

# Asia Harvest 2022

**NEWSLETTERS**  
*(Combined)*

# Asia Harvest



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

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February 2022 — Newsletter #179



## ANNUAL REPORT

The Grace of God is Sufficient

# From the Frontlines

***“One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand” (Exodus 2:11-12).***

It could be said that Moses’ first problem was that he “looked this way and that” before killing the Egyptian. If only he had looked up, he might have gained God’s perspective. It’s this way with all sin. We may look around to ensure no one is watching, but we forget that the Lord Jesus Christ knows all and is watching.

At the time, Moses already knew that God had called him to be the deliverer of Israel, and he thought people would recognize his call and honor his leadership. We learn this from Stephen’s speech to the Sanhedrin thousands of years later, when he said: ***“Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not”*** (Acts 7:25).

It’s always a disaster when a person tries to help God fulfil His plans in their lives. We see it on many occasions in Scripture. In his own strength, Moses had trouble burying just one Egyptian, and he had to flee into the desert to an area in today’s Saudi Arabia, where he hid for decades. Later, when God got involved, the entire Egyptian army was buried in one moment in the depths of the Red Sea!





As we look back on last year in this Annual Report, we are aware that many Christians found 2021 to be a very difficult and unsettling year, with the Covid pandemic and social and political turmoil combining to disrupt and challenge our lives. We know many people who have been sick, lost their jobs, or are increasingly disillusioned by the general breakdown of society. We have friends who have been unable to return to their home countries for almost two years.

Regardless of what position different believers hold on vaccines, it's clear that all around the world governments have seized more power, and history teaches us that once leaders take control in one area, they rarely give it up unless forced to do so.

Many Christians have told us they are weary of the sick world we live in; and they are tired of the state of the professing Church, much of which spews forth a false "gospel of non-repentance" that is powerless to save or deliver.

The Bible speaks of a day to come when an evil ruler will *"speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High"* (Daniel 7:25). The Lord Jesus warned us, *"Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come"* (Matthew 24:12-14).

To all who love the Lord Jesus we say: "Never give up! And if you're feeling weak, rejoice! For He has promised, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"* (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Friends, we encourage you to **do everything possible to saturate your minds and hearts with God's Word. Read it, study it, and meditate on it.** If you don't like reading, then find a way to listen to the Bible. It's not enough to only get your spiritual food on Sunday mornings, or by hearing occasional podcasts by your favorite preacher. Our faith will only survive if we are connected to the true Vine, and relying on the Scriptures for our daily sustenance.

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*Cover photo:* Dozens of new believers coming to be baptized in a river last year, after hearing the Gospel for the first time from a team of evangelists we support through the Asian Workers' Fund. Despite many challenges posed by persecution and Covid lockdowns, at the end of 2021 we were privileged to support more than 1,500 evangelists throughout Asia, reaching over 1,200 people groups.



## IMPORTANT CHANGE TO THE CHINA BIBLE FUND

From the start of Asia Harvest 34 years ago, the China Bible Fund has been one of our foundational projects. In 2021 it continued to provide God's Word to a record number of house church believers throughout China.

For many years we have been able to keep the print price per Bible at US\$1.80, as our colleagues inside China did everything possible to get the best value for money and lower costs to a bare minimum. Other expenses, such as transportation, we have always covered from non-designated funds and other sources. Subsequently, we have always been able to accurately say that if someone gives \$1.80 for a Chinese Bible, we have placed a full Bible into the hands of a believer.

As you will know from your own part of the world, inflation is currently surging, and this is true in China more than most other countries. In the past year, inflation and disruptions to supply chains have caused the cost of paper to skyrocket by more than a third.

As a result, we are sorry to say that we can no longer peg down our \$1.80 Bible price that we have used for the last 14 years. Instead, we have been forced to **increase our base price per Chinese Bible to \$3.00**. That is the printing cost for each Bible. Our commitment remains the same as from day one—we ensure that every dollar given to Bibles goes for Bibles. That means no administration or any other deduction.

We don't want to continually adjust our price each time inflation and exchange rates go up or down, so we are setting this base price and plan to stick to it for an extended period. We will continue to cover all extra costs, such as transportation, from other sources.

Therefore, until further notice we guarantee that for every \$3 given to our China Bible project, we will provide one Chinese Bible to the house churches in China, as long as God continues to hold the door open for us to serve Him in this way.

For the record, the Bibles we provide are excellent quality, with strong covers and binding. We only print full Chinese Bibles, and not just New Testaments. We hope you will agree that \$3 to help transform lives with God's living Word remains a wonderful investment opportunity in the kingdom of God. Anecdotal evidence over the years indicates that churches often double in size in China within a year after receiving a shipment of Bibles from our co-workers.

**Please pray for the China Bible Fund and everyone involved with it.** We may be one of the last organizations still able to supply large quantities of God's Word to China's house churches, our position has always been that as long as the Lord holds the door open, we will do all we can to provide the bread of life to His children.

# 2021/22 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 2021.

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 2.5 million Christian families were strengthened** by receiving God's Word through our Bible projects, while the more than 1,500 Asian evangelists we support led **a total of 112,539 people to Christ among 1,203 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.**

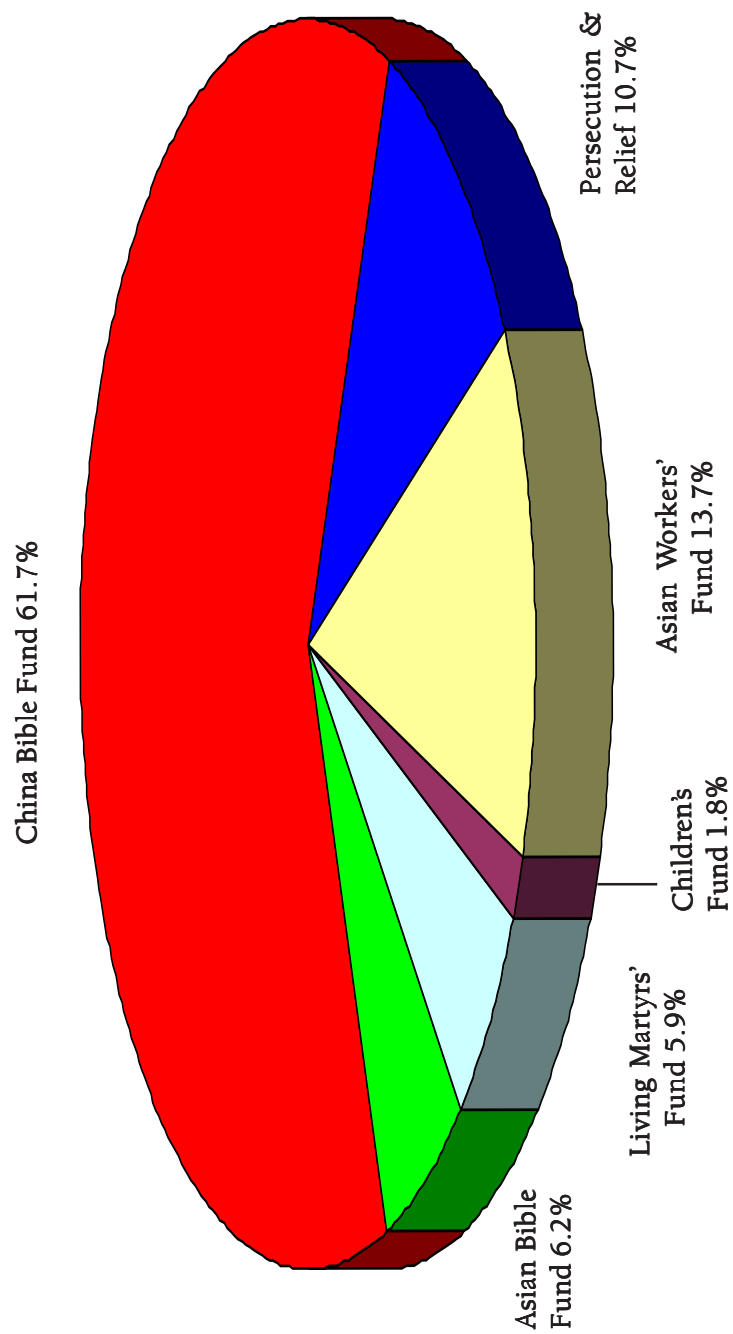


From the time of Asia Harvest's inception in the 1980s, we have desired to be transparent in the area of finances. Our annual financial statements are independently audited each year, and are available for anyone to view on our website.

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 latest audited financial statements, please visit the "Resources" link at our website: **[www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)**

## Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2021





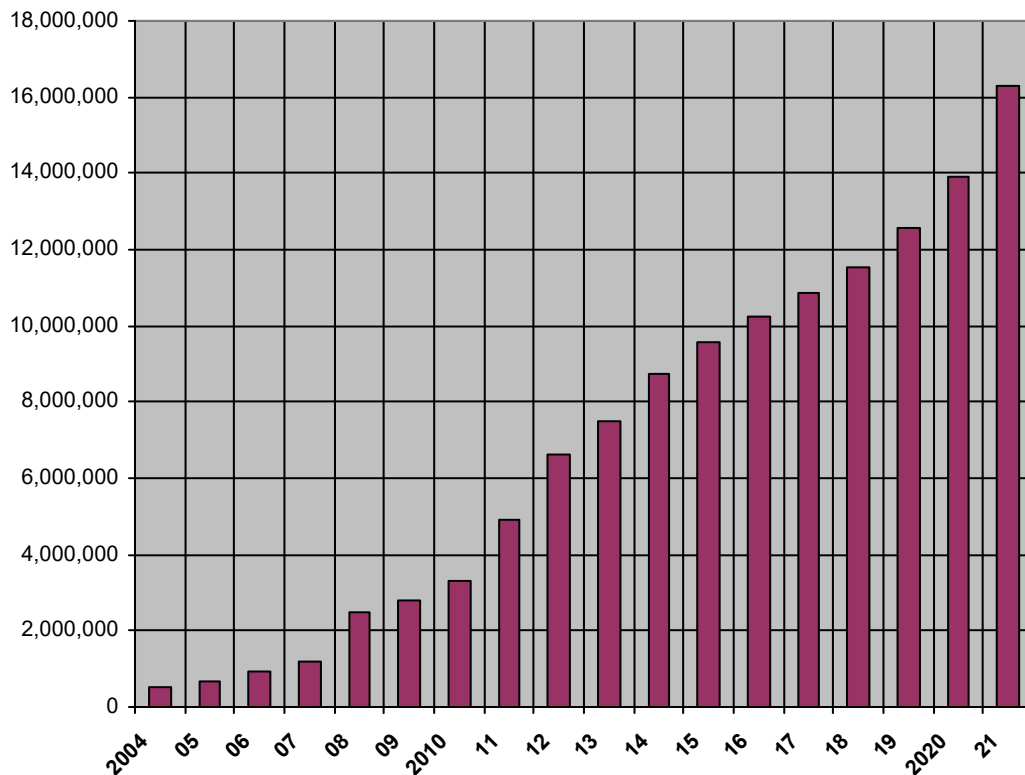
# CHINA BIBLE FUND

## *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 \\$3.00 to print.](#)

By God's grace and power, since 2000 we have printed and distributed more than 16.3 million Bibles to house church believers in China, with a record **2,371,690 in 2021 alone**. This equates to **6,498 Bibles every day, 271 per hour, or one full Bible every 13 seconds** throughout the year. Each one is a miracle in today's tense atmosphere for the Church in China. Thank you for praying and giving.

### Cumulative Graph showing the total number of Chinese Bibles printed by Asia Harvest: 16,301,871



# ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

*Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

*Because of your prayers and partnership, we ended 2021 supporting **1,571** Asian missionaries, serving among **1,203** unreached people groups. A reported **112,539** people experienced God's salvation last year.*



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

In 2021, those we support through the project led **112,539 people to salvation in Jesus Christ** (an average of 72 per worker). A total of **659,496 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: 1,400,644 Bibles printed in 146 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 Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere.

**In 2021 we printed and distributed 168,283 Bibles in 41 languages.** 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 2021 we printed Bibles through the Asian Bible Fund in the following languages:

**Ahirani, Bareli Rathwa, Bengali, Bhattiyali, Bodo Parja, Chuhari, Dangi, Desiya, Dhankavi, Dhundari, Didayi, Gamit (Gujarati script), Gamit (Hindi script), Garasia Adiwasi, Garasia Adiwasi (Hindi script), Gharwali, Gowli, Holiya, Indonesian, Juray Saora, Kharam, Konda Dhora, Koli Waduyari, Koya, Kuvi, Ladakhi, Lodha, Lodhi, Malay, Mewari, Munda, Nahali, Paliyan, Pengo, Shekhawati, Sirmauri, Soriyali, Telugu, Tinani, Vahadi-Nagpuri, Vietnamese**



# PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND

*Over 100,000 People Helped with Covid Relief*



We hoped the pandemic would have died down by the end of last year, but new variations brought more lockdowns and untold misery to the people of Asia. Thanks to your generous support, **we provided food and basic necessities to more than 100,000 impoverished people last year in 14 different Asian countries.** The churches we partner with gained such a shining reputation because of the loving help they provided. Many thousands of people have been added to the kingdom of God, after seeing the truth and light of Jesus demonstrated through the selfless acts of God's children.



## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND



*Because of your partnership we are currently supporting **1,914** 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 **186,592** children throughout Asia.*

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

## PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



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

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided assistance to the victims of natural disasters that have struck Asia. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and many people have come to know Jesus Christ. This project also provides physical and spiritual relief to Christian communities and families throughout Asia who have been affected by persecution.



## Asia Harvest Addresses

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# Asia Harvest

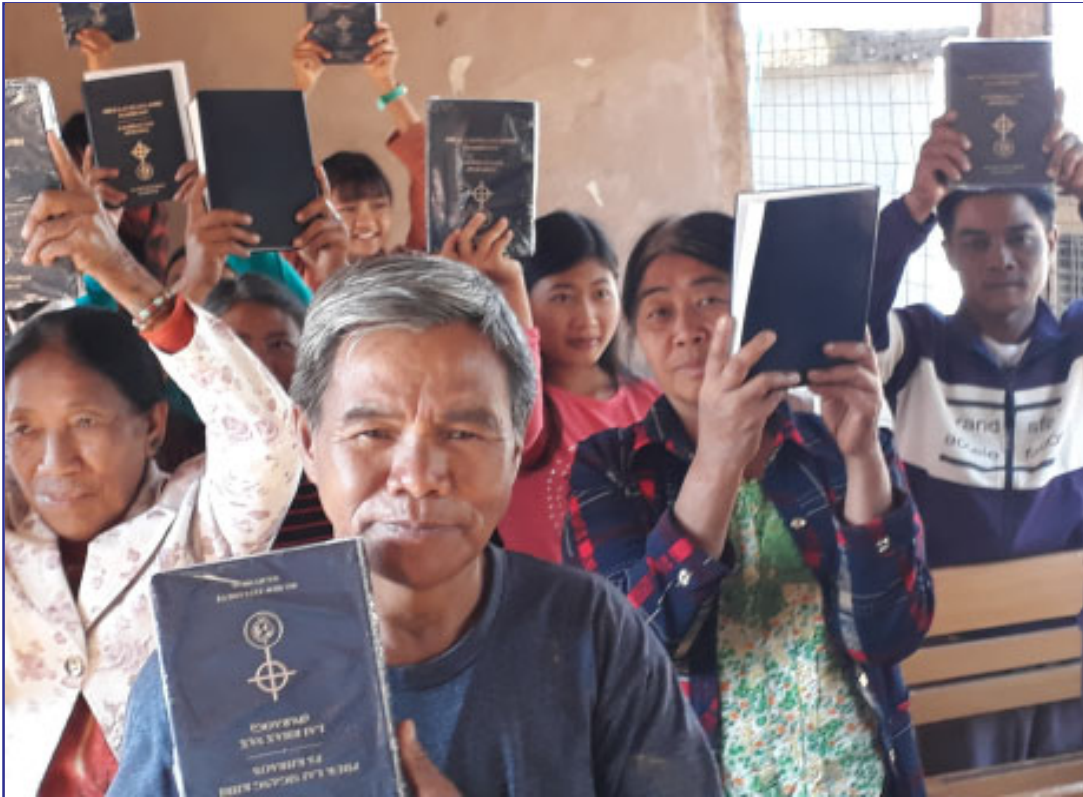


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March 2022 - Newsletter #180



## Bibles for the Wa People

From Demon-Worshippers to Children of God

# From the Frontlines

*“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in their hearts”* (Ecclesiastes 3:9).

*“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being’* (Acts 17:26-28).

You may never have heard of the **one million Wa people of northern Myanmar (formerly Burma) and southwest China**, but in this newsletter we would like to introduce you to some of our Wa brothers and sisters in Christ, and share how tens of thousands of them are receiving the Word of God in their own heart language for the first time, through our **Asian Bible Fund**.

Do you know that most missionaries, including us, have been confronted over the years by both heathens outside the Church and misguided people inside the Church, telling us that we should leave “peaceful, loving” tribal people like the Wa alone? “They don’t need Christianity,” we have been told. “It just messes up their beautiful, harmonious way of life.”

Such ignorant statements come from people who have obviously never spent much time on the ground in an Asian village. If they did, they would soon see how desperately the Wa and other tribes need the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Their “peaceful” communities are actually full of strife, bitterness and sin. In the case of the Wa people, they have lived in deep bondage to demons for countless generations, with curses and violence causing many to live in utter terror.

Please don’t be sucked in to the lie that any society can find peace or joy apart from God. The Word of God tells us: ***“We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one”*** (1 John 5:19).

The recent history of the Wa people has been very difficult and complex. Before Burma gained independence from Britain in 1948, many of the tribes had been promised their own nationhood, but the British cowardly reneged on their promises and abandoned tribes like the Wa, who were left to fight for survival.

As a result, to the present time various civil wars have raged in Myanmar, with tribal armies fighting for freedom from the cruel Burmese military that has killed hundreds of thousands of civilians over the decades.

Today, there are no less than 27 different insurgent armies across Myanmar! The Wa are divided into two main groups as shown on this map. The Northern Wa live in areas along the China border, and are ruled by the United Wa State Army, which has about 30,000 troops.



The northern area is closed to outsiders, and is deeply influenced by the Chinese Communists, who provide training and weapons to the Wa army. It is also one of the major drug-producing regions on earth. In recent years many Wa churches inside Myanmar have been forced to close and pastors have been arrested, due to the influence from China's Christian-hating President Xi.

Further south, the Southern Wa live near the Thailand border. They also have their own military, the Wa National Army. Separated by hundreds of miles of dense jungle and rugged mountains, the Wa people have fragmented into about 40 different dialect groups. All Wa people desperately need the Gospel, but have been deprived of God's Word in their language for generations.

The history of Christianity among the Wa is a long one, with God first reaching them with great power through a unique demonstration of His love and grace in the 1880s. The late Don Richardson's wonderful book, *Eternity in their Hearts*, tells the extraordinary story of how the Gospel first came to the Wa people:

*"The Wa were headhunters. Just once a year, in the planting season, Wa tribesmen felt compelled by bloodthirsty spirits to plant human heads in their fields along with their seeds—just to ensure a good crop. Neighboring tribes always wanted to leave for vacation when the Wa were planting their crops, but unfortunately that was when they had to plant their crops too.*

*A benign influence, however, was at work within the folk religion of the Wa people. From time-to-time prophets of the true God, whom the Wa called Siyeh,*



*arose to condemn headhunting and spirit-appeasement! One such prophet, Pu Chan, appeared during the 1880s. He persuaded several thousand Wa tribesmen to abandon headhunting and spirit worship on the grounds that the true God was about to send a long-awaited white brother with a copy of the lost book. If he came to the Wa territory and heard that the Wa were practicing evil things, he might think them unworthy of the true God's book and turn away again! If that happened, Pu Chan warned, surely the Wa would never get another chance to have the lost book restored to them.*

*One morning Pu Chan saddled a pony. 'Follow this pony,' he said to some of his disciples. 'Siyeh told me last night that the white brother has finally come near! Siyeh will cause this pony to lead you to him. While Pu Chan's disciples gaped in astonishment, the pony started walking. Expecting the pony to stop at the nearest stream, they followed it.'*

Two hundred miles away, an American missionary from Nebraska, William Young, had recently set up base in the town of Kengtung. One day Young went to the marketplace to preach among the people, and he noticed strangely garbed men gravitating toward him out of the throng in the market.

They were not Wa, but were men from the neighboring Lahu tribe, who God chose to receive the Gospel first. The Lahu had also been waiting for a white man to come with a lost book that would reconnect them to the true God, whom they called Gwi'sha in their language. Richardson continues the story:

*"They stared incredulously at the missionary's white face, the interior of the book in his hand, and listened to his description of the laws of God contained*



Left: A 1927 photo of Pu Chan, the Wa prophet who helped the Wa find the True God, and missionary William Young (right).

[Our thanks to Marcus Young, the grandson of William, for providing these two precious photos.]



*in that book. Then, in an outburst of powerful emotion, the Lahu pleaded with Young to follow them up into the mountains. ‘We as a people have been waiting for you for centuries,’ they explained. ‘We even have meeting houses built in some of our villages in readiness for your coming.’*

*Some of the men showed him bracelets of coarse rope hanging like manacles from their wrists. ‘We have worn ropes like these since time immemorial. They symbolize our bondage to evil spirits. You alone, as the messenger of Gwi’sha, may cut these manacles from our wrists—but only after you have brought the lost book of Gwi’sha to our very hearths!’*

*Nearly speechless with awe, Young went with them. Tens of thousands of Lahu became Christians, and it was at that stage that Pu Chan saddled his pony (200 miles away in Wa territory) and told his Wa disciples to follow it to the missing book and the messenger of the True God. When the pony finally arrived at the home of William Young, the Wa asked him: ‘Have you brought the book of God?’ Young nodded. The men, overcome with emotion, fell at his feet and blurted out, ‘This pony is saddled especially for you. Our people are all waiting. Fetch the book! We must be on our way!’*

Thousands of Wa heard the Gospel from both the Young family and the new Lahu Christians. They repented of their sins and gave their lives to Jesus Christ. Young’s son, Vincent, later translated the New Testament into Wa.

During much of the 20th century, many Wa people continued to outwardly follow Christ, but their faith generally slipped into dead formalism. A vibrant, life-giving revival was greatly needed among the Wa, lest the amazing breakthroughs of the past would go to waste.

One reason for the spiritual decline among the Wa was the problem with their Bible. Because of their widespread locations and multiple dialects, only a fraction of Wa were able to understand the dialect the Bible was available in.

Some years ago, a Wa Bible committee was set up to address this problem, and a new translation was launched in a common vernacular that many more Wa people could understand.

Asia Harvest has been greatly blessed to provide **more than 80,000 new Wa Bibles**, free of charge, through our **Asian Bible Fund**. There are many requests for more, and we invite you to prayerfully consider supporting this strategic endeavor.

In the following pages we are privileged to introduce you to just a few of our Wa brothers and sisters, as they share how they are overjoyed to finally have God’s Word in a form they can easily understand.



"My name is Moe, and I am 19-years-old. My family were animists, so we served the spirits and had never heard about Jesus. My friend told me the Good News, and I went to church with her. The pastor gave me a Bible and I brought it home, but my father was the village shaman so he didn't let me read the Bible. One day my mother fell ill, and my father spent all our money to try to make her well. He heard that Jesus could heal the sick, so he let her go to the church with me. She was healed that day, and now my whole family are Christians! Thank you for the wonderful Bibles you freely gave us."

"My name is Nyi. Everyone in my family lived in fear of the spirits for generations. We did all we could to appease them, but in return we got death and suffering. My mother died when I was a baby, and my father died when I was 8. Then when I was 13 my brother died and there was no one to take care of me. I started using drugs, and at my lowest point a Christian told me about Jesus, and He changed my life! I even graduated from Bible school, and now I serve my Wa people, getting as many saved as I can. The Word of God you gave us is so precious!"



"My name is Kal, and I am 37-years-old. I pastor a church and I am also the General Secretary of the Wa Baptist Association. It has been very difficult to get Bibles in the Wa controlled areas, because there are many war zones. Many pastors in our northern area have been arrested and their churches closed down, under pressure from the Communists. Many Wa are desperate to read the Bible, but it has been impossible to find any. Now God has answered our prayers and we have received His Word for free from you! The Scriptures have shown us His ways, and they are alive and powerful and can transform our lives. On behalf of the Wa people I thank you and ask the Lord to richly bless you!"



"My name is Mrs. Kring, and I am 35-years-old. I was not raised as a Christian and when I was 12, I was afflicted with brain cancer. My parents sold our house and land in order to help me, but nothing worked. One day a Christian came to the hospital. He told me Jesus is the Healer. I believed, and after two days I was completely restored. Because of this miracle all my family accepted Christ. Our Wa people could not obtain Bibles anywhere. Even though the Bible Society claim to sell them, we found that is false. All we could do is cry out to God, and He heard our prayers! His Word is our greatest need and now we will grow in every area of our lives. Thank you for your wonderful gift of life!"

"My name is Elizabeth, and I am 25-years-old. Today was the happiest and most blessed day for me and our Wa people, because God has answered our prayers for His holy Word. It is what we have long hungered for the most. People everywhere are very excited, and I would just like to say 'thank you very much' to everyone who donated so that we could have free Bibles. May the Lord bless you and we pray you will continue to be concerned for the Wa people."



"My name is Khuat, and I am a 53-year-old pastor. My parents were animists who offered sacrifices to the spirits every month, and our family was plunged into poverty and bondage to cruel demons. In 2001 I heard of God's love and forgiveness, and I committed my life to Jesus. We smashed all our idols and the Lord blessed us in every way. I was eager to read the Bible, but for years I could not find even one for sale. Now you have brought many Bibles to us, and we are overwhelmed with joy. Thank you! You have done the greatest thing possible for our Wa people."







“My name is Mrs. Kap, and I am 36-years-old. I was raised in a Christian family and was saved in my Sunday school class when I was a teenager. After I accepted the Lord I eagerly wanted to read the Bible, but there were no Bibles in our area. Most Wa people had never seen a copy of the Bible. I prayed to God every day to own and be able to read His Word. Then after 13 years of praying, God answered! My pastor presented me with my very own Wa Bible on Christmas Day. What a wonderful gift from the Lord! Thank you so much for your love and concern for our Wa people. May the Lord bless you more and more.

“I am Pastor Kuhn. I am 64-years-old. Even though I have been a Christian most of my life, we have always struggled to access God’s Word. The Bible Society used to print an old version of the Wa Bible, but it was difficult to understand, they printed very few copies, and they charged far too much money for us to afford. By the grace of God, He knew our needs and He touched His children around the world to pray, give and work so that we received free Bibles from you, in a language we can easily understand. The day they arrived was a great blessing from heaven, and the most precious and unforgettable day for our Wa people. Thank you and may God bless you!”



The Wa Christians highlighted in this newsletter are representative of countless thousands of others who receive life-changing Bibles through Asia Harvest’s two Bible projects. The **China Bible Fund** continues to strengthen and equip house church believers in China. Each full Chinese Bible is printed and delivered for just **\$3.00**, while the **Asian Bible Fund** continues to provide the Scriptures in numerous languages of Asia for an average of **\$2.70 per Bible**.

If you would like to help provide God’s Word to hungry believers like these, we invite you to fill out the yellow response form in this newsletter and send it back along with your gift. Alternatively, one-time or monthly donations to the project can be made via our website: **[www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)**

## CHINA BIBLE FUND



**Current Total: 16,449,996**  
***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 \$3.00 to print and deliver.**

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



***We currently support 1,598 Asian evangelists***  
***among 1,203 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 **661,386 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: 1,415,702 Bibles printed in 146 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 **2,096** living martyrs.*



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

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## PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



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

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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May 2022 - Newsletter #181



## The Asian Workers' Fund

The Heartbeat of Asia Harvest

# Love Never Burns Out

by Elijah Gergan



In this newsletter we are honored to share a guest message by **Elijah Gergan**, whom we first met at a conference in the Himalayas 25 years ago. Gergan is a Tibetan word meaning “teacher”. If you have read our book, **“Tibet: The Roof of the World,”** you may remember the first ever Tibetan to have contact with missionaries was Elijah’s great-great grandfather Sodnam Wangyal (Tempu Gergan) in the 1850s.

We have also shared the epic story of how Elijah’s grandfather, Yoseb Gergan, completed the first translation of the Tibetan Bible in 1948. In an amazing testimony of God’s grace and preserving power, Elijah has continued his family’s wonderful Christian heritage that stretches back over 150 years. Next month, he will celebrate the milestone of 40 years of faithful ministry among Tibetan people. He recently shared this word of encouragement with us:

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***“Elijah was afraid and ran for his life... He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. ‘I have had enough, Lord,’ he said. ‘Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors’”*** (1 Kings 19:3-4).

Burnout is one of the most prevalent social diseases of our time. It occurs when someone feels overwhelmed, emotionally drained, and is unable to meet constant demand. It takes all joy out of a person’s career, friendships, and family.

When Elijah was burnt out, he felt like he had nothing left to give and was pessimistic toward life. The Apostle Paul was no stranger to sacrificial service and hard work. His work for God’s people was relentless, and he outdid all of the other apostles, saying, ***“I worked harder than all of them”*** (1 Cor. 15:10).

Unlike Elijah, and despite his physical limitations and severe opposition, Paul was able to write from prison: ***“Rejoice in the Lord always”*** (Phil. 4:4). He described his life as being ***“poured out like a drink offering”*** to God (Phil. 2:17). Paul held nothing back from the Lord. For him, ***“to live is Christ and to die is gain”*** (Phil. 1:21).

Paul’s complete existence was only for the Lord Jesus. His willing “giving away” of his life meant that everything he did was with the mindset of Jesus. Such “poured out” lives can never be “burned out” lives. People with no hidden selfishness are on sure footing. Their hearts are not divided, and they are able to rejoice always in God’s will, praise and prayer. Paul was often alone, but never lonely, isolated, or out of step! Those whose poured-out lives are constantly replenished by the Holy Spirit will never be “burned out”!

# The Asian Workers' Fund

## *The Heartbeat of Asia Harvest*

*Recently, quite a few people have asked us about the Asian Workers' Fund and how it operates. As it is one of our foundational projects that we have run for decades, we thought it would be a good idea to share the principles of the Asian Workers' Fund, and explain why we consider it the single most important project we do. Paul has often said that if the Lord appeared and said we could only keep one project, he would choose the Asian Workers' Fund, for it is at the very center of God's purposes in the world today. We would like to take this opportunity to answer some of the common questions we are asked about the project:*

### **What is the Asian Workers' Fund and why is it important?**

The project supports Asian church-planting evangelists who are serving among the most unreached and unengaged people groups in Asia. We deliberately choose workers among obscure groups that others consider difficult or impossible to reach. In Asia, this often means we are trying to reach Muslim, Buddhist, or Hindu groups. Our thinking is in line with the Apostle Paul, who said: ***"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation"*** (Romans 15:20).

Let us not forget that today there are still thousands of unreached people groups in the world (mostly in Asia). Until each group has received a clear presentation of the Good News about what Jesus Christ has done for them on the Cross, He will not return. It was the Lord who told us: ***"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations [ethnic groups], and then the end will come"*** (Matthew 24:14).

We do not support evangelists in "easier" places or among people groups that already have strong churches, even though there would be many more individuals saved. Our focus is not only on reaching individuals, but on penetrating entire ethnic and language groups that have never heard the Gospel. In this regard, a key aim of the project is to help start movements to Christ, rather than to maintain a work that is already underway.

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***Cover photo: Hundreds of ethnic minority people in southwest China listening to an evangelist supported through our Asian Worker's Fund. This meeting took place several years ago, before the intense persecution commenced. Unfortunately, meetings like this are not possible in China at the moment.***



Subsequently, we are not looking simply to support as many workers as possible. Rather, we are selective, and most applications we receive are not approved. We also regularly evaluate those we are supporting, to ensure the project remains “cutting edge” and strategic for the kingdom of God.

In our experience, much missionary activity begins with a vision to share the Gospel with those who have never heard, but ends up evolving into “Christians helping Christians.” This in itself is not a bad thing, but it is not the objective of the Asian Workers’ Fund.

We also do not support pastors through this project. We believe the believers in each congregation—no matter how small—should be responsible for supporting the needs of those who shepherd them. If an evangelist’s role evolves into being a church pastor, we allocate their support to someone new, while encouraging them to train up their church members to take the Gospel to unreached people groups.



*An evangelist in Indonesia preaching the Gospel to attentive fishermen and their families.*

Despite the strict parameters we apply to the project, we are currently supporting **1,544 frontline Asian missionaries in 21 countries, who share the Gospel among 1,197** different people groups (many workers are reaching multiple groups).

### ***To Serve and not to be Served***

At the time of writing this newsletter, **we are partnering with 70 different Asian church and mission groups, who oversee the 1,544 field workers.**

Some people have wondered how Asia Harvest is able to “take care” of 1,500 missionaries spread over 21 countries. The answer is: we don’t! That would be impossible. The real work is done by the leaders of the 70 Asian missions we partner with.

They oversee the courageous individuals who have given their lives to serve in far-flung parts of Asia, from the frozen mountain passes of the Himalayas, to the grasslands of Mongolia and Central Asia, to the humid jungles of Southeast Asia.

Each missionary must be a member of a good Christian fellowship in their country, and be commissioned and sent to the field by their home church. We have developed partnerships with many church and mission leaders, and we send all support through them. They are responsible for mobilizing, training and placing each worker. The leaders also distribute the resources we send, provide reports and accountability, and take care of each individual missionary on their team.

Every mission organization says they are serving the local Church in each country. However, in reality Asian believers often end up serving the vision of the foreign mission, and not the other way around. We don’t care if none of the individual workers have ever heard of Asia Harvest. In fact, we prefer it that way.

You won’t find a single building anywhere in Asia with “Asia Harvest” above the door. We have no interest at all in promoting ourselves, and if we did put our name on things it would quickly attract persecution and be shut down anyway. Our relationships are with the Asian ministry leaders we support. If the evangelists on the field ask where the funds come from, their ministry leaders often tell them: “It comes from God and His people”.

From the time the Asian Workers’ Fund began, we have been careful not to create “dependency”, so there are several non-negotiable principles we adhere to. By giving through the leaders of existing Asian churches and missions, the support we provide is not seen as “foreign” money, which can attract persecution and create problems in certain countries. Instead, by giving through existing, God-anointed leadership structures, we help strengthen the Body of Christ in Asia.



*Evangelists in India preparing to ride their bicycles to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the lost in their district.*

### ***How is Each Worker's Support Made Up?***

Each missionary is first and foremost required to be supported by their local church, and by friends and family members. This way, they do not rely solely on the funds we send.

Missions history is full of examples of local church movements collapsing when missionaries were expelled, and their funds dried up. We are determined not to be in that position, so what we provide should never be considered a "salary". Rather, it is a special blessing for the workers, but not the main part of their income. What we give does make a huge difference to the workers and their families, however. We also help with needs such as travel assistance, so that evangelists can travel widely to proclaim the Gospel, without the burden of having to pay for bus or train tickets from their limited personal income.

The Lord Jesus said: ***"Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him"*** (John 7:18). In a similar way, the approach of Asia Harvest over the years has helped develop many healthy relationships, as key Asian leaders have come to trust that we are there to serve them with love and respect, and not to be served. We truly come alongside them to help them get the job done more effectively, and we never interfere or impose a hidden agenda on them.

### *How Much we Give, and why we Raise support in \$25 increments*

Our decision to raise support for the Asian Workers' Fund in \$25 increments dates back about 20 years, when we used to match each donor to a specific worker. We soon found that system didn't work, as when people stopped or changed their giving, we were left scrambling to try to find another donor for the next month's support. This created uncertainty and stress for the workers on the field, as they and their families were never sure if they would still receive support the next month.

Instead of evangelists receiving their help from one source, the Lord led us to restructure the project so that different donors essentially take a "part share" in one worker's support.

By spreading the responsibility for one worker's support among different donors, we have found that if someone stops giving, we can quickly reallocate that portion to a new donor, or we make up any shortfall from "where needed most" donations. By restructuring the project this way, we have not missed a single commitment to the many hundreds of workers we support in the past 20 years.

Therefore, as we collect funds in \$25 increments, if someone starts giving \$50 per month to the Asian Workers' Fund, we allocate two workers to them and send two prayer cards. If someone gives \$100 per month, we send four prayer cards, and so on. This also encourages more prayer for those on the field, as supporters around the world intercede for the evangelists and for a breakthrough among the people group they are engaging.

We send every dollar of what comes in for the Asian Workers' Fund to the frontlines in Asia. Nothing is deducted for administration or any other expense. The amount we give each worker depends on a number of factors, including what country they are in, if they live in a city or village, whether they are married or single, how many children they have, etc. Generally, most workers receive an average of \$75 to \$100 per month from us, **plus many other resources to help them do their work more effectively**. We will share more about those in a moment.

### *A Birds-Eye View of God's Work in Asia*

We require regular updates from all workers we support. A few of their reports and photos may end up being featured in our newsletters, unless they work in a sensitive country where publishing their information might lead to persecution.



By overseeing the Asian Workers' Fund, we get a sense of what the Lord Jesus is doing as He builds His Church throughout Asia. We get to see and hear about the ebbs and flows of the harvest field. For example, right now we can tell you that the Gospel is thriving strongly in parts of Indonesia, India, Laos, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, and among various people groups in the Himalayas.

On the other hand, the worst persecution in 40 years in China has caused a rapid deterioration in the work with China's 400 ethnic minority groups. The same could be said of Vietnam. We still support many Chinese missionaries, but the situation there has become so grim that many of the same workers who used to report leading 30 or 40 people to Christ in a six-month period are now reporting between zero and a few salvations. This is happening as President Xi ramps up his efforts to obliterate Christianity from China and replace it with his peculiar blend of God-hating, power-hungry, money-making Marxism.

### ***Other Resources that Help Get the Job Done***

While the Asian Workers' Fund provides a base of support for individual evangelists, each year we actually give much more by equipping them with the resources they need to get the job done. In this respect they are like soldiers in an army,



*These women in Bangladesh are now Christians after they completed a literacy class led by local missionaries we support through the Asian Workers' Fund. In many cases, the first words they ever read is the Gospel. Often, by the end of a course, two-thirds of the women have repented of their sins and follow Jesus. This is just one example of the many ways we help the Good News spread among the unreached in Asia.*

where the equipment they carry determines the success of their mission more than just the compensation they receive.

Apart from the basic worker support, over the years we have been honored to supply numerous resources to those on the frontlines, including hundreds of thousands of Bibles, millions of Gospel tracts, hundreds of bicycles, motorcycles, electronic equipment, warm weather gear, and travel assistance. We also fund seminars and conferences that bring the workers together to pray, fellowship and strategize.

Through other projects such as the **Persecution & Relief Fund**, **Living Martyrs' Fund** and **The Children's Fund**, we strengthen the workers and enhance the fruitfulness of their ministries by supporting orphans, widows, sewing centers, literacy classes, children's ministry, digging fresh-water wells, and numerous other initiatives.

None of these are mere social works. They are done to help share the gospel with the lost, and over the years they have been the catalyst for drawing many tens of thousands of people into the kingdom of God.

We currently have dozens of unsupported Asian missionaries among unreached people groups, especially in India, Nepal, Laos, Bhutan, and Indonesia. If you, your home group or church would like to support one or more of these workers, we invite you to do so through our **Asian Workers' Fund**.

For each \$25 per month committed, we will allocate an evangelist to you, and will send a laminated prayer card with information about the worker, and a profile of the people group they are targeting, to help you pray for them. For those who continue to support the project, written updates from the field are provided every six months.

If you would like to help partner with strategic Asian missionaries as they fulfill the Great Commission, please fill out the yellow response form in this newsletter and send it back along with your gift. Alternatively, one-time or monthly donations to the project can be made via our secure website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

## CHINA BIBLE FUND



**Current Total: 16,829,351**  
***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 \$3.00 to print and deliver.**

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



***We currently support 1,544 Asian evangelists among 1,197 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 **922,302 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: 1,461,133 Bibles printed in 146 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 **2,096** 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 **188,912** 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 help 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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June 2022 - Newsletter #182



## XINJIANG

*A New Book by Paul Hattaway*

# From the Frontlines

*“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.*

*Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.’” (Revelation 2:12-16).*

It is a great joy and privilege to serve the persecuted Church throughout Asia, and the many invaluable lessons of life and faith we have learnt from them are too many to count. We share one such testimony in this newsletter. However, we must be careful not to go too far by idolizing persecuted believers as though they are on a higher spiritual plane than the rest of us.

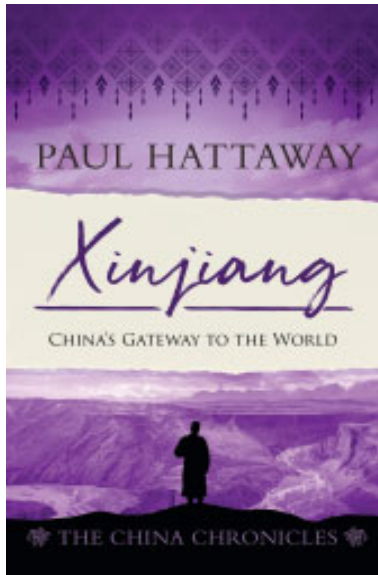
The Church in Pergamum was no doubt eager to hear what the risen Lord Jesus had written to them. He started by commending them for their perseverance in suffering, and one of their members had even been martyred for his faith. But in the next breath the Lord gave a solemn warning to them, threatening to come and fight against some of the church members if they would not repent! Being persecuted does not guarantee holiness in our lives. Being washed by the water of the Word and transformed by the Holy Spirit produces holiness and the fruit of the Spirit.

Persecution brings intense pressure to frail people, and they often respond negatively to the pressure. This is the reality of our walk with the Living God. We need Him every moment, and His grace sustains us. Let us be thankful for our brothers and sisters who have endured so much for the kingdom of God, but may we never idolize them by looking to get from them things that can only be obtained as we abide in the glorious presence of the King of Kings.

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*Front cover: Camels crossing the Kumtag Desert in eastern Xinjiang.*

*Back cover: A Uyghur street butcher in the ancient city of Kashgar.*



# XINJIANG

## - China's Gateway to the World -

*Book 6 of 'The China Chronicles'*

by Paul Hattaway



In this newsletter we are pleased to announce the sixth 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 and are enriching the spiritual lives of those who read them.

Xinjiang (pronounced Shin-jeung") is a vast region in northwest China that is two-and-a-half times the size of Texas (or seven times larger than the United Kingdom). It has been much in the news in recent years because of the genocide the Chinese Communist Party has committed there against more than one million Muslim Uyghur people. Xinjiang also has a long Christian history dating back 1,400 years. Today there are nearly one million believers, mostly among the Han Chinese who have migrated into the region in recent decades. This book focuses on the heroic efforts to reach the Uyghurs and other Muslim groups who remain largely untouched by the Gospel.

The remainder of this newsletter is an excerpt from 'XINJIANG: China's Gateway to the World'. It shares the gripping testimony of Simon Zhao, who went to Xinjiang in 1949, only for the Communists to throw him in prison for 31 years, where he was beaten almost daily. Thinking he had been long forgotten by both God and Christians, the Lord miraculously brought Simon out of prison and gave him a powerful ministry among China's house churches, inspiring them to carry the Gospel to the unreached.

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.



## *Simon Zhao - A Life Poured out for Jesus*



*Wen Muling and Simon Zhao—a couple deemed worthy to suffer for the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Simon Zhao Haizhen was in his early 30s when he was appointed the leader of evangelism in a Chinese mission group called the Northwest Spiritual Band.

During a prayer meeting, the Holy Spirit gave Simon a vision as he prayed over a map of China. The Lord focused his thoughts on Xinjiang, so he placed his hands over that part of the map and prayed with great fervency.

Later, Simon met other Christians who had also been called by God to take the gospel to Xinjiang and the Muslim regions beyond. Among them was a young woman named Wen Muling, who later became his wife.

Simon Zhao led a team of six Northwest Spiritual Band missionaries to Xinjiang in 1949. They traveled much of the way on foot, though in some remote areas they rode horses or camels. On the way they won many soldiers to faith in Christ, for it was a troubled time in China's history with widespread upheaval.

Eager to plant the gospel in virgin soil, in the winter of 1950 Zhao led his team to a remote oasis town, but the new Communist authorities ordered them to leave. They moved west to Kashgar, where a few days later Zhao was arrested and thrown into

prison. His pocket Bible was confiscated, and three long decades passed before he saw another Bible.

Every member of the Northwest Spiritual Band was imprisoned and given extremely harsh sentences, with only Simon Zhao coming out alive. His wife Wen Muling was pregnant with their first child at the time of her arrest, and she suffered a miscarriage. In 1959 she died in the women's prison, but cruelly, Simon wasn't informed about it until 14 years later in 1973.

During his first few weeks and months in the prison labor camp, the guards tried to make Simon renounce his faith, but when that failed, they ordered him to stop praying and beat him every time they caught him doing so. He never stopped praying, but learned to do so in secret when nobody was watching.

After a while, the guards thought Zhao must have changed because they never saw him praying, so they ordered him to write an article for the prison newspaper, praising the transformative power of the Communist system. When they saw what he had written, the guards flew into a rage. His article consisted of a short poem about the beauty of Jesus and a sketch of the cross.

The prison authorities tortured Simon mercilessly, slamming a heavy wooden bench on his back and kicking him all over his body. His sentence was extended for many more years. He was sent to work in a coal mine, where most prisoners died within a few months because of the filthy conditions and back-breaking work. He was required to meet a daily quota of several tons of coal—an impossible task for such



a small and frail man. Not only did he have to mine the coal, but he also had to carry it to the surface in a basket tied to his back.

Year after year, the prisoners were forced to work 14 hours a day, seven days a week. The food was meagre and rancid. In the summer there was sweltering heat, and the winter temperatures plummeted to well below freezing. Hundreds of prisoners came to the mine only to perish within a few months. On many occasions, Simon Zhao was so exhausted that he could only crawl on the ground with his load. His body deteriorated, although his mind remained sharp.

For years Simon discreetly witnessed to many of his fellow inmates, and some believed in Jesus. There were a few other Christians in the labor camp, but the authorities placed them in separate cells and work units, allowing them to have only fleeting contact with each other.

Apart from the faithful presence of his Lord, who had promised never to leave or forsake him, Simon felt completely alone. For all the years he remained in confinement, he was not allowed to receive any visitors. His relatives didn't know whether he was dead or alive, and as the years of silence stretched into decades, few people thought about or prayed for him.

Simon Zhao later recalled that during those harsh years, he would periodically look up at the stars and remember the vision God had given him and his co-workers to take the gospel all the way back to Jerusalem. He often prayed, "Lord, I will never be able to go to Jerusalem, but I pray you will raise up a new generation of Chinese believers to fulfil the vision."

After many years of suffering in the coal mine Simon was almost dead, so the authorities transferred him to a chemical factory in another part of Xinjiang. This new job was even worse, for he was exposed to toxic gases and poisonous chemicals. Every evening after work he was required to report to the local prison, where the beatings continued.

Despite the brutal treatment meted out to Zhao, God had not forgotten His servant. On one occasion during a severe winter storm, the guards refused to let Simon stay in the heated cell block, stripping him to his underwear and forcing him to stand outside in the snow. As they pushed him out the door they mockingly said, "You believe in your God, so pray and ask Him to keep you warm!"

For the first few minutes, the cold wind tore into his flesh like a razor. Simon cried out to the Lord for mercy, something amazing happened. He felt a tremendous warmth, so much so that he soon had sweat dripping from his body as if he was relaxing in a sauna! The snow around his feet began to melt from the warmth emanating from his body, and he called out to his cellmates. When they looked

out the window, they could scarcely believe their eyes. Steam was rising from his body!

Such dramatic miracles were uncommon, however, and for most of the time he suffered terribly. The Uyghur prisoners were especially cruel to Simon because he was a hated Chinese “pig-eater.” He later described the way the Uyghurs beat him as “the same way they surround and pounce on a goat just before they kill it.”

On one occasion, Simon was beaten and kicked so severely that his skull was fractured and he fell to the ground. While unconscious, he had a vision in which the Lord spoke lovingly to him: “My child, I am with you. I shall never leave you or forsake you.” When he regained consciousness, he touched his head where his skull had been smashed and discovered that the wound had been miraculously healed.

Simon Zhao was beaten for most of the 31 years he spent in prison. It was only during the last several years, when he was an elderly man in his sixties, that he wasn’t subjected to physical torture. During those long years behind bars he wrote this short poem:



*I want to experience the same pain and suffering of Jesus on the Cross,*

*The spear in His side, the pain in His heart.*

*I'd rather feel the pain of shackles on my feet,*

*Than ride through Egypt in Pharaoh's chariot.*

One day, in 1981, the prison superintendent announced: “The government of the People’s Republic of China has decided to have mercy on you and show you lenience for the crimes you have committed against our nation. You are free to go.”

The man of God shuffled back to his cell dazed and numb. He had never expected this day would come.

*Simon Zhao after his release in 1981.*



When Simon was first arrested in 1950 he had been in the prime of his life. He was an energetic man in his early thirties, and his beautiful young wife was expecting their first child. God had called them to preach the Gospel to unreached Muslim groups, and life was rewarding and exciting. Now, 31 years later, he had a long white beard and his wife and baby had died decades earlier.

Zhao walked out the prison gates into a completely different China from the one he had known. He had missed all but the first few months of Mao Zedong's reign, including his death in 1976. He had missed the insanity of the Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1976, when millions of people were killed by fanatical Red Guards. His body was damaged from decades of torture and back-breaking work, and his face was marked with deep lines from more than three decades in the lion's den.

Nobody was waiting for Simon Zhao outside the prison. Everyone he knew had either died or had long forgotten about him. He had nowhere to go and nobody to see. Penniless, he couldn't even afford to catch a bus into the city.

The prison labor camp had been a part of his life for so long that he decided to construct a makeshift hut just outside the entrance. As he lay in his damp, cold hut, his mind sometimes wandered back to his life as a young man and the call God had given him. He had tried to obey God, but it hadn't worked out. He hoped he would soon die, for he knew that heaven was a much better place, where all the pain would be removed forever.

After some time, Christians in Kashgar learned about Simon Zhao and his testimony. With deep respect they brought the old saint food and a Bible, and they helped him in various ways.

News of Simon's remarkable survival spread from church to church in Xinjiang, and soon stories about him were carried back to other parts of China.

A house church leader from Henan Province traveled to Xinjiang to meet him, and persuaded him to make the long journey to Henan to share his vision for unreached people groups with a new generation of Christians. One senior house church leader shared the impact Simon Zhao had on his church members:

"I remember Simon Zhao as a most respectful older brother. He was a great soldier for Christ—one of the greatest Chinese Christians. He was a tremendous Bible teacher, able to wisely handle the Word of God. The Holy Spirit always spoke to people's hearts through his ministry. Until that time, mission work had not been a major priority in our churches. We were busy winning people to Christ, but the Lord began to show us that we also needed to lift up our eyes and expand our vision beyond China's borders, especially to the countries bound by Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism.



*Simon Zhao sharing at a home fellowship in the late 1980s.*

Our church members loved Uncle Simon like their own father, and felt very close to him. He had been deprived of fellowship with other believers for decades, but now the Lord gave him spiritual sons and daughters who deeply respected him. Sisters in the church cooked for him, washed his clothes, and helped him however they could. They treated him as they would an angel of God.

At that time we published a magazine to encourage believers. Simon refused to write any articles or share his testimony, saying, 'I don't want to have any attention focused on me.'

His ministry was very powerful, and a fire was lit in the heart of everyone who heard him. Many tears flowed, and thousands of believers were touched and received a call to missionary work."

Simon Zhao finally went to be with the Lord on December 7, 2001, among Christians who loved him. He was 83-years-old.

Since that time, the Chinese house church networks have sent thousands of missionaries into the unreached nations surrounding China.

"Uncle Simon," as he came to be affectionately known, had learned that the Lord always finishes what He starts, and is faithful to fulfil all of His promises.

## CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **17,041,826**  
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 \$3.00 to print and deliver.**

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



*We currently support **1,520** Asian evangelists  
among **1,195** 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 **922,632 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: **1,490,901** Bibles printed in **146** 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 **2,096** 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 **191,697** 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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August 2022 - Newsletter #183



## GENOCIDE IN XINJIANG

*& The Camel Herder's Daughter*

# From the Frontlines

*“Rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.... Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus” (Revelation 12:12, 17).*

If you watch the news, you have probably seen XINJIANG (pronounced “Shin-jeung”) mentioned at various times over the past several years. Some people may be shocked that we used the word “Genocide” in the title of this newsletter. That description is not our own. The term has officially been declared against China for their horrific acts in Xinjiang by the United Nations, US Congress, British and European parliaments, and a large number of independent bodies.

In this newsletter we will highlight some of the things being committed against the people of Xinjiang by President Xi Jinping and his Chinese Communist Party. As many as three million people have been systematically destroyed in concentration camps over the last several years. However, our primary concern is for those victims the secular media will never mention — **the Body of Christ in Xinjiang.**

If this is the first you have heard of the situation in Xinjiang, you can easily search “Xinjiang Genocide” on the internet and find hundreds of articles, videos and other resources related to the sick and demonic events that have unfolded there.

If you are tired of all the conflict and stress that has been affecting society in recent years, we are sorry to let you know that the Chinese Communist Party is now aggressively pursuing its global ambitions. Sensing America is at a weak point in its history, China is setting up military bases from Africa to the South Pacific and across Asia, and their influence is already embedded in every corner of the globe. They have stood up as bullies in the region, challenging anyone who might dare to come and stop them.

Many Westerners don’t understand that **the foundation of Communism has always been militant atheism.** They hate God and those who follow Him, and

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*Front cover: A Uyghur man demonstrating how he was tied up and tortured by the Chinese authorities in Xinjiang.*

*Back cover: The spectacular Heavenly Lake in Xinjiang’s Tianshan Mountains.*

China longs to eliminate what it considers one of its gravest threats - the Good News about a carpenter's son who lived two thousand years ago. They fear His power to transform people's lives and to gain millions of devoted followers, and they have looked on in confusion as the number of Christians in China has grown from about one million in 1949 when the Communists came to power, to over 100 million today.

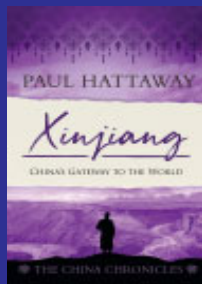
Because of their fear and loathing of Jesus Christ, the Chinese Communist leaders have a different view on recent history than most people around the world. If you ask anyone familiar with China what significant event took place on June 4, 1989, they will reply that was the day China crushed the Tian'anmen Square pro-democracy uprising in Beijing by mowing down the protestors with machine guns, and by running tanks over the spines of thousands of their own citizens.

We happened to be at Tian'anmen Square shortly after the massacre, but by then all evidence of the carnage had been erased, with the corpses burnt to ashes and teams with high-powered hoses washing the blood and ashes down the drains. Just days later, the Square was reopened to tourists as though nothing had ever happened.

To the Communist Party, however, something else happened on June 4, 1989, which causes them to tremble. On that very same day, demonstrations started by a group of praying Christians were held in faraway Poland, that saw the people overwhelmingly reject Communism. The movement quickly spread to other Eastern European nations, and at an amazingly rapid pace, the entire Soviet Union came tumbling down!

The Communist Party in China has publicly stated that Christians were to blame for the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, and this explains why they are willing to do whatever it takes to try and suppress the growth of the Church.

As the Scripture quoted at the top of this section teaches, the oppression of Christians in Xinjiang and elsewhere is best understood only when the spiritual force behind such attacks is identified as satanic that must be resisted with spiritual weapons of righteousness.



**To order a copy of the XINJIANG 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 Xinjiang book and we will gladly send you one.*



In the remainder of this newsletter, we would like to share two excerpts from our new book, 'XINJIANG: China's Gateway to the World'. The first part will help you understand some of the awful things that have happened in Xinjiang in the last five years, and the impact it has had on the Body of Christ there.

Please note that in the Notes section of our book we share dozens of links and sources for this information, but a lack of space prohibits us from listing them in this newsletter. The full chapter from our book, with footnotes, can be found on our website.

To lighten the atmosphere, in the second part of our newsletter we share an encouraging testimony from Xinjiang called "The Camel Herder's Daughter," which reminds us of God's faithfulness to His own, even in the midst of great darkness.

## ***2017 - The Year Everything Changed in Xinjiang***

Tensions have existed in Xinjiang between the Han Chinese and Muslim peoples (especially the Uyghurs) for centuries, but the situation broke into full-scale death and destruction in 2017, when conventional arrests were discarded in favor of mass detainment of every person the Communist Party considered a potential threat.

Although to the outside world the dramatic actions in Xinjiang seemed haphazard and rushed, they were carefully formulated and systematically implemented by the government.

For China, a major tipping point which led to this overwhelming action took place in the leafy city of Kunming in faraway southwest China at about nine o'clock in the evening of March 1, 2014.

On that day, a group of eight Uyghurs (six men and two women), dressed in black and wielding long knives, ran through the crowds of people inside the Kunming train station, slashing men, women, and children at random. By the end of the night, 31 people had been slashed to death and another 143 were injured, many with life-threatening conditions.

The incident in Kunming understandably shocked the nation, and the ability of the Communist Party to protect its own citizens was questioned. President Xi Jinping, who had only assumed office 15 months earlier, called for a focus on fighting terrorism, mobilized civilians to support policing, and set up an all-encompassing initiative called "nets above and snares below".

The subsequent unprecedented crackdown in Xinjiang resulted in up to three million people being interned in concentration camps throughout the region, where they were subjected to brainwashing and "re-education" programs that the Communist authorities cynically describe as "vocational retraining centers."

## *The Threat to Xi's Vision*

A cornerstone of Xi's ascent to the presidency of China in 2013 was his comprehensive plan to make China the greatest military and economic power in the world. The centerpiece of this plan was his 'Belt and Road' initiative, designed to link China to the rest of the world and spur trillions of dollars in trade. Of all the places in China that are key to the implementation of this ambitious plan, none is more vital than Xinjiang, which serves as China's gateway to South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, Russia, and ultimately Europe.

The timing of the Muslim insurgency in Xinjiang, therefore, could not have come at a worse time for Xi's plans. The increase in violence occurred right as the initiative was being launched, with billions of dollars of investment flowing into surrounding countries.

Facing a possible threat to the entire Belt and Road program and China's subsequent plans for prosperity and world dominion, the Chinese Communist Party launched a massive crackdown against the 12 million Uyghurs and other minority groups in Xinjiang.

To start, new laws were introduced in Xinjiang, one of which prohibited parents and guardians from "organizing, luring or forcing minors into attending religious activities or forcing them to wear religious dress or symbols." Citizens were encouraged to spy on their neighbors and to report parents they suspected of raising their children in a religious faith.

Although life for most Han people in Xinjiang continued without much change, the ethnic minority peoples were shattered and would never be the same again.

**Tragically, the fledgling churches that had only recently emerged among these minority groups were also decimated, as believers found themselves caught up in the chaos. Many Uyghur, Kirgiz, Kazak, and Hui Christians were lost in the madcap violence that engulfed the region.** Communists don't usually care or see any difference between Christians, Muslims, or other religious adherents. They are all the same to a Marxist.

## *Overwhelming Force*

The police and military were given new wide-ranging powers in Xinjiang, aided by hundreds of thousands of facial-recognition cameras, that process everything that goes on in the region. Police were granted authority to stop and search anyone on

the street and demand to see their phones or other electronic devices. If any questionable emails or texts were found, or the person had visited religious websites, they were immediately taken into custody.

Next, every person in Xinjiang who had a passport was ordered to hand it over to the police, and to apply for permission if they wanted to leave the country.

Locals in Xinjiang identified 48 “evil bans” which the government implemented as reasons for arresting people and sending them for “re-education.” The list included “traveling abroad, knowing someone who has traveled abroad, watching foreign videos or movies, fasting, praying, attending religious seminars, downloading foreign software, not submitting voice recordings to the government, and speaking in a native language in public.”

By the end of 2017, a glimpse into the scale of China’s plans emerged with news that in addition to implementing a national facial recognition database, the government was creating a DNA database of every adult in Xinjiang. Human Rights Watch reported:

*“Chinese authorities in Xinjiang are collecting DNA samples, fingerprints, iris scans, and blood types of all residents in the region between the ages of 12 and 65.... Compelled DNA sampling of an entire region or population for purposes of security maintenance is a serious human rights violation in that it cannot be justified as necessary or proportionate.”*



*One of the dozens of massive concentration camps in Xinjiang where between one and three million people have been forcibly detained and tortured. China calls these “vocational retraining centers.”*

## *“Aden Yoq”*

Awareness of the scale of the crackdown in Xinjiang gradually dawned on the rest of the world. Visitors to many cities and towns reported how entire neighborhoods had been boarded up and were largely devoid of people, while grandmothers were left to take care of children whose parents had been suddenly taken away. Satellite images appeared on Western news websites, showing how dozens of massive secure facilities, surrounded by barb-wire and high walls, had been quickly constructed throughout the region. Many camps were so large that they were able to house tens of thousands of detainees.

As the world struggled to come to terms with developments in Xinjiang, the estimates of the number of people incarcerated in the camps increased markedly, with the US Department of Defense stating the number was “at least a million but likely closer to three million citizens” in May 2018.

If the ethnic minority population of Xinjiang thought the preceding years were as bad as things could get, 2018 commenced with the Chinese constitution being altered to appoint Xi Jinping ‘President for life’, and the concentration camps were filled to overflowing. The few survivors to emerge from the camps have told of merciless torture, non-stop brainwashing about the glories of the Communist Party, rape and forced sterilization of women, and killing. The government also built hundreds of “orphanages” throughout the region to house the children of parents that had been killed. According to local media reports, just one county near Kashgar built 18 new orphanages in 2017.

The Chinese Communist Party did not limit their suppression to adults. Under direct command from Beijing, hospitals in Xinjiang were ordered to perform late-term abortions on minority babies, and in many cases newborn babies were killed as soon as they were delivered. A hospital worker, Hasiyet Abdulla, described the carnage:

*“They wouldn’t give the baby to the parents—they kill the babies when they’re born. It’s an order that’s been given from above, printed and distributed in official documents. Hospitals get fined if they don’t comply, so of course, they carry this out.... There were babies born at nine months who we killed after inducing labor. They did that in the maternity wards because those were the orders. Babies born alive were taken from their parents, killed, and then discarded like trash.”*

Dr. Joanna Smith Finley of Britain’s Newcastle University commented: **“It’s not an immediate, shocking, mass-killing-on-the-spot-type genocide, but it’s a slow,**



**painful, creeping genocide.... A direct means of genetically reducing the Uyghur population."**

So devastating were the effects on society that the Turkic phrase *adem yoq* ("everybody's gone") was commonly heard throughout the villages and towns of Xinjiang. When asked how a person's family was doing, the answer was often: "*adem yoq*."

Muslim marriages were outlawed, and in June 2018, as part of the plan to transform Uyghurs into patriotic Chinese citizens, 40 Uyghurs from Kashgar, Aksu, and Hotan were arrested and tortured in concentration camps after they refused to participate in a Chinese Dragon Boat Festival. Muslim men were banned from growing long beards, women could not wear veils in public, and homeschooling was outlawed.

Arbitrary arrests of people with no connection to terrorism at all continued to occur across the region. For example, in December 2017 a Kazak man, Jierebaike Yelimaisi, was sent to a concentration camp simply because he had traveled abroad for heart surgery.

In the first few months of the crackdown, over 100 Christians were sent to camps throughout Xinjiang. **As the Body of Christ was numerically small among the ethnic minorities, this wiped out most of the Church leadership in one swoop.** A pastor's wife said, "I don't know where my husband is right now, but I believe that God still uses him in prison. Sometimes I am worried that he doesn't have enough clothes to keep warm. I am afraid it will affect my children too."

The situation became very real to us when a key house church figure in Xinjiang vanished when she visited a hotel in Urumqi and was asked to insert her ID card into a machine at the entrance. The moment she did so, according to witnesses, security officers appeared and took her into custody. She has not been heard from since.

## ***The Camel Herder's Daughter***

Life for Christians in Xinjiang has not just been difficult in recent years. Going back centuries, the followers of Jesus have faced incredible hardship in their battle to live out their faith in this spiritually dark part of Asia.

God has never forsaken His children, however, and from Xinjiang has come many testimonies that are shining examples of the grace and power of God.

In 1955 a baby girl was born in a remote part of Xinjiang, just as the political situation was changing for the worse. Her mother, who had gone to the region as a missionary after graduating from seminary, died when her daughter was just two.

The girl was raised by her father, a poor camel herder. Only when she was 14 did she discover that her father was highly educated, could speak several languages fluently, and that he had been exiled to Xinjiang because of his Christian faith. He deeply loved his precious daughter, and taught her mathematics, music, English, and the Bible.

When the fanatical Red Guards swept through the region, they destroyed all the camel herder's books except a copy of his English Bible, because they didn't know what it was.

He was arrested and sent to a prison labor camp, and the young girl was forced to struggle on alone, with her father's final exhortation that she must "endure suffering like a good soldier of Christ" ringing in her ears.

With only the English Bible to keep her company for the next three years, the teenage girl learned to trust God, and she entered into her own rich relationship with Jesus Christ. Only then did she understand that her parents had carried their crosses as faithful servants of God, which made her heart swell in love and respect for them.

Later she entered university, where despite the risks she witnessed to her classmates, telling them atheism was a bankrupt philosophy and that God was real and could be personally known. Most of the students treated her with contempt, but some visited her discreetly to ask further questions. One girl became her close friend and sister in Christ.

In the early 1970s, with the Cultural Revolution still raging, the camel herder's daughter was publicly invited to join the Communist Youth League—a rare opportunity for someone from a "counter-revolutionary" family. She knew there was no way she could reconcile her faith with the atheistic organization, so she declined the invitation, simply stating: "I am a Christian." The meeting was thrown into chaos by her confession, and the leader was furious with rage. The camel herder's daughter recalled the events of that day:

*"In the din of the meeting I closed my eyes to pray: 'Heavenly Father, from the time I was small you have protected me. If this is ordained by You to test my heart, give me grace, and allow me to stand up in my weakness.'*



*When I opened my tear-filled eyes, the entire hall was as still as a mouse. Facing the whole school of more than 200 students and teachers, I poured out my sin and told of my insignificance before the cross. I told them of Christ's suffering for the world and that Christians don't harm society, but that they only do good to others and help them to know eternal life....*

*When I finished what I had to say, the leader of the Workers' Propaganda team looked as if he had suddenly awakened from a dream. He immediately upbraided me for using the university as a platform to spread my 'poison.' He wanted everyone to criticize me, but they had already felt the goodness of God.*

*At once I became the school's 'person in the news.' Wherever I went people pointed at me behind my back. Nevertheless, many students were sympathetic and came to me privately to ask questions about salvation....*

*I gathered around me a small group of seekers, which soon grew to include more than 30 people. We divided into two groups and assembled on Sundays and holidays. Right up to our graduation we were never discovered by the school authorities. The brothers and sisters grew in spiritual discipline, and by the time they graduated their faith was mature and they were able to stand as Christians.*

*At graduation we were all assigned to different places. From Altai to Karakoram, every city received the soles of our feet. I was sent to a country school to teach English, but I often requested leave to go and visit my friends who were scattered in every place."*

Normally, when we announce a new China book, we tell readers about the evangelists we support among unreached people groups in that province, and invite people to participate if they feel the Lord wants them to pray and be involved. When it comes to Xinjiang, however, the situation is extremely grim.

Over the years we have supported dozens of evangelists in Xinjiang, including Uyghur, Kazak, Kirgiz, Hui and other church leaders from ethnic minority groups who were reaching their own people with the Gospel. Now we are supporting no evangelists at all in Xinjiang. Those we previously worked with have been killed, sent to Communist concentration camps, or are otherwise missing and unable to be contacted.

We have, however, printed and delivered over 250,000 Bibles to Chinese house church believers in Xinjiang through our China Bible Fund. The project continues, despite overwhelming challenges, and we invite you to help our Chinese brothers and sister access God's Word while the opportunity still exists. Each full Bible costs \$3 to print and deliver.

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



*Asia Harvest currently supports 1,516 Asian evangelists among 1,194 people groups.*

You can sponsor an Asian evangelist among an unreached people group for **\$25 per month** each. Prayer cards and updates are sent to all regular supporters of this project. To date, the evangelists we help have reported **925,066 conversions to Christ**.



## CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 17,193,355 Chinese Bibles printed and distributed.*

Bibles are distributed free of charge to house churches in China, equipping the Body of Christ and adding fuel to the great revival in China. Each full Chinese Bible costs just **\$3.00** to print and deliver.

## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND



*Asia Harvest is currently supporting 2,096 living martyrs.*

Supporting widows and church leaders and their families throughout Asia who are unable to work because of injuries or illness caused by persecution. For **\$25 per month** you can help a living martyr.

## ASIAN BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 1,514,024 Bibles printed in 146 languages.*

The Asian Bible Fund provides the Scriptures in many languages to Christians throughout Asia who 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.

## THE CHILDREN'S FUND



*So far 193,000 children in Asia have been impacted by the Gospel.*

Providing children's Gospel literature, Sunday school materials, and lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. It costs an average of **\$10** to impact a child for Jesus Christ.





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# Asia Harvest



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

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October 2022 - Newsletter #184



## Despised by Men, Loved by God

*Reaching Lepers for Jesus Christ*

# A Living Death

*by Sister Linda Ann*

*We would like to share the following words from Linda Ann — a dear sister in Christ who has been a blessing to the kingdom of God in India for many years....*

**Imagine you have just been told you have leprosy.** If you are an adult all your dreams and aspirations are suddenly shattered. If you have a job, you will lose it. If you do not have an occupation, you never will. There is no social security system in place in India to pay for your disability. If you are not rich (and certainly those with whom we deal with are not), then you are doomed.

Shame, fear, and horror set in as you know that you will soon be rejected by your family and will have to resort to begging on the streets. The thought of living in a leper colony terrifies you. No one will accompany you on your journey, you are now unclean, impure, contaminated. Everyone you ever knew or cared about will never come closer to you than several feet away. Your mind jumps from one thought to another, numerous ideas on how to survive compete with one another for dominance. Everything you have always known and taken for granted is now a big question mark.

**Exile is unavoidable. Not able to earn a livelihood, you will have to 'learn' how to beg on the streets.** Forgotten by your family, you will live in a hut on the outskirts of your village, perhaps in a cave, or worse in a makeshift tent behind the city's garbage dump. A life of isolation will be your lot as you hide yourself from people while the disease progressively destroys your body. Patches as white as snow have already appeared on your skin. When you examine your spots you feel nothing. Your skin is numb to the touch. You will notice that your nose feels stuffy all the time. You are now facing a debilitating disease. Leprosy has been called **A LIVING DEATH.**

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*Front and back cover photos: Some of the 300 lepers in India that Asia Harvest is privileged to help through our 'Persecution & Relief Fund'. They get no support at all from the government or any aid agency, but our partners in India have shown the love of Jesus to these precious people, and now 272 of them have become Christians.*

# Reaching Lepers for Jesus Christ

## *Despised by Men, Loved by God*

*“Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14:12-14).*

Throughout both the Old and New Testaments we can read of God’s love and mercy toward those who suffer from the horrific disease of leprosy.

You may live in a part of the world where leprosy seems like a tale from the ancient past, but we can assure you in Asia the disease is alive and well, and afflicting multitudes of new people every year.

Governments and cultures deal with leprosy in different ways. Historical records show that leprosy has been present in south China for about 2,000 years, but for much of that time the government has dealt with it by committing genocide against the lepers, with many cases of slaughter too gruesome to mention.

In India, where **130,000 new cases of leprosy are reported every year** (that’s about 350 new cases per day), the plight for lepers is extremely grim. You may have heard that low caste people in India are called “untouchables”. Well, even the untouchables consider lepers to be untouchable—lower than dogs on the social scale.

As a result, lepers are forced out of society, and many commit suicide the moment they discover they have contracted the disease. Sometimes, lepers have come together in remote locations where they huddle in makeshift shelters, despised and rejected by their fellow men, their country, and their own families and friends.

One false assumption people often make about leprosy is that it occurs because of the filth and unhygienic lives of those who contract it. In reality, leprosy strikes at all kinds of people regardless of their ethnic, educational, economic or social background. As you will read in some of the testimonies in this newsletter, leprosy can strike accountants, housewives, teachers, rich and poor, young and old. (It may surprise you to learn that an average of 200 to 300 new cases of leprosy are reported each year in the United States).





**BROTHER KOTAYA** — I am from the Banjara tribe. We used to worship idols made in the shape of animals. In my youth I found the stripes of leprosy on my body, and my wife also became leprous. All my family members immediately ostracized us. They even refused to provide us water, so we became street beggars. During our begging we reached a city, where one man took pity on us, gave us a piece of bread, and advised us to go to a special hospital in another town.

We had a glimmer of hope in our hearts for the first time, but we had great trouble until we finally reached the Christian Leper Hospital. There, for the first time in my life, I tasted the real love of Jesus. I came to know Jesus as my personal Savior. Until that time, I had only worshipped man-made gods. In India there are thousands of gods, but now I knew that those useless gods could not provide salvation to us. I threw out all our idols and became a Christian. Although our lives were changed we remained outcasts, so to survive we continued to beg on the streets.

After my salvation, one of my leper brothers showed me some vacant land where there were some huts for lepers. I prepared a shed for me and my wife to live in. A pastor often visited us, providing food and medicine freely, while teaching us more about Jesus. I was fully satisfied and lived in that hut for many years. Today I am spiritually nourished in Jesus' Name. I am so thankful to Jesus who saved me and enables me to live in this world through His grace. My eternal gratitude is to my Lord Jesus.

**SISTER MARTHA** — I am now 90-years-old. I was formerly married but my husband died long ago. When I was just 17, my family traveled to Burma (now Myanmar) for work. We traveled a lot, and when I came back to my home in India, I found a leprosy patch on my cheek. I tried to find treatment, but gradually the disease spread, and my family members kicked me out. People even prevented me from walking on the street. My life was dramatically changed, and all hope was lost. I used to worship idols of trees and animals, and I had no peace. My body and soul were taken captive, and it felt like I was trapped in a very dark tunnel with no way out.

At last, I found a Christian organization that had pity on my pathetic condition and admitted me into their leper colony. After some years I came to know Jesus as the true and living God, and I was baptized and took the name Martha.

Now Jesus is my Savior. Our beloved pastor provides me with food and medical aid, and he prays for me.

Although I am a poor widowed leper with no value in the eyes of the world, I have joy and peace with Jesus, and I am a daughter of God who will live with Him forever!





**BROTHER GANESH** — I was raised in a Hindu farming family. After years of hard work, I bought some land near to my house and was happy to earn a living by working hard. Some years later, I was shocked and horrified to find white patches on my left hand which I used for plowing. While I was suffering with this patch, a Christian evangelist came to our village and preached about a man named Jesus who called sinners to Himself. I heard the message, but my heart was hard and I didn't care. Although I was hiding it to my family, my condition deteriorated as the disease spread to other parts of my body.

Sometime later, I again heard words being proclaimed about Jesus. This time I reached out to the preachers, who gave me a recommendation letter and advised me to go and get help at the Leper Hospital. When my family learned that I had leprosy they completely ostracized me, saying I was now disqualified to live among them. I had no other place to go except the leper community, where I met the pastor. He provided me a vacant place to live, where I built a little shed for my wife and me.

Although I was from an idol-worshipping family, I committed my life to Jesus and promised to serve Him. The believers are using my wife and I to help dress the wounds of our fellow lepers, I am also cleaning our church. Because of your generosity, we now have food, shelter, and medicine, and we have experienced the amazing love of Jesus Christ and His Church. I feel great joy, and I am deeply grateful to the Lord Jesus that He cares for lepers like me, even though everyone else in this world despises us and are terrified by us.



## ***Hearts of Thankfulness to the Lord***

As you can imagine, most lepers are amazed when they are first exposed to the Bible to discover that lepers are mentioned many times in both the Old and New Testaments. Feeling rejected and hated by both God and their communities, they are speechless when they learn that Jesus Christ, the Creator of the Universe, not only cared about lepers, but he touched them, loved them, and healed them! It's hard for us to imagine the depth of emotion lepers must feel when they first meet the reality of Jesus. No wonder so many willingly surrender their broken lives to Him!

Of course, one of the main stories about lepers in the Bible is told in Luke's Gospel, when ten lepers were healed by Jesus. Luke records:

***"One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Rise and go; your faith has made you well.'"*** (Luke 17:15-19).

Not wanting to be like the nine lepers from long ago, the leprous believers we are privileged to help in India go out of their way to express their heart-felt gratitude to God for every mercy and provision in their lives, and they are also very gracious to Christians who minister to them. A few of them recently said:

**"Thank you Asia Harvest, and all your supporters, for your loving help is beyond our greatest expectations. We feel the Lord is doing miracles through you!"**



“Because of your love in Christ Jesus, we have tasted the goodness of God and we can now proclaim this promise of God with joy: *“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you”* (Isaiah 46:4).

“We are so thankful to God for your generosity! Although we have been rejected and discarded by our own families and we live with a miserable condition, the Living God shows that He loves the weak and downtrodden like us! He saw us in our desperate state and did not leave nor forsake us. He raised up Asia Harvest to help us and to provide food, medicine, and the Word of God to us in our great need.”

## *Life-Changing Sandals*

Although at first it may sound ridiculous to say that we are providing footwear for people whose toes and sometimes their whole feet have been eaten away by leprosy, our co-workers are doing just that, and it is making a huge difference in people’s lives!

In India rough, stony ground, mixed with human and animal waste is common. The lepers who are still able to walk found their wounds were easily infected because they could not wear normal footwear, and going barefoot was not an option. In response, hand-crafted sandals are made to fit each leper. The sandals have been specially fitted to hundreds of appreciative people. The sandals provide support and protection, and bring a great improvement to lepers’ lives, as many who previously stayed in their huts are now able to get around without the excruciating pain and risk of infection they once had. Each pair of sandals costs just \$10 to produce.





Dear friends, we didn't write this newsletter just to share the gruesome reality of the horrendous affliction of leprosy, but we wanted to tell you some wonderful news! If you have known us for a while, you will be aware that proclaiming the Gospel is at the heart of everything we do. **It would be a crime if we only ministered to people's physical needs and they ended up in hell for eternity** because we failed to clearly present the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ to them.

Because of the grace of God, hundreds of lepers have responded to the Gospel, and they will be counted among the redeemed around the throne of the Lamb, where they will be completely restored, and the memory of their years of misery on this earth will be forgotten. Hallelujah!



#### REACHING LEPERS THROUGH THE PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND

We are blessed to be currently helping 300 lepers with food, medicine, sandals, Bibles, and in many other ways. It costs an average of \$20 per month to minister to each person's spirit, soul and body. **Of the 300 lepers, amazingly 272 have given their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ** and have been baptized. They come from a variety of different tribes and unreached people groups.

Please pray for this strategic work, and if you would like to support our brothers and sisters in leper colonies, please fill out the yellow response form in this newsletter and send it back along with your gift. Alternatively, one-time or monthly donations to the **Persecution & Relief Fund** or our other projects can be made via our secure website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

## CHINA BIBLE FUND



**Current Total: 17,368,982**  
***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 \$3.00 to print and deliver.**

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



***We currently support 1,593 Asian evangelists among 1,221 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 **939,561 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: 1,536,303 Bibles printed in 146 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 **2,096** 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 **194,788** 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 help 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 lepers, communities and families throughout Asia who are in desperate need.





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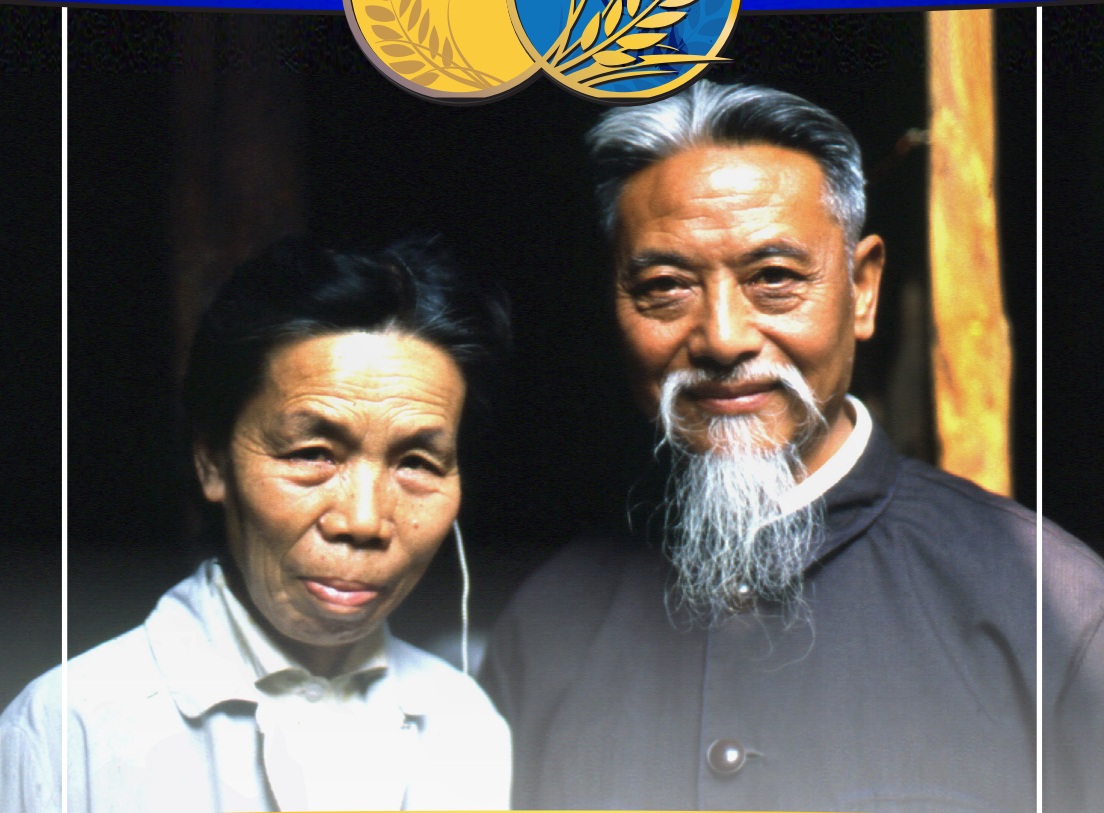
"PUT IN THE SICKLE, FOR THE HARVEST HAS COME!" MARK 4:29

# Asia Harvest

DECEMBER 2022



NEWSLETTER #185



## A VOICE FROM CHINA

*Interview with a Senior House Church Leader*

ASIAHARVEST.ORG • OFFICE@ASIAHARVEST.ORG



# From the Frontlines

IF YOU ARE LIKE us and those we interact with, the last few years have presented many challenges, as society crumbles under the weight of its own sin and problems. The pandemic, war, and inflation have placed stress on the world system, and many cracks have appeared.

In Psalm 11, King David asked what the righteous can do when the very foundations of life and society are being destroyed. The answer is to cherish the Lord Jesus Christ with all our mind, soul, and strength, and to serve Him wholeheartedly.

In Asia, the last few years have been brutal for many of the Christians we are privileged to serve. The disciples of Christ have clung to Him, however, and the Lord is bringing them through the storms.

If you have been reading our newsletters for some time, you will know that in 2016 we began to sound an alarm that something very large and sinister was brewing in China. Some people mocked us, but by the following year house church leaders were telling us that the persecution in their areas was the most severe since the Cultural Revolution 40 years earlier.

*“When the foundations  
are being destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?”  
The Lord is in His holy temple;  
the Lord is on His heavenly throne.  
He observes everyone on earth;  
His eyes examine them.”*

*(Psalm 11:3-4)*

Although foreign missionaries have not been allowed in China for generations, hundreds of thousands of foreign Christians have been serving there in various capacities, including as teachers, students, researchers, and businessmen. They have been salt and light to the Chinese people, and many have played key roles in serving the Chinese Church as they evangelize and disciple their country.

In 2017, tens of thousands of foreign Christians began to be systematically expelled from China, as President Xi Jinping introduced new laws designed to control and ultimately

*“The time is short.  
From now on those who  
have wives should live as  
if they do not; those who  
mourn, as if they did not;  
those who are happy, as if  
they were not; those who  
buy something, as if it were  
not theirs to keep; those  
who use the things of the  
world, as if not  
engrossed in them.  
For this world in its present  
form is passing away.”*

*(1 Corinthians 7:29-31)*

eliminate Christianity. In one short period of a few weeks, thousands of families were expelled from China, causing massive heartache and pain.

Airports in places like Hong Kong and Thailand were filled with bewildered families who had been given 48 hours to pack up their possessions and leave China.

We know some who had worked legally in China for decades, running businesses and employing locals. They had never been accused of breaking any laws, and were greatly loved and respected by the Chinese people.

In some cases, families owned apartments and vehicles in China and their children had just started a new school term. China was their home and the land they loved and planned to stay for the rest of their lives. Some friends of ours were even handcuffed and taken to the nearest airport and placed on the first flight out of China. They were not permitted to lock up their homes, withdraw the savings from their bank accounts, or say goodbye to their friends. They were placed on blacklists and are now unable to enter China. Many have struggled to come to grips with how their ministries and God-given call were abruptly shut down.

**The removal of foreign believers from China has been so thorough that we scarcely know of a single foreign Christian still there, and those we talk to in other ministries have had the same experience.** Many mission organizations have been totally devastated.

If you have read any of our *China Chronicles* books, you will know that China has followed the same pattern several times in history. In the early 1950s, for example, all foreign missionaries were forcibly expelled from China. The Communists wanted to remove them first before launching a massive persecution of Chinese Christians.

By cutting off their foreign connections, the authorities knew that any voices of protest would be silenced, and the rest of the world wouldn't learn of their dark deeds.

*(Continued...)*

## INTRODUCING DAVID JOSEPH AS OUR NEW U.S. DIRECTOR

Asia Harvest is glad to announce that recently we appointed David Joseph to the position of U.S. director.

Please pray for him and his family, who come into the role after almost two decades serving the Lord on the frontlines in Asia.

David brings many God-given skills into the role, and we are excited to see how the Lord uses them for His glory.

In the future, David will be contributing to our newsletters, and will be available to share about our work in churches, home meetings and with individuals.

The same has happened in China in recent years, as “president for life” Xi tries to create his atheistic Marxist utopia. As with his predecessor Mao Zedong, there is no room for competing ideologies in Xi’s plans — especially Christianity, which is loathed by those who demand complete allegiance to their own kingdom.

At *Asia Harvest*, we love nothing more than to share testimonies from the Chinese Church to encourage God’s people around the world. Stories of revival, faith, courage and extraordinary church growth have been the main subjects of our newsletters and books since the 1980s.

For the last five years, however, news from The Church in China has slowed to a tiny trickle. Many Chinese church leaders have turned off their phones and computers and have adopted a low profile. Most churches that used to have hundreds or thousands of members have purposely broken up into tiny cells of three or four believers, who meet secretly for prayer and fellowship. History is once again repeating itself in China.

**Please don’t be discouraged by the developments in China!** After Mao tried to obliterate the children of God during a quarter century of brutal persecution, the

Living God declared, “Enough!” Jiang Qing, the fourth wife of Chairman Mao, once arrogantly told a group of foreign diplomats: “Christianity has been consigned to the history section of the museum.”

Unbeknown to her, the Holy Spirit had breathed life into God’s children, and over the years the number of Christians in China skyrocketed from less than one million when the Communist Party took power in 1949 to well over 100 million today.

Hallelujah! All glory to the Living God!

The years have rolled on, and now another strongman has emerged with plans to destroy God’s people in China. **Let us pray for Xi Jinping, that God may have mercy on him.**

But should he continue with his plans, do not be depressed for Christians in China, for it will not be the first time that God uses the wrath of men to accomplish His purposes.

Although there has already been intense suffering, the people of God are once again being purified in the furnace of affliction, and they will one day emerge from this trial with a more intimate walk with the Lord, and ready to bring in an even greater harvest of souls than they have in the past!





**ALTHOUGH MOST NEWS** to emerge from the Church in China for the past five years have tended to be grim accounts of persecution and oppression, a few months ago we were able to safely interview a key house church leader at an undisclosed location, and to get the latest news from him about what is going on in China today.

This pastor, whom we will call Brother Hui (not his real name), has been greatly used by God for many years, and is the leader of a network of house churches in eastern China that has experienced many miracles and explosive revival.

Today his network numbers several million believers. Brother Hui is not widely known outside China, and he has kept a low profile during his years of ministry. Any details that may reveal his identity or that of his church have been removed from the original transcript.

We hope you enjoy our interview with Brother Hui. We wish we could do many more interviews like this with other church leaders in China, but friends, the situation there has become so dire that we hope you appreciate how unique this opportunity is. This is likely to be the final detailed Christian interview from China for a number of years, whether by *Asia Harvest* or any other Christian organization.

**Please pray for Brother Hui and all Christians in China during this time of darkness.**

If your faith has been shaken during the last few years as the world seems to crumble around you, we hope you will be encouraged not to give up, but to use the opportunity to press more into the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word, for He has promised:

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*“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” James 4:8*

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*(Continued...)*



*Asia Harvest (AH): Brother Hui, thank you for taking the time to share with us and our readers around the world. Many believers are keen to know what has been happening in China and how the Body of Christ is doing.*

*Brother Hui:* I appreciate the opportunity to share with you, and the believers in our churches send their love and greetings to all who belong to Jesus Christ! Several years ago things started

to dramatically change in China, and we have had to seek God and adjust to the challenging environment. Because of the present situation, many Christians have been hosting small fellowships in their homes. This has been a time when the churches have had to rely on local leaders, not foreigners or recorded sermons. It has been a time of personal study in the Word, and a season for seeking God afresh with all our hearts.

*AH: What are some of the ways that preaching the Gospel has become more difficult in China?*

*Brother Hui:* For a few years now the government has been able to track people's movement through a phone app that is required for all travel, whether by airplane, train, bus or any other method. When we purchase a ticket or enter a station, the app reveals our identity. If we are on a government blacklist, as many pastors are, travel is blocked.

Furthermore, those preachers who are able to travel find their movements are restricted and traced. The authorities have a record of everywhere they go and every person they visit. This and other challenges have forced us to become more cautious in how we minister, but we continue to share the Gospel and disciple believers. We will never stop serving the Lord!

*AH: This level of control through modern technology almost sounds like China is living in a time similar to that described in Revelation with the mark of the beast. Are believers scared?*

*Brother Hui:* Although I expect things will become even more difficult, we are not afraid. Jesus promised we would be hated by all nations because of Him, and so it is a great honor to suffer because of our affiliation with the true King. Even our ability to buy food or function



in any way may soon be blocked, but God is in complete control. He died for us, and we are His precious inheritance. No matter what men may do to us, the Lord taught us to trust and not fear. He said:

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*“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:28-31)*

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*AH: We heard that during severe Covid lockdowns (which still continue in many places), believers were not allowed to meet together. What have you done to compensate for the lack of fellowship?*

*Brother Hui:* Our church had many Bible study groups that began to meet on WeChat (the main Chinese social media app) and by Zoom during the lockdowns. The meetings only lasted three weeks, however, as the police came and arrested our leaders. Some were even dragged away while they were teaching God’s Word, with all the church members witnessing the arrest live on their phones.

The authorities also used people’s devices to identify and track many who participated in the online meetings. We have learned our lesson. We will not be holding online meetings that way again in the future.

*AH: Are there any specific ways we should pray for the house churches in China today?*

*Brother Hui:* Yes, it seems that all Christians are being systematically identified, and if they have any dependency on the government they can face difficulties. For example, many elderly Christians in our fellowships have been told to deny Christ.

When they refuse, the government takes away their pension and free medical care. Despite this hardship, they will never admit that the government is their provider. That role belongs only to the Lord Jesus Christ!

*AH: With things now so difficult and controlled, has the number of Christians been shrinking?*

*Brother Hui:* Despite all the new challenges and troubles, the number of believers in our

*(Continued...)*

churches has continued to grow! Our Lord told us not to hide the light of the Gospel, but to put it on a lampstand so everyone can see. We will continue to share Jesus for as long as we can, with as many people as possible.

We have been distributing thousands of Gospel tracts, and most people are more receptive to the claims of Christ than before. Their confidence in this world and in the Communist Party has been deeply shaken by the pandemic and the economic woes that are destroying our country. I am especially burdened for the youth of China. They really need Christ, and millions have committed suicide since the pandemic started, as they lost all hope to live.



*AH: China is a large country. From people you have spoken with, is the severe persecution more targeted in some areas than in others?*

*Brother Hui:* In the past several years, the cities in our province have seen the strongest response to the Gospel, with thousands of new believers, while rural areas have experienced the most severe persecution. Things are particularly bad in the border areas of China, where most of the ethnic minority groups live.

*AH: Can you share about the current need for Bibles in your churches?*


*Brother Hui:* It seems the government is determined to completely choke off the supply of Bibles. Our main concern is for the many new converts. They must have God's Word, or they will not be grounded in the faith.

In the past, young people could access the Scriptures through apps and websites, but most have been shut down in the last few years.

Physical Bibles are becoming increasingly rare, and a famine of the Word of God is coming upon us. Thank you for all you do to provide the Word of God to us!

*AH: Do you have any other special prayer requests for the Church in China that you would like to share with us?*

**Brother Hui: Please pray for the youth of China.** Young people today are more independent than in the past. They do not have a strong family network or community to rely on and to help them deal with modern challenges of life. In the past, a son was expected to follow in his father's footsteps. If your family were farmers, you would be a farmer. If they were cooks, you would be a cook. Today, however, farmers and cooks expect their children to be bankers, lawyers, or doctors. The expectations are unrealistically high, and the pressure is overwhelming. When things go wrong, vulnerable people are prone to break.

To see the big picture of what is happening in China today, a person must understand that **this is a fierce fight for control over the Church of Jesus Christ.** Satan and the world demand we bow down to them, but the true sheep of the Lord refuse to bow to anyone but Jesus. It is the same battle the patriarchs and prophets had in the Bible, and it will continue throughout China until the glorious moment when **we will all hear a loud trumpet blast, and the rightful owner of the Church returns to rule and reign forever!** 

## CHINA BIBLE FUND

FOR MORE THAN three decades, *Asia Harvest* has been providing Bibles to the house church believers in China through our China Bible Fund.

In the early years we hosted teams that hand-carried bags of Bibles across China's borders, but this later changed into secretly printing millions of Bibles directly inside the country.

**Despite many extreme difficulties in recent years, we are thankful to report that the project continues!** For \$3 each, the house churches we partner with are still printing full Chinese Bibles, which are provided free of charge to the multitudes of new believers who are coming to the Lord each year.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to bless the Church in China with God's Word while the door remains open for us to do so.

If you would like to help with this great need, please fill out the yellow response form in this newsletter and send it back along with your gift.

Alternatively, one-time or monthly donations to the *China Bible Fund* can be made via our secure website:



## CHINA BIBLE FUND CBF

**17,563,543 CHINESE BIBLES PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED SO FAR**

*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 \$3.00 to print and deliver.*



## THE CHILDREN'S FUND TCF

**YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT HAS REACHED  
196,772 CHILDREN THROUGHOUT ASIA SO FAR**

*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 help reach a child for Christ.*



## ASIA BIBLE FUND ABF

**1,599,374 BIBLES PRINTED SO FAR IN 146 LANGUAGES**

*The Asia 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.*



*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.”*

LMF

## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

**BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP WE  
ARE SUPPORTING 2,096 LIVING MARTYRS**

*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.*



AWF

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

**WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT 1,604 ASIAN EVANGELISTS  
AMONG 1,234 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 1,002,606 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.*



PRF

## 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 lepers, communities and families throughout Asia who are in desperate need.*







## Asia Harvest

ASIAHARVEST.ORG • OFFICE@ASIAHARVEST.ORG

NORTH AMERICA	353 Jonestown Rd #320, Winston-Salem, NC 27104, USA
AUSTRALIA	Box 80, 377 Kent St, Seabridge House, Sydney NSW 2000 Bank details: CBA 06-4410-10255537 (Asia Harvest)
NEW ZEALAND	PO Box 1757, Queenstown 9348 Bank details: ASB 12-3154-0092327-00 (Asia Harvest)
UNITED KINGDOM	AsiaLink 31A Main St, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim BT39 9AA Bank details: NatWest Bank 01-07-65, Account No. 07018797
SWITZERLAND	Verein SALZ International IBAN: CH63 0900 0000 8909 3101 4 / BIC: POFICHBEXXX
EUROPE	Stiftung SALZ, Moehringer Landstr. 98, 70563 Stuttgart, Germany IBAN: DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / BIC: GENODES1PGW