of this newsletter we present our Annual Report, which details the help Asia Harvest provided to the Body of Christ throughout Asia in 2019.

It has been a privilege to serve the Lord for another year, and we feel greatly blessed to be a link in the chain that resulted in many people coming to know Him. Last year, over one million Christians were strengthened in their faith after receiving God's Word through our Bible projects, while **the more than 1,300 Asian evangelists we support led a total of 100,188 people to Christ among over 1,000 different tribes and ethnic groups.**

For over 30 years, our strategy has been to operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, so that the maximum resources will reach the hands of frontline workers—the Asian Christians we are honored to assist and serve. **We thank each person who prayed for and supported our work last year. Without your vital partnership none of these things would have occurred.**

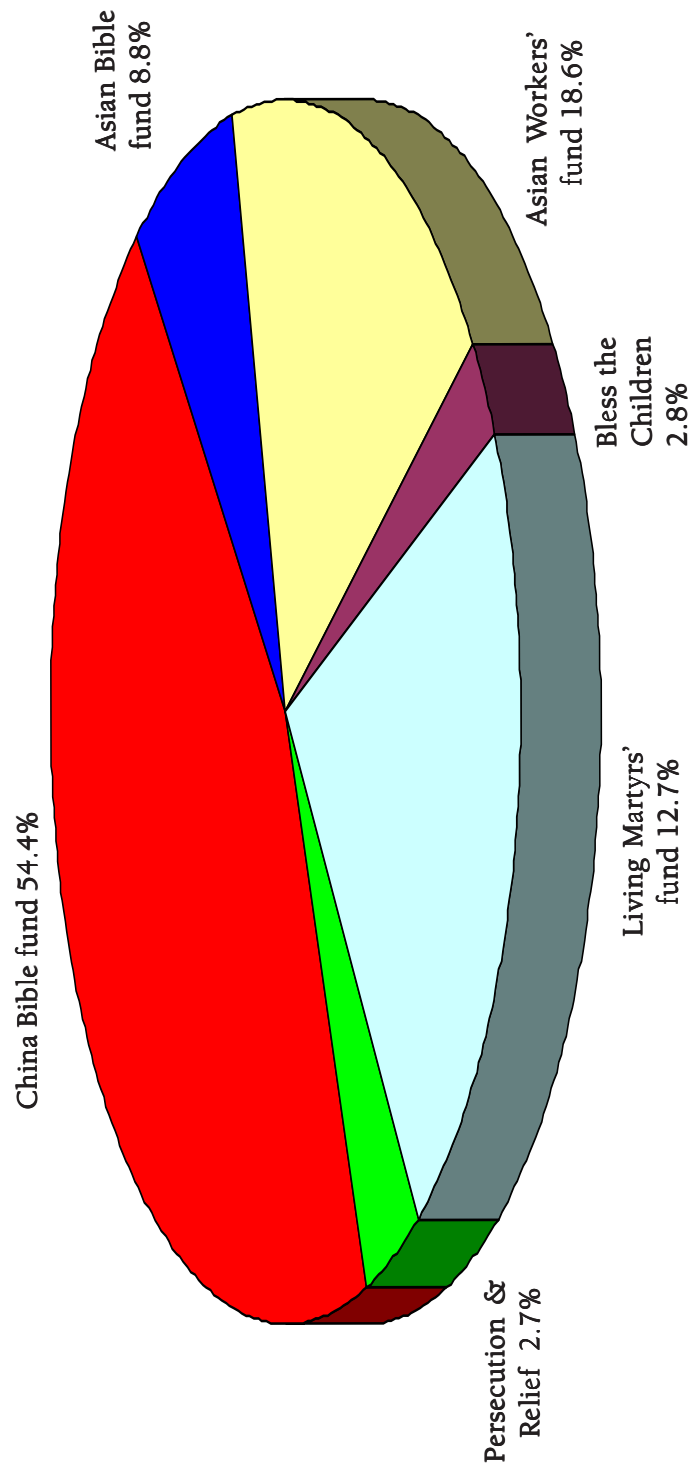


From the time of Asia Harvest's inception in the 1980s, we have always strived to be transparent in the area of finances, and our annual financial statements have been available to anyone upon request. Our finances are independently audited each year and are available for anyone to view on our website.

We thank God that last year we were able to send out substantially *more* project money than we received! Our operating costs are minimal, and are fully covered by non-project donations, and from income generated by book sales. This means that **100% of all project donations are used on the field in Asia exactly as specified.**

To read our audited financial statements, please go to the "Resources" link at our website: www.asiaharvest.org

Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2019



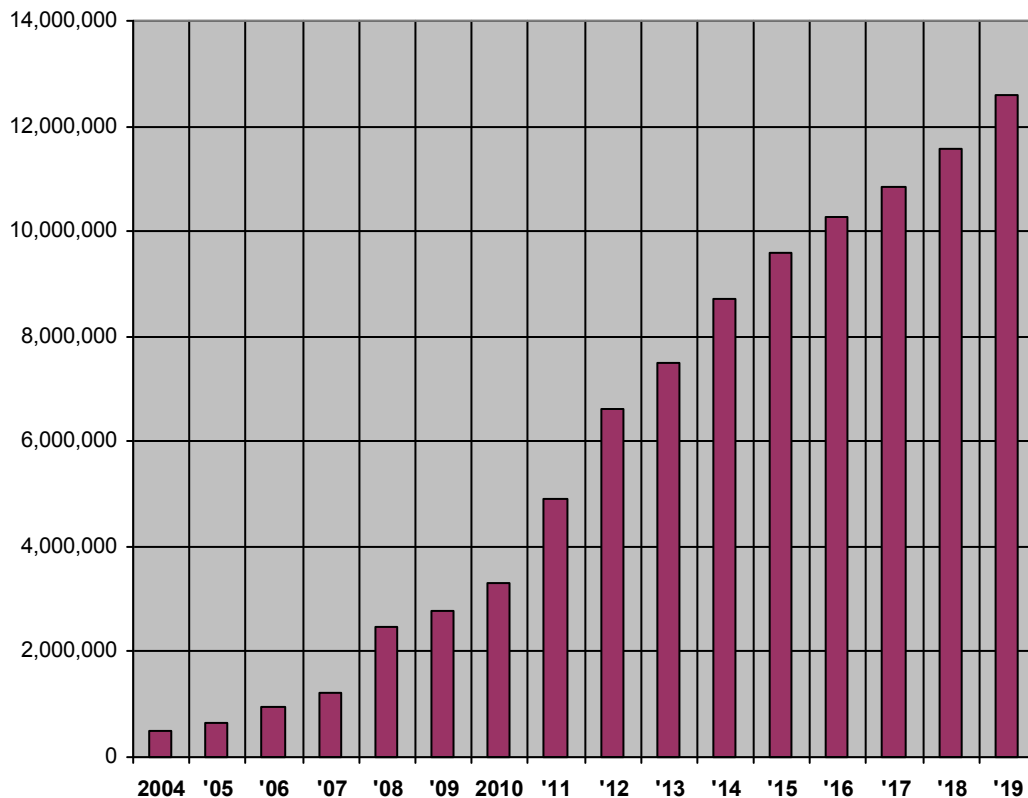
CHINA BIBLE FUND

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 house churches. Tens of millions of Christians are still unable to access God's Word. Our Bibles are distributed free of charge 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 full Bible costs just \\$1.80 to print.](#)

By God's grace and power, since 2000 we have printed and distributed more than 12.5 million Bibles to house church believers in China, with **1,123,056 in 2019 alone**. This equates to **1,942 Bibles every day, 128 per hour, or one full Bible every 28 seconds** throughout the year. Each one is a miracle. Thanks for praying and giving.

Accumulative Graph showing Chinese Bibles printed and distributed by Asia Harvest: **12,574,561**



ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

*Because of your prayers and partnership we ended 2019 supporting **1,349** Asian missionaries, serving among **1,038** unreached people groups. A reported **100,188** people experienced God's salvation last year.*



Women and children in Bangladesh eagerly listening to the gospel from one of the evangelists we support through the Asian Workers' Fund.

The Asian Workers' Fund supports Asian evangelists who are working among people groups that have never heard the gospel. These workers encounter many hardships and persecutions, but have persevered and are seeing breakthroughs among many groups.

In 2019, those we support through the Asian Workers' Fund led **100,188 people to salvation in Jesus Christ** (an average of 74 per worker). This is the first year ever that the evangelists have reported over 100,000 commitments for the Lord. More than **429,000 conversions** have been reported since this project commenced. Hallelujah! This is remarkable considering most of the workers serve in some of the darkest and most unreached areas of Asia, including among numerous Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist peoples.

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 the project.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND

Providing Bibles to Asia's Christians

Current Total: 1,025,813 Bibles printed in 104 different languages.
Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.

Asia is home to many groups where people have been prevented from accessing God's Word, sometimes for decades. Whereas our China Bible Fund is separate and focuses only on China, the **Asian Bible Fund** provides the Scripture in numerous languages throughout Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere.

Last year we were thankful to pass two all-time milestones in this strategic project. **The total number of Bibles printed and distributed passed the one million mark, and the number of different languages we've provided the Scriptures in passed 100.** All glory to God!

Please pray for our project and all who are involved in providing God's Word to the precious Christians of Asia. **Last year we printed 98,707 Bibles** through the Asian Bible Fund in the following languages:

Bengali, Bodo, Bugun, Chetty, Chin Falam, Chin Matu, Chin Ngawn, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kachin, Kannada, Kisan, Kokborok, Konkani, Malayalam, Mannan, Marathi, Muduga, Muthuvan, Nepali, Oriya, Pal Kurumba, Punjabi, Ravula, Sqaw Karen, Tagin, Tamil, Telugu, Tutsa, Vietnamese, Wa



THE DRUNKEN PRIEST

A Life Transformed by God's Love

Each year we receive hundreds of wonderful testimonies from across Asia, but we are only able to publish just a few. We would like to share this testimony from a former Hindu priest in India, as it fits well into our Annual Report, since his story touches on several of our projects.

"I was brought up in a Hindu family. My wife and I have a son and a daughter. When I was young I loved the Hindu deities and I devoted my life to their service, becoming a priest in a famous temple. Although I prayed and blessed others every day, I had no peace or joy in my heart. I often prayed to my gods, but it was completely one-sided. There was never an answer, which made me increasingly frustrated. Over time, I began to drink alcohol to help me cope and to forget my worries.

My religious duties became a mere ritual to me. During the day I served as a priest, and at night I consumed liquor in ever-increasing amounts. I became so addicted that I started going to bars and drunk openly in front of all. When I was intoxicated, I used to abuse and fight other people, and I became known as 'the drunken priest.' I lost all respect from the people and I eventually lost my job in the temple.

Because of my addiction, there was no peace in my family. My wife used to cry and pray to our gods to change me, but they never answered.

One day I got such a severe stomach pain that I could not bear it. My wife prayed to our gods with tears, but again nothing happened. My pain increased. Finally, I was taken to the hospital. The doctors did several tests, but could not find the cause of my suffering.

When some Christian gospel workers visited the hospital, they found me lying on the bed in pain. They spoke to me with love and told me about Jesus, but I laughed, because I knew that gods can't help. Despite my attitude, they confidently told me that Jesus can heal me if I trust him.

I didn't know anything about Jesus and I had never prayed to him, but because of the severe pain, I asked them to pray for me. The moment they lifted up their voices to heaven, I felt as if the Almighty God Himself was listening to their prayers. It was comforting and soothing, and I could feel the power of God reducing my pain. After the prayer, while talking about Jesus, I was completely healed.

The Lord Jesus did this miracle in me—the drunken Hindu priest. On that day, the Lord proved to me that He is the God who can speak, heal, and save even a lost soul like me. I decided at that moment to become His servant. I accepted Jesus as my Savior and was baptized. The Lord healed me, saved me and cleansed me, and now my entire family serves Him.

Today, I am an independent evangelist and pastor. I don't have enough money to buy the Scriptures, so I thank God for supplying Bibles and Gospels through Asia Harvest. I carry hundreds of Mark's Gospel to 30 villages and distribute them to people one by one. This distribution has helped me to start prayer groups and baptize many new believers. As a result, 98 families are now attending our church. This is all because of God's love and the power of the Scriptures.

We are now experiencing growing opposition from Hindu activists, who are furious that I tell the people, "Jesus is the only way to be saved!" By the grace and power of God, however, I plan to continue my ministry and do whatever I can to make our new believers strong in the Lord. **Please pray for us, and thank you for your generous partnership in the Gospel.**



A Hindu priest who has yet to meet Jesus.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **362** 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.

BLESS THE CHILDREN FUND



*Your generous support has so far reached **159,950** children throughout Asia.*

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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

www.asiaharvest.org / office@asiaharvest.org

NORTH AMERICA:	353 Jonestown Road #320, Winston-Salem, NC 27104, USA
AUSTRALIA:	36 Nelson Street, Stepney, South Australia 5069 <i>Bank details:</i> CBA 06-4410-10255537 (Asia Harvest)
NEW ZEALAND:	PO Box 1757, Queenstown 9348 <i>Bank details:</i> ASB 12-3154-0092327-00 (Asia Harvest)
EUROPE:	Stiftung SALZ, Moehringer Landstr. 98, 70563 Stuttgart, Germany <i>IBAN:</i> DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / <i>BIC:</i> GENODES1PGW
MALAYSIA:	Strategic Missions Program, P.O.Box 8036, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya, 46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor <i>Bank details:</i> CIMB 8008242805 (Strategic Missions Program)
UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND:	AsiaLink, P.O. Box 891, Preston PR4 9AB, England <i>Bank details:</i> NatWest Bank 01-07-65, Account No. 07018797

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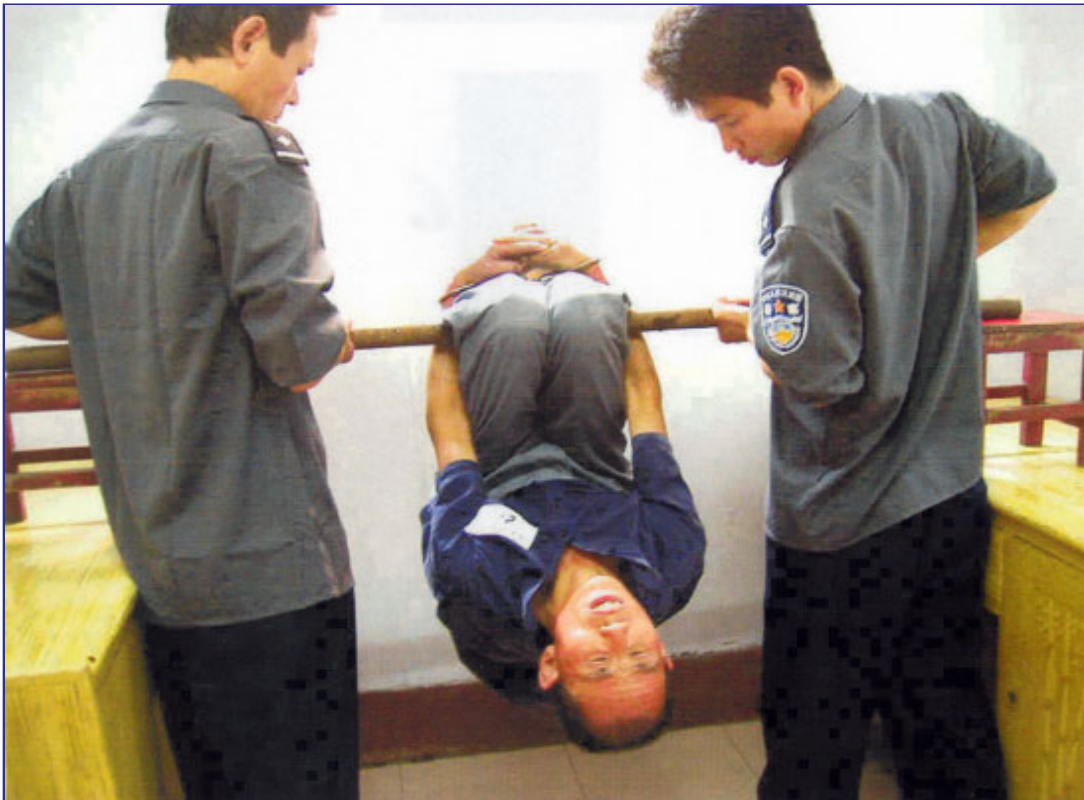


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March 2020 — Newsletter #164



Trouble in China

The Brutal Persecution of the Chinese Church

From the Frontlines

“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead” (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).

Although the Apostle Paul didn't go into detail about the kind of pressure he was under when he visited areas in present-day Turkey, it's interesting that the Greek words he used here were in relation to what occurs when a heavy stone, weighing as much as 300 pounds, was slowly lowered onto the chest of a restrained person to torture them. The pressure gradually increased as the stone came down, making it almost impossible to breathe. The victim was immobilized, unable to move forward or back. They were completely helpless. That's the kind of pressure Paul experienced when sharing the gospel.

As believers, we often face hardship, but many times we manage to find an escape route, or at least we are able to delay the pain. Sometimes, however, there are no options available, and we must be totally stripped of all props. God is able to bring us to a place of utter helplessness in ourselves or in other people. All we are left with is Jesus, and if He does not sustain us, we will die.

When we get to this place, we will be able to say with Paul that we “rely not on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.” Indeed, God did figuratively raise Paul from the dead on that and many other occasions, and he continued to establish God's kingdom among the Gentiles until the day God called him home.

In China today, many Christians also feel like Paul did. Since President-for-life, Xi Jinping, announced his plans to clamp down on religion, massive persecution has broken out against God's people, in ways that have not been seen since Mao's demonic campaigns to destroy Christianity from the 1950s to the 1970s.

In this newsletter, and subsequent issues, we plan to share a thorough overview of what is going on in China today, especially in relation to the Body of Christ.

Cover photo: *A real picture of a Chinese believer named Huang Xikai being tortured by Communist police. This and other gruesome images were smuggled out of China and published some years ago. Thousands of Christians are currently undergoing similar barbaric treatment. Please pray for our precious brothers and sisters.*

Why is China still trying to Destroy the Church?

We believe the main reason behind Chinese President Xi Jinping's current mad campaign to control and destroy religion, especially Christianity, is because of the massive growth of the Church in recent decades. The government knows very well that millions of people each year have been turning to Christ, despite all their efforts to persecute God's people and stomp out the revival brought by the Holy Spirit over the last 40 years.

We recently conducted a thorough review of our detailed study on the Church in China, which estimates the number of professing Christians in all 2,803 cities, districts and counties in every province of China. Our previous research almost a decade ago led us to publish a figure of 103 million Christians of all persuasions in China—a figure which was been quoted by numerous media outlets and mission organizations.

When our update was completed last year, we found, according to our best information and estimates, that **129.6 million people in China now consider themselves to be followers of Jesus Christ!** Although this still represents only 9.1 percent of China's population, the upward trajectory of the Church appears to be behind Xi's demonically-inspired plans to subdue—and ultimately obliterate—Christianity.

Our study titled “The Church in China” can be freely accessed under the “Resources” tab at our website: www.asiaharvest.org

There, you will find hundreds of inspirational testimonies, pictures, prayer profiles, maps, graphs and other useful information about the Church in China. We hope these tools will be a great blessing to Christians all around the world who desire to learn how God has glorified His Name in the world's most populated country.

Instead of welcoming the great revival has swept millions into the kingdom of God, the God-hating atheists of the Chinese Community Party continue in their futile attempts to dethrone the Lord Jesus and usurp His place in people's hearts and minds.

Like countless other kings and rulers throughout history, their puny efforts will ultimately fail, as they up against the Almighty God, whose Word declares: ***“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).

The Mass Expulsion of Foreign Christians

In 2016, Asia Harvest was among the first to warn that a massive persecution was about to erupt across China. By the following year, house church leaders we work with were telling us things like: “The persecution we’re experiencing is the worst since the Cultural Revolution 40 years ago!” We published newsletters such as, “A Gathering Storm: Massive Persecution is Brewing” (September 2017) and “A Special China Issue: Massive Persecution is Underway” (March 2018).

Finally, by mid-2018, other Christian ministries finally caught on to the fact that the Church in China was experiencing savage persecution.

If you have read any of our *China Chronicles* books, you will know that the typical Communist strategy whenever they plan to persecute God’s people is to first remove foreign believers. This cuts the Chinese Church off from outside help, and hides them from the glare of international publicity. This happened in the 1950s before massive persecution erupted, and for the past several years this same strategy has been implemented again.



A Western Christian teaching English to her eager students in China.

The leaders of several mission organizations have told us they are struggling to make contact with their Chinese co-workers. Many believers have been arrested or have gone into hiding, turning off all their electronic devices so they can’t be tracked by the authorities.

Meanwhile, thousands of foreign Christians who have given their lives to serve the Lord in China are feeling devastated. They’ve been kicked out of China and banned from returning for five years or more.

In a single week last year, at least 300 foreign believers—who were living legally in China as students, teachers, business owners and in a host of other roles—were expelled from China from all across the vast nation.



Shell-shocked families turned up in places like Hong Kong and Thailand, having been forcibly expelled from China. They told how they had been issued deportation orders, and were taken immediately to the nearest airport and placed on a flight out of the country. Many were not even allowed to go home to gather their belongings, or to withdraw money from their own bank accounts.

Distraught families were given no opportunity to appeal. After local authorities were ordered to expel them, they did so with military speed and precision.

We have been told that one major denominational mission group has had two-thirds of their workforce expelled from China, and over half of another large mission's workers are gone. Many believers, seeing what had happened to their co-workers, decided to leave voluntarily to avoid the spectacle of being forcibly removed like criminals. All of this happened before the Coronavirus outbreak, which has depleted the numbers even more.

The sole reason they have been kicked out of China is because they have been identified as followers of Jesus, as President Xi appears determined to complete the job his predecessor Mao failed to do—to rid the country of Christianity.

One American family, who were expelled from a city in southern China where they had lived for many years, told us that the local authorities showed them a thick file,

containing the transcripts of all emails, phone calls and text messages they had sent to friends and supporters for years. These Christians wrongly assumed that their communications were secure on such as Skype and WhatsApp. Their private messages were used as evidence against them as they were unceremoniously expelled from the country they love.

China's Influence Spreads

In the past few years, a disturbing new trend has emerged, as the Chinese Communist Party has exported their atheistic, God-hating philosophies across its borders into surrounding countries. First, seminaries and Bible schools in countries like the Philippines, Myanmar and Malaysia came under pressure not to allow any students from Mainland China to attend. School roll numbers sharply reduced as hundreds of Chinese Christians were forced to return to China.

We have been told of numerous other incidents in diverse locations, with Christians living in border regions of Nepal, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam being warned to stop all ministry or face dire consequences from their giant neighbor.

For example, in 2018 China bullied the authorities in northern Myanmar (formerly Burma) to shut down over 100 churches among the Wa tribe, who were experiencing the early stages of a revival from God. One Sunday morning, thousands of Wa Christians went to their churches to discover the doors had been chained shut and padlocked. Undeterred, believers met in the open air and continued to worship God.

One Wa Bible school inside Myanmar was closed, and 41 of its students were arrested and forced to render hard labor for the Wa rebel army, which is backed by the Chinese Communist Party.

Only recently have many of the Wa churches in Myanmar been allowed to reopen. Many of these persecuted fellowships are not located close to the Chinese border, but China is increasingly flexing its muscles deep inside other countries.

At least 100,000 Christians Arrested in China!

While we knew that something very dark and demonic was taking place throughout China, it was difficult to get a clear picture on the scale of the persecution. Two China Church experts, however, stuck their necks out and put a number on the size of the problem.

Bob Fu (a former house church leader from Shandong Province), and Nina Shea, a respected researcher of the persecuted Church around the world, estimated that in 2017 a total of 3,700 Christians had been arrested for their faith in China. Things escalated so quickly that in the following year, Fu and Shea estimated 100,000 Christians had been arrested! In case you missed that...



One hundred thousand Christians were arrested in China in 2018! Many believers have been taken away and not heard from again.

The number of arrested Christians in China has only worsened since then, but no further estimate has been made.

At a local level, the harassment and persecution of Christians has continued at every level. Thousands of churches have been forced to close, both unregistered house churches and government-sanctioned Three-Self churches. Some fellowships have been ordered to install facial-recognition cameras in the front of the sanctuaries, facing the congregations, and leaders who have refused to comply have been arrested. In many places the police have ordered churches to take down crosses and other religious symbols and to show their patriotism by replacing them with portraits of President Xi and the Chinese flag.

New religious laws that took effect in February 2018 are directed against young people's rights to access the Gospel. The current strategy is two-fold—to introduce

school curriculum that Christianity is bad; and to encourage children to attack their parents' faith as dangerous and to report them to the authorities. In many places, schools have held special meetings to teach children how to oppose religion.

Because China is such a huge country, any policy tends to be implemented unevenly, so at the moment there are still parts of the country where the Church has experienced less problems, and others where it is being decimated by the authorities and leadership is being systematically wiped out.

A government initiative called "Return to Zero" has been launched against the house churches, with the stated goal to "dismantle congregations, dissolve organizations, and dismiss the church." Believers who were caught in church raids



have been sent back to their home villages and have had their Identity cards confiscated, eliminating their ability to travel.

How God's People are Coping

Many people who contact us often quote a Christian cliché that was first voiced by the early church leader Tertullian: "**The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the**

Church." It may surprise some to learn that this phrase is not in the Bible at all, but is what Tertullian said true? Is persecution always good for the Church, and does it invariably result in the expansion of the faith?

We believe that while Tertullian's quote may be generally true, a survey of Church history quickly reveals that persecution does not automatically result in the growth of Christianity.

It is not wise to view Chinese Christians as spiritual supermen and women. Did you know, for example, that when the Communists first ramped up persecution against God's children in China in the 1950s—when thousands of church leaders were arrested, killed or sent for long sentences in prison labor camps—that about two-thirds of believers in China fell away from the faith? It was from that crushed and refined remnant that the Lord Jesus put together the greatest Christian miracle of the last century - growing His Church from a few million to over 100 million members in the face of fierce persecution.

Although there have been reports of growth among churches in some areas since the persecution began in earnest in 2018, **many believers have struggled terribly, and some have fallen away from the faith.** In a throwback to the Cultural Revolution, house churches throughout China have broken down into tiny groups of 4 or 5 believers, who meet discreetly for prayer and Bible studies.

Please continue to pray for the Church in China. We invite you to keep partnering with us, as we do all we can to strengthen God's people in this time of tribulation.

Friends, we want you to know that despite the massive persecution underway in China, by the grace and supernatural protection of God, all our Asia Harvest projects remain active.

In fact, in 2019 we secretly printed more Bibles inside the country for the house churches than we had done for many years, and we continue to support hundreds of Chinese church leaders and evangelists through our Asian Workers' and Living Martyrs' funds.

In our next newsletter we plan to share reasons behind why China's rulers have such intense hatred for God's people. Please note that our email newsletters contain more information and supporting links than we can provide in these paper newsletters, so if you would like to know more please sign-up at our website.

CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 12,675,745
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 WORKERS' FUND



*We currently support 1,390 Asian evangelists
among 1,107 unreached people groups.*

The **Asian Workers' Fund** supports indigenous church-planting evangelists among unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. These disciples have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. To date, the evangelists we help have reportedly led **436,968 people to faith in Jesus Christ**. 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.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 1,054,434 Bibles printed in 104 languages.

The **Asian Bible Fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in **Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent**, and anywhere in Asia that God's people need His Word.

Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.

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NEW ZEALAND:	PO Box 1757, Queenstown 9348 <i>Bank details:</i> ASB 12-3154-0092327-00 (Asia Harvest)
EUROPE:	Stiftung SALZ, Moehringer Landstr. 98, 70563 Stuttgart, Germany <i>IBAN:</i> DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / <i>BIC:</i> GENODES1PGW
MALAYSIA:	Strategic Missions Program, P.O.Box 8036, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya, 46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor <i>Bank details:</i> CIMB 8008242805 (Strategic Missions Program)
UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND:	AsiaLink, P.O. Box 891, Preston PR4 9AB, England <i>Bank details:</i> NatWest Bank 01-07-65, Account No. 07018797

Asia Harvest



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

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office@asiaharvest.org

May 2020 — Newsletter #165



Virus Response

Helping Thousands of Families Survive the Crisis

From the Frontlines

“A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. But he said to them, ‘It is I; don’t be afraid.’ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.” (John 6:18-21).

There has been a lot of fear and anxiety everywhere due to the Coronavirus, but for the children of God the crisis presents a wonderful opportunity to pause and refocus firmly on our Lord Jesus. He is still completely in charge!

In John 6 we find the disciples were in the middle of the Sea of Galilee and about to drown when Jesus got into the boat, and “immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.” It didn’t say they rowed there, but all of a sudden they reached their destination.

The key to getting through any storm in life is to make sure Jesus is in our boat with us! Even with Him our lives may be excruciatingly difficult and painful, but without Him in the boat with us, our lives are futile and directionless, followed by an eternity of misery. Let’s take some time getting to know Him better.

Whatever the cause of the present pandemic or the plans of governments in the future, it is the Lord Jesus Christ who is in control! The governments are upon his shoulders, and as Nebuchadnezzar concluded long ago: *“All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: ‘What have you done?’”* (Daniel 4:35).

CHANGES TO THE LIVING MARTYRS’ FUND

For more than 20 years the Living Martyrs’ Fund has been one of our main projects, and it will continue to help thousands of needy believers throughout Asia. From this month onward, however, we will not be providing prayer cards or updates from the individual workers we support through the project.

We will continue to help many persecuted believers and their families throughout Asia; and we are adjusting the project to include hundreds of destitute Christian widows. Please note that these changes do not effect our other projects in any way. We will continue to send cards and updates for the Asian Workers’ Fund.

CHINA

All of our lives have been affected in one way or another since news emerged from the Chinese city of Wuhan in January of a new type of respiratory virus that was afflicting people and spreading quickly. We are not wanting to speculate on the origins of the virus, or how the subsequent lockdowns and expansion of government power may affect life going forward. Instead, in this newsletter we want to give a pictorial summary of help that Asia Harvest supporters have provided across Asia, thanks to the generosity of many of you.

First, a brief report from a dear friend and house church leader from China:



“In recent months, house churches across the nation have seen a new openness to the gospel since the virus appeared. Even though gatherings have been banned and the Communist Party has shut down many Christian websites and social media platforms, great numbers of people have placed their trust in the Lord anyway.

Because of the crisis and subsequent long isolation period, many people in China have realized that money and possessions will not save them. Churches have been started through telephone and website evangelism, which has been very effective!

Even before the outbreak, people’s foundations had become very shaky, with the Chinese economy in terrible condition, and tens of millions of unemployed people with nothing to do. Now, with real fear gripping society as the government begins to implement their “social credit” system, many people’s confidence in themselves and the nation’s leadership has eroded.

The arrival of the Coronavirus brought all these feelings to the surface, and it is likely that **millions of people have become Christians** throughout the country because of it. For this we praise the Lord for His great wisdom and mercy!

Now that restrictions are being lifted, zealous church planting is going on. Such has been the response that in one five-day period, **we distributed almost 40,000 Bibles to new believers!** The more difficult the environment, the more opportunities we have for ministry. Now is a very effective time to share the Word of God with non-believers in China.”

INDIA

When the virus spread to India and the government announced a severe lockdown with all shops to shut and people ordered to remain home, we were greatly concerned, because the nature of society in India means that hundreds of millions of vulnerable people were at risk of starvation. Most people in India remain extremely poor, and a typical family does not have a refrigerator or food stored up. Multitudes who live hand-to-mouth as day-laborers suddenly found themselves without an income, which was a potential disaster in the making.

Thanks to the prayers and generous support of many, our partners throughout India quickly launched a plan to help as many people as possible, especially the elderly and widows. In the month of March, we were privileged to **provide food and other necessities to 4,750 appreciative families.**

Christians are very thankful to God for the assistance, while unbelievers are much more open to the gospel than at any previous time. Many people feel the government abandoned them in their time of greatest need. Hindus didn't raise a finger to help, but Christians came and displayed the love of Jesus Christ to them without seeking anything in return.



PAKISTAN



Pakistan is a predominantly Muslim country with 200 million unreached people, with a smattering of Christians in various places. They often feel cut off from other parts of the Body of Christ. A Pakistani church leader once told us that because they are surrounded by so many hostile Muslims, that know how the Israelites must have felt when they were forced to go to war with the Arameans. The Bible records: ***"The Israelites camped opposite them like two small flocks of goats, while the Arameans covered the countryside"*** (1 Kings 20:27).

In recent years, Asia Harvest has been increasingly working in Pakistan through our other projects, especially the Asian Workers' Fund. When the Coronavirus struck, corruption and prejudice meant that the small but faithful Christian communities faced missing out on governmental help, as the masses of Muslims took first place in the line for aid.

As a result, our co-workers in Pakistan quickly mobilized, and with funds provided by Asia Harvest they bought more than a ton of food and essential supplies, which have been distributed to 120 grateful Christian families, **numbering about 600 people** in total.

We are glad to have been able to help believers in Pakistan, in line with the Scripture which commands us: ***"As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"*** (Galatians 6:10).

INDONESIA



For many weeks, the government of Indonesia ignored the Coronavirus threat, and they even continued to allow flights from China, while mocking the risk and saying their country was infection-free. Their foolishness caught up with them in a major way,

resulting in a severe lockdown that has affected everyone in this wonderful nation of nearly 300 million people.

On April 4th, we shocked many Christians with a post on the Asia Harvest Facebook page that listed the names and locations of **28 Indonesian pastors who had already died** from the virus. Some believers in the West still did not take the threat of the virus seriously, and some even thought that it was impossible for the disease to infect Christians. Since then, the number of believers in Indonesia who have perished from it has increased to hundreds, if not more. One of the dead was Pastor Fu Xie (pictured above) from the city of Bogor.

Our partners in Indonesia immediately formed a plan to help the most vulnerable. With funds provided by Asia Harvest supporters, they crammed food and essential supplies into their personal vehicles and worked from morning until night each day **helping more than 700 families**, nourishing both their bodies and souls.



PHILIPPINES

Although we don't mention it much in our newsletters, for years Asia Harvest has supported many workers in unreached parts of the Philippines, where Christians risk their lives to spread the Good News in a hostile environment.

When the Philippines went into lockdown, our co-workers there immediately came up with a course of action to display the love of God through aid while presenting the the Gospel to those who have yet to believe in Jesus Christ.

Whereas in most other countries people were helped to survive by being given bags of food, in the Philippines the believers took a different approach, and set up feeding centers where people could come to eat nutritious meals prepared by Christians who love and care for them. This strategy has broken down many barriers and a new openness to Jesus has been seen.

More than 200 families have been helped through the efforts of our brothers and sisters in the southern Philippines. Thank you for helping to make it happen.



OTHER COUNTRIES

To all who have prayed and given to help our brothers and sisters in Asia during this time of worldwide upheaval, we thank and bless you in the Name of our Lord Jesus! Space doesn't permit us to share about those we have been privileged to help in **Malaysia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka**.

In total, during the month of April we were able to assist **more than 6,800 families in 8 different Asian countries**. At an average of two meals per day, by God's grace we provided enough food for over **400,000 meals last month!**

At the time of writing this newsletter, lockdowns were still in place in most of the countries we work in, and it's likely we will need to continue helping throughout May and beyond. Therefore, if the Lord touches your heart, we invite you or your church to continue helping us as we serve the needy in Asia.

All gifts to our **Persecution & Relief Fund** will go to purchase more food and other essential supplies in Asia, until we have all made it through this crisis.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN ASIA!

“From our hearts we say **thank you and God bless you** to all supporters of Asia Harvest who have prayed for us in this hour of need. You have generously helped the most vulnerable families in our midst, especially widows, children, and those who live in dire poverty.

We have already seen how the crisis has provided great opportunities, and countless families have responded to the love of Jesus after witnessing His people in action. May the Lord reap a great harvest of souls for His kingdom!

We are especially thankful because we know that at this time everyone in the world is affected by the pandemic in one way or another. We ask the Holy Spirit to give you His peace and joy at this time.”

CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 12,729,038
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 WORKERS' FUND



*We currently support 1,402 Asian evangelists
among 1,104 unreached people groups.*

The **Asian Workers' Fund** supports indigenous church-planting evangelists among unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. These disciples have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. To date, the evangelists we help have reportedly led **507,856 people to faith in Jesus Christ**. 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.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 1,059,871 Bibles printed in 108 languages.

The **Asian Bible Fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in **Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent**, and anywhere in Asia that God's people need His Word.

Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **1,201** 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 Christian widows and church leaders and their families throughout Asia 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 **\$25 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs.

BLESS THE CHILDREN FUND



*Your generous support has so far reached **161,167** children throughout Asia.*

The **Bless the Children Fund** introduces children to Jesus in India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and a host of other Asian countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, funding Sunday school training classes, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. It costs an average of just **\$10 to reach a child for Christ**.

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

www.asiaharvest.org / office@asiaharvest.org

NORTH AMERICA:	353 Jonestown Road #320, Winston-Salem, NC 27104, USA
AUSTRALIA:	36 Nelson Street, Stepney, South Australia 5069 <i>Bank details:</i> CBA 06-4410-10255537 (Asia Harvest)
NEW ZEALAND:	PO Box 1757, Queenstown 9348 <i>Bank details:</i> ASB 12-3154-0092327-00 (Asia Harvest)
EUROPE:	Stiftung SALZ, Moehringer Landstr. 98, 70563 Stuttgart, Germany <i>IBAN:</i> DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / <i>BIC:</i> GENODES1PGW
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June 2020 - Newsletter #166



The Sqaw Karen

A Tribe desperate for God's Word

From the Frontlines

“Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ‘Make level paths for your feet,’ so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed” (Hebrews 12:13).

“Study to show yourself approved by God, a workman who needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Recently, many believers around the world have contacted us to express their fear. With events like the Coronavirus lockdowns followed by the violence on the streets of America, and economic uncertainties, people are confused and scared. Satan is the author of confusion, and as the world system stumbles deeper into decay because of people’s sin, many are bewildered, not knowing who they can trust, or if anyone can be trusted at all.

Having served Jesus Christ under the noses of hostile governments for decades, we know something about fear. It is a deadly toxin, which can distort our minds and hearts and drag us away from life-giving, daily fellowship with God.

If we allow it, fear can make us easy prey for Satan, who loves to get our hearts off Jesus and onto the news, social media, and all kinds of worries. The Lord warned us of this danger when He said: ***“The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful”*** (Matthew 13:22).

World events are only going to get progressively worse as the world spirals toward anarchy, before the great and glorious return of Jesus. He will come to bring judgment and to clean up the mess we have made: ***“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).

How can a Christian strengthen their heart and mind to survive the dark times ahead? Our answer is one that you have probably never heard from a Christian organization before: do NOT ‘read’ God’s Word! People read newspapers, novels and webpages, but the Bible instructs us not to merely read the Word but to **“study** to show yourself approved by God.”

It is not enough just to have a few favorite Bible verses, or to pick and choose bits of Scripture that make us feel good. To be healthy, a person needs to enjoy the full banquet of God's Word, and not just grab a few snacks here and there. Throughout the Scriptures, we find the people God used greatly were those who diligently studied His Word, for example: ***"Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel"*** (Ezra 7:10).

To survive the end times, we must study whole books of the Bible, and invest time each day in getting to know the Lord through His Word and in prayer. It's time to get serious, or our faith will not survive the storms ahead. God's Word will give us discernment and wisdom, enabling us to navigate through this life.

We not only need wisdom as we live in this world, but we also must discern truth from error in today's Church. Each day, thousands of pulpits and the airwaves are spewing out a false gospel that has stripped the Christian message of key words like repentance and holiness, and crucial teachings of the Lord Jesus, such as: ***"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me"*** (Luke 9:23).

Friends, the gospel has become distorted because many preachers are cowardly and do not want to 'offend' listeners. If a believer gives in to this delusion, they often end up ensnared by myths and conspiracies, as Paul wrote to Timothy: ***"For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths"*** (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

The only way to be able to wade through the quicksand of deception that has engulfed many churches and whole denominations today is by cultivating a deep knowledge and love for the Word of God, and then in faith and by the power of the Holy Spirit, living out the gospel and sharing it with others.

Many people over the years have told us they simply don't have time to study God's Word. Usually that is untrue, as they never seem to lack the time to watch television, surf the internet, or gaze at their phone for hour after hour.

Friends, it's time for all believers to get serious and to make wise decisions. **We have never seen anyone fall away from the Lord who was strong in His Word, nor have we seen anyone strong in Christ Jesus who was neglecting His Word.**

The Sqaw Karen

A tribe desperate for God's Word

In the remainder of this newsletter, we would like to encourage you with brief testimonies from some of your Christian brothers and sisters whose existence you probably aren't aware of.

The Sqaw (or S'gaw) Karen tribe inhabits the mountains and jungle valleys of eastern Myanmar (formerly known as Burma). They have lived there for thousands of years and are thought to be the original inhabitants of the region. They are the largest of the Karen tribes, numbering over two million people.

The Lord has pursued the Karen people for a long time, and the first Christians among them came to faith in the 1800s. Today, there are many Sqaw Karen believers, but they have been isolated from the rest of the world, and decimated for the past 50 years by the brutal, evil Burmese military junta, who have killed hundreds of thousands of Karen people in one of the worst genocides in modern history. Often the Buddhist Burmese have attacked the Karen people for no other reason than the fact that many are Christians.

Over the years, Asia Harvest has helped provide **more than 76,000 Bibles in the Sqaw Karen language through our Asian Bible Fund**. These spiritually-hungry believers are greatly appreciative, and the Word of God had made a massive difference in the lives of many families decimated by war and hardship.

We would like to share testimonies and photos from several Sqaw Karen believers who have recently received the Word of God for the first time. As we share their stories, we invite you to pray for them, and please consider giving so that more Christians like will have free access to God's Word. We have more Bible printings in the pipeline right now, in 8 different languages. **In Myanmar and other Asian countries the average cost per Bible is \$2.70.**

“My name is Samuel, and I have served as a pastor among my people since 1993. Long ago, when I went to Bible school, I had my own Bible, but during the war, Burmese soldiers came to our village and we had to run for our lives, leaving our possessions behind. Since that time, I have served the Lord without a Bible.

I later moved, but there wasn't a single Bible in the whole village. Three years later, the church was able to obtain one Bible, but it fell apart from overuse. The Word of God was so rare and precious that the believers decided no one could touch the Bible except me. It had to remain in the church and I could not take it home, for fear that I might lose it and they would again be without God's precious Word.



On January 1, 1999, we started asking the Lord to provide us with our own Bibles. **For the past 21 years since that day, we have kept faith and trusted God.** Once I went to our nation's capital and visited the Bible Society. I wept bitterly when I found they had just one Sqaw Karen Bible, but they wanted much more money for it than what we could afford.

Now, after your workers visited, our hearts are overwhelmed with joy and gratitude! Not only did you provide one Bible for every family in our village, but they were completely free! Hallelujah!

Just one month after your visit, our church members were studying their Bibles every day, and great changes came to our village. People are now full of the joy of the Lord, they have stopped smoking and drinking, and they love one another. When I walk through the village, I hear people reading God's Word aloud and singing praises. Our meetings have overflowed, and our church building cannot hold everyone. We have been so blessed by God that I feel like we now live in a heavenly village!

Thank you so much for the great and precious gifts you brought to us. You have put smiles on our faces, and we can now experience heavenly life. God bless you all abundantly!”



“My name is Naw and I am 67-years-old. When I was just two, my parents died in the jungle from snake bites. I was raised by my uncle and aunt, and seven times we had to abandon our village and flee into the jungle to avoid being bombed by the Burmese army.

Life was horrible because we were always running for our lives. I started primary school when I was 8, but because of all the commotion it took me 11 years before I finished. I might have set a world record for the longest time in primary school!

After I finished school, the army came again and burned every house in our village to the ground. We again had to run for our lives. My uncle died in this attack and I was very sad.

When I was 12 I had a Bible, but I lost it during that attack, and there was no way for me to get another copy. I had no income at all, and just staying alive was a struggle. Furthermore, I lived in a very remote village that seemed to be forgotten by not only the outside world, but even by other Karen people.

However, I hoped the Lord had not forgotten me, so I always prayed that He would let me own a Bible again before I died. Each time I prayed, I felt confident that He had heard my cry for help.

Then, after praying for 55 years and 6 months, God answered my prayers through your ministry! I asked God for a Bible, and you provided not only a Bible but it also has a hymnbook in the back, which is a great blessing. I have never been so happy and satisfied in all my life!

Every day I read His Word, and the love of God fills my heart. I am so thankful, but I also want to ask if you are aware that there are many thousands of Sqaw Karen people in the remote jungle areas who have no access to Bibles at all, and who are desperate to know the true and Living God.

Please remember them and do your best to take Bibles to them. God bless you more and more as you seek to quench the thirst of our poor Christian brothers and sisters.”

“My name is Ti and I am 53-years-old. I have lived in this village since 1992. Before I came here, most of the time we were living in the jungle and running for our lives. We often had to move, and each time we lost all our possessions. We lost land, houses, relatives, friends, animals, and more.

My father once owned a Bible, but it was destroyed in the fighting. I desperately wanted to have a Bible again, but there was no way to get a copy. Even in my dreams I never imagined I would actually have a Bible again, even though I have been praying since 1992 for the Lord to give me one.

Now, after 28 years of prayer, God has given me my own Bible! It is the first time in my life I held my own copy of God’s precious Word. Jesus is so good and worthy to be trusted and praised.



Over the years, other people who said they had Bible distribution ministries visited our village and took pictures, promising to return and give us free Bibles. Our hopes always went up, but they never returned. So, when we informed people in a nearby village that Bibles would be distributed for free, one per family, they didn’t believe us, because something so amazing had never happened before.

Our heart-felt thanks to all of you for all your hard work, and for keeping your promise and giving us free Bibles. Thank you!

Please remember the hundreds of other Sqaw Karen villages in the mountains and valleys where Christians have never had a Bible in their entire lives. I would say that 97 percent of all Christians in the remote areas have never even seen a Bible. They have no money and there is nowhere to obtain a Bible anyway, even if they could afford one.

God bless you and your supporters. We will never forget what you have done for us.”



“My name is Kar. I am 78-year-old. I was married and had nine children, but I am alone now, because all of my children died in the jungle in 1992 when we were forced to run for our lives from the Burmese military. My wife was killed by a bomb in 1993.

I don't have any living relatives, and I don't even know where the other people are from my village, as we all fled in different directions. My life is horrible, and I have lost everything. I feel my life is even worse than what Job experienced in the Bible.

I have always wanted to read the Bible in my language, but I have never been able to find one. Throughout my life I've frequently asked pastors and evangelists where I could get a Bible, but they always told me it was impossible. I decided to trust God, as I realized only He has the power to meet my need.

I started praying for a Bible in 1966 when I was 24-years-old. **After praying for 54 years, God has answered my petitions!** I have received your free Bible and hymnal, and I am so happy! Even though I only live in a simple thatch hut and am all alone, Jesus Christ has not forgotten me and He has encouraged me with His love! The Bible has become the most precious thing in my life. It is truly the living Word of God. Thanks to you all!”



The Christians highlighted in this newsletter are representative of countless thousands of others who have received life-changing Bibles through our two Bible projects. The **China Bible Fund** continues to strengthen and equip house church believers in China. Although the cost of printing a Bible changes monthly depending on the latest price of paper, exchange rate fluctuations, etc., we have set our price at just **\$1.80 each for a full Chinese Bible**, and we cover the transportation and any other costs from non-project funds. This way, we guarantee that for every \$1.80 sent to us for the project will result in a Bible being printed and delivered to the Chinese house churches.

The **Asian Bible Fund** continues to provide the Scriptures in languages like Sqaw Karen for an average of **\$2.70 per Bible**. If you would like to provide God's Word to hungry believers like those in this newsletter, we invite you to fill out the enclosed yellow response form and send it back along with your gift. Alternatively, one-time or monthly donations to the project can be made via our website: **www.asiaharvest.org**

CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **12,855,442**
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 WORKERS' FUND



*We currently support **1,429** Asian evangelists
among **1,113** unreached people groups.*

The **Asian Workers' Fund** supports indigenous church-planting evangelists among unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. These disciples have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. To date, the evangelists we help have reportedly led **514,319 people to faith in Jesus Christ**. 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.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **1,073,603** Bibles printed in 119 languages.*

The **Asian Bible Fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in **Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent**, and anywhere in Asia that God's people need His Word.

Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **1,201** 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 Christian widows and church leaders and their families throughout Asia 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 **\$25 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs.

THE CHILDREN'S FUND



*Your generous support has so far reached **162,884** children throughout Asia.*

The **Bless the Children Fund** introduces children to Jesus in India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and a host of other Asian countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, funding Sunday school training classes, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. It costs an average of just **\$10 to reach a child for Christ**.

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

www.asiaharvest.org / office@asiaharvest.org

NORTH AMERICA: 353 Jonestown Road #320, Winston-Salem, NC 27104, USA

AUSTRALIA: 36 Nelson Street, Stepney, South Australia 5069
Bank details: CBA 06-4410-10255537 (Asia Harvest)

NEW ZEALAND: PO Box 1757, Queenstown 9348
Bank details: ASB 12-3154-0092327-00 (Asia Harvest)

EUROPE: Stiftung SALZ, Moehringer Landstr. 98, 70563 Stuttgart, Germany
BAN: DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / **BIC:** GENODES1PGW

MALAYSIA: Strategic Missions Program, P.O.Box 8036, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya, 46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor
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‘Put in the Sickle, for the Harvest has Come!’ (Mark 4:29)

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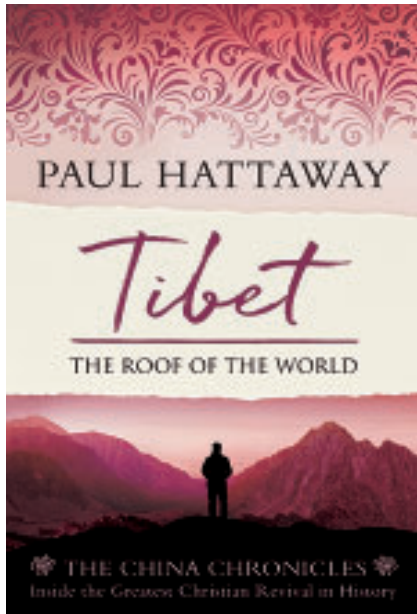
office@asiaharvest.org

August 2020 - Newsletter #167



TIBET - The Roof of the World

A New Book by Paul Hattaway



TIBET

- The Roof of the World -

Book 4 of 'The China Chronicles'

by Paul Hattaway



In this newsletter we are pleased to announce the fourth book in our series on the mighty revival that has swept China during the past 50 years. ***The China Chronicles*** are proving to be a great encouragement to many and are enriching the spiritual lives of those who read them.

Tibet has long been acknowledged as one of the most difficult challenges for the followers of Jesus to overcome, with the famous pioneer missionary Hudson Taylor once remarking: **"To make converts in Tibet is similar to going into a cave to rob a lioness of her cubs."**

In 1886, a Chicago businessman, William Blackstone, preached on the subject, 'The Need of the World and the Work of the Church'. He explained that all people groups must hear the gospel before the glorious return of Jesus Christ, and he stated: "God seems to be holding Tibet back to be the last field entered just before His coming."

Several generations have come and gone since Blackstone's prediction, and Tibet remains one of the last great blocks of humanity yet to give the glory due to the true and Living God.

Front cover of newsletter: More than 40,000 Tibetans were crammed into the remote town of Larung Ga, stacked on top of one another, until the Chinese authorities bulldozed the unique structures in 2016.

The remainder of this newsletter is an excerpt from 'TIBET: The Roof of the World'. It shares the gripping story of the 92-year struggle it took to produce the first Tibetan Bible.

To order a copy of the book, please fill out and return the enclosed form or visit our website (www.asiaharvest.org) for details. A e-book (kindle) version is also available online.

Alternatively, if you send a donation to any Asia Harvest project, please indicate that you would like a complimentary copy of the book and we will gladly send you one.

The Incredible Story of the Tibetan Bible

Tibet is vast— three times the size of Texas or the United Kingdom, but with only a fraction of the population. We had dozens of epic stories to choose from when considering what to share as an excerpt in this newsletter, but we have opted for the story of how the Tibetan Bible came into existence. This remarkable account gives an insight into the intense demonic opposition faced by all Christians who seek to penetrate the Roof of the World with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The story of how the Tibetan Bible finally emerged after a long struggle deserves to be widely shared. It highlights the level of spiritual opposition that Christian work in this dark part of the world invariably attracts.

German Moravian missionaries in north India gave themselves fully to the task of translating the Scriptures into Tibetan in 1856. Incredibly, it was to take nearly a century to complete, with the first full Tibetan Bible finally being printed in 1948. God used a Tibetan family—the Gergens—who helped with the translation work and themselves came to Christ as a result.

Although Tempu Gergan died after falling ill, his 12-year-old son Sonam had listened attentively to all the discussions between his father and the missionaries, and he boldly decided to confess Jesus as Lord and Master. Sonam's decision angered the local Buddhist monks, and great pressure was applied in a bid to make him abandon his new faith. He rebuffed their threats, and when he was publicly baptized he adopted the new name of Yoseb (Joseph).

Help from Above

The first Scripture translated into Tibetan was the Gospel of John, published in 1862. Although a portion of the Bible was now available, it was not well received by Tibetans, who struggled to understand the words and concepts it contained,

causing many readers to give up in frustration. Years of discouragement ensued as the Tibetan Christians and missionaries tried to share God's Word with Buddhists, only to encounter uniform apathy and disinterest.

From the start, the translators had struggled with what terms to use to accurately portray Christian concepts and names to a completely non-Christian culture. Long discussions and prayer meetings were held to discuss what Tibetan words should be used for God, Savior, and sin, among many others. Each word that was tried had Buddhist connotations, and it seemed impossible to find terms that communicated the beauty of God's Word to a people steeped in superstition and a completely different worldview.



After the Lord helped the translators find a way to communicate His Word, the New Testament was finally completed in 1903, and Yoseb Gergan immediately began to translate the Old Testament.

Although the Tibetan New Testament did not cause revival to break out, it greatly strengthened the small number of Tibetan believers, and the profile of Christianity was enhanced among the Buddhist

hierarchy now that God's Word was available for them to read. The abbot of one monastery said: "I have read all the New Testament. Is it true that there is an Old Testament? If so, will you kindly send me all the books? I am very much interested in Christianity."

Wrestling with the Devil

Many more years passed until finally, in 1935, Yoseb Gergan laid down his pen. He had on his desk the first draft of the complete Tibetan Bible! He let out a deep sigh. Now, the Holy Bible would be available to reach the millions of Tibetans living on the vast plateau beyond the mountain passes.

Incredibly, although the translation has been completed, a further 13 years of intense struggle elapsed before the full Tibetan Bible was finally printed, as a succes-

sion of extraordinary events threatened to totally destroy the decades of work. It seemed as if every demon in hell had gathered to prevent the Word of God being available in Tibetan.

First, the workers at the Bible Society in India were unable to print the manuscript because they did not possess the technology to do so. At a time long before computers or photocopy machines, the precious manuscript was carefully placed inside a crate and shipped to the headquarters of the Bible Society in Britain.

The Tibetan Bible arrived in London, but as Hitler's forces swept across Europe, the Bible Society was concerned that the valuable manuscripts in their vaults might be destroyed by a Nazi bomb, so they transported the documents to safer rural locations. The Tibetan manuscript was placed in the ancient cathedral at Ripon, 200 miles north of London. As the Battle of Britain raged,

One 2,000-pound missile from the sky landed on a roadway beside Ripon Cathedral and came to rest against the wall of the church without exploding. Four feet away, inside the church's wall, lay the Tibetan manuscript. Gingerly, a bomb demolition crew defused the bomb. The firing device seemed faultless, and they could not understand why it had failed to explode.

By the time the Second World War ended, Yoseb Gergan was 60-years-old. For a decade he had patiently waited for news that his Tibetan Bible had been printed. With Europe in disarray and no sign of progress, he asked for the manuscript to be sent back to India, hoping that new technology would allow it to be printed closer to home.

Alas, the printers in India shook their heads, saying the manuscripts had been written on cheap Tibetan paper and would need to be rewritten on special white paper. Gergan asked God to give him the strength to complete the massive undertaking.

Two more years passed, and Yoseb felt his strength beginning to ebb as he continued working on his life's task. Then disaster struck. After days of feeling dizzy as he worked from sunrise to late at night, he fell to the ground, gasping for breath. Yoseb Gergan (pictured right) had suffered a heart attack.



The members of the small Tibetan church cried out to the Living God, asking Him to have mercy. They had never imagined that their beloved pastor would die before the Bible was in circulation. God heard their prayers, and Yoseb experienced a surge of strength. A special table was constructed so he could continue the work from bed, and two Tibetan scribes were employed to do most of the writing, with Yoseb overseeing their work and making corrections.

Finally, on August 11, 1946, Yoseb Gergan wrote down the Tibetan words for the final verses in the Bible: "Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." (Revelation 22:20-21).

Five days later, Yoseb Gergan closed his eyes one last time, and went to his eternal reward.

A Soggy Pulp

Unsurprisingly, more demonic opposition and roadblocks had to be overcome before the Tibetan Bible was finally in circulation. The rewritten manuscript had to be taken on the back of a mule across steep Himalayan mountain passes, and a young Tibetan named Sandrup was employed to deliver the manuscript. The journey was expected to take 50 days, and from there the manuscript would be sent on to the city of Lahore, where the Indian Bible Society was located.

Months went by without any word from Sandrup. He, and his precious cargo, had simply vanished in the remote mountains. The believers worried that he had been murdered by bandits or had encountered some other disaster.

Thankfully, additional sets of proofs had been made by Yoseb Gergan before he died. They were given to a Christian named Bahadur, who retraced the steps of the missing Sandrup. As Bahadur crossed a mountain pass, a massive electrical storm came rolling up from the valley below. He pulled his horse behind a large boulder and squatted close to the ground, waiting for the storm to pass as hailstones the size of eggs smashed into his back and neck. Suddenly,

There was a searing flash of light followed by the crash of thunder. The horse tried to bolt into the darkness, but Bahadur restrained it with tremendous effort. Flash after flash of lightning glanced off the rocks around them, filling the air with the heavy smell of scorched earth. The thunder roared as though the demons of hell had gathered to defy the terrified traveler. Torrential rain followed the hail, pouring from the heavens like a waterfall.

'Oh God,' he cried, 'help me now. Deliver me from Satan and his evil host. Protect your Book!' His shouted prayer was answered by another flash of lightning, which laid him out insensible on the ground.

When he revived, the storm had passed. Bahadur noticed that all was quiet, and he suddenly realized he was stone deaf. It would be weeks before he would hear a sound, and then only faintly, as the storm had split his eardrums."

Bahadur bravely soldiered on, and finally reached his destination. The scribes came running out to welcome him, but when the saddle bags were opened, a soggy mass of paper fell to the ground. The storm had succeeded in filling the bags with water. Bahadur tried to pick up the sticky mess, but it was no use. His journey had accomplished nothing. He called God to witness what the devil had done to the precious papers.

One Final Effort

The Bible Society workers realized they were in an intense spiritual battle that required a far greater power than mere human effort to overcome, so they petitioned Christians around the world to intercede for the success of the Tibetan Bible project.

After another delay, a third set of proofs was prepared. Meanwhile, the body of Sandrup, the first courier, had been found at the bottom of a steep cliff. He had perished in an avalanche.

Due to the outbreak of war which led to the formation of Pakistan as a separate country in 1947, the project leaders found that it wasn't safe to send the manuscript to Lahore for printing. It would have to be personally carried across more dangerous mountains, and one of the Tibetan scribes, Gappel, vol-



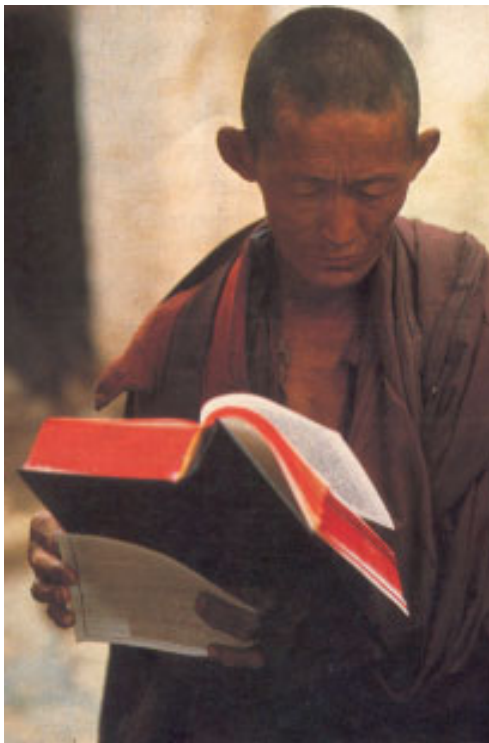
Nomadic Amdo Tibetan women.

unteered to undertake the long journey. He entered the war zone, and for months not a word was heard from him.

Four months later, as the Bible Society workers were starting to give up hope of ever seeing Gappel or the manuscript again, news emerged that he was holed up in a little hut in Kashmir. His way to Lahore was blocked by soldiers, but after another series of divine interventions, the manuscript finally arrived in Lahore, where Gappel began to put the finishing touches to the work.

The searing heat and humidity of Lahore soon made Gappel ill, as he had spent his entire life in the crisp air of the Himalayas. Two large fans were installed in his room, and large blocks of ice were placed in front of the struggling Tibetan. His spirit was immediately revived by the cool environment.

With Gappel working up to 20 hours a day to finish the task so he could return home, progress was swift, and the wonderful day finally arrived in August 1948, when the first ever copy of the full Tibetan Bible rolled off the press! **It had taken 92 years of struggle and prayer.**



God's Word Goes Forth

As soon as his job was done, Gappel hastily headed back to his home in the mountains, and an initial print-run of 5,000 Tibetan Bibles was dispatched to expectant missionaries and Tibetan Christians on both sides of the Himalayan divide.

One recipient of a new Tibetan Bible was Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth and current Dalai Lama, who had fled from Tibet into north India. When a missionary presented him with a brand new copy of the Holy Bible, the Dalai Lama exclaimed, "Thank you! I have heard about this Book. I am told it speaks of the great God who became a man and lived on earth."

After the Communists seized control of Tibet, hundreds of thousands of Buddhist monks were arrested and sent to prison labor camps, where many died after facing

horrific cruelties. A Bible reached one imprisoned monk, who after being deeply touched by the words he read, penned a letter in beautiful flowing Tibetan:

“Dear unknown friends. The book you have sent over the mountains has come to my lonely cell. My soul is strangely stirred as I read these words. Light has come to my poor darkened soul. Please send me more light.”



For many years Asia Harvest has helped spread the Gospel throughout the Tibetan Plateau. Literature, audio and video resources that communicate the Gospel in Tibetan have been distributed. We currently support many ethnic-Tibetan evangelists who work inside Tibetan areas of China, and in the border areas of Nepal, Bhutan and India.

Evangelists can be supported for \$25 per month each. If you would like to support one or more of these workers, we invite you to do so through our Asian Workers' Fund. Please add a note "Tibetan worker" when you send your gift. A prayer card and occasional updates will be sent to every regular supporter of this project.

CHINA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 13,008,023
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 WORKERS' FUND



We currently support 1,410 Asian evangelists
among 1,026 unreached people groups.

The **Asian Workers' Fund** supports indigenous church-planting evangelists among unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. These disciples have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. To date, the evangelists we help have reportedly led **515,857 people to faith in Jesus Christ**. You can help support these dedicated workers for **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular supporters of this project.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 1,100,818 Bibles printed in 119 languages.

The **Asian Bible Fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and anywhere in Asia that God's people need His Word.

Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **1,331** 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 Christian widows and church leaders and their families throughout Asia 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 **\$25 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs.

THE CHILDREN'S FUND



*Your generous support has so far reached **168,559** children throughout Asia.*

The **Children's Fund** introduces children to Jesus in India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and a host of other Asian countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, funding Sunday school training classes, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. It costs an average of just **\$10 to reach a child for Christ**.

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

www.asiaharvest.org / office@asiaharvest.org

NORTH AMERICA:	353 Jonestown Road #320, Winston-Salem, NC 27104, USA
AUSTRALIA:	36 Nelson Street, Stepney, South Australia 5069 <i>Bank details:</i> CBA 06-4410-10255537 (Asia Harvest)
NEW ZEALAND:	PO Box 1757, Queenstown 9348 <i>Bank details:</i> ASB 12-3154-0092327-00 (Asia Harvest)
EUROPE:	Stiftung SALZ, Moehringer Landstr. 98, 70563 Stuttgart, Germany <i>IBAN:</i> DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / <i>BIC:</i> GENODES1PGW
MALAYSIA:	Strategic Missions Program, PO Box 8036, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya, 46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor <i>Bank details:</i> CIMB 8008242805 (Strategic Missions Program)
UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND:	AsiaLink, PO Box 891, Preston PR4 9AB, England <i>Bank details:</i> NatWest Bank 01-07-65, Account No. 07018797

Asia Harvest



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

www.asiaharvest.org

office@asiaharvest.org

September 2020 - Newsletter #168



From Darkness to Light

A Tibetan Monk's Testimony

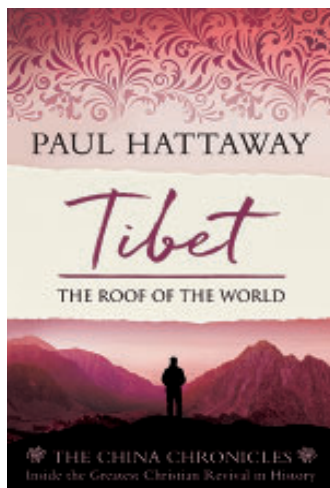
PANDEMIC UPDATE

Dear Friends,

Many people have asked us if our ministry has been affected by the pandemic and subsequent worldwide lockdowns. The main way our work has been affected is that the last several months have been the busiest we've ever had! Amazingly, during this time of financial stress and uncertainty, God's people have risen up and the level of support we receive has more than doubled the normal level!

We continue to help thousands of poor families in a dozen different countries through this difficult time, and we have been diligent to send all incoming support to the field in Asia as soon as we can. In return, many of the ministries we partner with have reported great breakthroughs in their work, as many Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and atheists who previously showed little interest in the Gospel have been touched by the love of God displayed by His people. In one part of India, our co-workers report that 70 percent of villagers who were helped with relief packages have willingly signed up to do a Bible course to learn more about Jesus!

Thank you to all who have prayed and helped our brothers and sisters in Asia. The Lord Jesus remains completely in control of this world, and is Lord over all, including diseases, lockdowns, and the plans of governments. His kingdom is advancing and cannot be stopped!



The rest of this newsletter is an excerpt from our new book, 'TIBET: The Roof of the World'. It shares the dramatic testimony of a Buddhist monk named Tenzin Lhakpa, who is still serving God today on the Tibetan Plateau. It gives insight into the spiritual darkness that envelopes the people of Tibet, and the cost that disciples must pay to follow Christ on the Roof of the World.

To order a copy of the book, please fill out and return the enclosed form or visit our website (www.asiaharvest.org) for details. An e-book (Kindle) version is also available online.

Alternatively, if you send a donation to any Asia Harvest project, please indicate that you would like a complimentary copy of the book and we will gladly send you one.

Tenzin Lakhpa — The Tibetan Monk who met Jesus

Tenzin Lakhpa was born in a village in the mountains of Amdo (now in west China). His parents proudly named him after the current Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, who hails from the same region. When he was 15, his mother took him to the local monastery to commence a lifetime of Buddhist study and service. She told her tearful son:

“From the moment you were born, I knew that you would be the one to honor our family and become a monk. I have dreamed about this day since you were very little. You were always so smart and kind. You were always so clever, and I knew that your purpose was to be a monk. I know that this is not easy for you to understand, but you were born to be a monk and lead our people into enlightenment.”

In the monastery, Tenzin’s life was miserable. It was like a huge, dark prison cell that he felt he would never be able to escape from. In the mornings he joined the other monks begging for food on the streets, and after returning to the monastery each day they were abused verbally, physically, and sexually.

According to Tenzin, some of the older monks and lamas were rampant homosexuals and pedophiles who did not think twice about using small children to satisfy their wicked cravings. On many nights, Tenzin was unable to sleep as he heard the muffled screams of anguished young boys in other parts of the monastery. He also grew disillusioned when he discovered that many of the senior lamas, who are supposed to be celibate, had secret wives and families away from the monastery.

Tenzin longed to escape, but he knew he would never be allowed to go free. For more than 20 years he remained enslaved in monastic life, and despite moving to Lhasa and then to India—where he met the Dalai Lama several times—inner peace eluded him.

While he was in northern India, Tenzin was visited by a relative who was a former monk. He was shocked when this man explained that he had moved to America and had become a Christian. Tenzin had never heard that word before, but when he was told it describes a follower of Jesus, Tenzin recoiled in horror, for all monks had been taught never to utter that Name. It had been drilled into them that the Name of Jesus was so dangerous that it had the power to overturn the very fabric of Tibetan life, and Buddhism itself.

For the next few years Tenzin's interest in Jesus grew, but he was frustrated in his attempts to satisfy his curiosity. One day a letter arrived from his mother, asking him to return home because his father had died. Tenzin was heartbroken and made the long overland journey back to Tibet. Not having a passport, he made it only as far as the Nepal-China border where he was arrested, bound, and severely beaten by Communist officers before being imprisoned for six months.

After contracting tuberculosis, Tenzin was admitted to hospital, where a Tibetan-speaking foreign doctor treated him. The physician wore a small cross on his collar, and when Tenzin asked what it meant, he was told that it meant he was a follower of Jesus Christ.

Tenzin was excited to meet a believer in Jesus, as he had many questions he wanted to ask. The doctor gave him some Christian literature, in both Tibetan and Chinese, and asked him to study it.

One day, the doctor asked if he could pray for Tenzin's healing, for his condition had deteriorated and he needed more than medicine to survive. Tenzin agreed, and later described what happened:

"The doctor walked closer to my bed, put his right hand on my right arm, and began speaking in a language I was not familiar with. Suddenly, without warning, I felt something flow through my arm. It was like a warm, soft blanket. It moved into my shoulders and chest, and then throughout my entire body. I could not understand the doctor's words, but his prayer had something my prayers lacked. It had power."

That moment was a turning point in Tenzin Lhakpa's life. He had come face to face with the reality of God's power, and that night as he fell asleep, he had a dramatic, life-changing dream. He recalled:

"A man in a white robe came to me in my dreams. He had a glow about Him that radiated in every direction. I felt warm and safe in His presence. As He approached me, I could tell there was something wrong with His hands. In His palms were scars that had not completely healed over. I tried to look closer to see if I could catch a glimpse of His face, but I could not."

'Follow Me,' He said. He spoke perfect Tibetan and had a low, soothing voice like that of a loving father.

'Are you Jesus?' I asked.

But again, He simply said, 'Follow Me.'

'Are you the one to show me the path to truth?'

'Follow Me, Tenzin. I am the Way. I am the Truth. No one comes to the Path but through Me.'

'Okay,' I answered. 'I will follow You.'"

For weeks Tenzin remained in hospital, using every spare moment to study the Bible. The doctors and nurses were amazed at his recovery, and Tenzin knew it was due to the healing prayer by the Christian doctor.

Awed by everything he had learned, Tenzin realized that a time was coming when he would have to leave the monastery. His journey to discover the truth was taking him on a radically different path.

After returning home, Tenzin was burdened to share what he had learned with his friends at the monastery. He called a special gathering of the monks and requested a public debate with the head of the monastery, Tashi Lama.

Despite knowing that the monks would react furiously the moment he mentioned Jesus, Tenzin felt a supernatural peace within. God was with him and had promised never to leave or forsake him. Even if he was killed, he knew he would be with his Lord and Master in paradise. There was no reason to fear.

Hundreds of monks crammed into the monastery courtyard to witness the debate. Rumors swirled about the reason for the special meeting, with some assuming that Tenzin planned to challenge the lama's leadership in a bid to replace him.



After struggling to find the right words, Tenzin Lakhpa took a deep breath and boldly declared:

"What if I told you that I prayed to a God who said that He could guide me through the spirit world, and I did not have to earn merits to hear from Him because He gave it all to me by grace? I could not earn it on my own."

When I was lying in the hospital bed, I was told about a God who gave His life for me so that I would not have to suffer any longer. He did not do it because I had earned enough merit. He did it because He loved me. His love leads to the path that ends suffering, and His Name is Jesus."

Instantly, an enraged Tashi Lama screamed, **"Grab him now!" and dozens of monks rushed at Tenzin, hissing, "He's a Christian! Kill him!"**

The new believer was choked and savagely beaten to a pulp, and his battered and unconscious body was left to die. Even his own brother, who was also a monk, was forced to beat him. Tenzin's mother also suffered for her son's actions, and her house was burned to the ground.

The severely injured disciple of Christ recalled his thoughts as he was being beaten:

"I knew that I must die to myself so that I could live in Christ. And if I could live in Christ, then, although they would kill my body, I would live again with Him. In that moment, I no longer feared death.

Although I was on the ground being kicked and punched by everyone, I was not their prisoner. I was being beaten as a free man. I had more hope in that moment than all the other men there. I was no longer a prisoner of Buddha. They were. I was being beaten for leaving Buddha, and they were beating me because they were too afraid to leave."

Hours later, after darkness had fallen, the blood-splattered Tenzin regained consciousness, and he heard a soothing voice say, "Follow Me, My child." A supernatural peace flooded his soul, and moments later a hand was clamped firmly over his mouth. His brother had returned to help him escape in the night.

Tenzin was put on a bus to a faraway city, where he took months to recover from his injuries. He was warned never to return to his home or he would be killed.

For most of Tenzin's life his identity had been chosen for him. His head was shaved and his clothes were the same as all the other monks, to strip him of individualism and identity. He struggled to think for himself or act independently of the monastery.

He was now free, but it would take a long time to adjust. Despite having no money, bank account, or any connections in this world, he walked away from his former dark way of life and toward Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

In his new location, Tenzin was eventually contacted by some Christians, who warmly embraced him and explained that he had a unique and precious God-given identity which made him different from everyone else in the world.

Meanwhile, the monks back at the monastery remained furious with Tenzin. In their minds he had dishonored his nation, family, and culture. They tracked him down and tried to force him to recant and return to the monastery. When their pleas fell on deaf ears, they decided it was better for him to be dead than to walk away, and several attempts were made on his life.

Later, Tenzin began working with a medical charity in west China, giving him the opportunity to witness to many sick Tibetans who visited the clinic for treatment. One visitor was a Tibetan lady named Mapu. Tenzin shared the Gospel with her and she believed, becoming the first Tibetan he baptized. Mapu loved him, and they were united in marriage. For 20 years he had scarcely seen a woman and had been completely cut off from all contact with the opposite sex, so marriage was another shocking change to his life.



Tenzin and Mapu now have two sons, and he often says the most wonderful gifts God has given him, apart from salvation, are his wife and children.

Not one to lack courage, in 2017 Tenzin heard that a bacterial infection had broken out in his home area. Many people, including his beloved mother, had died as the epidemic swept through. Despite the threat to murder him if he ever showed his face there again, Tenzin was compelled by the love of God to return to the very monastery where he had almost been beaten to death years earlier. He reasoned:

“I knew that most of them wanted to kill me because they felt I had betrayed them. However, I could not sleep knowing that God had given us the means to save them. I knew that because Jesus loved them, I needed to love them too—even if they hated me. I wanted to be there to serve them and to show them the love of Jesus, and I would do so—even if they killed me.”

Tenzin led a medical team to his hometown, providing treatment to more than 1,000 people. The locals were hesitant to receive help from him, but so great was their distress that they put aside their prejudices and accepted the assistance.

One day, Tenzin was sitting in the clinic when Tashi Lama walked in. Tenzin immediately grabbed a chair for him to sit on and bowed to honor his former persecutor. Tashi Lama’s eyes grew large when he realized he was being served by the man he had tried to murder.

The next day, all the leading monks gathered as Tenzin presented a plan to build the first health clinic in the town.

Tenzin Lakhpa—who was dedicated to Buddha at a young age and who served many years as a monk—is now a jewel in the crown of Jesus Christ, and a living example of God’s ability to transform lives radically from the inside out.

Many years earlier, Tenzin’s mother predicted that he would lead their people into enlightenment. He is doing just that. He continues to serve the Living God, and he leads a small Tibetan fellowship.

With living examples like Tenzin Lakhpa displaying the liberating power of Jesus Christ, it’s no wonder the lamas of Tibet and the demonic world fear His matchless Name, and why they shudder at the thought that the ‘Jesus virus’ might one day spread throughout the Tibetan world.

*Note: Quotes in this article are from Tenzin Lhakpa with Eugene Bach, **Leaving Buddha: A Tibetan Monk's Encounter with the Living God** (Whittaker House, 2019).*



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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 WORKERS' FUND



*We currently support **1,413** Asian evangelists
among **1,043** unreached people groups.*

The **Asian Workers' Fund** supports indigenous church-planting evangelists among unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. These disciples have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. To date, the evangelists we help have reportedly led **517,122 people to faith in Jesus Christ**. You can help support these dedicated workers for **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular supporters of this project.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **1,125,388** Bibles printed in **119** languages.*

The **Asian Bible Fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and anywhere in Asia that God's people need His Word.

Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **1,531** 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 Christian widows and church leaders and their families throughout Asia 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 **\$25 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs.

THE CHILDREN'S FUND



*Your generous support has so far reached **169,198** children throughout Asia.*

The **Children's Fund** introduces children to Jesus in India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and a host of other Asian countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, funding Sunday school training classes, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. It costs an average of just **\$10 to reach a child for Christ**.

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

www.asiaharvest.org / office@asiaharvest.org

NORTH AMERICA: 353 Jonestown Road #320, Winston-Salem, NC 27104, USA

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Bank details: CBA 06-4410-10255537 (Asia Harvest)

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IBAN: DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / *BIC:* GENODES1PGW

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Bank details: NatWest Bank 01-07-65, Account No. 07018797

Asia Harvest



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

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October 2020 — Newsletter #169



‘The Least of These’

Helping Christian Widows in India

“Others Can, You Cannot”

To start this newsletter, we would like to share a wonderful quote we came across by a Wesleyan minister named George Watson (1845-1924).

His words resonate with us, and we hope many serious Christians who read them will be encouraged to continue to stand for Christ against the increasingly strong flow of the world, and of the worldly church. Watson wrote:

“If God has called you to be really like Jesus, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience that you will not be able to follow other people, or measure yourself by other Christians. In many ways He will seem to let other people do things which He will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers, who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it, and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others may boast of themselves, of their work, of their successes, of their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, or may have a legacy left to them, but it is likely God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, namely, a helpless dependence upon Him, that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored and put forward, and keep you hidden in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade.

He may let others be great but keep you small. He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious, He may let others get credit for the work which you have done, and thus **make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.”**

‘The Least of These’ — Helping Christian Widows in India

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’ (Matthew 25:40).

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world” (James 1:27).

If you have received our Asia Harvest newsletters for a while, you will know that we have seven main categories that people can give to as the Lord leads them. However, beneath these seven broad categories we have many other initiatives that help advance the Gospel among Asia’s unreached people groups, and establish believers in the faith.



In this newsletter we would like to share about one of our most important projects that you may never have heard of before.

Throughout Asia, **we currently support more than 1,000 Christian widows** with monthly assistance. The majority of those we are privileged to help are in India, and we consider it a great blessing and honor to be involved in their lives.

The Living Dead

Life for widows in India can be very rough. Today, there are an estimated 34 million widows in India, or 8 percent of the entire female population.

You may have read how, in the past, Hindu widows in some regions would burn themselves alive by leaping into the flames when their husbands were cremated,

rather than face life alone in a male-dominated society, where older women still do not generally work in paid jobs and where no government or assistance is provided.



As a result, widows in India have been described as **“the living dead.”**

Although the dreadful practice of ritual suicide is now outlawed, widows still encounter massive challenges in India, and without an income many fall prey to evil men. For these reasons, we believe that Christians taking care of widows in India is of utmost importance in the eyes of God.

We have known the Indian leaders who oversee and implement this project since meeting them on a visit to India almost 30 years ago in 1991. Since that time, God’s hand has been on their ministry in a mighty way, and the number of churches has grown exponentially as their movement has spread to many parts of the nation.

While their focus has been on discipleship, evangelism and church planting, their churches also came to contain large numbers of Christian widows, who were without any human support in this world.

When forming a strategy to help these dear sisters, **the church leaders took the Bible literally, and have carefully implemented** the list of requirements that the Apostle Paul laid out to Timothy. We would like to share some of these verses, along with additional comment...

“Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God” (1 Timothy 5:3-4).





The first step is to identify those widows in the churches who are in genuine need; those who live alone without support, and who would struggle to survive without extra help.

Each case is considered carefully, and if any widow has family members or relatives, they are encouraged to take care of their own flesh and blood. That way, the burden for caring for the widows is not simply rolled onto the churches, and only those in the greatest need make it onto the list.

“No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord’s people, helping those in trouble and de-

voting herself to all kinds of good deeds” (1 Timothy 5:9-10).

This criterion is adhered to, and only widows aged over 60 are considered for our support. Those with a track record of serving God’s people and displaying the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives are helped.

The Impact on the Churches

“If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need” (1 Timothy 5:16).

First and foremost, it is the local Indian Christians who take responsibility for the widows in their midst. They receive love and honor from other members of the

Body of Christ, who spend time with them and bring them food and essential supplies. In return, these elderly sisters have much wisdom to share with the younger Christian women, and in this way the family of God is built up in a beautiful way.

By strengthening God's people first, they in turn can take His blessings and reach many who have yet to believe the Gospel. Despite being among the poorest of the poor, many of the widows lovingly share their meager supplies with their non-Christian neighbors. As a result, **their selflessness has attracted many Hindus, Muslims and others to bow their knees to Jesus Christ.**

The project is making a great impact both directly in the lives of the widows and indirectly to the churches. For example, the funds we provide to the widows helps free up resources for evangelism and church planting, to buy Bibles and discipleship materials, and other crucial needs.



The Role of Asia Harvest

Although most of our activities are focused on expanding God's kingdom among lost people groups, the Bible teaches that we should first take care of our fellow Christians: ***"As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"*** (Galatians 6:10).

In addition to monthly support, a few times a year we also provide special blessings to the more than 1,000 Christian widows we help. For example, in India a woman's sari (garment) is particularly important and is considered a cultural icon, as you can see from some of the photos in this newsletter. Every year we help our colleagues provide new saris, towels and other items to each of the widows. They are received with great joy and gratitude.



Some of the ways we help widows includes providing new saris (above) and towels (below) to each recipient. We also fund literacy programs and Bibles, sewing machines, eye glasses, wheelchairs, blankets and sheets, and aid for medical emergencies and funeral expenses. Some widows have proven to be effective soul-winners in the Indian Church, and the kingdom of God has grown through their labors.





We hope you have enjoyed this pictorial journey into part of Asia Harvest's work that we rarely share in our newsletters. **Please pray for the precious widows of India**, as the Lord works in them and through their brokenness to bring glory to God.

If you would like to help support widows in India and other parts of Asia, please note that we include this project under the umbrella of our **Living Martyrs' Fund**, which raises funds in increments of **\$25 per month**. All donations received go directly to the project. Nothing is taken out for administration or any other expense.

Donations can be made by mailing a check with the enclosed yellow Response form, or by giving either one-time or monthly support via our secure website: **www.asiaharvest.org**

CHINA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 13,326,249
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 WORKERS' FUND



***We currently support 1,471 Asian evangelists
among 1,072 unreached people groups.***

The **Asian Workers' Fund** supports indigenous church-planting evangelists among unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. These disciples have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. To date, the evangelists we help have reportedly led **539,481 people to faith in Jesus Christ**. You can help support these dedicated workers for **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular supporters of this project.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 1,149,066 Bibles printed in 125 languages.

The **Asian Bible Fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and anywhere in Asia that God's people need His Word.

Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **1,531** 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 Christian widows and church leaders and their families throughout Asia 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 **\$25 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs.

THE CHILDREN'S FUND



*Your generous support has so far reached **170,155** children throughout Asia.*

The **Children's Fund** introduces children to Jesus in India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and a host of other Asian countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, funding Sunday school training classes, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. It costs an average of just **\$10 to reach a child for Christ**.

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



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December 2020 – Newsletter #170



CHINA UPDATE

The Battle for China's One Billion Souls

From the Frontlines

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens....a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak” (Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 7).

As we come to our final newsletter of the year, you would probably agree that 2020 took an unexpected course that few of us had anticipated. The Covid pandemic has affected all of our lives to various degrees.

If you have read our newsletters over the years you will know that Asia Harvest has been a consistent voice and advocate for the Church in China. This year, however, we have felt it was a season when we could better serve God's people in China by being a little quieter than usual.

As the verse at the top of this page says, there is a time to be silent and a time to speak. The Apostle Paul knew the importance of discerning the seasons and following God accordingly. Paul once boldly declared: *“I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus”* (Acts 21:13), but on another occasion he was hidden inside a basket and lowered over the wall of Damascus to escape from those who wanted to kill him (see Acts 9:20-25).

During this year, our newsletters have mostly concentrated on our work in other countries of Asia, but we have continued to wholeheartedly serve the Lord in China. In partnership with our co-workers, the China Bible Fund has continued to operate strongly, and 2020 is shaping up to be a year when **we will print and deliver more Chinese Bibles than any other year in nearly a decade.**

The situation for believers in China has been extremely difficult, as Xi Jinping and the Communist Party gradually prepare for what seems like a final assault to try to rid Christianity from the country once and for all.

The Body of Christ, however, has grown to such a size under Communism that they will find it impossible to completely eradicate God's people. Instead, the authorities have been putting plans into place to corrupt the Gospel. By doing so, they hope to control the Church and ultimately render it powerless and subservient to the Communist system.

To that end, the government has openly announced plans to “reinterpret” the Bible and other religious texts, so they will have “socialist characteristics”. A glimpse into what that might look like was seen recently when a government publisher altered the ending of the account of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery. Their blasphemous version now has Jesus concluding his talk by saying: “I too am a sinner,” instead of, “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

For the record, we would like to state unequivocally that **Asia Harvest will never be involved in producing any such Bibles**, nor would any of the believers we work with consider using one.

The battle lines are drawn. Please pray for our precious brothers and sisters in China. **This year, tens of thousands of house church pastors and evangelists have gone missing**, especially in those provinces with a large concentration of Christians.

Most of those tens of thousands are still alive, but in preparation for the struggle ahead, they have gone into hiding. They have completely disconnected from all phones and computers, because those devices are used by the government to track their location.

Furthermore, each person in China must have an ID card. It is impossible for a person to catch a flight or train, open a bank account, get a job, or rent an apartment without using their card. Each ID card contains a computer chip which is also used to track people’s movements. Many Christian leaders, before they go into hiding, have placed their cards inside a microwave oven for a few seconds, which ruins the chips and renders them useless.

In this final newsletter of 2020, we would like to share a powerful recent testimony from the Church in China. It is a wonderful example of how the kingdom of God has grown so powerfully in China, despite seven decades of efforts to crush and suppress God’s people by the God-hating Communist Party.

We have also included our latest China Bible distribution map, showing the provinces where each of the Bibles we have produced over the years has ended up. **By the miraculous hand of God**, the project continues to operate full steam. As long as the Lord continues to hold the door open, we plan to keep helping our brothers and sisters in the Chinese house churches have access to God’s Word.

If you would like to support the **China Bible Fund**, donations can be made by mailing a check with the enclosed yellow Response form, or by giving either one-time or monthly support via our secure website: **www.asiaharvest.org**

The Battle for China's One Billion Souls



The Chinese Communist Party has long desired to eliminate or control Christianity, but being atheists, they can never understand that they are not dealing with a mere religion or human institution. Instead, the atheistic regime has been picking a fight with the living, resurrected Jesus Christ! And there is only ever one winner when people battle the Lord!

In the 71 years since China became Communist, the Lord has laughed at efforts to destroy His kingdom, and He has overseen the greatest revival in history, with the Church in China growing from about one million believers to well over 100 million!

We would like to share a precious testimony from Sister Hu, who in 2018 shared the amazing story of how their house church movement started in northeast China.

“Some years ago, my son fell seriously ill with a kidney disease. I visited numerous temples where I earnestly worshipped all the idols, but he got worse. Then someone at the hospital told me that if I believed in Jesus my son could be healed.

I had no idea how to pray to this Jesus, or even what ‘prayer’ was. How many times must I pray? What words should I recite and what postures should I take? It occurred to me that I should take my son to Beijing and shout aloud to Jesus on the streets, in the hope that this mysterious person would hear me and find us. However, I lacked the money to travel to Beijing or to make offerings to Jesus once I found him.

My fellow workers at the factory all laughed at me when I pleaded for their help to sell my house so I could take my son to Beijing. I cried so hard that I had a stroke and was unable to talk. Feeling ashamed, my co-workers loaded me onto a cart and pushed it to a medical clinic. Two doctors treated me, and strangely one of them said, 'God must have a plan for your life.' I found his comment very odd.

Still guilt-ridden because of the way they had treated me, my co-workers had a change of heart and decided to help raise money for our trip. I had no idea where to go once we reached Beijing, but the hospital administrator also had to go to Beijing for a meeting, so he accompanied us on the long train journey.

I felt overwhelmed by the crowds of people and the hustle and bustle of the big city, but the administrator took us to a hospital, where there happened to be a doctor who specialized in kidney disease. He took one look at my son and said he must be admitted immediately. We stayed in Beijing, with my son receiving treatment as I recovered from my stroke.

One day I visited a big cathedral in the city. It was the first time I had ever set foot inside a church building, but somehow I felt at home. I began attending services there, and some sisters encouraged me to follow Jesus and dedicate my son to Him. I told God that if he healed my son, I would always serve Him and would share the Gospel with as many people as I could.



My son's condition improved, but then he suffered a setback and the doctor said there was no hope. I asked Jesus to heal him, and from that moment my son improved, although he still needed treatment.

We traveled back home on the train, and I told my boss I had enough money either to buy food or to pay the medical bills, but not both. I was perplexed about what

to do, but then I remembered my vow to God, so I quit my job and began sharing the Gospel with everyone I met. Soon, a small group of believers emerged, and we began a class to train evangelists and pastors. The fellowship grew quickly and became so large that it caused traffic jams in our town whenever we held a service! We rented a larger building to meet in.

Over time, the Holy Spirit revealed that we should focus on two things: evangelizing the lost and training leaders. We formed teams with five people in each, and we targeted 18 towns with the Gospel. As we approached each town we prayed, and then we would look for the poorest household to share the Good News of Jesus with.



Each team was supported by an intercession and fasting chain, which operated around the clock, with believers rotating in two-hour shifts. We fasted for seven days before a campaign, and to this day we still gather every morning at 4:30 a.m. for prayer, even in winter when it's minus 30 degrees outside.

In the first 15 towns many people believed our message, and we formed new churches in each place. The final three towns were further away, so we had to ride bicycles long distances to reach them. Miraculously, in one town the officials let us use the municipal loudspeaker, to ensure that everyone could hear the message. Many people believed and more churches were formed.

Our meetings were always crowded. Some who came were demon possessed, but when we prayed they were completely delivered. Many others were healed from deafness and other ailments. At first, we had many sisters but only one brother on our teams. We asked God to add 100 new brothers. and after the first evangelistic campaigns, we found that was exactly the number of men who had been converted.

Later, we added mercy ministries to help the sick, elderly, and orphans. Now, our church has grown to 40,000 believers, and we have 1,000 evangelists and pastors. We have seen God perform many remarkable things, which have helped spread His



salvation message more widely. Some towns have been so thoroughly saturated with the Gospel that now over 80 percent of the people are Christians.

Jesus has been so good to us. What a wonderful Lord! He has been our best friend and He sticks closer than a brother. The doctor in Beijing told me that my son would never have children, but now his daughter is ten-years-old!

In recent years we have faced fresh challenges, as the government's strict new religious policies have taken effect. We are under great pressure to compromise, but **we are determined to fully obey Jesus, and we will continue to evangelize, regardless of the cost.**

This is the story of how our churches were formed and grew. Please understand that it has not been human strength that has accomplished any of this! Rather, it has all been the work of the King of Kings, who said: ***"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty***" (Zechariah 4:6).

All glory to God!"

CHINA BIBLE MAP



Thanks to the grace of God and your prayers and generous support, a few months ago Asia Harvest passed the milestone of **13 million** Chinese Bibles printed and delivered to house churches in China. We receive detailed reports, allowing us to keep track of the Bibles 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:

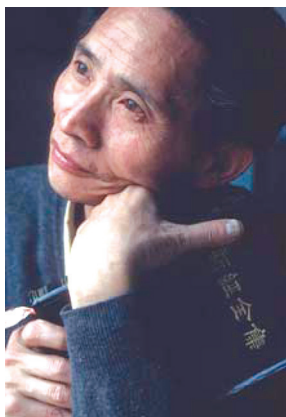
1	Heilongjiang	1,162,501
2	Henan	1,114,969
3	Anhui	1,109,261
4	Shandong	1,040,633
5	Inner Mongolia	1,030,256
6	Zhejiang	790,043
7	Sichuan	640,034
8	Jilin	599,309
9	Liaoning	556,756
10	Jiangsu	542,892
11	Shanxi	497,437
12	Gansu	465,296
13	Shaanxi	435,041
14	Hebei	411,110
15	Hubei	408,780
16	Jiangxi	397,902
17	Guangxi	312,029
18	Xinjiang	257,153
19	Fujian	246,684
20	Chongqing	237,531
21	Qinghai	233,552
22	Shanghai	221,364
23	Hunan	220,940
24	Hainan	167,782
25	Guizhou	120,724
26	Guangdong	89,481
27	Beijing	79,489
28	Yunnan	70,010
29	Tibet	11,969
30	Ningxia	7,999
31	Tianjin	5,395

TOTAL

13,484,320



CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **13,484,320**
Chinese Bibles printed and distributed.*

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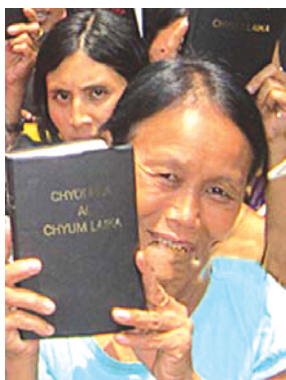
ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



*We currently support **1,492** Asian evangelists
among **1,130** unreached people groups.*

The **Asian Workers' Fund** supports indigenous church-planting evangelists among unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. These disciples have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. To date, the evangelists we help have reportedly led **546,633 people to faith in Jesus Christ**. You can help support these dedicated workers for **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular supporters of this project.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **1,198,679** Bibles printed in **125** languages.*

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Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **1,691** 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 Christian widows and church leaders and their families throughout Asia 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 **\$25 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs.

THE CHILDREN'S FUND

*Your generous support has so far reached **170,786** children throughout Asia.*



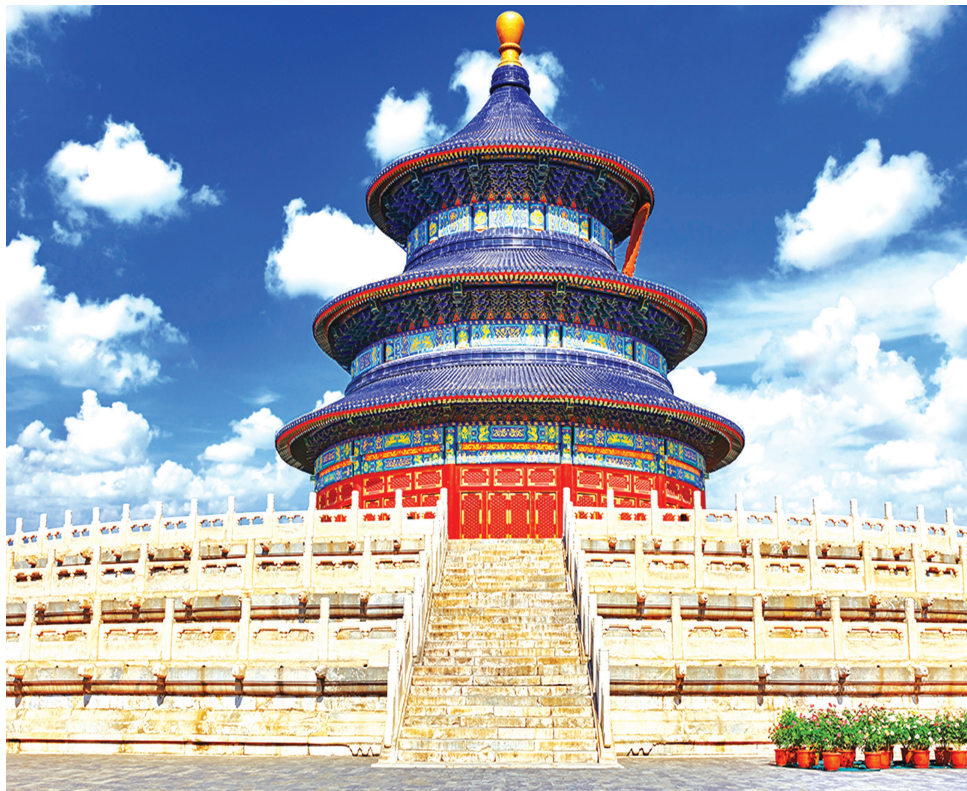
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PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



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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NEW ZEALAND : PO Box 1757, Queenstown 9348
Bank details: ASB 12-3154-0092327-00 (Asia Harvest)

EUROPE : Stiftung SALZ, Moehringer Landstr. 98, 70563 Stuttgart, Germany
IBAN: DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / *BIC:* GENODES1PGW

MALAYSIA : Strategic Missions Program, PO Box 8036,
Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya, 46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Bank details: CIMB 8008242805 (Strategic Missions Program)

UNITED KINGDOM : AsiaLink, 31A Main Street, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim BT39 9AA
Bank details: NatWest Bank 01-07-65, Account No. 07018797