

# Asia Harvest 2021

**NEWSLETTERS**  
*(Combined)*

# Asia Harvest



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

[www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

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February 2021 — Newsletter #171



## ANNUAL REPORT

A Renewed Focus for the Peoples of Asia

# From the Frontlines

***"I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus"*** (Philippians 3:12-14).

Many Christians found 2020 to be a very difficult and unsettling year, with the Covid pandemic and social and political turmoil combining to disrupt and challenge their lives.

A number of people have contacted us to ask what we think about various political events, social issues, the environment, and a host of other things.

While we understand that the world is shaking right now and people everywhere are under pressure, and if or your family have **any specific prayer requests**, please send them by letter or email and we will join with you by bringing your need before the throne of God in our prayer times.

Here at Asia Harvest, for decades we have learned that the only way to survive and faithfully do what God has called us to do is to have a laser-beam focus. We exist only to serve the Church in Asia, by helping them reach the thousands of remaining unreached people groups, and by providing Bibles to believers in "closed" countries who are unable to access them.

To move forward in ministry, we have found it necessary to focus on our call and to avoid all distractions. The Apostle Paul described his focus this way: ***"Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer."*** (2 Timothy 2:3-4).

As we reflect on an amazing year of ministry in Asia, we have been engaged in an intense spiritual war for the souls of men and women now for over 30 years. Asia is our passion and focus, and we simply don't have the time or energy to get involved with other issues around the world, no matter how compelling they may appear.

As we look forward to what lies ahead, we would appreciate your prayers so that, by God's grace and power, we will be able to faithfully serve Him to the end without being sidetracked.

Even when things in our lives feel unstable, let's remember the words of Jesus, who told His followers: *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33).

While 2020 was a year like no other, and all our lives have been disrupted in one way or another, for us the main way that Covid affected us was that we were suddenly twice as busy as usual! The lockdowns caused those we partner with throughout Asia to fly into action to help people survive in their churches and communities.

As a result, a great harvest was reaped of new believers in many locations. In some places, believers were excluded from food distribution by callous officials and villagers. When we provided help, however, the Christians not only welcomed the crucial aid, but they even gave some to their persecutors, which attracted many to the truth of the Gospel and the love of Jesus.

Our policy has always been not to ask anyone for people except prayer as we serve God. The Holy Spirit leads people if He wants them to give. Remarkably, in a year when much economic stress was felt around the world, the Lord provided more support than any year in our history!

Thanks to your generous support, we were able to help hundreds of thousands of people across Asia, and 2020 became a record year for donations, and we saw an increase of 56 percent from the previous year. We are thankful for everyone who partnered with us to help see the kingdom of God established among the peoples of Asia.



*Cover photo:* This picture encapsulates the heart of our call. An evangelist whom we support through the Asian Worker's Fund shares the Gospel to attentive tribal villagers crowded into a stone hut in a remote part of the Himalayas. We are privileged to support almost 1,500 evangelists throughout Asia. Last year they led over 117,000 people to faith in Jesus Christ.



# 2020/21 Annual Report

In the remainder of this newsletter we present our Annual Report, detailing the help Asia Harvest provided to the Body of Christ throughout Asia in 2020.

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, **more than two million Christians were strengthened** by receiving God's Word through our Bible projects, while the nearly 1,500 Asian evangelists we support led **a total of 117,509 people to Christ among 1,132 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.**

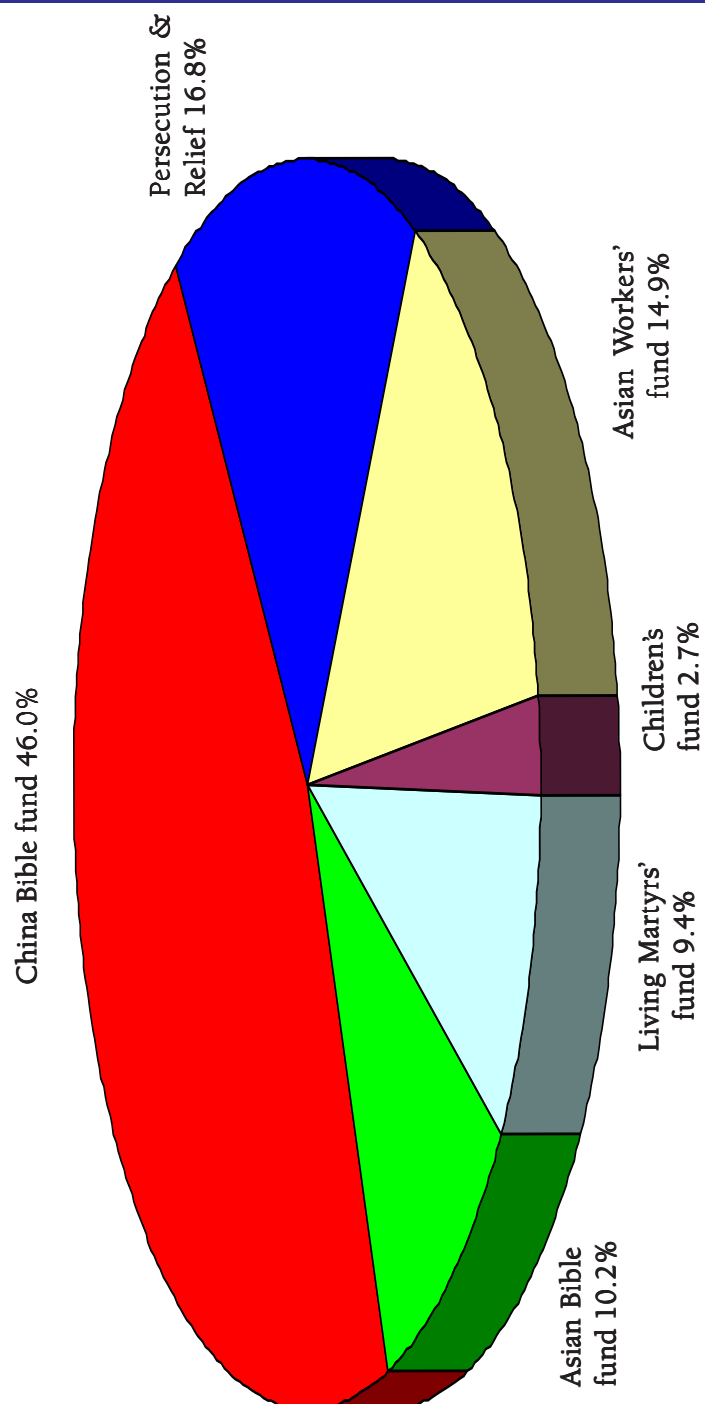


From the time of Asia Harvest's inception in the 1980s, we have desired to be transparent in the area of finances. Our annual financial statements are independently audited each year, and are available for anyone to view on our website.

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 visit the "Resources" link at our website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

## Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2020



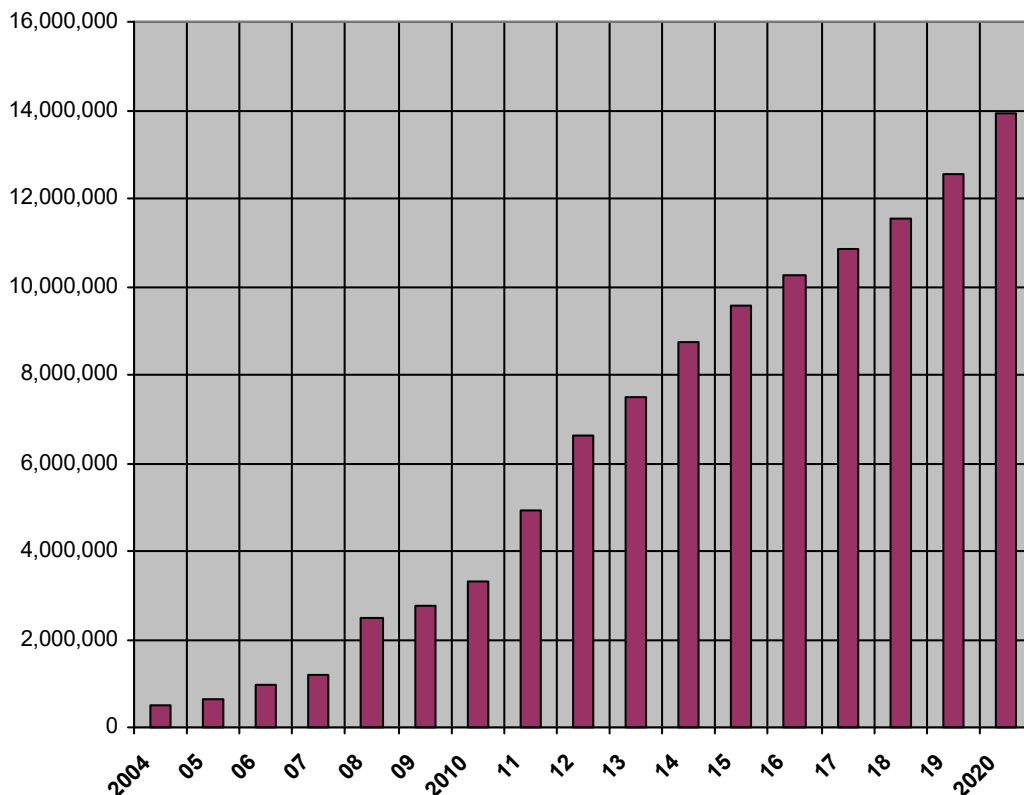
# CHINA BIBLE FUND

## *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, establishing new believers in the faith, and adding fuel to the revival fires that continue 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 almost 14 million Bibles to house church believers in China, with **1,462,778 in 2020 alone**. This equates to **4,008 Bibles every day, 167 per hour, or one full Bible every 21 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: 13,934,669**



# ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

## *Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

*Because of your prayers and partnership, we ended 2020 supporting **1,484** Asian missionaries, serving among **1,132** unreached people groups. A reported **117,509** people experienced God's salvation last year.*



*A Mongolian mother reads the Gospel for the first time inside her family's yurt (tent).*

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 2020, those we support through the project led **117,509 people to salvation in Jesus Christ** (an average of 79 per worker). A total of **546,800 conversions** have been reported since this project commenced. Hallelujah! This is remarkable considering most of the workers serve in 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: 1,232,362 Bibles printed in 125 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 Scriptures in numerous languages throughout South-east Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere.

**In 2020 we printed and distributed 206,549 Bibles in 36 languages—**the most Bibles we have ever done in a single year. For many people groups it was the first time in history they had Scripture in their



language. Often, the Bibles were the answer to years of prayer by desperate Christians, who were hungry for God's Word but unable to access it. All glory to the Lamb of God!

Please pray for this project and for all who are involved in providing God's Word to the precious Christians of Asia. In 2020 we printed Bibles through the Asian Bible Fund in the following languages:

**Ahirani, Bareli Palya, Bengali, Bengali Musalman, Bodo Parja, Chin Asang Khongca, Chin Ngawn, Chin Tapong, Dhankavi, Desiya, Didayi, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Hindustani, Holiya, Indonesian, Juray Saora, Kacchi, Kannada, Karen Sqaw, Konda Dora, Koya, Kukna, Kuvi, Lodha, Lodhi, Mundari, Nahali, Nepali, Odia, Pengo, Telugu, Vasavi, Urdu, Vietnamese**



# FROM PERSECUTOR TO PASTOR

## *A Life Transformed by God's Love*

*Each year we receive hundreds of powerful testimonies from across Asia, but we are only able to publish a few. We would like to share this testimony from Ramesh in Nepal, whom we support through the Asian Workers' Fund.*

"My name is Ramesh, and I was born into a middle-class family. Despite having Christian parents, I always protested their faith and cursed them for leaving our ancestral religion. I was anti-Christ.

Whenever I saw a Christian, intense anger welled up in my heart. I beat many believers, threatened them, burned down their homes, dragged them out of the village, and spat on them. I even used to sit and wait for Christians on their way home from church so I could rob them.

Over time I led a gang of anti-Christian thugs, who did evil activities each day. Because of our violent acts, many persecuted believers moved away from our village.

No matter how much I mistreated the Christians, my parents continued to pray for my soul, asking God to humble me so I would accept Jesus Christ. One day I had to travel to Kathmandu, and on my way out the door my mother said she would pray for my safety. I angrily scolded her and told her to stop praying. On my way home, the bus I was riding in collided with a truck, and our vehicle plunged over a cliff. There were 43 passengers on the bus, and 42 died. I was the lone survivor.

I knew that God had spared my life thanks to my mother's prayers, and I realized the power of Jesus Christ is real. When I returned home, I immediately thanked my mother and repented of my sins. I cried out to the Lord Jesus and submitted the rest of my life to serve Him.

Today, I minister among many of the believers I once persecuted. They forgave me and accepted me as a member of God's family, and after I had learned more of the Bible, they asked me to become their pastor.





The Living God has greatly blessed me. My wife and I adopted a beautiful daughter, and we want to win as many souls as possible into the kingdom of heaven. We are now reaching out to several mountain tribes with the Good News of salvation.

Thank you for supporting me. No matter what hardships may occur in the future, I know that my second chance in life is a gift from God, and I owe everything to Him."



## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND



*Because of your partnership we are currently 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 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 **173,756** 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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## THE STATE OF THE NATIONS

An Overview of God's Kingdom in Asia



# From the Frontlines

*"Then the astrologers answered the king, 'May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it.'*

*The king replied to the astrologers, 'This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me.'"* (Daniel 2:4-6).

Some people have asked if it's "difficult" for us to print 14 million Bibles inside China for the house churches, under the noses of a hardline Communist government. No, it's not difficult at all! It's absolutely impossible! If you don't believe us, please give it a try.

Likewise, some have asked if it's hard to identify and support Asian evangelists in more than 1,100 different unreached people throughout Asia. No, it's not hard at all. It's impossible! If it was just "hard" then lots of others would be doing it.

The Lord Jesus is not looking for us to do what we can do in our own strength. Daniel faced an impossible task. He and his friends would have been cut to pieces if the Lord of Lords didn't do a great miracle and reveal both the king's dream and its meaning.

God wants to place us in impossible situations where only He can get us through. That way, all the glory goes to Him and no one can claim any credit. The Bible is full of such stories from Genesis to Revelation. Was it difficult for Moses to part the Red Sea? No, it was impossible! Did Joshua and the Israelites implement a clever strategy that caused the walls of Jericho to fall?

Samson tore the city gates (weighing up to 4 tons) from their hinges and carried them about 10 miles. Were his muscles big enough to do this, or was it a supernatural miracle of God? These and hundreds of other accounts in the Bible were all the providence of God, but often our minds are so carnally minded that we attribute any advance of the Gospel to human activity and ingenuity, thus robbing God of His rightful glory.

The American bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) once wrote: **"Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger men; Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle."**

Of course, this doesn't mean that as Christians should just sit still while God moves us like puppets on a string. No, the Lord wants us to serve Him with all our hearts. Jesus told His disciples about a new kind of holy partnership — when we would be called to partner with the Holy Spirit. This is the secret to all truly successful Christian service. The Lord said that not only would the Holy Spirit testify about Him, but we also would testify:

***"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning"*** (John 15:26-27).

As you read the overviews of 11 different Asian countries that God has called us to serve in (we work in 10 more countries that space does not permit us to list) — please pray for each country, and the many unreached tribes and people groups that remain in darkness, without the light of the Gospel to give them hope.

Years ago, we heard a preacher say that the highest prayer a Christian can pray is for the Lord Jesus Christ to be glorified in a person, a situation, or a whole nation. For example, a parent may be praying fervently for their child who has left home and become a drug addict. We may cry out for the child to be delivered and to return home, but an even higher prayer is to ask the Almighty God to be glorified and exalted in their life. When the Lord begins to move, the rest of the pieces often fall into place.

In the same way, as you read through this newsletter, **please pray that God will receive the glory due His Name in each country, and for all the people groups to become His inheritance.**

We would appreciate it if you would also lift the work of Asia Harvest before the throne of God. As you will see from the statistics, there are still large parts of Asia where we have, so far, been unable to help as much as we would like, where we believe the Lord is calling us to serve His people.

# THE STATE OF THE NATIONS

From time to time, we like to present a snapshot of the state of the Gospel throughout Asia. In the following pages are brief overviews of 11 countries Asia Harvest is working in. The statistics used are the latest from the Joshua Project, who define a people group as “unreached” if less than 2 percent of its population are evangelical Christians. We also list how many people groups in each country are being targeted by evangelists we support through our **Asian Workers’ Fund**.

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

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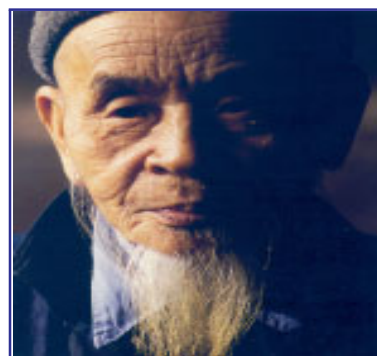
## CHINA

Population: 1,424 million  
Non-Christians: 1,293 million (90.8%)  
All Christians: 131 million (9.2%)  
Capital: Beijing  
People Groups: 545  
**Unreached: 444**



**Asia Harvest is helping to reach 61 people groups in China.**

God continues to move powerfully throughout China. The greatest need is for Bibles and discipleship materials, to equip tens of millions of hungry house church believers. The Gospel has spread rapidly among the Han Chinese majority, strong ethnic, cultural, and language barriers have meant the churches have struggles to penetrate the 440 distinct (non-Han) minority groups. Hundreds of unreached groups still lack a vibrant Gospel witness.



## INDIA

Population: 1,374 million  
Non-Christians: 1,349 million (98.2%)  
All Christians: 25.0 million (1.8%)  
Capital: New Delhi  
People Groups: 2,717  
**Unreached: 2,445**



**Asia Harvest is helping to reach 531 people groups in India.**

India poses the most complex challenge for the Body of Christ today. Home to more than 2,700 distinct peoples, the Gospel has flourished among some groups, but most remain devoid of spiritual light. India will soon surpass China as the world's most populated country, but 98 out of every 100 people remain lost and in desperate need of Jesus Christ.



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## NEPAL

Population: 29.0 million  
Non-Christians: 28.6 million (98.6%)  
All Christians: 350,000 (1.4%)  
Capital: Kathmandu  
People Groups: 285  
**Unreached: 275**



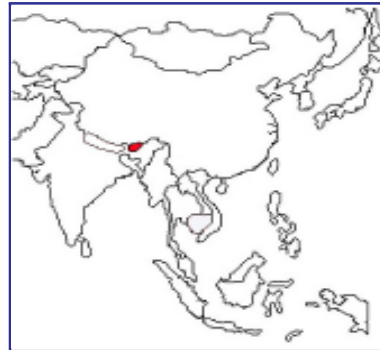
**Asia Harvest is helping to reach 118 people groups in Nepal.**

Living among the highest mountains on earth, more than 280 distinct tribes and castes inhabit Nepal. There were just 25 known Christians in Nepal in the 1950s, compared to more than 350,000 today. Some tribes have experienced revival in recent decades, but over 250 remain relatively untouched by the Gospel. There is much work left to do in Nepal.



## BHUTAN

Population: 769,,000  
Non-Christians: 765,000 (99.5%)  
All Christians: 4,000 (0.5%)  
Capital: Thimphu  
People Groups: 131  
**Unreached: 119**



**Asia Harvest is helping to reach 27 people groups in Bhutan.**

The landlocked Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan ('land of the thunder dragon') is known as a place of happy, stress-free people, but in reality it is an intensely dark stronghold, with centuries of oppression brought on by ritual worship of demons. The Gospel has made progress among some migrant tribes on the plains, but the Buddhist majority are cut off from Christian influence.



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## LAOS

Population: 7.2 million  
Non-Christians: 6.9 million (96.3%)  
All Christians: 270,000 (3.7%)  
Capital: Vientiane  
People Groups: 128  
**Unreached: 104**



**Asia Harvest is helping to reach 41 people groups in Laos.**

Laos is one of Asia's forgotten countries. Because of its small population, many organizations don't consider Laos a priority, but it is one of the most ethnically diverse countries on earth, containing 128 distinct tribes. Only a few dozen groups have a significant Christian presence, while more than 100 remain untouched by the Gospel. Please pray for their salvation.





## MYANMAR (Burma)

Population: 54.3 million  
Non-Christians: 49.9 million (91.8%)  
All Christians: 4.4 million (8.2%)  
Capital: Naypyidaw  
People Groups: 151  
**Unreached: 57**



**Asia Harvest is helping to reach 10 people groups in Myanmar.**

The spread of Christianity in Myanmar is uneven, with some tribes in revival while others are full of dead religion. Our focus has been to provide Bibles in many languages, but it is rare to find evangelists targeting the 57 unreached ethnic groups, including the 31 million Buddhist Myen people.



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## INDONESIA

Population: 273.4 million  
Non-Christians: 242.4 million (88.7%)  
All Christians: 31.0 million (11.3%)  
Capital: Jakarta  
People Groups: 709  
**Unreached: 270**



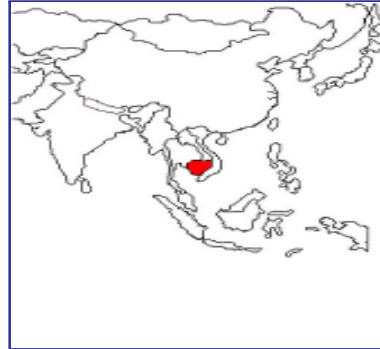
**Asia Harvest is helping to reach 108 people groups in Indonesia.**

Indonesia is a paradox. It contains the most Muslims of any country on earth, spread across more than 700 distinct ethnic groups. God has moved powerfully, with more than 30 million Christians in Indonesia today, but 270 people groups remain unreached. Please pray the Name of Jesus will be glorified throughout this large and important country.



## CAMBODIA

Population: 16.6 million  
Non-Christians: 16.1 million (96.9%)  
All Christians: 500,000 (3.1%)  
Capital: Phnom Penh  
People Groups: 41  
**Unreached: 34**



**Asia Harvest is helping to reach 13 people groups in Cambodia.**

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



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## BANGLADESH

Population: 163.9 million  
Non-Christians: 163.4 million (99.7%)  
All Christians: 430,000 (0.3%)  
Capital: Dhaka  
People Groups: 340  
**Unreached: 298**



**Asia Harvest is helping to reach 110 people groups in Bangladesh.**

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



## PAKISTAN

Population: 219.9 million  
Non-Christians: 218.2 million (99.2%)  
All Christians: 1.7 million (0.8%)  
Capital: Islamabad  
People Groups: 479  
Unreached: 476



**Asia Harvest is helping to reach 49 people groups in Pakistan.**

As the numbers indicate, Pakistan is one of the most spiritually dark countries in the world, with 476 of its 479 people groups unreached by the Gospel. Christians here often face severe persecution, and evangelists risk their lives daily to share the love of Jesus with people.



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## PHILIPPINES

Population: 109.4 million  
Non-Christians: 10.8 million (9.0%)  
All Christians: 98.6 million (91.0%)  
Capital: Manila  
People Groups: 198  
Unreached: 38



**Asia Harvest is helping to reach 52 people groups in the Philippines.**

Statistics of professing Christians in the Philippines are skewed by the high numbers of Catholics, but only about 15% of the population may be considered born-again believers. It remains a needy country with many unreached groups. We focus on the most unreached, including the many Muslim tribes in the south.



## CHINA BIBLE FUND



**Current Total: 14,026,201**  
***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 1,521 Asian evangelists***  
***among 1,157 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 **555,627 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: 1,253,023 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 currently supporting **1,749** living martyrs.*



*A martyr has been defined as "a Christian who chooses to suffer death rather than deny Christ or His work; One who sacrifices something very important to further the Kingdom of God and endures great suffering for Christian witness."*

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## THE CHILDREN'S FUND



*Your generous support has so far reached **176,329** children throughout Asia.*

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

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May 2021 - Newsletter #173



## HENAN - Inside China's Revival

*A new Book by Paul Hattaway*

# From the Frontlines

*“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps” (1 Peter 1:21).*

*“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown” (Revelation 2:10).*

*“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him” (Philippians 1:29).*

In recent years—especially since the start of the Covid pandemic—many believers around the world have contacted us to ask if we can share insights or do interviews into how Christians can survive persecution, as they see the storm clouds of persecution gathering on the horizon in their countries.

First, we point out that we have written more than a dozen books on the Church in China, each containing principles and testimonies of how God has not only helped His children survive six decades of persecution, but has caused them to thrive, so that China is still experiencing the greatest revival in Christian history.

When we try to help church leaders and believers in the West prepare for persecution, after more dialogue it usually emerges that they are not really looking for straight answers. Often, what people mean when they ask these questions is: “How can we survive persecution in our current church structures, so we don’t have to suffer or change?”

The answer to this is... you cannot!

True, physical persecution (e.g. when Christians are being arrested, beaten, imprisoned, or even killed) **will not leave most current church structures intact. It will completely dismantle them!**

Gone will be the denominations, emphasis on church buildings, Reverends, division between “clergy” and other believers, and all kinds of church traditions and outward imagery that are not found in Scripture. They will be swept away.

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*Front cover: Henan Christians preaching the Gospel at the funeral of one of their members in the 1980s.*

This pattern is what happened when persecution was ramped up against believers in China, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, and other countries we work in.

We don't know if severe persecution is coming to your part of the world soon, but we must be prepared. The Lord Jesus said, *"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake"* (Matthew 24:9), while the Apostle Paul told Timothy that *"everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"* (2 Timothy 3:12).

We would like to conclude by sharing five important truths about persecution, which we hope will bring encouragement and focus to our fellow believers:

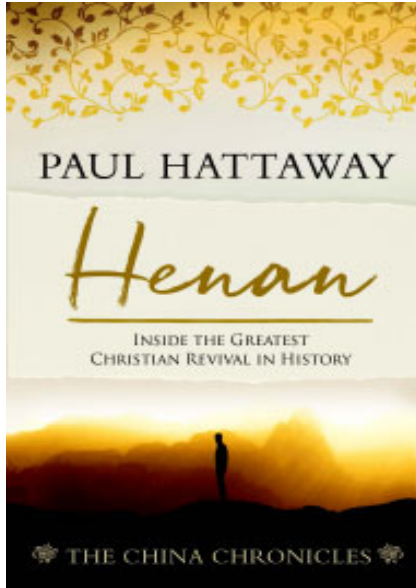
\* **God is always in control!** If He allows persecution to come, it's for the good of His kingdom. In China, believers only experienced the full joy of intimacy with Jesus when they were in the furnace of affliction and after they came out the other side.

\* Persecution is the last thing our flesh desires, but our faith must rest on the fact that **the Lord Jesus will not let us down**, and He will never leave nor forsake us. Persecution cannot destroy our relationship with Him: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?"* (Romans 8:35).

\* Importantly, when intense hardship comes, we shouldn't see only the hand of Satan in persecution. In China, God's people looked back later and realized that it **was actually the Lord Jesus overseeing the entire process** out of love for His children. He is zealous to remove the dead religious structures that trap people in bondage and keep millions of unbelievers from being able to see the true Gospel.

\* **Persecution is a pruning process**, when the Holy Spirit removes half-hearted believers from among the flock. In China, when fierce persecution first broke out in the 1950s, around **two-thirds of churchgoers fell away** from the faith. The Lord Jesus told us this would occur: *"When trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, they quickly fall away"* (Mark 4:17). Friends, if two-thirds of Chinese Christians fell away at the onset of persecution, how might things be in your part of the world?

\* For those who do not give up, **persecution often brings great revival**. In China, the number of Christians has grown from less than one million to over 100 million after 60 years of brutal Communist persecution! All glory to God. When that realization dawned on believers, many learned not only to grimly endure persecution, but to **embrace it as a special blessing from God**.



# HENAN

## - Inside China's Revival -

*Book 5 of 'The China Chronicles'*

by Paul Hattaway



In this newsletter we are pleased to announce the fifth 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.

Containing more than 18 million Christians (the most of any province), Henan has emerged as the nation's spiritual heart and soul, and is home to both the most powerful revival and intense persecution in China. Much of the book consists of first-hand interviews Paul conducted with key church leaders in Henan. In many ways, this may be the most important book in the entire ***China Chronicles*** series. We invite you to discover what true revival looks like in China, and to gain insights into God's faithfulness, to help prepare you for when persecution comes.

**The remainder of this newsletter is an excerpt from 'HENAN: Inside the Greatest Christian Revival in History'. It shares a gripping testimony from Timothy, a humble house church leader from Henan, whom the Lord used to raise a man from the dead in the 1990s. This account was shared directly with us by Timothy and has been verified by several other church leaders in that part of China.**

**To order a copy of the book, please fill out and return the enclosed form or visit our website ([www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)) for details. An e-book 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.*





## ***Raised from the Dead***

*Brother Timothy is a friend and key house church leader from Henan Province. When he was in his mid-20s he already led a network of house churches spanning several provinces, with tens of thousands of believers.*

*When asked to share some testimonies, Timothy told about a Communist Party official who was raised from the dead in 1993. The humble and self-efacing way he shared this story was striking. He was careful to give all glory to God, and to help us understand that he had nothing to do with it, apart from being in the right place at the right time.*

*As you read the following testimony, we encourage you not to judge it by your own experiences, or what may or may not happen in your own church. What God is doing in the heart of white-hot revival in China may not be your Christian experience or make you feel comfortable, but we encourage you to ask one main question when considering this or any other testimony: is it biblical?*

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"In 1993, while I was speaking at a meeting, we received a request for us to pray for a 50-year-old unbeliever named Chang, who was dying of mouth cancer. This man was very wealthy and a well-known Communist Party leader. By the time he reached the hospital his condition had deteriorated, and was close to death. The staff called Chang's wife and broke the bad news that he would not recover.

Because the man was a public figure, visitors who wanted to see him at the hospital had to get permission beforehand. To help me gain access, I was given the

man's name card. The next morning I went to the hospital, feeling nervous and not sure what the Lord's will was in all of this. At the hospital none of the staff paid any attention to me because I was just a poor farmer. Finally, a nurse looked at me with disdain, and said, 'You're too late. Chang died last night.'

I was shocked to hear that he was already dead, and asked to see his body because I had promised his family that I would pray for him. The nurse thought I was stupid, but told me the corpse had been moved to the refrigerated morgue in the hospital basement. I went downstairs and told an attendant that I needed to pray for Mr. Chang. He took me to a line of refrigerated boxes, located Chang, and opened the cover. His body slid out and I saw that he was truly dead. The blood had drained from his corpse, and his identification tag was tied around his big toe.

I felt afraid as his skin was frozen and ice cold. Despite the circumstances, I knew the Lord could do whatever He wanted. As I closed my eyes and prayed for Chang in a hushed voice, I leaned forward and said, 'Mr. Chang, I know that you can hear me. I know that Jesus can bring you back from the dead because He wants to glorify His Name in your life.' By now the morgue attendant had gathered several of his co-workers and they stood at a distance, snickering at the sight of a farmer praying for a dead Communist Party leader!

I had a very simple faith in God. I had read that both Jesus and Lazarus were resurrected after three days, so I thought if God was going to raise Chang I would need to return two more times.

I finished praying, thanked the workers for letting me pray for Chang, and told them I would be returning at ten o'clock the next morning to pray for him again. They laughed and looked at me like I was completely insane. News quickly spread around the hospital, and the next morning more than 20 staff members gathered to watch me pray for the corpse. They were all eager to witness the sight so they could have a laugh. His body was again pulled out of the refrigerator and I closed my eyes and prayed for him. He had now spent one and a half days in the freezer and was still very much dead!

As I laid hands on the corpse I leaned forward and whispered, 'Mr. Chang, if you are unable to talk, then I command you to move your eyes in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.' I looked closely and it appeared his eyes twinkled a little! This greatly increased my faith because I knew that God was at work. Nobody else in the room was close enough to see his eyes move however, and they thought the whole thing was a great joke.

I prayed Bible verses out loud and asked the Lord to prove that the Scriptures are true, and that He has power and authority over death. In a bid to reach others in the morgue, my prayer included a summary of the gospel. After a while, the onlookers could feel the presence of the Lord and they became serious-minded and attentive. I announced that I would return again at ten o'clock the next morning to pray for the third and final time. His body was placed back in the refrigerator, the door was locked, and I walked up the stairs and returned to the place where I was staying.

On the third morning I was amazed to find an even larger crowd had gathered to witness my prayer. It was difficult to get past everyone into the basement. Dozens of people lined the stairs leading down to the morgue, and many more were crammed into the room. People were talking among themselves, but everyone was watching closely to see what would happen.

The attendant again produced Mr. Chang's body and I prayed for him, asking the Lord to glorify His Name by healing this man and saving both him and the many witnesses in the room. Nothing appeared to change, so I thanked the attendants and left the hospital, as I had to make my way to the train station to travel across the country with a team of evangelists. I never saw what happened after I left the hospital, but a few days later the believers contacted me with an urgent message.

They said that about 20 minutes after I left, Chang suddenly sat up and started coughing. The terrified attendant and his co-workers watched as he coughed up a large ball of blood and pus from his mouth. The cancer spilled out of his mouth and onto the floor of the morgue.

Mr. Chang was healed and alive! He asked for food and water because he was hungry and thirsty. As you can imagine, news of the resurrection quickly spread to the upper floors of the hospital, and all those who had come to witness the





prayer came rushing down to the basement to see if the report was true. All the hospital staff saw Chang alive, and his grieving wife was called in to receive her husband back from the dead. Every person who saw this miracle dropped to their knees, repented of their sins, and confessed that Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God.

In the Lord's providence, I didn't personally witness Chang come back to life, but everybody told me about it later. I thank the Lord that I wasn't there because people might have thought it was due to my own power if he had sat up while I was praying for him. By raising him from the dead after I had left, everyone clearly understood that God Himself had performed the miracle, and all the glory and honor went to the Lord Jesus.

When I first heard what had happened, I was pleased but chose not to dwell on it. It was just an act of the Almighty God. In those days the revival was burning so intensely that miracles took place at every meeting, and thousands of people were daily coming to Christ. Miracles were not something we focused on. They were merely evidences that confirmed the truth of what we were preaching about Jesus.

The whole Chang family came to Christ and remained strong believers. Mr. Chang lived for many more years."





*Four Henan church leaders who were personally interviewed in the Henan book — Brother Yun, Enoch Wang, Zhang Rongliang and Peter Xu. These four men have been first-hand witnesses and participants in the greatest revival in Christian history, and have also spent a combined 47 years in prison for their faith in Jesus Christ.*

Over a period of more than three decades, Asia Harvest has provided a total of more than 1.1 million Bibles to the house church Christians of Henan, as part of our China Bible Fund. Henan is the province where we have delivered more copies of God's Word than any of the 29 other provinces and regions in China.

Despite the current season of intense persecution, our project continues full-steam ahead. Each full Chinese Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.

There is a famine of Bibles in China at the moment, as the government restricts all activities. Even the official Three-Self churches are in great need, as they have seen their Bible quotas slashed by the authorities in recent years.

We invite you to consider partnering with us as we help provide the Scriptures to our brothers and sisters in China.



## CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **14,484,391**  
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 **1,513** Asian evangelists  
among **1,144** 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 **600,371 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: **1,276,676** 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 **1,749** 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 **178,572** 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



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

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June 2021 - Newsletter #174



**MARIE MONSEN -**  
**The 'Mother of the House Churches'**

# From the Frontlines

*Often we are unaware of the origins of many of our church practices and songs. We would like to start this newsletter by sharing the background of one famous song you have probably heard many times: **"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"**.*

*In the hills of northeast India live the Garo tribe, who number more than one million people. We have worked with Garo Christians for over 20 years. For centuries they were feared as a primitive head-hunting tribe, but in the most recent Indian census, over 95 percent of the Garo declared themselves to be Christians. Here is one reason why...*

In the late 1800s, many missionaries came to the state of Assam in northeast India to spread the Gospel. A Baptist missionary succeeded in converting a man named Nokseng, his wife, and his two children. Nokseng's faith proved contagious, and many villagers began to accept Jesus.

The village chief, angry at the prospect of losing control, summoned all the villagers. He demanded Nokseng's family to publicly renounce their faith or face execution. Moved by the Holy Spirit, Nokseng said: **"I have decided to follow Jesus."**

Enraged at his refusal to deny Christ, the chief ordered his archers to shoot the two children. As both boys lay twitching on the ground, the chief asked, "Will you deny your faith? You have lost both your children. You will lose your wife also."

But Nokseng replied: **"Though no one joins me, still I will follow."**

The chief was beside himself with fury and ordered Nokseng's wife to be shot with arrows. In a moment she joined her children in death. Now the chief said for the last time: "I will give you one more opportunity to deny your faith and live." In the face of death, Nokseng did not waver, and made his final memorable statement:

**"The cross before me, the world behind me. No turning back."**

He was killed like the rest of his family, but a miracle took place. The chief was moved by Nokseng's faith and he wondered, "Why would Nokseng and his family die for a Man who lived in a far-away land some 2,000 years ago? This God must have remarkable power, and I too want to taste that faith."

In a spontaneous confession, the chief declared, "I too belong to Jesus Christ!" When the crowd heard this from the mouth of their chief, the whole village accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. Later, Nokseng's words became a beloved song of the Garo Christians, and was later translated into English and sung around the world.



## *Marie Monsen: The 'Mother of the House Churches'*

In the remainder of this newsletter we would like to share an excerpt from our new book, 'HENAN: Inside the Greatest Christian Revival in History'.

*Marie Monsen, a single Lutheran missionary from Norway, was the unlikely vessel used by God to bring powerful revival to many parts of China in the 1920s and 1930s. Such was the impact of this softly-spoken woman that today, many believers in China respectfully call her the 'mother of the house churches'. We hope you will be challenged by her testimony and message, which is desperately needed in the Church around the world today.*

### **Full Surrender**

The Norwegian Lutheran China Mission sent ten new missionaries to China in 1901–02 to reinforce their work. One of the new recruits was a single woman named Marie Monsen. Nobody would have believed that this small, humble figure would have such an impact over the next 30 years.

Monsen was trained as a schoolteacher and had just completed a year studying nursing when she felt a strong call from God to become a missionary. Just a month after arriving in China, Monsen fell down an iron staircase and lay unconscious for several days with concussion. She was afflicted with severe headaches for six years, which ended only after she received special prayer and anointing for healing.



The doctor who was responsible for overseeing Monsen's recovery strictly forbade her from both language study and teaching for two years. This was a huge blow to the fledgling missionary. Every worker she knew had been devoted to language study in order to communicate with the people, and the other deep desire in her life, teaching, had also been denied. She felt extremely frustrated—but God had other plans for this disciple.

Monsen was still struggling with the tumultuous start to her missionary career when she contracted malaria. The fever took her close to death, and the agony she experienced in body, soul and mind broke her. At the time she could see only Satan in these attacks, but years later she realized that God had allowed these afflictions so she would value this life less than eternity and would become a broken and humble vessel in His hands. Eventually, Marie reached a point where she was able to truly surrender her future to God's will. She was healed from malaria that day, and her temperature returned to normal.

### *A Godly Discontentment*

Toward the end of her first term of seven years in China, Marie Monsen started to feel deeply discouraged about the methods and poor results of the mission she was a member of, and the lack of power in her own ministry. She found a clue as to why the missionaries were so ineffective when the faith of an elderly, uneducated Chinese woman challenged her to the core. The old sister had moved into a room right next to hers, and the paper-thin walls meant that Marie could hear all of her prayers and petitions to God. The woman prayed loudly and frequently, and was never afraid to ask her Heavenly Father for things the Norwegian didn't dare to request because of her conservative Lutheran upbringing. She later recalled:

*"I could hear everything she prayed about, and could watch how her prayers were answered. There seemed to be a great difference between the result of her prayers and mine. More than once when I heard her pray, I thought, 'That will never happen,' but just 'that' did happen. It took some time for me to discover the explanation. She had a living, childlike faith, and to her God, difficulties were not difficulties. I had more doubt than faith, so to me difficulties were so tremendous that it would have to take time for God to answer. That is to say, I discovered that I was an unbelieving believer!"*

In 1907, news of the tremendous revival that was sweeping the Korean Peninsula reached Marie, and something clicked inside her heart. Here was New Testament Christianity being demonstrated, with similar results! She longed to travel to Korea and experience the revival for herself.

The Holy Spirit began to stir the diminutive Norwegian, and both Christians and non-believers were astonished by the power and authority with which she shared the Gospel with them. The power was spiritual in nature, for her voice was always soft and calm, and she never shouted or bellowed out her message. All traces of the fear of man left her, and Marie desired only to know Christ and to stand up for truth and for the purity of the Church.

Monsen was deeply troubled by the compromised lifestyles of many missionaries and Chinese church leaders, and she challenged them strongly. The question: **“Have you ever really been born-again?”** burned throughout many parts of China as God expanded her ministry and made it nationwide. When their faith was held up to the searching light of God’s Word, many professing Christians realized that they had never truly been born-again. Christianity may have been pasted over their lives as a veneer, but they had never been thoroughly converted to Christ, nor had they forsaken their sins.

A Lutheran missionary described Monsen’s methods in detail:

“Her plan was first to destroy the false security of the church members. She spoke of the various kinds of patches the unsaved used to hide behind when they tried to persuade themselves they were saved. She then spoke of sin, one sin at a time. It had cost her several days of prayerful struggle before she became willing, as she expressed it, to ‘descend into the miry cesspool of sin’ in connection with the sixth commandment, against adultery. It turned out that one of Satan’s nearly impregnable strongholds was at last broken into when this particular sin was brought out into the open.”

### ***Confession and Restitution***

In many places, Monsen’s messages were followed by deep confessions of sin and practical acts of repentance. People who had stolen from their neighbors were convicted by the Holy Spirit and returned the items. One man filled a wheelbarrow with things he needed to take back to their rightful owners.

Long-standing grudges between people were renounced and forgiven. Men confessed to beating their wives, and women confessed their own sins—including infanticide, which was prevalent in China then, even as it is today through gender-selective abortion. At one meeting, Monsen was taken aback when the women broke down in tears. One by one, they admitted:

“I have killed three.”

“And I five.”

“I took the lives of eight of my children.”

“And I killed 13, but they were all girls.”

Marie was horrified by the dark deeds the women had committed, but was thrilled that they had confessed them before the throne of God. She wrote:

“It was the first time...that I heard women, who knew we regarded the killing of infants as sin, confess that they themselves had committed this particular sin. They all knew, of course, of many others who had done it. This was the first time I had seen the Holy Spirit deal with a whole group—a miracle indeed.”

After the Holy Spirit had dealt with church members, there invariably followed a time of evangelism, as cleansed men and women went to surrounding towns and villages, proclaiming the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. Whereas previously many believers had only been able to speak of God’s transforming power, now they were able to demonstrate it in their own lives. Thousands of people, seeing the difference, put their trust in the Lord.

Monsen’s deep longing that the Chinese would experience a biblical Christianity was being answered. In one meeting, the convicting presence of the Holy Spirit was so real that a soldier who had strayed into the building knelt in repentance and received new life in Jesus Christ. The joy of being forgiven overwhelmed him, and peace flooded his beaming face. He stood up and declared:



*Crowds of eager people flocking to hear the Gospel in a Henan church meeting.*

"It will be a short life of joy for me here on earth, but I shall be saved from myself and my sins forever. Will you pray together for me until you hear a shot from the military camp? I stole some ammunition and sold it, and there is a death penalty for that. I must go back now and confess to the Captain.... We shall meet again in heaven."

The soldier had not been pushed into the kingdom of God by theological arguments or human persuasion. Indeed, he had never heard a word of the gospel until he walked into the church that day, but the presence of the Almighty God was so tangible in that meeting that he was now willing to die in exchange for the new life he had just experienced. The young man ran off, with a radiant smile on his face. Monsen recalled:

"We stood there praying in a circle, holding one another's hands. We thought it was a very long time we had to wait, praying and listening for that shot. Suddenly he was there again in our midst, smiling. He had confessed everything and given a careful, detailed account of what he had stolen. The Captain sat silent a moment, then sighed heavily and said, 'As you have now become a new man and will not steal any more, I don't see why you should die. You may go.'"

The response of people to the conviction of the Holy Spirit was not always positive. Occasionally people fled in terror when the terrible power of God descended upon them, including some church leaders and elders. People often said to Monsen, "Your words are like knives," or, "Your words strike me like thunderbolts." One elderly Christian lamented, "All my wrong-doings have been spread out before me like wares piled up on a counter."

Once, a mob of vicious bandits invaded the town where Monsen had been sharing the Word of God. Dozens of people from the neighborhood climbed over the walls of the mission compound, clutching little bags of valuables, as they thought there was less chance of being attacked and robbed at the mission than in their homes. Bullets whistled about the heads of the people



*Monsen with the widow of a key Chinese church leader.*



gathered there, and gunfire and loud explosions were heard for several hours as the bandits plundered and killed. Throughout the ordeal, the Christians calmly prayed for God's protection.

The next day, neighbors from across the street visited Monsen and the other believers and told them that from time to time, when the firing was less intense, they had poked their heads out of their front doors to see what was going on. One non-Christian family asked whether they could come into the compound next time there was such an attack, "since you have protection." Marie asked them what they meant, and they explained, "Three soldiers stood on guard up on the high roof of the Gospel Hall, one at each end and one in the middle. A fourth was seated on the porch over the main gate. These soldiers had kept watch in every direction.... They were taller than any soldiers we have ever seen."

### ***'My Father Runs the Trains'***

At the height of her ministry in China, Monsen was in great demand. From her base in Henan she travelled widely to more than a dozen provinces, sharing the message God had placed on her heart. Everywhere, both individuals and entire churches were transformed, and many sinners repented and pressed forward into the kingdom of heaven.

In one town, she planned to leave by train on a Saturday afternoon after the meetings concluded. She had an appointment at a town some distance away and needed all the connecting trains to arrive on time. As she was praying that morning, however, the Lord clearly told her that she should not leave the town until Monday.

When she told this to the senior missionary, he replied that it couldn't be God telling her to stay, for there were no trains on Mondays and she would surely miss her appointment. She returned to her room and again asked God for guidance. Again, the words came: "Leave on Monday."

Her colleague became increasingly agitated, but the peace of God filled Marie's heart and she was assured that all would be well. She told the senior missionary, "My Father runs the trains," but he angrily expressed his displeasure.

On the Sunday evening, the local Chinese pastor asked Monsen if he could talk with her. He admitted that he had never experienced the inner peace of God in his life, and asked how he could be saved. She led him to true faith in Jesus Christ, and he received the Lord with great joy. Marie realized this was the reason why God had delayed her departure.

At breakfast on the Monday morning, she asked the missionary whether he would be kind enough to drive her to the station. He protested and said there was no point,

because trains didn't run through the town on Mondays. After some discussion, however, he agreed to her request—perhaps to show her how foolish it was. They made their way through the narrow streets, and just as they pulled up outside the station, there was a train on the platform, preparing to depart! Marie later recalled:

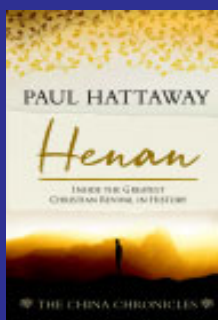
*"In the few seconds before the whistle sounded for departure, I heard that the provincial Governor had telegraphed for the new carriage he had standing there, and it had to be sent immediately at express speed to the capital—the very city I had to reach that Monday in order to catch a north-bound train. We flashed past every station. Never before nor since has it been my lot to travel in such a magnificent carriage."*

### ***An Enduring Legacy***

In the early 1930s, Marie Monsen received news that her elderly mother in Norway needed care. She was torn between continuing the fruitful ministry God had given her in China and returning home, but over time the Holy Spirit showed her that her service in the Orient had reach its conclusion. She returned to Europe in 1932, leaving behind thousands of new believers, and hundreds of zealous churches that had once been full of lukewarm Christians.

Today, the entire Nanyang Prefecture where Monsen spent most of her time has grown to contain over 10 million people, and the number of Evangelical Christians living there is estimated at 3.2 million, or nearly one-third of the population.

Many key house church leaders have emerged from this blessed part of southern Henan, including Brother Yun. God has made the area a powerhouse of revival throughout China. For this reason, many Christians in Henan today, more than a century after Monsen began her ministry in China, continue to fondly refer to her as "the mother of the house churches."



**To order a copy of the HENAN book, please fill out and return the enclosed form or visit our website ([www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)) for details. An e-book 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 Henan book and we will gladly send you one.*

## CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 14,556,121  
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 1,525 Asian evangelists  
among 1,150 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 **600,622 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: 1,306,535 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 **1,749** 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 **179,319** 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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*Bank details:* 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](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

[office@asiaharvest.org](mailto:office@asiaharvest.org)

August 2021 - Newsletter #175



**COVID LOCKDOWNS -  
“Please help us Stay Alive!”**

# From the Frontlines

*“They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid” (Mark 10:32).*

*“Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God I will praise His Word. In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?” (Psalm 56:3-4 NKJV).*

You have probably heard many preachers warn against the dangers of fear. Of course, fear is toxic and can kill your faith. However, God doesn't expect His people to just dismiss fear as irrelevant. Jesus is always real, and He wants us to be real in sharing our feelings with Him.

The first step, when we face the kind of unstable situation millions of believers find themselves in today, is to be honest. If we are afraid, we should tell the Lord and ask for His help, power, and deliverance.

To pretend that fear doesn't exist is not helpful. King David knew a lot about fear. His life was in constant danger, but he prayed, *“Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.”*

Nehemiah was a man who was greatly used by God, but when the Lord first put it in his heart to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls and gates, Nehemiah said, *“I was very much afraid”* (Neh. 2:2). Despite being terrified, he conquered his fears and asked the king's permission to return to his homeland, where he gradually overcame the taunts of the enemy. One brick at a time, Nehemiah and his construction teams worked hard until they finally completed their great task.

Likewise, you may be feeling fearful about Covid, or about the general decay of the world and the increase of lawlessness, violence, and unprecedented governmental control. If so, we encourage you to do as David and Nehemiah did, and truthfully acknowledge your feelings to the Lord Jesus. He is wonderful, and has always been able to work with every type of personality among His followers.

For two millennium, Thomas has been somewhat looked down upon by many Christians. Even today, people who show any skepticism are labelled a 'Doubting Thomas'.

*Front and back cover photos: Multitudes of hungry people flock to receive food and essential supplies from our co-workers in India. Each person is not only helped physically, but are presented with the Gospel of salvation.*

Whereas Thomas appears timid and cautious in the gospels, Peter was at the other end of the personality spectrum—he was never backward in coming forward, courageous, and outspoken. The Lord Jesus, however, loved both Thomas and Peter, and He used them greatly in the extension of His kingdom.

Although not much is mentioned of Thomas in Scripture, it is strongly believed that he became the first missionary to India. We have visited the tomb of Thomas in the hills near Chennai in south India, where the apostle is said to have been murdered and buried in AD 72.

Some early Church historians (see Moffett, *A History of Christianity in Asia*, Vol. 1) record that very soon after the ascension of the Lord to heaven (and before Judas had been replaced as an apostle), the 11 disciples gathered in Jerusalem to strategize how to obey Jesus' command to ***"Go into all the world and preach the gospel"*** (Mark 16:15).

Lots were cast, and India fell to Thomas, who strongly resisted the call, asking, "How can I, a Hebrew, go and preach the truth among the Indians?" That night, the Lord visited Thomas in a dream and assured him, "Fear not, Thomas. Go to India and preach my Word, and my grace will be with you."

Thomas still hesitated, as investing the rest of his life in India was clearly not the way this cautious man had envisaged things. After more prayer by the disciples, however, Thomas was made aware that an Indian king named Gundaphar (who ruled the Indo-Parthian empire from AD 19-46) was visiting Jerusalem at the time, and was looking for a carpenter to accompany him back to India to build a palace for him. Thomas was in this way enlisted to make the journey.

In India, the Holy Spirit empowered Thomas. He preached with great power, and many miracles were done by him in the Name of Jesus. Trouble arose when many Hindu priests were converted, among the thousands of Indians who surrendered their hearts to Christ. Fearing their customs and religion was under threat, priests killed the apostle with a sword, but the kingdom of God had been planted in India, and Thomas is revered by Indian Christians to the present day.

You may also be a cautious or even timid person by nature, but fear not! Your Heavenly Father knows and can move on your heart, giving you confidence and all the gifts needed to fulfill His purposes in and through you.

The key to overcoming in a volatile and decaying world is not to pretend that fear doesn't exist, but to fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, who is marching ahead of His people and whose Word encourages us to be ***"confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"*** (Philippians 1:6).

## *A Plea from Asia: 'Please Help us Stay Alive'*

Last year, as it became increasingly clear that the Covid pandemic was a major disaster, we wrote a newsletter to highlight all the ways we were helping God's people across Asia during the first lockdowns. We hoped the pandemic would peak and then pass, but obviously the opposite has occurred, and more people are dying and suffering more intensely than at any other time during the crisis.

Some parts of Asia have experienced continual, rolling lockdowns for over a year. A few countries have had ten or more different lockdowns, which has created great stress and anxiety among the population, including the Body of Christ.

Although the pandemic itself has brought terrible destruction, it is now clear that **the never-ending lockdowns**

**are causing even greater damage to people throughout Asia.** Starvation, despair, mental health issues, and anxiety are believed to be rampant.

Long-term, the biggest challenges in Asia will be economic. Nations that were already poor with few resources are struggling to survive. One leader we support explained that in his church the believers have only recently been allowed to meet again in small numbers, but few people have a job, and therefore there is





little money, food, or essential items necessary to live. Almost all employment has been wiped out, and the situation may not improve for many years.

When we first mentioned the needs last year, many believers responded by praying and giving generously. We were able to help tens of thousands of poor Christians survive the first round of lockdowns. Not only did we send every cent of donations that came in at the time, but we have continued helping by sending on gifts given to our general fund and to the **Persecution & Relief Fund**.

Now, more than a year later, the situation in most parts of Asia is far more dire. As the virus wreaks havoc on the most vulnerable communities, we again ask for your prayers and support for our brothers and sisters in Asia.

You may have seen on the news how India has been decimated in recent months, with thousands of corpses being piled up and burned each day. As terrible as it has been in India, however, we think the neighboring countries of Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh have been even worse affected. Their health systems were poor to non-existent in normal times, and death has dragged millions of people down into the grave in those countries.





In these pages we share photos of some of the recent help we have given to believers throughout Asia. Please pray for our projects, as we continue providing essential relief in more than a dozen countries, from Pakistan to Indonesia, and across the vast continent of Asia.

Of the many grim stories shared by our co-workers, the following one stands out as an example of the life-and-death struggle being faced by multitudes of Christians.

An evangelist in a remote part of Southeast Asia found himself completely cut off after the government imposed a severe crackdown. He was confined to his makeshift hut in the jungle, and his food soon ran out. Our colleagues tried to get money to him so he could survive, but in that area there are no banks or ATM machines. The only way he could receive help was by having funds hand-carried to him, but military

roadblocks manned by soldiers with machine guns were stationed to prevent anyone getting in or out of his area.

We last heard from this brother about three months ago. He was struggling at the point of starvation, with zero government assistance because he is a Christian. We do not know if he is now dead or alive.

You probably haven't heard this before, but something else has been going on behind the scenes in many Asian countries. Thousands of foreign Christians who live in places like Thailand and Malaysia have found themselves stripped of their legal status. In some cases, the entire visa category that allowed them to stay has been unilaterally revoked by



the government. Many of these foreigners were involved with support ministries to closed countries.

That's probably enough bad news!

There is plenty of good news too, and opportunities abound to bless God's people and to make a difference for the Lord Jesus.

One of the best things to come from the lockdowns is how the Body of Christ in many locations has adapted to the situation. Believers have grown closer together than ever before, and have shared their possessions and food with one another, and with others in their communities when the opportunity arises. Often, for the first time, fellowships of believers have experienced unity like the early Church: ***"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need"*** (Acts 2:44-45).

Despite the severe challenges, the Gospel has continued to go forth, and many people have entered God's kingdom for the first time. Indeed, at the end of 2020 we were shocked to find that the evangelists we support through the Asian Workers' Fund reported **117,509 conversions to Christ** throughout the year, despite all the restrictions to their movement and untold difficulties.







In many areas, those we support have continued to plant new churches, and a constant stream of people have come to learn about Jesus Christ. Before the pandemic they showed little or no interest in the Gospel, but after seeing the instability of the world, coupled with the genuine love of the Christians, the two factors have combined to produce a great harvest of salvation.





We are currently helping about 10,000 poor families (including more than 2,000 Christian widows) survive through the Covid ordeal. **For \$20, we can buy and deliver relief packages of food and essential supplies to poor families for one month.** A gift of \$100 will therefore help five families for a month, or \$500 will help 25 families. Please pray for them and all our coworkers who are overseeing the projects. If you would like to help, please fill out and return the yellow Response Form, or you can give to the **Persecution & Relief Fund** via our website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org). Every dollar received is sent directly to the frontlines in Asia. Nothing is deducted for any other expense. The contents of each relief package are:

6 bars of Soap	\$ 3.00
3 kg of Dahl (protein)	\$ 4.70
3 liters of Cooking Oil	\$ 4.80
2 kg of Onions	\$ 1.50
500 g of Tamarind	\$ 2.00
Salt and Curry Powder	\$ 3.00
Washing Detergent	\$ 1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20.00</b>

Thank you and God bless you. Let's pray the kingdom of God will grow during this long struggle, and the Body of Christ will come out stronger than ever, with multitudes of new members as people hear the Gospel for the first time.



## CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **15,078,437**  
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 **1,525** Asian evangelists  
among **1,150** 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 **602,804 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: **1,318,156** 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 **1,839** 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 **180,791** 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



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

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September 2021 - Newsletter #176



**100 Years of Communism in China  
- We Reveal the Hero of the Century**

# From the Frontlines

*“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?” (Matthew 16:24-26).*

*“You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22).*

Many people have asked us in recent years to share more about the wave of rabid persecution sweeping China. They are genuinely confused about why it is happening and they have requested we share the reasons behind the current situation. Normally, we prefer to share encouraging testimonies with you about the great things God is doing in China and throughout Asia. Now, however, we feel it is time to also report on the reality of the horrific situation that is unfolding in China.

For several years we have warned about the massive increase of persecution in China, and that many Chinese church leaders have described the situation as even worse than during the evil events of the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976).

Recently, the Chinese Communist Party celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding. In this and future newsletters, we will take a look at some of their “achievements,” and **we will reveal who we believe is the Great Hero** of the last century in China.

It is not our desire or intention to become political statesmen. We exist to serve the Church in Asia, but sometimes in order to give a clear view of what is happening to God’s people, we have to share the bigger picture of what is happening in the country, as it affects the Gospel.

The problem is that in China, **everything** is framed in political terms by the Communist Party. They see everything as a massive ideological struggle. If someone doesn’t obey them, they are an enemy of the state. If a foreign Christian wants to reach people for Jesus, they are considered spies and imperialists; and over the years tens of thousands of pastors who refused to bow their knee to the atheistic system have been imprisoned and tortured as counter-revolutionaries.

*Front cover photo: The Cult of Xi: Massive billboards of President Xi Jinping, at a recent Communist Party celebration in Beijing. Back cover: A Red Guard in 1966.*



## *The China We Love*

It has been said that the 21st century will be China's century; the time when they will rise up to lead the world, replacing Western powers as the dominant force in global economics, culture, and military might.

We want to start by stating that **we love China and the Chinese people!** They have so many wonderful God-given gifts and natural talents, and have been kind and hospitable to us for over three decades. The great Chinese civilization has changed the world in countless ways, with just four of their inventions being the compass, paper, printing, and gunpowder.

If the Chinese people themselves would rise to global prominence in the coming decades, we would not be upset. Their sharp minds, strong work ethic, and ability to solve problems is extraordinary.

But there is a major problem...

One hundred years ago, in a leafy suburb of Shanghai, a small group of just 12 men (representing 57 members nationwide) met together to discuss establishing a new political party in China. Among them was a balding, round-faced peasant named Mao Zedong, from rural Hunan Province.

## *A Room full of Fools*

At the inaugural meeting, the group discussed various philosophies and were especially attracted to the teachings of a German man named Karl Marx, who had died nearly 40 years earlier. His father, Heinrich, was a liberal Christian who had Karl and his siblings baptized in the state Evangelical Church of Prussia.

Marx had written a Communist manifesto to outline his philosophies. One of the foundation stones of his belief was that "religion is the opium of the people." He hated religion, especially Christianity, and saw it as an obstacle to achieving the societal changes he wished to bring about.

The founding members of the Chinese Communist Party adopted Marx's teachings as the bedrock of their new system. There would be no room for religion in their new China. In so doing, they set themselves irrevocably against God, whose Word declares: ***"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'"*** (Psalm 14:1).



China had been religious for thousands of years. For countless generations they worshipped the Creator God in their annual sacrifices, before idolatry brought corruption to their society. In 1921, for the first time in Chinese history, a small seed of atheism took root, and since that time the seed has grown to produce a bitter harvest of brutal persecution, death and suffering for untold millions of people.

By effectively declaring war on God, a battle ensued between the Communists and the kingdom of the Living God, whose ways cannot be thwarted. **There is ultimately only ever one winner when foolish people set themselves against the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!**

## *A Century of Slaughter*

The legacy of the Chinese Communist Party over the past hundred years has been one of killing, stealing and destroying. It has largely been a century of slaughter. Even before the Communists seized full control of China in 1949, hundreds of thousands of people had been butchered in Mao's pursuit of revolution. Christians were particularly targeted and eliminated, if the Communists thought they were in the way of their destiny to rule the country with an iron fist.

Our education into the horrors of China's recent past began 33 years ago in south China, when we sat on the banks of the Pearl River, which is half a mile wide in many places. A local man told how, during the Cultural Revolution which had ended little more than a decade earlier, the entire river at that place turned red from the blood and entrails of people killed by the Communist Red Guards, who chopped bodies to pieces before the remains were flung into the river. Over the ensuing years, interrogations by the Chinese police for sharing the Gospel gave us a tiny glimpse into what our Chinese brothers and sisters have had to endure for decades. There is a very dark spiritual side behind all such encounters.

The political scientist Rudolph Rummel has estimated that the Communists were responsible for **77 million deaths** in China. Others have estimated "only" in the range of 40 to 60 million. Since Mao's death, a further 400 million precious lives have been slaughtered by the Chinese Communist Party, either directly through forced abortions, or indirectly through the disastrous "one-child" policy, which China is just now beginning to reap the dire consequences of.

The death count doesn't include the tens of millions who starved to death in China due to famines resulting from foolish government policies.



*A prisoner executed by a Red Guard in 1966.*

And no, at this stage these figures do not include the millions of deaths currently occurring around the world from the Covid pandemic, which happened to start just down the road from the only Biological Weapons laboratory in China. You will need to make up your own mind about the origins of Covid, although the Communist Party is determined to never let any evidence escape out of Wuhan, and some of the key scientists who could have spoken out have disappeared and their voices are heard no more.

If you think the Chinese Communist Party's track record of death and destruction is not necessarily evidence of their involvement in the pandemic, it may be worth knowing that the People's Liberation Army General, Qiao Liang, wrote a book in 2015 about new biological and chemical weapons. One of the ways he predicted China could achieve world domination was by releasing a virus that would destroy the economies of other nations. Other top leaders have echoed similar sentiments.

## ***The War Against the Church***

in the late 1950s, a severe wave of persecution swept over the Church in China, as thousands of pastors and church workers were arrested, killed, or sent to prison labor camps for many years. The situation grew even worse during the 1960s and 1970s. Whenever an individual, a group, or a nation despises Jesus Christ and hardens their conscience against anything godly, their sins fester and grow, and their behavior becomes increasingly vile.

When all fear of God or acknowledgement of His existence is rejected, human life becomes worthless. All that matters to them is controlling the masses and holding on to power, even if they must crush their own people beneath tanks and mow them down with machine guns like in Beijing in 1989. These leaders sleep without a troubled conscience, which has been *“seared as with a hot iron”* (2 Timothy 4:2). All death and suffering inflicted on the masses is seen as collateral damage in the great vision of establishing their God-hating socialist utopia.

Because they have erased God from their conscience, they do not have the slightest fear that they will one day be held to account by God, or that they are commanded to govern people with fairness and equity. Slaughtering tens of millions of babies either inside or outside the womb through forced abortions and other evil policies doesn't register the slightest concern for them.

As persecution reached fever-pitch during Mao's awful Cultural Revolution, Christians around the world wondered if there would be any believers left inside China should the doors of the nation ever reopen. Indeed, when foreign diplomats were allowed to visit China, one of them asked Jiang Qing (Mao's fourth wife) if there were any Christians left. She arrogantly replied: **“Christianity in China has been confined to the history section of the museum.”**

In the past 40 years, Communist Party leaders have avoided publicly revealing their war against Christians, although occasionally they have let it slip, such as when President Jiang Zemin said in 1995: **“We are engaged in a secret struggle against the Church.”**

The current leader of China, Xi Jinping, appears determined to finish the job that Mao failed to do, by eliminating Christianity from China once and for all. Now armed with invasive technology and weapons that Mao could never have dreamed of, the Body of Christ is being attacked in new and evil ways. Little news of this will ever be reported, because the government has systematically expelled most foreigners from China, leaving few ways to report events on the ground.

When he came to power, many people around the world mistakenly thought Xi looked like a nice, charming man. Beneath the cuddly veneer, however, his true intentions soon surfaced. In 2016 he warned Communist Party members that they must be **“unyielding Marxist atheists,”** and in 2018 he encouraged the nation to **“grasp the power of the truth of Marxism.”**

To celebrate 100 years of the Chinese Communist Party, the world might have expected Xi Jinping to reach out in some kind of conciliatory way. Instead, the

hardline militant atheist, and President-for-life, used his speech to issue this threat to the world:

**“The Chinese people will never allow foreign forces to bully, oppress or enslave us. Whoever nurses delusions of doing that will crack their heads and spill blood on a Great Wall of steel built from the flesh and blood of 1.4 billion Chinese.”**

Again, we wish to make a clear distinction between the normal Chinese people, who we love and respect, and the Communist Party, which seems hell-bent on world domination at any cost, and believes society can only progress through the “glories” of militant atheism. If the 21st century is to be “China’s Century” with the Communist Party at the helm, then may God have mercy on the world.

### ***Revealing the Great Hero of the Century in China***

The true hero of 100 years of Communism in China is not Mao, Xi, or any other God-hating hardline atheist. The Great Hero has been none other than **the Lord Jesus Christ!**



*Jubilant house church Christians worshipping God in 1983.*

When the Communists took control of China in 1949, most experts estimate there were about 750,000 Christians in the entire country — a tiny number in such a vast sea of humanity. The children of God felt like the Israelites when they were overwhelmed by a massive Aramean army: ***“The Israelites camped opposite them like two small flocks of goats, while the Arameans covered the countryside”*** (1 Kings 20:27).

The Communists declared war on God but found they could not touch Him, so they declared war on His followers instead. Bibles were burned, church buildings demolished, and the entire leadership of the Body of Christ was rounded up, tortured, and sent to die in remote prison labor camps. In the eyes of the Communist Party, Christianity had indeed been consigned to history.

The Chinese Communist Party had viciously crushed the Church for decades, removing all signs of its existence. At best, it remained just a tiny seed that would never have any influence on society again.

But there was One who had other ideas! As He has done repeatedly throughout history, the Lord Jesus Christ decided to interrupt the plans of evil men. After allowing His children to go through a season of intense purification, His truth again triumphed, for the Lord had taught: ***“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me”*** (John 12:24-27).

Hallelujah! The Living God breathed His life onto the incorruptible seed of His people in China, and after being underground for years, they finally poked through the soil again, enjoying the warmth of the sun’s rays!

In response to this shocking development, the Communists have tried to crush God’s people repeatedly over the past three decades, but their failure to destroy the Body of Christ has left them confused, frustrated and angry. Being atheists, they have willfully blinded themselves, and cannot perceive God’s hand at work against them. They have been left dumbfounded, much like another ruler many centuries ago who discovered that ***“the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites”*** (Exodus 1:12).



From 750,000 scattered sheep in 1949, the Church in China today numbers over 100 million people (see the link “How Many Christians are in China?” on our website, where we provide detailed estimates of believers in every province, resulting in a total of 129 million Christians in China today).

As we “celebrate” 100 years of Chinese Communism, we bow our knees in awe at the greatness of Jesus Christ, for He has been the dominant figure throughout Chinese (and all) history. We pray that as dark and troubling storm clouds gather on the horizon in your part of the world, you will not focus on the looming darkness, but ***“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near”*** (Luke 21:28). Always remember that though heaven and earth may pass away, His Word will never pass away.

***“The Lord foils the plans of the nations;  
He thwarts the purposes of the peoples.  
But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,  
the purposes of His heart through all generations.”***  
(Psalm 33:10-11)

## THE KINGDOM MARCHES ON IN CHINA

Despite many troubles and challenges, our work continues to progress in China. As we have stated many times previously, as long as the Lord continues to hold the door open, we will continue to print as many Bibles as possible and to equip the house church believers while there is still daylight, for ***“night is coming, when no man can work”*** (John 9:4). In fact, by God’s grace and great power, we recently passed the all-time milestone of 15 million full Bibles printed and delivered to the Chinese house churches, which has added fuel to the revival fires blazing in that great land.

In an upcoming newsletter we plan to share an interview with a key house church leader, who is hardly known outside of China even though he oversees thousands of fellowships. In it, he shares some of the challenges facing the Church in China today, and ways the Body of Christ is adapting daily, as they continue to find ways to share the Gospel and lead multitudes of hungry people to Jesus.

We appreciate your prayers and partnership in the Gospel, and we realize without your support not a single Bible would be printed nor workers supported.

## CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 15,283,739  
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 1,557 Asian evangelists  
among 1,193 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 **606,873 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: 1,324,261 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 **1,839** 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 **181,139** 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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<b>NEW ZEALAND:</b>	PO Box 1757, Queenstown 9348 <i>Bank details:</i> ASB 12-3154-0092327-00 (Asia Harvest)
<b>UNITED KINGDOM:</b>	AsiaLink, 31A Main Street, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim BT39 9AA <i>Bank details:</i> NatWest Bank 01-07-65, Account No. 07018797
<b>MALAYSIA:</b>	Strategic Missions Program, PO Box 8036, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya, 46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor <i>Bank details:</i> CIMB 8008242805 (Strategic Missions Program)
<b>EUROPE:</b>	Stiftung SALZ, Moehringer Landstr. 98, 70563 Stuttgart, GERMANY <i>IBAN:</i> DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / <i>BIC:</i> GENODES1PGW



# Asia Harvest



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

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November 2021 - Newsletter #177



**Communism vs Christ**  
**15 Million Bibles in the Dragon's Den**

# From the Frontlines

*“There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord. The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord”*  
(Proverbs 21:30-31).

In our last newsletter we “celebrated” the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party in China, by looking back at some of their diabolical achievements. Throughout a century of death and destruction, the Lord Jesus Christ has shone ever brighter, resulting in more than 100 million people gladly surrendering their lives to Him. Jesus truly has been the Hero of the Century in China!

Sometimes at Asia Harvest we can become so focused on our work in Asia that we forget that many of the things we take for granted are astonishing to believers elsewhere. For example, someone recently emailed us, asking, “Are you guys aware that in China some Christian websites have been blocked by the government?” We smiled, because the Asia Harvest website has been blacklisted in China since 1998!

Indeed, it's not just in China where we struggle to communicate our vision. Some people have commented on our “weak” social media presence. To give you a glimpse into our regular struggles, in recent years many of our facebook posts have been blocked by facebook, who deem them too politically incorrect; some of our videos have been removed from Youtube for the same reason; and when we uploaded a free e-book on the amazing things God is doing in China, Amazon labelled it “offensive content” and closed our account! Sometimes it feels like we are in a swimming race with weights tied to our arms and legs, but the Lord helps us and continues to open doors that no man can shut.

Our call from God includes the need to straddle the line between the Church in Asia and around the world. Sometimes we find that what is important to persecuted Christians in Asia may not be a priority to those believers around the world, and vice versa. Priorities often appear to be polar opposites, which is perhaps why for decades places like China have been experiencing the greatest revival in Christian history, while in much of the Western world the Church is struggling to stay afloat.

As an example, some Western Christian publications in recent years have run what they consider to be shocking stories of how the Chinese Communist Party has removed the crosses from thousands of church buildings throughout China.

*Cover photo: In recent years the Communist Party has removed thousands of crosses from church buildings across China, mistakenly thinking that will stop the spread of the Gospel.*

Our dear friend Brother Yun, whose biography you may have read in *The Heavenly Man*, was visiting Canada a few years ago when a group of pastors and mission leaders asked him to comment on the removal of crosses in China. Thinking he would express his alarm at such a ghastly act, many in the room were totally shocked when Brother Yun replied:

**“I am very happy that so many crosses have been torn down! The cross was never meant to be fixed to the roof of a building. Instead, the Lord Jesus called us to carry the cross on our shoulders and in our hearts. I completely agree with the government’s decision to pull down all the crosses!”**

Yun’s response perfectly encapsulated the difference between biblical and institutional Christianity; between those who have experienced true revival and those who are focused on temporal rather than eternal things.

The strongman Chinese President Xi Jinping and the other leaders of China can never understand why the number of believers has increased by millions while they have been busy removing crosses from church buildings.

Because they are God-hating atheists, China’s leaders are spiritually blind and unless they repent, they will never understand that the Holy Spirit of Jesus dwells in the hearts of His followers. The Apostle Paul explained: *“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit”* (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Although we might suffer setbacks and be called to endure harsh persecution, ultimately the Body of Christ is unconquerable, for we serve a Lord and Master who said: *“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him”* (Luke 12:4-5).

During the Roman Empire, when a Christian was being martyred, his persecutors mockingly asked, “What is your Carpenter doing now?” Calmly, without a trace of fear on his face, the believer replied: **“He is constructing a coffin for your empire.”**

In the rest of this newsletter we delve deeper into the spiritual roots of Communism, and we also thank God, for recently Asia Harvest passed the milestone of printing and delivering 15 million full Chinese Bibles to the house churches of China! Each one has been a miracle of God’s grace and protective power, and as long as He continues to hold the door open, we will do everything we can to provide God’s Word to His people, thus helping to fan the flames of the greatest revival in Christian history.

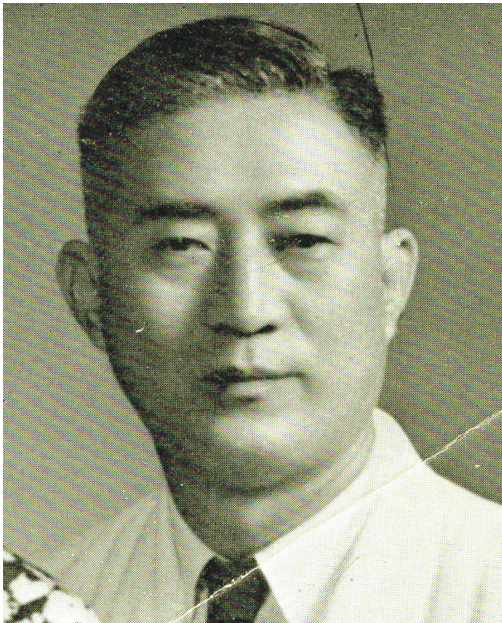
## Communism vs Christ

**“It would be a great mistake to regard Communism merely as a political system. Communism is not only a religion, but it is also a dynamic missionary movement aspiring to the conquest of the whole world....**

**Communism attempts to provide a substitute not only for Christian doctrine and experience but also for many of the methods and activities used in the church. Indeed, Communists have often adapted Christian methods and have proved themselves to be more thorough and efficient in using them than the Christians from whom they were borrowed.” - David Adeney, *Missionary to China and Author.***

In our last newsletter we examined the roots of the Communist Party in China, and how it was established on a foundation of atheism and evolutionism. The result of that demonic belief system has been a century of death and destruction for countless millions of people; yet the Living God has mocked His enemies by sending the greatest revival in the history of Christianity, with over 100 million people in China now identifying themselves as followers of Jesus Christ.

In the 1940s, when it was clear that the Communists were surging to power across China, some spiritually dull missionaries and Chinese pastors told believers not



*Andrew Gih.*

to worry, for the Communists were good for the country and would usher in a new era of religious freedom!

Many other leaders of the Body of Christ, however, did all they could to strengthen God's children for the long struggle ahead. One insightful man of God was Andrew Gih, who warned Christians of the horrors of Communism in his book *“The Church Behind the Bamboo Curtain”*. Gih explained how Communism can only exist by brute force and by instilling fear, and he contrasted the stark differences between Communism and Christianity.



With a form of Communism rising in many Western nations today, Christians would do well to take heed of Andrew Gih's warnings. He wrote the following observations and comparison between Communism and Christianity:

“Since they have to maintain large standing armies, concentration camps are a necessity—politically to silence the opposition by taking people away after midnight, sending them to concentration camps, so their families do not hear from them. They arrest so many that they instill fear into the minds of the people, so there is no opposition or rebellion.

Communist countries are not for commerce or trade. Their aim is always political. . . . Communism is against human nature. It cannot stay in power except by brute force. So, in Communist countries the people not only have no freedom, but they constantly live in fear.”

## COMMUNISM vs CHRISTIANITY — A COMPARISON

Communism is **materialistic**

Christianity is **spiritual**

Communism is **godless**

Christianity is **God-centered**

Communism is **God-hating**

Christianity is **God-loving**

Communism is **God-defying** and **blasphemous**

Christianity is **God-honoring**

Communism **divides people** into classes

Christianity **unites people** in Christ

Communism **pulls down** the higher classes

Christianity **lifts up** the lower classes

Communism spreads **hatred and strife**

Christianity spreads **love and peace**

Communism aims for a **classless society**

Christianity says, **‘Thy kingdom come’**

Communism sheds **blood for revolution**

Christ shed **His Blood for salvation**

## The Blindness of Atheism

One of the key things to remember when we see the state of the world today is that God has promised to help people along the path they have chosen. For those who seek to glorify Jesus, the Lord blesses them with inner peace and joy, and opens doors for them to serve Him. However, for those who *“did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice”* (Romans 1:28-29).

For years now we have warned about what is going on in China. When we first sounded the alarm in 2016, some people thought we were making things up, and that the outlook for China remained rosy. One missionary mocked us, saying things looked just fine from his apartment high above the city on the 30th floor. He is no longer in China today, having been one of tens of thousands of foreign Christians kicked out by Xi Jinping's anti-Christian purge.

When Xi ramped up persecution against Christians in 2016 and 2017, China's economy immediately took a sharp nosedive. Being steadfast atheists, however, the Communist leaders saw no correlation between their actions and their economic woes, or that God's hand of blessing may have started to withdraw from the nation.

The economy continues to be extremely fragile, and the government is even struggling to feed its own people. China may appear bright and shiny to visitors, but most of the impressive infrastructure has been built on trillions of dollars of debt. We believe the Chinese economy is a house of cards waiting to fold when God decides to blow against it.

Blind to all spiritual truth, instead of pulling back, the Communist Party has plunged ahead, seeking to destroy the Church with even more drastic measures. Life has become increasingly difficult for hundreds of millions of people in China, with the sanctions imposed by President Trump causing a much greater impact than most observers think. Almost overnight, tens of millions of workers lost their jobs in China, as countless companies moved their operations out of the country. While the government still claims strong economic growth through their make-believe statistics each year, on the streets of China life is grim for multitudes of unemployed people.

Last year (2020) saw a succession of further blows to China, as God continued to shake them for their harsh treatment of His beloved children. A series of remarkable

disasters fell on China, with record floods, earthquakes, diseases on people, crops and animals, and even a plague of locusts afflicting the nation.

This has continued into 2021. For example, on July 20, thousands of people drowned in the city of Zhengzhou after the heaviest rainfall in 1,000 years of recorded history! In most parts of the world, an inch of rain in one hour brings flash flooding. Two inches of rain is extreme. In the city of Zhengzhou, eight inches of rain fell in one hour!

The Communist Party, not wanting to look bad in the eyes of the people they rule with an iron fist, finally admitted that just 302 people had died in the floods, but Christians on the ground say that casualties numbered in the many thousands. Although it was not reported on the news, the Beijing-Guangzhou expressway tunnel was completely submerged, with more than 6,000 vehicles and their occupants trapped under many feet of surging water.

With seared consciences and minds that mock and disdain God, the Communist rulers of China again appear to see no connection between all the troubles befalling China and their efforts to destroy Jesus' precious inheritance, which He purchased with His own Blood. Instead, they continue to relentlessly march on toward war, alienating almost every country in Asia with their bullying tactics and lust for world domination.

## FIFTEEN MILLION MIRACLES IN CHINA

Despite many troubles and challenges, our work continues to progress in China. As we have stated previously, as long as the Lord continues to hold the door open, we will continue to print as many Bibles as possible and to equip the house church believers while there is still light, for ***“night is coming, when no man can work”*** (John 9:4). By God's grace and power, we recently passed the all-time milestone of **15 million full Bibles printed and delivered** to the Chinese house churches, which has added fuel to the revival fires blazing across that great land. Each Bible has been a miracle, and although now is not the time to share details, many people have suffered greatly for this project to advance.

We appreciate your prayers and partnership in the Gospel, and we realize that without your support, no Bibles would have been printed nor workers helped.  
**Let's continue to press forward while we have the opportunity!**

## 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 **15 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	1,308,970
2 Henan	1,266,419
3 Anhui	1,204,268
4 Inner Mongolia	1,192,984
5 Shandong	1,144,305
6 Zhejiang	832,759
7 Sichuan	758,315
8 Liaoning	711,231
9 Jiangsu	704,443
10 Jilin	700,758
11 Shanxi	661,861
12 Hubei	539,720
13 Jiangxi	538,597
14 Gansu	490,454
15 Shaanxi	458,563
16 Hebei	433,338
17 Hunan	358,436
18 Fujian	344,731
19 Guangxi	328,899
20 Xinjiang	271,057
21 Chongqing	250,373
22 Qinghai	246,179
23 Shanghai	233,332
24 Hainan	176,854
25 Guizhou	127,251
26 Guangdong	94,319
27 Beijing	83,786
28 Yunnan	73,795
29 Tibet	12,616
30 Ningxia	8,431
31 Tianjin	5,686

**TOTAL**

**15,562,729**





## CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **15,562,729**  
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.**

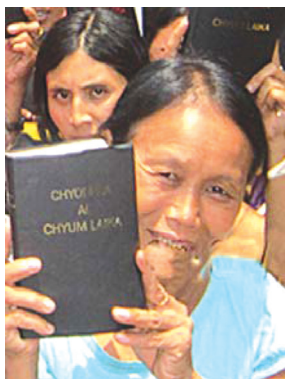
## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



*We currently support **1,580** Asian evangelists  
among **1,198** 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 **651,804 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: **1,346,729** Bibles printed in **131** 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  
**1,939** 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  
**182,990** children throughout Asia.*



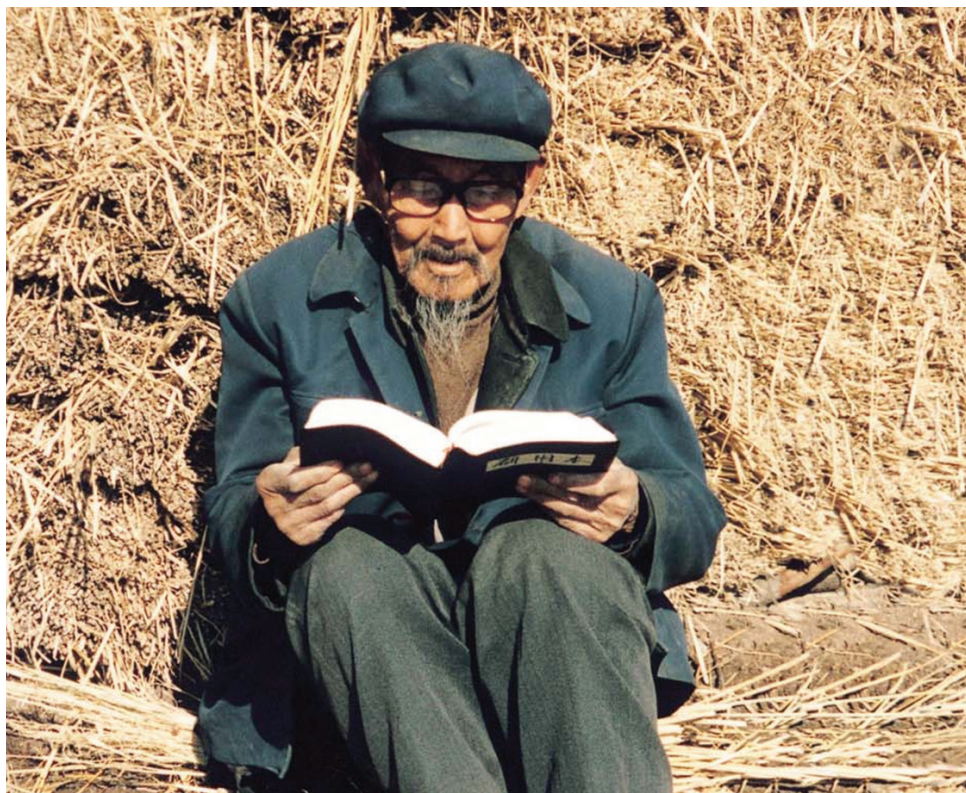
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## PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND

*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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# Asia Harvest

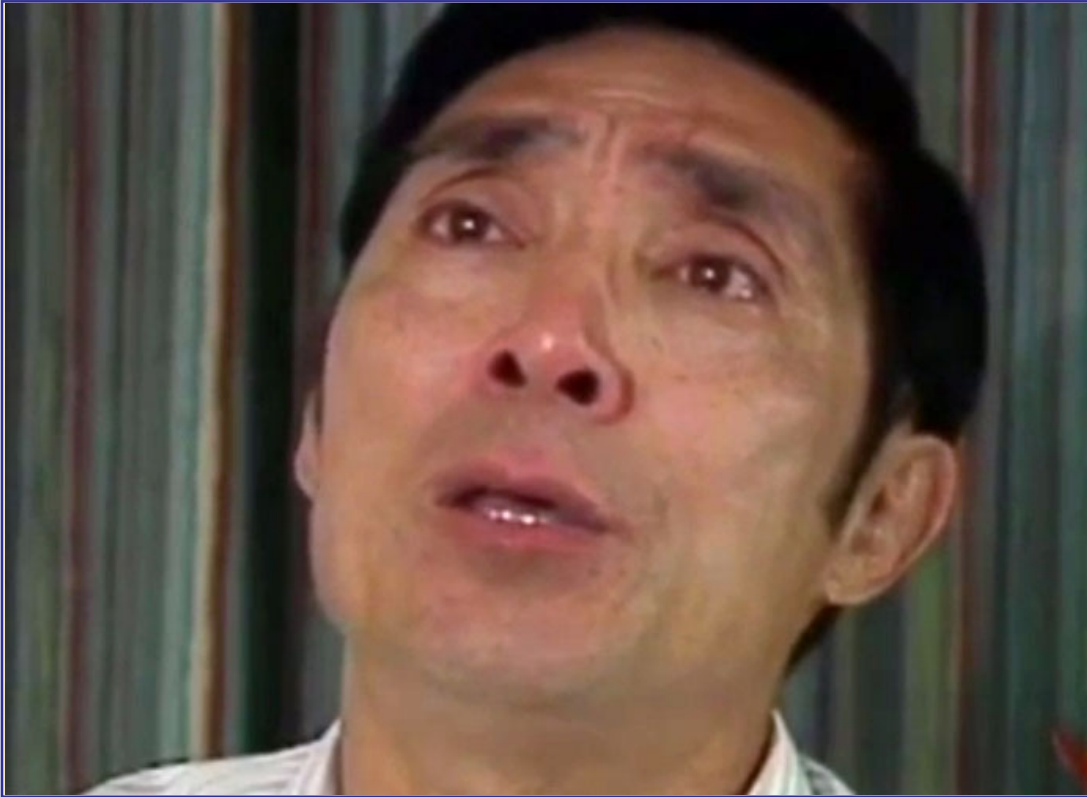


'Put in the Sickle, for the Harvest has Come!' (Mark 4:29)

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December 2021 - Newsletter #178



**In Memory of George Chen**  
**Forever 'In the Garden'**



# In Memory of George Chen

By Paul Hattaway

*“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered” (Hebrews 5:7-8).*

*“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him” (Philippians 1:29).*

In recent times, many Christians around the world have written to express their concern at rising persecution in their nations. Believers can sense that it will soon be their turn to experience suffering, as the Word of God promises all believers. Some ask for advice about what they should do, not realizing that one of the main reasons we have written many books and newsletters over the years is to communicate how Christians around the world in “free” countries might learn spiritual lessons from the persecuted believers we are privileged to serve in Asia.

In this newsletter (our final one of the year), we would like to share the testimony of a man you have probably never heard of before. If you have ever prayed for or supported our China Bible project or other initiatives, in one sense your participation was due to **the influence George Chen had on the DNA of Asia Harvest at the very beginning.**

We had planned to finish the year by writing a different newsletter to this one. However, as soon as we heard the sad news of the passing of George Chen, we knew we needed to change plans and pay respect to this humble, broken man of God, who learned the secret of intimacy with Jesus in God’s special garden.

**George Chen was the very first Chinese Christian I ever met in my life.** In the 1980s I was a new believer in Christ, saved just a few months, when the direction of my life was radically changed after hearing Chen speak at a church in my home country. I knew next to nothing about China at the time and my life was directionless. I had never had a single thought of going to China.

I was speechless after hearing the testimony of this man who spent 18 years in prison for Jesus. He had endured horrific conditions, and had not only survived the ordeal, but had emerged with an unconquerable faith! George Chen’s eyes shone as I spoke with him after the meeting. He encouraged me to unreservedly make myself

available to God, and to consider being a “donkey for Jesus” by carrying Bibles across the border from Hong Kong to the spiritually starving Christians in China, who had been without Bibles for three decades.

As recorded in my biography, the Lord miraculously propelled me to China through a series of astonishing events, despite being a teenager with no money to my name. I found myself in China just weeks after that pivotal meeting, and I had also been exposed to a type of Christianity that was completely foreign to most Westerners. I recalled my meeting with George Chen in “An Asian Harvest”:

*“His testimony impacted me deeply. in the formative time of my Christian walk. He had spent longer behind bars because of his love for Jesus than I had been alive at that time.*

*This precious man had learned to appreciate the small blessings of life.... George taught me that the kingdom of God cannot be defeated by evil men or governments. Whatever terrible things Satan and the world can throw at Jesus’ disciples, His purposes will not be thwarted.*

*A deep revelation of my Heavenly Father’s invincibility filled my heart with faith and purpose. There was no reason for me to be afraid. Wherever God would take me, His plans would be fulfilled one way or another. I was now part of an unconquerable army!”*

Friends, let me share a secret of how a child of God can overcome hardship and intense persecution. This lesson has been learned from many brothers and sisters in China, Vietnam, Laos and other countries over the years. The first step God calls us to is **endurance**. The Apostle Paul told Timothy, **“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ”** (2 Timothy 2:3).

However, there are additional steps for God’s children to gain victory in suffering. If the Lord gives His grace and power, we can overcome whatever wicked men may do to us, even if our bodies should die in the process. The final step, which requires supernatural strength from the Holy Spirit, is when we learn to **embrace** suffering and persecution, rather than just putting up with it.

If the Lord brings us to that wonderful place where we only fear God and not what men can do to us, but we fear only God, it opens the door to glorious and intimate fellowship with the Lord Jesus. Paul knew of that intimacy when he wrote about the fellowship of sharing in Christ’s sufferings: **“I want to know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”** (Philippians 3:10-11).

George Chen was a man whom God took through the furnace of affliction. He possessed a rich faith that cannot be gained any other way. When I heard he had departed to be with the Lord forever, I gave thanks to the Living God for crossing my path with George Chen many years ago, at the very moment my own call to ministry and the subsequent formation of Asia Harvest was being birthed.

As we come to the end of 2021, we acknowledge that this year has been tumultuous in many ways, both throughout Asia and for most of the Christians we know around the world. But through it all, our Heavenly Father has been faithful and totally trustworthy, as always. By His great power, **2021 has proved to again be the most fruitful year we have ever had**, with more Chinese Bibles successfully printed and delivered than ever before! This journey began 33 years ago when I met my first ever Chinese Christian, George Chen.

It is our privilege to share the testimony of George Chen with you. It may be the first time it has ever been written down for the Body of Christ to read and appreciate.



*A Chinese prisoner paraded in public in 1967 with a tall 'dunce hat' listing his crimes. Many Christians embraced this humiliation and joyfully used it to witness for the Lord, as their hats often listed their crime as 'believing in Jesus'.*

## *George Chen — In the Garden*

Churches throughout China suffered continual hammer blows throughout the 1950s and 1960s, as Satan's fury was unleashed on them. One Christian who suffered greatly was George Chen (*Chinese name*: Chen Minying), who endured inhumane treatment at the hands of his persecutors, only to be preserved by the hand of God. He was even given an international ministry after his release from prison.

Chen was born in 1932 to a humble family in Zhejiang Province. The chaos engulfing China at the time caused them to move to Shanghai, where George grew up. After hearing the Gospel he surrendered his life to God, and the Holy Spirit gave him a gift of evangelism.

Chen founded three rural churches with a total of 300 members, most of whom he had personally led to Christ. The believers had a hunger for the Word of God and desired to spread the Gospel, which soon caught the attention of the Communist authorities. Chen was first arrested in 1960 and imprisoned as a counter-revolutionary.

For the first three-and-a-half years, George was one of five inmates crammed into a cell that was so small the men had to lie on their sides, head-to-toe, like sardines



*Inmates at a prison labor camp in China in the 1970s.*



in a can. A wooden bucket in the corner of the tiny space served as the toilet for all the men. George was often so hungry that he ate toothpaste to satisfy his cravings. Chen's wife and son were not allowed to contact him during his incarceration, and for years he was oblivious to the fact that she had died, and his son had been killed by the Communist authorities.

In 1964, Chen was moved inland to a prison labor camp in Anhui Province, where he served a further 14 years.

After months of backbreaking work, seven days a week, the prison leaders were infuriated that they had been unable to make the evangelist deny his faith in Jesus.

They ordered Chen to perform the worst job in the prison, daily shoveling human excrement to be used as fertilizer. The massive amount of waste produced by 60,000 prisoners flowed into a large cesspool a short distance from the cells. He later recalled the struggle of those long and difficult years, and how he was often troubled by thoughts that God had abandoned him:

**"I spent my days deep in human waste, turning it with a shovel to make compost. They thought I would be miserable, but actually I was happy. It smelled so bad that no one came near me, so I could pray and sing aloud all day.**

**If I was not a Christian I would have died, because the smell was maddening, and the stench terrible. But I enjoyed being alone in the cesspool, so I could pray to our Lord, recite the Scriptures, and sing hymns loudly."**

To counteract the thoughts that he had been forsaken, as he stood deep in human waste every day, George often sung the beautiful words of his favorite hymn, ***In the Garden***:

*I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses.*

*And He walks with me  
And He talks with me  
And He tells me I am His own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there  
None other has ever known.*

Finally, in 1978, the political situation relaxed a little in China, and Chen was released from prison and placed under house arrest. Eighteen long years had passed.

When he entered prison, the Cultural Revolution had yet to begin, and Mao held complete power. Now, the Cultural Revolution was over, and Mao was in the grave.

George was afraid that nobody would remember who he was. Most of all, he wondered if any of the Christians he had once known were still alive, or if there were any believers left in China at all. With trepidation, he slowly made his way home, not knowing what he would find.

For almost two decades, George Chen had been both burdened and blessed by the memory of his church members. Countless times, as he stood in the excrement pit, he prayed aloud for them, asking the Holy Spirit to sustain their faith and help them to overcome. As he got off the bus in his home area, he failed to recognize many of the buildings or faces of the people he passed.

Then, from behind, came a cry of shock from an elderly woman. “Pastor... is it you?” One of his former church members was still alive! In a typically constrained Chinese manner, the two did not hug, but shook hands as tears rolled down their faces. George was relieved. Now he knew that he was not the only Christian left in China. There were at least two!



*Millions of books (including Bibles) were burned during the Cultural Revolution, creating a famine of the Word of God in China.*

## *God is Good!*

News of the pastor's return spread throughout the neighborhood like wildfire, and soon the shining faces of many other believers pressed against the windows of a house he was invited to stay in. Many people were beside themselves with both shock and joy. They presumed the pastor had died decades earlier, and not a word had been heard to suggest that he was still alive.

The biggest shock was to come. When George asked one of his old friends if any fellowship of believers had survived, he was told, "Yes! God is good! He has sent His Spirit to breathe on us, and now we have many members. We are so glad that you have returned, because we do not have any Bibles and few of us remember many of the words of Jesus. Please teach us, pastor. Please!"

The Lord Jesus Christ, who promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against His Church, had done a great miracle. **During the 18 years Chen had spent in prison, when he had often worried that all Christians had been killed or fallen away from the faith, God had caused the three churches to increase from a total of 300 to 5,000 believers!**

George was amazed, and he hardly slept that night as he tried to take in everything he had heard. His rejoicing was soon tempered, however, when he was told that his wife had died years earlier, and his young son had been killed. The prison officials had cruelly withheld this information from him.

Chen remained under house arrest until 1981, when he was "rehabilitated" by the government and his criminal records were erased.

Remarkably, for a man whom other Christians had forgotten about and assumed to be dead, God opened the door for George Chen to obtain a passport, and he shared his testimony in church meetings around the world during the late 1980s and 1990s. At each meeting, he invariably took time to thank the Body of Christ for sending missionaries to China in the past.

Chen remarried and spent much of his latter life traveling between his home and southwest China, where he ministered among ethnic minority groups, especially the Lisu people in the high mountains straddling the border with Myanmar. He was much loved, and he often drove a van hundreds of miles to deliver loads of precious Bibles to spiritually hungry Christians.

Although he officially retired in 2012 at the age of 80, George Chen continued to travel to China, where he advised house church leaders in Henan and Yunnan provinces. After many years spent 'in the garden' with Jesus Christ, his life shone into

many dark places, and had become a sweet fragrance that attracted many souls to the kingdom of God.

Just a few months ago we received this photo of George. He looked fit and healthy, and we remarked that he would probably live to one hundred.

It wasn't to be, however, and the Lord Jesus Christ finally called His servant home on October 27, 2021, when George Chen died peacefully in his sleep while in Hong Kong.

He was 89 years old.

***"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints"*** (Psalm 116:15).

***"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work"*** (Revelation 22:12).



*George Chen earlier this year, aged 89.*

## THE GOSPEL MARCHES ON IN CHINA

Despite many troubles and challenges, our work continues to progress in China. As long as the Lord continues to hold the door open, we will continue to print as many Bibles as possible and to equip the house church believers while there is still light, for ***"night is coming, when no man can work"*** (John 9:4). By God's grace and power, we recently passed the all-time milestone of **15 million full Bibles printed and delivered** to the Chinese house churches, adding fuel to the revival fires blazing across that great land.

We appreciate your prayers and partnership in the Gospel, and we realize that without your support, no Bibles would have been printed nor workers helped. **Let's continue to press forward while we have the opportunity!**



## CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **15,990,766**  
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 **1,578** Asian evangelists  
among **1,198** 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 **658,233 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: **1,356,295** Bibles printed in **131** 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 **1,939** 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 **183,859** 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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