

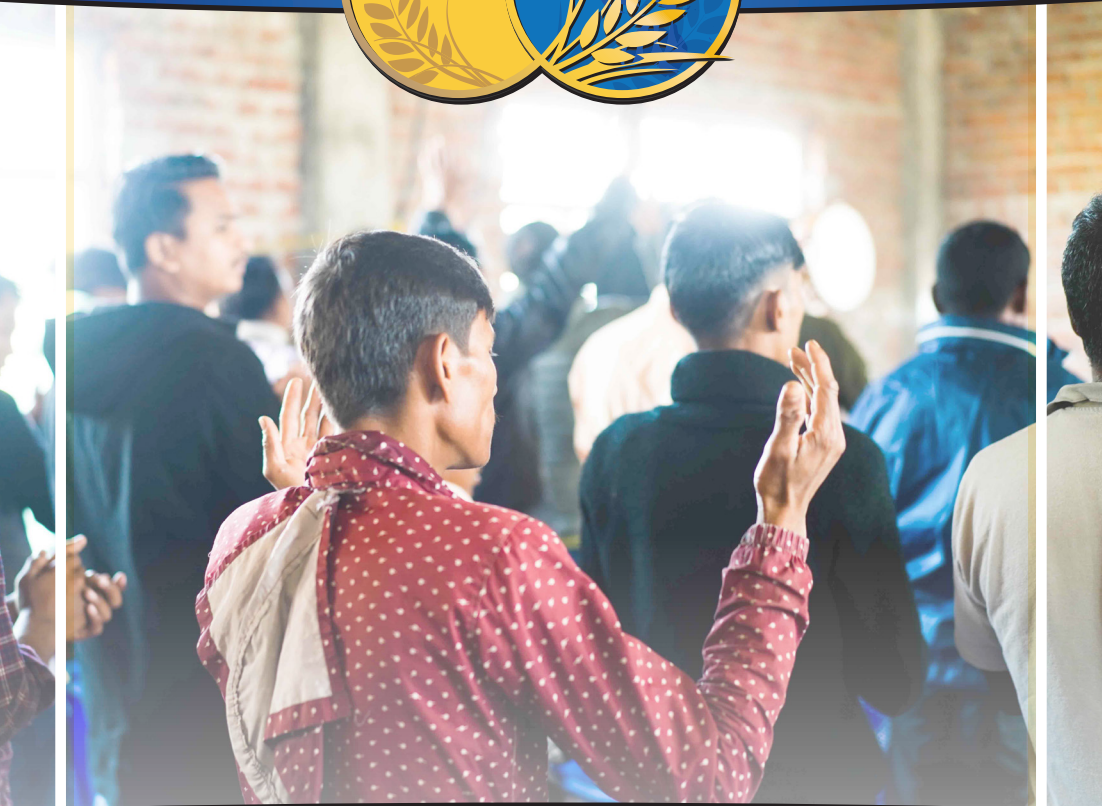
"PUT IN THE SICKLE, FOR THE HARVEST HAS COME!" MARK 4:29

Asia Harvest

FEBRUARY 2023



NEWSLETTER #186



ANNUAL REPORT

The Blessing of Fruitful Partnership

ASIAHARVEST.ORG • OFFICE@ASIAHARVEST.ORG

From the Frontlines

“I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.” Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.” (Daniel 3:29-30)

King Nebuchadnezzar was an extreme man! Just a few verses earlier, we read of him trying to kill God’s servants, but when that plan backfired, he completely changed his mind and commanded all of the millions of people in his kingdom to only worship the true God, or he would cut them into pieces!

In a short time, he went from wanting to kill the young Jewish men to promoting them to key positions in Babylon.

The mention of the three young men being promoted in the kingdom shows that Daniel was no “lone ranger”. History tells us Daniel had a very high position in the empire, equal to being a Prime Minister, while his three colleagues became high-ranking administrators of Babylon. Daniel knew the power of effective partnership, and together they brought great blessing to God’s people in captivity.

The mention of the three young men being promoted in the kingdom shows that Daniel was no “lone ranger.”

Here at Asia Harvest, we have learned the benefit of having fruitful partnerships over the years with ministries and churches we trust. Occasionally we are asked how it’s possible for one ministry to “have” more than 1,500 church-planting evangelists throughout Asia, who work among more than 1,200 different people groups.

The answer is we don’t “have” them, but rather we have formed strategic partnerships with like-minded believers who share our vision. In many cases, we use the gifts and resources God has given us to fill a gap in what our partners need; and they use their gifts and connections to join hands with us.

Together, a special synergy is created which can greatly enhance the kingdom of God, and result in a compounded rate of success in the number of souls won to the faith, the number of churches planted, and the Bibles we are able to print and deliver, among other needs.

FRONT & BACK COVER PHOTOS: Evangelists we help through the Asian Workers’ Fund at a training session last year in a remote part of the Himalayas. Through simple-hearted men and women of faith like these, the Gospel is being proclaimed and the Holy Spirit is transforming hundreds of thousands of lives across Asia.

For example, one of our key partnerships is a three-way collaboration. A close South African friend leads a Bible translation ministry that has produced the Scriptures in many dozens of new languages over the years. We don't know anything about Bible translating, so we would do well to stay clear of it and leave it to the experts! This translation ministry doesn't have funds for printing, or the skills needed to produce the books.

Second, a German ministry we work with also doesn't translate the Scriptures, but they operate a key printing press in the heart of Asia, which has printed the Word of God in dozens of languages. They have the skills and machines to do the typesetting, printing and binding of millions of books and Gospels.

The role of Asia Harvest in this partnership is to provide the funds to print the actual Bibles, and to help get them distributed among churches in the various tribes and people groups throughout Asia.

This has been a tremendous help for our two partners in that work, and together we make a useful three-legged stool for God to gain glory!

Truly, *“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken”* (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

*At Asia Harvest,
we have learned the benefit
of having fruitful partnerships
over the years with ministries
and churches we trust.*

The above example is an insight into just how one part of one of our projects, the *Asia Bible Fund*, functions.

We have other strategic partnerships with many other church and mission groups, both based in Asia and around the world. Indeed, the 1,500 evangelists we support through the *Asian Workers' Fund* takes place through more than 70 different Asian ministries on the ground, who are the ones responsible for mobilizing, training, placing, and taking care of the individual missionaries on the frontlines.

In the network of partnerships that makes up Asia Harvest, **the final crucial component is you!** We thank the Lord Jesus for the many believers He has connected us with over the years. Not many are materially wealthy, but they have a heart for the Lord and they want to see His kingdom established in Asia.

Through your prayers, encouragement and support, lost people in remote villages and teeming cities of Asia are hearing the Good News of Jesus for the first time and are being saved by His wonderful grace. ☺



2022-23 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 2022.

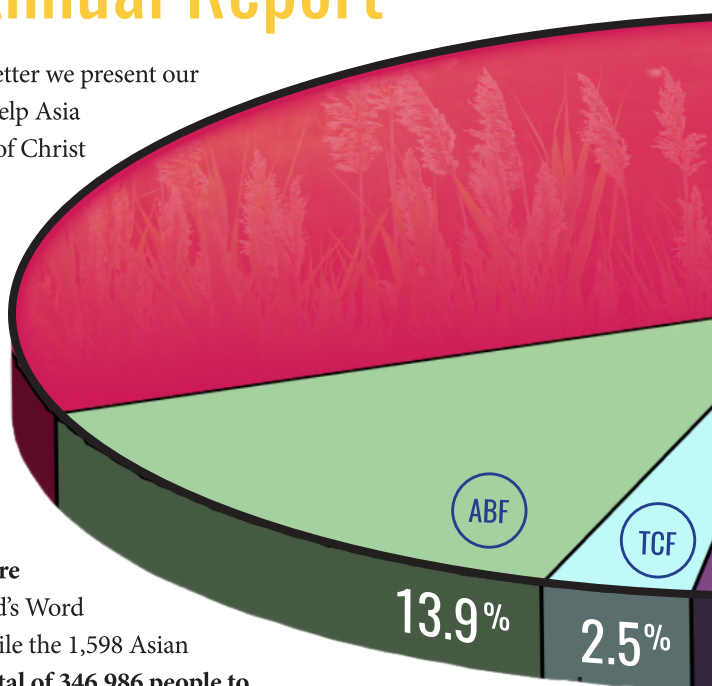
It has been a privilege to serve the Lord for another year, and we feel greatly blessed to be a link in the chain that resulted in many people coming to know Him.

Last year, **more than 1.3 million Christian families were strengthened** by receiving God's Word through our Bible projects, while the 1,598 Asian evangelists we support led **a total of 346,986 people to Christ among 1,233 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 amount of resources will reach the hands of frontline workers—the Asian Christians we are honored to assist and serve.

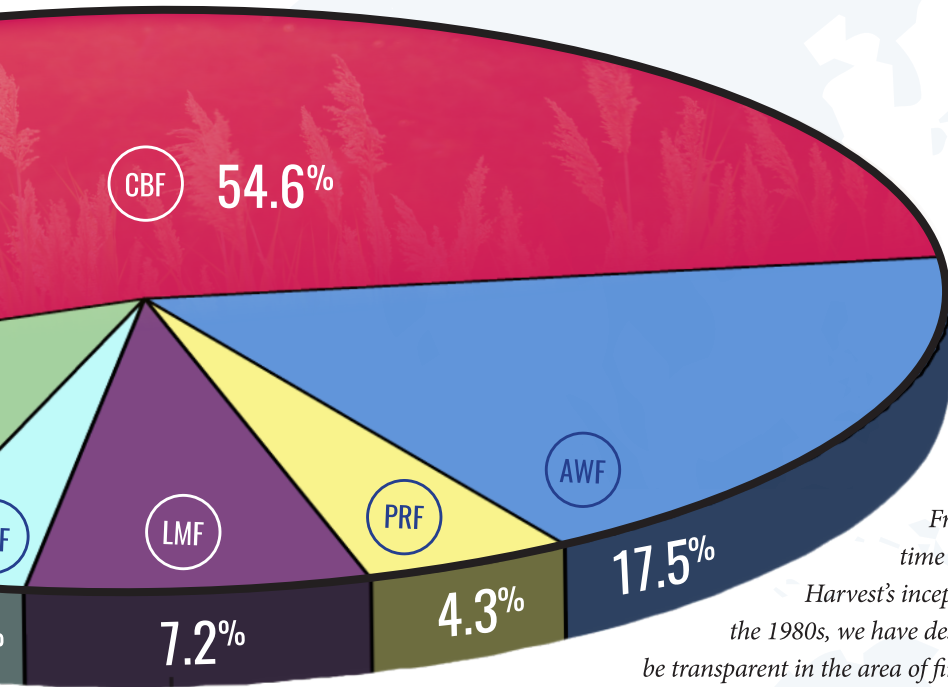
We thank each person who prayed for and supported our work last year.

Without your vital partnership none of these things would have occurred.



Projects Supported in 2022

CBF	CHINA BIBLE FUND	54.6%	LMF	LIVING MARTYRS' FUND	7.2%
ABF	ASIA BIBLE FUND	13.9%	PRF	PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND	4.3%
TCF	THE CHILDREN'S FUND	2.5%	AWF	ASIAN WORKERS' FUND	17.5%



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 project donations are used on the field in Asia exactly as specified.** To read our audited financial statements, please visit:



CHINA BIBLE FUND

CBF

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.

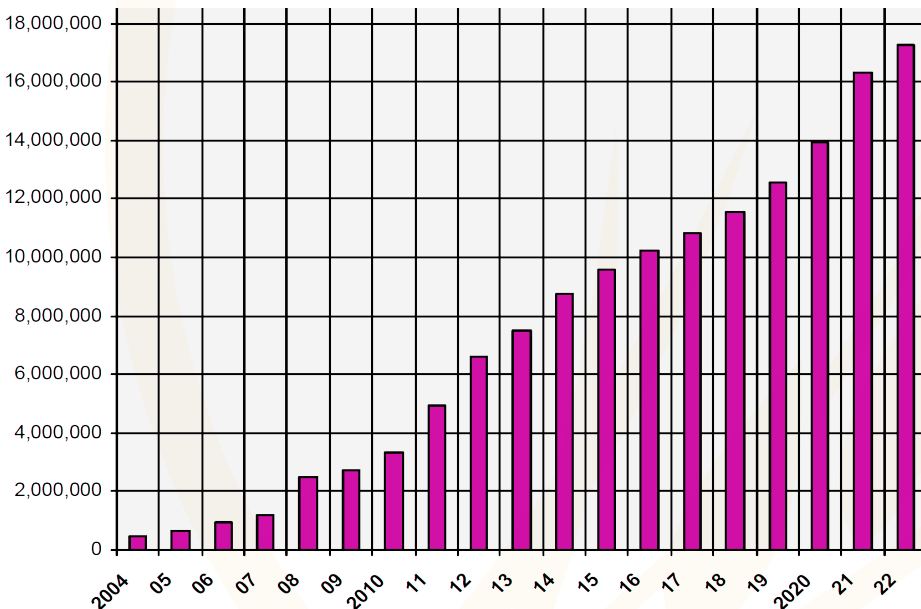
Tens of millions of Christians are still unable to access God's Word.

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 to print.

By God's grace and power, since 2000 we have printed and distributed **more than 17.2 million Bibles** to house church believers in China, with 948,096 in 2022 alone.

This equates to 2,597 Bibles every day, 108 per hour, or **one full Bible every 33 seconds** throughout the year. Each one is a miracle in today's extremely 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: 17,249,967



AWF ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

PARTNERING WITH PIONEER ASIAN EVANGELISTS

BECAUSE OF YOUR PRAYERS AND PARTNERSHIP, WE ENDED 2022 SUPPORTING **1,598 ASIAN MISSIONARIES**, SERVING AMONG **1,233 UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS**. A REPORTED **346,986 PEOPLE** EXPERIENCED GOD'S SALVATION LAST YEAR.

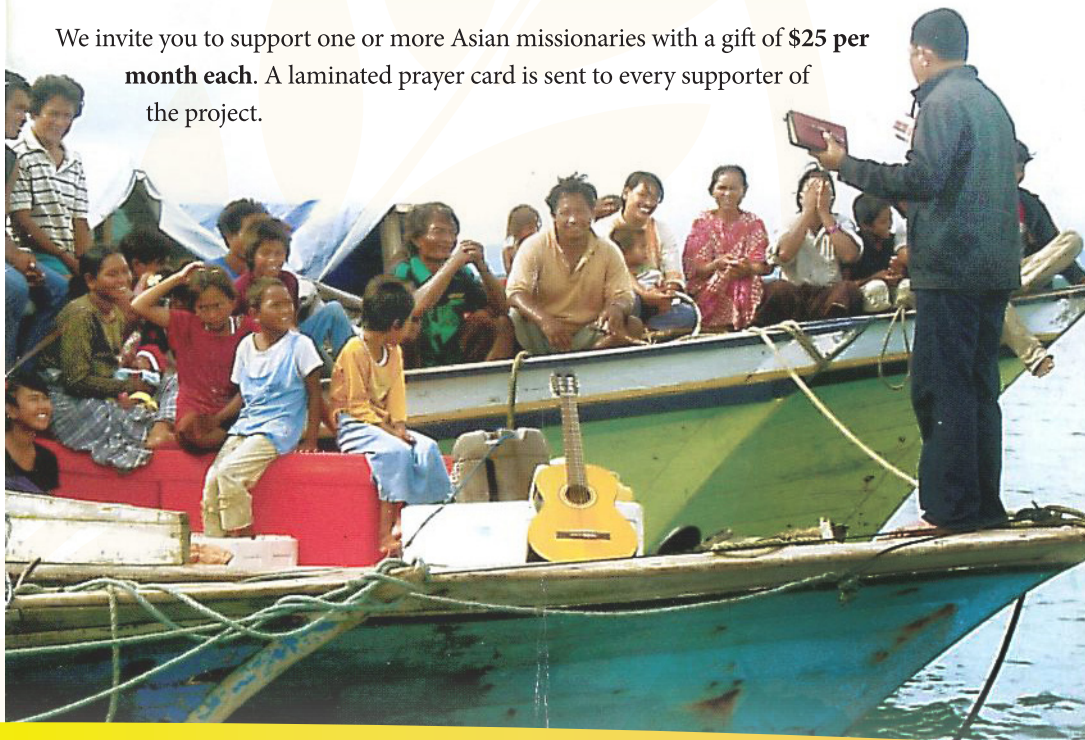


The *Asian Workers' Fund* supports Asian evangelists who are working among people groups that have never heard the Gospel. These workers encounter much hardship, but have persevered and are seeing breakthroughs among many groups.

In 2022, those we support through this project led **346,986 people to salvation in Jesus Christ** (an average of 217 per worker). A total of just **over one million conversions** have been reported since this project began. 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 people groups.

The *Asian Workers' Fund* is constantly expanding and new workers are being re-cruited.

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.





ASIA BIBLE FUND

PROVIDING BIBLES TO ASIA'S CHRISTIANS

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 *Asia Bible Fund* provides the Scriptures in numerous languages throughout Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere.

In 2022 we printed and distributed 261,498 Bibles in 26 languages through the Asia Bible Fund. 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 2022 we printed Bibles through the Asia Bible Fund in the following languages:

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| • Bhilali | • Halbi | • Kolami | • Powari | • Tharu Rana |
| • Bhunjia | • Hindi | • Marathi | • Reli | • Urdu |
| • English | • Indonesian | • Meitei | • Siddi | • Vaagri Booli |
| • Gowlan | • Kannada | • Noiri | • Sholaga | • Vagiri |
| • Gowli | • Kachin | • Odia | • Telugu | • Vietnamese |



CURRENT TOTAL: 1,662,143 BIBLES PRINTED IN 160 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.
EACH BIBLE COSTS AN AVG OF \$2.70 TO PRINT & DELIVER.

PRF PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND

TRANSFORMING LIVES FROM ASHES TO BEAUTY

As most of Asia slowly comes out of the three years lost to Covid lockdowns and infections, many of our partners have struggled to get their churches and work back to the level it was at prior to the pandemic. We helped people in numerous ways through the *Persecution & Relief Fund* last year.



Thanks to your generous support, **in 2022 we launched a new initiative to care for the physical and spiritual needs of hundreds of lepers in central India.** Our October newsletter highlighted this need, and touched many readers' hearts, especially the testimonies of those who have been struck by this awful disease. In one location, 272 of the 300 lepers we and our partners are helping have committed their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.



Other ways this project has helped people in 2022 include providing relief after floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters; the provision of wheelchairs; motorcycles and bicycles; freshwater wells; sewing machine centers and vocational training for girls at risk; blankets and warm clothing; medical clinics for the poor; help for orphans; and a host of other ways that display the love of Jesus, and allow our coworkers to share the Gospel with those who have never heard it.

Many thousands of people were added to the kingdom of God after they saw the love of Jesus demonstrated through the selfless acts of God's servants.



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 205,444 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 reach a child for Christ.



ASIA BIBLE FUND ABF

1,662,143 BIBLES PRINTED SO FAR IN 160 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.



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

Asia Harvest

DECEMBER 2023



NEWSLETTER #192



THE LISU PEOPLE

Providing God's Word to Hungry Believers

ASIAHARVEST.ORG • OFFICE@ASIAHARVEST.ORG



From the Frontlines

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:42-47

OVER THE YEARS MANY CHURCH LEADERS AND BELIEVERS have read our reports about revival in China and other parts of Asia they have asked us to share the “secret” to how they too can experience “real New Testament Christianity.”

Invariably, when we delve further, we find that what they mean by New Testament Christianity is the record in the early chapters of Acts, like the passage quoted above.

While such experiences are tremendously exhilarating, are they the sum total of New Testament Christianity? About 30 years after the Day of Pentecost, the Apostle Paul sent detailed instructions to Timothy about church structure and leadership, how worship should

FRONT COVER: *Lisu Christians overjoyed at receiving a delivery of Bibles in their own language. 1.5 million Lisu inhabit areas on both sides of the China-Myanmar border.*

be ordered, and the qualifications of deacons and elders.

Are those Scriptures any less inspired and important than the accounts in the second chapter of Acts?

There are different seasons in the growth and maturity of the Body of Christ.

At *Asia Harvest*, it has always been our driving ambition to establish the Gospel in the most unreached areas. Like Paul, we can say: *"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).

This focus has not wavered for us, and by God's grace it never will.

At the same time, however, we realize that there are tremendously important needs throughout Asia among people groups that have had the Gospel for generations, but desperately need a visitation of God to renew and revive them.

We don't think there is much point in leading people to Christ if they are then neglected and drift back to the darkness from where they came.

Spiritual stagnation often occurs in countries where **Christians have deliberately been starved of God's Word** by the authorities.

This is the case among the *Lisu* people of southwest China and northern Myanmar.

*Not for the faint-hearted:
Pulling yourself across raging
torrents on a rope is the only
way to cross many rivers
in the Lisu area.*



**IN THIS NEWSLETTER WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO
A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PROVIDE PRECIOUS BIBLES
TO THE LISU CHURCHES IN BOTH COUNTRIES...**



A Remarkable Homeland

THE NAME “*LISU*” means “*come down people*” reflecting the Lisu belief that they originally had a kingdom on the Tibetan Plateau, before they came down into the mountains of southwest China.

Today, the *Lisu* can be divided into three main groups depending on their location. The *Black Lisu* are the most remote, dwelling in villages high up in the mountains, often more than 10,000 feet above sea-level.

The highest peak in the *Lisu* area is Hkakabo Razi, which at 5,881 meters (19,295 feet) is the highest in Southeast Asia. The *Lisu* also inhabit a spectacular area in Nujiang which has been dubbed “Asia’s Grand Canyon.”

Other *Lisu* live in low-lying areas among the Han Chinese and other ethnic groups.

The extreme homeland of the *Lisu* has created some unique situations. People living in some villages on the side of a high mountain are able to communicate by shouting to their neighbors several hundred yards across the valley in a village clinging to an adjacent slope, but they may never meet them in person.

To do so, they would need to undertake a long and dangerous days-long journey down to the valley floor.

When they reach the bottom, they must navigate across raging, bridge-less rivers, inching their way across on a rope and pulley system, before climbing back up the other side.





A Black Lisu lady from the high mountains along the China-Myanmar border.

An Oppressed People

FOR CENTURIES the *Lisu* longed to live peaceful lives, but have been targeted and bullied by the Chinese, Burmese, and other large races, who have made their lives miserable.

The desire for freedom caused the Lisu to disperse into Myanmar, and as far afield as northeast India and Thailand.

Between 1801 and 1803 the Chinese government mobilized 10,000 troops to crush the *Lisu*.

Many thousands died and entire communities were decimated.

Survivors fled deeper into the remote mountains. Critics at the time described the excessive military action as “using a cattle knife to kill chickens.”

Later, in the 1940s, the Chinese despised the *Lisu* so much that 65 punitive taxes were levied on them, including one tax for each plane that flew over their region!

When the first missionaries reached the *Lisu* area in the early 1900s, they were appalled at their spiritual and moral condition. One missionary unflatteringly described the *Lisu* as “utter savages.” Alcoholism and gambling were so rampant that Isobel Kuhn wrote:

“When they have gambled away their money, they will often stake their children, their wives, and even themselves as slaves. As a result, in one night a whole family can be gambled away into life-long slavery.”

The state of the *Lisu* people was dire—the **perfect situation** for the Lord Jesus Christ to display His grace.

What followed is one of the **greatest** missionary stories of the 20th century...

JESUS—The King of the Lisu

FOR COUNTLESS GENERATIONS, the *Lisu* believed in a supreme god named *Wa Sa*, who had the power to heal and protect them. They had lost contact, however, and had given up hope of ever being reconciled with him.

A key to their eventual salvation was a long-held belief that one day a white brother would come and bring with him a lost book in the *Lisu* language, which would show them the way back to God, and He would rule them as their king.

The remarkable thing is that the *Lisu* at the time did not have any printed material or even an alphabet, yet this legend persisted, being passed down from generation to generation.

In the first half of the 20th century, a succession of godly missionaries entered the *Lisu* region. Some—like James Fraser, Allyn & Leila Cooke, and John & Isobel Kuhn—became well-known in the Christian world as they reported on the extraordinary revival sweeping the *Lisu* into God’s kingdom.

In 1916 and 1917 alone, Fraser baptized 60,000 *Lisu*, with many of the converts serving Christ with the kind of zeal they had previously used to serve the devil.

When one village surrendered to the Lord, they poured out all their liquor, causing all the pigs in the village to get drunk!

A key development occurred when missionary Samuel Pollard created a unique script to translate the *Lisu* Bible into.

┘	┘'	┐	┐'	+	+'	┌	┌'
b	p	d	t	z	c	zh/j	ch/q
[p/b]	[p ^h]	[t/d]	[t ^h]	[ts]	[ts ^h]	[tʂ/tɕ]	[tʂ ^h /tɕ ^h]
└	└'	┘	┘'	Δ	Δ'	┘	┘'
dr	tr	g	k	dl	tl	gh	kh
[t/d]	[t ^h]	[k/g]	[k ^h]	[t ^l /d ^l]	[t ^h]	[q/ɣ]	[q ^h]
┘	'┘	┘	'┘	┘	'┘	L	┘

A sample of the Lisu script created by missionary Samuel Pollard.

Despite looking like a collection of symbols and inverted English letters, the alphabet was a stroke of genius, and the *Lisu* were able to learn to read and write their language for the first time in history.

The first Bible portions were completed in 1921, and the New Testament in 1938. Having the Word of God in their own language transformed the *Lisu* people.

When the Communists came to destroy their faith in the 1950s, a young *Lisu* man told his interrogators: “Christianity has already penetrated into our flesh and blood and it will not be easy to tear it away from us.”

Decades of Decline

THE LISU CHRISTIANS ALSO TOOK RESPONSIBILITY to take the Gospel to other unreached tribes. For example, in 1960 Lisu evangelists risked their lives by going to the head-hunter Naga and Tangshang tribes on the Myanmar-India border.

Willing to die for their faith, they planted many churches, and today the majority of the people in those groups remain Christians.

It would be nice if we concluded our story here, with hundreds of thousands of *Lisu* in China and Myanmar having come into the family of God. But without constant tending, a garden will slowly become choked with weeds.

Over the decades, the Lisu have been deprived of Bibles, with the Chinese Communists and the Burmese military rulers combining to cut off the supply of God's Word to them.

As a result, while multitudes of Lisu remain dedicated Christians today, many of the younger generations have a form of godliness but no personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

They need a fresh visitation of the Holy Spirit.

Missionary Grace Jacob taught at a Chinese university for years.

She was excited to learn that some of her new students were *Lisu* Christians, but discovered that even though they regularly



attended church, the young men lived immoral lives and loved partying every weekend. None of them had ever heard of John 3:16 or Psalm 23!

When she asked them, “What is a Christian?” they replied with a confused expression, “Is it someone who lives a moral life?”

After a century of glorious victories and famous missionary stories, **it would be tragic** for the final chapter of the *Lisu* to be one where they reverted back to their former ways due to decades of decline without access to the Scriptures! ☹️

FOR THIS REASON, ASIA HARVEST IS PRINTING AND DELIVERING 60,000 LISU BIBLES TO LISU CHURCHES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CHINA-MYANMAR BORDER

More copies will be provided according to the need, as the Lord provides.

As with ALL of our projects, we guarantee that 100% of donations towards this need will go directly to the field to implement the project.

Nothing will be deducted for administration or any other need.

We invite you to **pray** for the *Lisu*, and to consider **partnering** with us to help our *Lisu* brothers and sisters obtain God's precious Word.

Each Bible costs \$3 to print and deliver through our **Asia Bible Fund**.

Donations can be made by sending a gift along with the **yellow Response Form** in this newsletter. One-time or monthly donations can also be made via our secure website. Thank you.

 **Asia Harvest.ORG**





ASIA BIBLE FUND ABF

CURRENT TOTAL: 19,594,390 BIBLES PRINTED IN 159 LANGUAGES

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

Each Bible costs just \$3 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.



ASIAN WORKERS' FUND AWF

WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT 1,710 ASIAN EVANGELISTS AMONG 1,254 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 1,306,911 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.

MINISTRY TRAINING FUND MTF

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT WE HAVE HELPED TRAIN AND EQUIP 15,465 ASIAN BELIEVERS TO EFFECTIVELY SERVE GOD

The Ministry Training Fund helps the Asian Church disciple and train believers to be effective ministers of the Gospel among the unreached.



Often workers live in remote places and coming together once or twice a year is the only outside fellowship and teaching they receive. We cover travel, food and other costs associated with the meetings. To train each worker costs an average of \$50.

LMF

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP WE ARE CURRENTLY SUPPORTING 883 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.



TCF

THE CHILDREN'S FUND

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT HAS REACHED 214,799 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.



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

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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)
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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.

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AMF

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

**WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT 1,598 ASIAN EVANGELISTS
AMONG 1,233 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 1,006,389 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

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This project also provides physical and spiritual relief to lepers and to Christian communities throughout Asia who have been affected by persecution.





Asia Harvest

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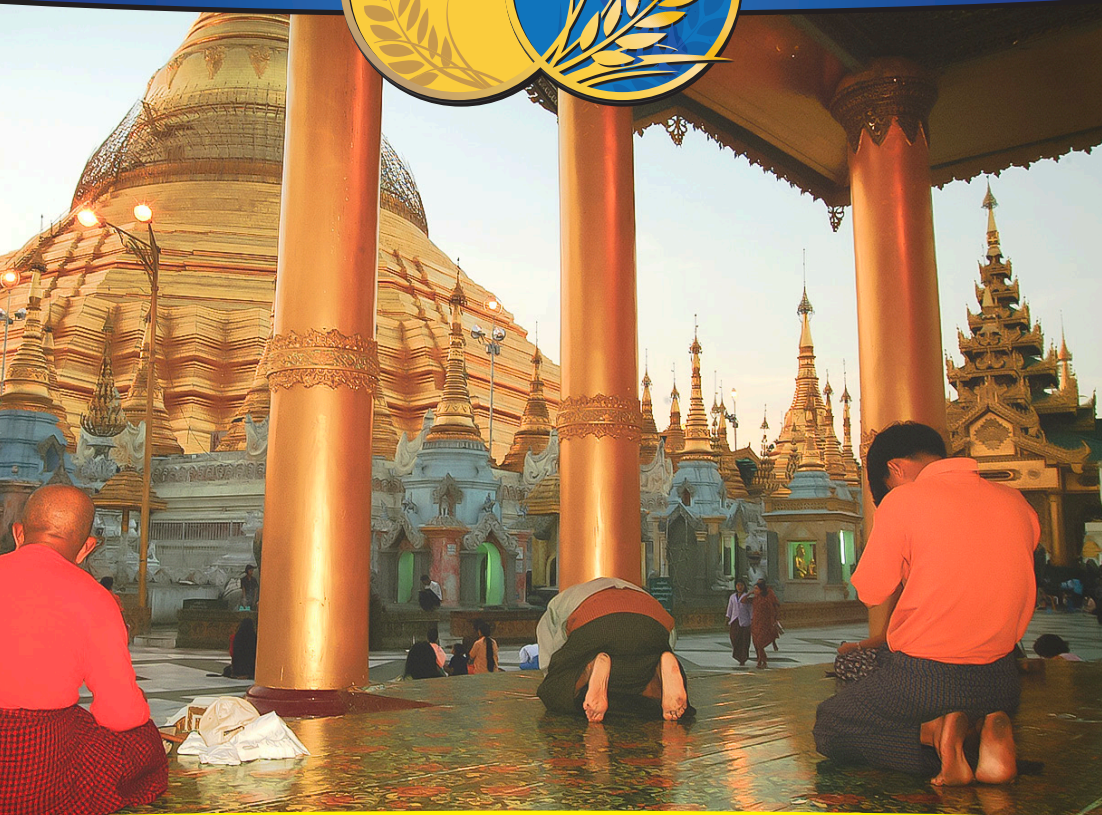
"PUT IN THE SICKLE, FOR THE HARVEST HAS COME!" MARK 4:29

Asia Harvest

APRIL 2023



NEWSLETTER #187



REVIVAL IN MYANMAR

A Strategic Opportunity to Impact a Whole Country

ASIAHARVEST.ORG • OFFICE@ASIAHARVEST.ORG



From the Frontlines

IN THIS NEWSLETTER WE ARE EXCITED to share what the Living God has been doing in Myanmar, which was formerly known as Burma. (By the way, the local name for the country has always been Myanmar, but the British called it Burma during the colonial era. The majority Buddhist people group are known as both “Myen” and “Bama,” which gave rise to their dual names.

The first Evangelical missionary to set foot in Myanmar was Adoniram Judson of Massachusetts, who arrived in 1813, aged 25, and is regarded as “America’s first foreign missionary.” Judson remained in Myanmar for 37 years, before he died on board a ship in 1850. During those 37 years of pioneer service, he only returned to America once.

Adoniram Judson gave every ounce of his life to serving Jesus Christ and the people of Myanmar. An insight into the level of wholehearted dedication he had can be seen in the classic letter he wrote to the father of his first wife, Ann, asking for his daughter’s hand in marriage.

Judson’s letter stands in stark contrast with much of Western Christianity today, where personal safety and comfort are placed first. He wrote:

FRONT COVER:

The famous Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Myanmar. The pagoda is the symbol and seat of Buddhist power in the country, which holds more than 30 million Burmese people spiritually captive.

*“The people who know
their God shall be
strong and carry out
great exploits.”*

(Daniel 11:32b)

*“They triumphed over him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of
their testimony;
they did not love their lives
so much as to shrink
from death.”*

(Revelation 12:11)

*“I have now to ask, whether you can
consent to part with your daughter
early next spring, to see her no more
in this world; whether you can consent
to her departure, and her subjection
to the hardships and sufferings of
a missionary life; whether you can
consent to her exposure to the dangers
of the ocean; to the fatal influence
of the southern climate of Burma;
to every kind of want and distress;
to degradation, insult, persecution,
and perhaps a violent death.”*

Remarkably, Ann's father read Adoniram Judson's letter and willingly agreed to give his beloved daughter to him in marriage.

Judson's words, by the way, were not an exaggeration. Ann had a brief and painful life in Burma, wracked by tropical disease and violence, and she suffered gnawing loneliness when her husband was falsely accused of being a British spy. While he was being tortured in prison for three years, Ann moved to a little shack outside the prison gates so she could visit her husband more easily.

The most difficult trial Ann endured was the personal heartache she carried. Her first pregnancy ended in a miscarriage; their son Roger died when he was eight months old; and baby daughter Maria died six months after Ann perished from smallpox at the age of 36.

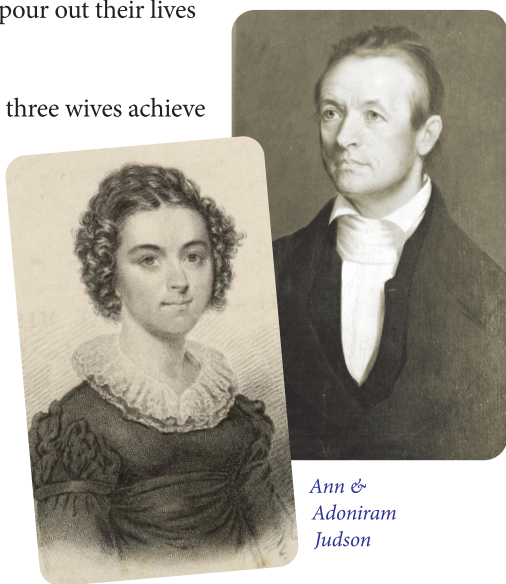
Meanwhile, when he was not behind bars, Judson preached the Gospel and translated the Scriptures for seven long years before he won his first convert to Christ. He soldiered on, enduring unbelievable hardships for the Name of Jesus. In 1834 he married a widow, Sarah, but their union ended when she died of illness ten years later.

The following year Judson married his third wife, Emily. She gave birth to a son, Charles, who only lived a few hours. Judson himself died in 1850, and Emily returned to the United States where she perished four years later, aged 36.

On the surface, it might appear that these brave pioneer missionaries wasted their lives, when they could have remained at home and enjoyed a more comfortable existence. But, like the Apostle Paul, they were willing to pour out their lives "like a drink offering" to God (Philippians 2:17).

Did Adoniram Judson and the brief lives of his three wives achieve anything of note for the kingdom of God? Read on, and you will discover that their labors were not in vain, as the Lord Jesus never lets a sacrificial life go unrewarded.

Incredibly, more than 170 years after Adoniram Judson's death, good fruit continues to grow from his life and ministry, and the **30 million Burmese people have begun to turn to the Lord in significant numbers for the first time in history.** ☪



*Ann &
Adoniram
Judson*



A Long-Awaited Breakthrough

Revival is Stirring the Burmese People!

DURING THE 37 YEARS Adoniram Judson served God in Myanmar, an interesting dichotomy took place.

Whereas he focused on reaching the cultured Buddhist Burmese people, with little apparent success, he took under his wing a rough character named Ko Tha Byu. He was a member of the Karen tribe, who at the time were considered the most backward and uncivilized people group in the country.

Ko had been a violent robber and murderer in his younger years, but after becoming Judson's servant he became fully convinced of the claims of Jesus Christ. Judson loved him and gave him the name Tha Byu, meaning "little brother."

Often, as Judson spent countless hours traveling around the nation debating with Buddhist monks and educated Burmese people, Ko would quietly sit around the campfires and share the Gospel with small numbers of Karen people in each location.

While it took Judson seven years to win his first Burmese convert, Ko Tha Byu led handfults of Karen families to Christ, and soon small pockets of believers had been established across a widespread area.

The Holy Spirit breathed life into the work, and after 12 years a total of 1,270 Karen had believed in Jesus and been baptized, plus many people from other tribes.

Over the past 30 years *Asia Harvest* workers have served the people of Myanmar, providing hundreds of thousands of Bibles in numerous languages.

For nearly two centuries, Christianity in Myanmar has followed the same general pattern, with the poor tribal groups in the country's border areas often warmly embracing the Gospel, while the proud majority Burmese have proved resistant. In Myanmar, many tribes have large Christian populations, but the 31 million Burmese people have continued to live and die apart from God, with less than half of one percent estimated to be Christians today.

One of the greatest contributions Adoniram Judson made for the kingdom of God was to translate the Scriptures into Burmese. The task was so intense that it often felt like every demonic power in the land had been mobilized to stop him.

Judson persevered, and the first Burmese Bible rolled off the printing press in 1835.

HEAVEN-SENT REVIVAL COMES TO MYANMAR

If you access news from Asia, you will know that for decades—and especially during the past four or five years—the military junta that rules Myanmar has increasingly committed atrocities against their own people.

Whatever chaos your country may have faced during the last few years of Covid lockdowns, it is probably little compared to the people of Myanmar, who in addition to Covid restrictions, have been forced to endure civil war, a genocidal campaign by the government, indiscriminate shooting of people in the streets, starvation, deprivation, economic collapse, and a military that has systematically raped and slaughtered many segments of the population, especially in the Christian tribal areas.

There is clear evidence that the evil genocide sweeping Myanmar has been conducted with the explicit help of the Chinese Communist Party, which seems to view Myanmar as a virtual vassal state of China. The bullets, bombs, tanks, and even air assaults have been done with machinery supplied by China.

The stories and pictures we have seen from Myanmar are too gruesome to share here.

Amid this chaos, the stubborn pride that has kept generations of Buddhist Burmese from believing in Jesus Christ has been eroded, and in their state of humiliation and brokenness, tens of thousands of Burmese have repented and given their lives to God.

(Continued...)

Truly, *“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* (James 4:6)

From across the densely populated plains of Myanmar—inhabited by Buddhist peoples like the Burmese, Chaungtha, Mon and Rakhine—reports have emerged of families and sometimes whole communities being transformed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

People who were dead in their sins have been given new hearts; the hopeless now have hope and purpose in their lives; families that have worshipped idols for centuries are now praising the Living God; and many broken people are being put back together as the Lord Jesus has pity on the suffering Burmese and declares: *“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”* (Romans 9:15)

A REVIVAL OF BASIC, BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

Despite the wonderful breakthrough among groups in Myanmar that have long been considered resistant to the Gospel, the revival at this stage is numerically small compared to the tens of millions of lost Buddhist people there. But it is a blessed start.

Please pray the Holy Spirit will continue to fan the flames, and that millions of people throughout Myanmar will find Christ and glorify His Name.

God is doing a new thing through this revival. In the two centuries since Adoniram Judson arrived in Myanmar, the Christian landscape in the country became very denominational, reflecting many of the divisions seen in the Western world.

Countless Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican, Assemblies of God, and other churches filled the land. The faith of many Christians became nominal and dry, however, and the Body of Christ was in desperate need of a heavenly visitation.

The current revival has almost exclusively occurred through house church discipleship networks, where faith has been stripped of many man-made religious traditions and brought back to its basic, pure form. Gone is the division between paid clergy and “laymen.”

Now, new believers from this revival are considered *“kings and priests to serve our God”* (Revelation 5:10), and all members of the Body of Christ are encouraged to use their God-given gifts to build up others and to reach the lost.


The current move of God is also unlikely to produce a single visible church building.

Myanmar does not need one more cathedral or church building. Now, tens of thousands of newly redeemed brothers and sisters with a simple yet powerful faith gather in homes, basements, shops, halls, thatch huts, teahouses, or wherever else they may choose to meet.

Here at *Asia Harvest*, we have never had any interest in funding church buildings or visible places of worship. In fact, in the 35 years we have been serving in Asia, we have helped local believers plant thousands of fellowships of vibrant believers, but not once have we ever funded or constructed a church building.

There are practical reasons for our stance. In the countries we serve in, church-going Christians are easily identified and persecuted by militant Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, or Communists. Our goal when we help Asian believers establish a fellowship is that it is flexible from the start and able to go “underground” as soon as it needs to. It’s very difficult for the enemies of the Cross to destroy God’s children when they cannot locate them easily and there are no buildings adorned with crosses that point the way for the persecutors to go.

The nature of the current revival, which has been gathering steam for several years, is that many thousands of sinners have repented and surrendered to Jesus Christ. Each believer then disciples others, and in that way the Gospel has spread rapidly to their friends and relatives, who then share it with their contacts.

Like every movement where many people come to faith there are challenges, but the Holy Spirit has brought peace and love to communities that for centuries had been trapped in spiritual darkness and depravity. 

In this remarkable recent photo from Myanmar, new believers—mostly people from a Buddhist background—joyfully receive Burmese Bibles for the first time. Similar scenes are being repeated throughout the country as revival spreads.



A Rare Opportunity to Impact an Entire Country

Although no one except God currently knows the extent of the revival in Myanmar, what we can tell you is that when our co-workers there (who we have known for 30 years) began to field requests for Burmese Bibles, in a short space of time requests flooded in from more than 100 different Myanmar church and ministry leaders, begging for the Word of God so that new believers could be established in the faith and the gains from the revival would not fall by the wayside.

NOTE: Although the Bible Society exists in Myanmar, Bibles tend to be very difficult to obtain from them and are priced so high that most normal believers cannot afford to buy a single copy.

All Bibles provided by *Asia Harvest* are distributed free of charge to believers, via existing ministries, which have to account for what they receive by sending us reports and photos of their distributions.



As a result of this first round of requests, we have printed 80,000 full Burmese Bibles, and as you read this newsletter they are being distributed to grateful believers throughout Myanmar.

At \$3 each, the amount of money needed to do such a project soon becomes large, but we are thankful for our supporters who have prayed and given to our *Asia Bible Fund*, which allows us to implement large printings like this.

After the initial 80,000 Bibles have been

distributed and reports have been received, we envisage there will be a need for at least another 80,000 Burmese Bibles, plus thousands more in other minority languages. We will then evaluate the project, but in our experience in China and other parts of Asia, when much needed Bibles reach thirsty and desperate new Christians, the result is that the Scriptures act like fuel being added to a fire, causing the blaze to burn much brighter.

This, in turn, results in a surge in the number of new believers, who also need Bibles, and so the need escalates.

As we were writing this newsletter, our long-term Myanmar Bible co-workers sent us this message:

“Including the 80,000 now being distributed, we have received requests to print at least 150,000 more Burmese Bibles. Because of the civil war many people are turning to Christ. Buddhism doesn’t help the heart, but Jesus does.”

The main role of Asia Harvest in this move of God in Myanmar is to provide the Word of God to new believers. We expect to be busy doing this for at least the next few years. Please pray with us for the success of this project, so that God’s flock may be spiritually nourished and anchored in truth and grace.

We hope to give updates on the revival and testimonies from Burmese believers in future newsletters.

It is a great privilege to be involved, and we see it as a wonderful, God-given opportunity to impact not only a people group, but an entire country for the kingdom of God.



ASIA BIBLE FUND

FEEDING HUNGRY BELIEVERS AND EQUIPPING THEM FOR SERVICE

We invite you to join hands with us in praying for the revival in Myanmar.

Please pray that all 150 people groups there will soon have vibrant Christian communities that are reaching the lost and glorifying the Living God.

If you would like to support our Burmese Bible project, please fill out the yellow response form in this newsletter and send it back along with your gift.

Each Bible costs just \$3 to print and deliver!

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



AsiaHarvest.ORG



WHERE NEEDED MOST WNM

AS YOU CONSIDER THE BEST WAY TO GIVE TO THE WORK OF ASIA HARVEST, PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO THIS CRUCIAL FUND

Donations allocated this way enable us to cover all expenses and overhead costs, and to allocate funds to the projects in greatest need at any given time, so that we can plan ahead with confidence, and have resources available whenever a sudden need emerges.



THE CHILDREN'S FUND TCF

**YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT HAS REACHED
206,767 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

CURRENT TOTAL: 19,134,787 BIBLES PRINTED IN 156 LANGUAGES

The Asia Bible Fund provides the Scriptures in numerous languages of China, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and anywhere in Asia where God's people need His Word. These Bibles are distributed free of charge, equipping the Body of Christ and helping fuel the flames of revival.

Each Bible costs just \$3 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.



LMF

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

**BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP WE ARE
CURRENTLY SUPPORTING 804 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 1,598 ASIAN EVANGELISTS
AMONG 1,219 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 1,029,619 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.





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

Asia Harvest

JUNE 2023



NEWSLETTER #188



SHAANXI

A New Book by Paul Hattaway

ASIAHARVEST.ORG • OFFICE@ASIAHARVEST.ORG

From the Frontlines

WE CLEARLY LIVE IN A DAY WHEN DARKNESS IS ON THE RISE, and what is vile is honored by an increasingly satanic society.

The Word of God is under attack to a degree rarely seen, where even the most basic statements made by the Creator are being brazenly challenged and mocked.

For example, the Bible simply states: “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27), but the devil and his children cannot accept anything from God, so they are twisting this basic truth by trying to add a third gender to the mix!

In the last several years, we have been encouraged by feedback from around the world from people who have read *The China Chronicles* books. This series looks at how the Lord Jesus Christ has established His kingdom in China, bringing revival and true Christianity to tens of millions of families that for countless generations had been trapped in spiritual darkness.

If you feel discouraged by the trajectory of society today, then please remember that the plans of the Lord are never thwarted, and His timetable is completely on schedule!

As the first part of the above passage says, “The words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.”

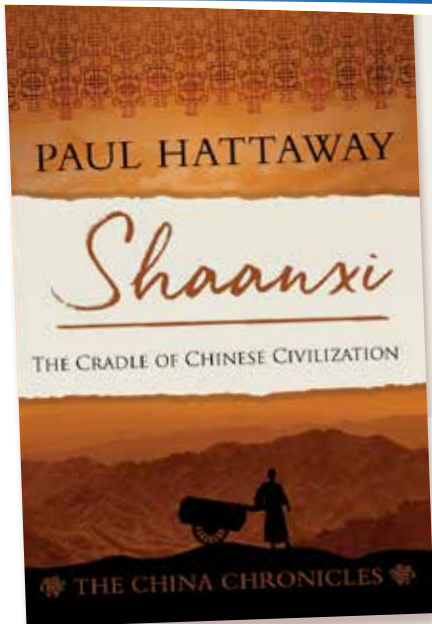
Every day brings encouraging reports across our desk of how the Living God is transforming lives and entire communities across Asia. Although in much of the West it seems people have rejected the Lord and spat His offer of salvation back in His face, in Asia it remains truly Good News to many people — a precious pearl that downtrodden and weary people are willing to give everything to obtain.

We appreciate your partnership in helping us reach many people who have never heard the Gospel before.

*“The words of the Lord
are flawless,
like silver purified in a
crucible, like gold refined
seven times.*

*You, Lord, will keep
the needy safe and will
protect us forever from
the wicked, who freely
strut about when what
is vile is honored by the
human race.”*

(Psalm 12:6-8)



The China Chronicles Book 7

SHAAXI

THE CRADLE OF CHINESE CIVILIZATION

by Paul Hattaway

In this newsletter we are pleased to announce the seventh 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 lives of those who read them.

Shaaxi (meaning “west of the mountain passes”) is a province in north China that served as the cradle of Chinese civilization for thousands of years. The city of Xi’an was the capital of China for two millennia before the honor was transferred to Beijing.

From Shaaxi came what the Chinese call ‘*Four Great Inventions*’ that changed the world—the compass, paper, printing, and gunpowder.

It is also home to the first recorded Christians in China, while the first known church building, constructed in 638, remarkably is still standing today.



The remainder of this newsletter has excerpts from ‘SHAAXI: The Cradle of Chinese Civilization,’ as we take a look at this fascinating part of China that has impacted world history in ways that most people don’t realize.

To order a copy of the book, please fill out and return the enclosed form or visit AsiaHarvest.org for details. A kindle/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.



How Chinese History Parallels the Bible

SADLY, HISTORY WAS THE LEAST FAVORITE SUBJECT for many people at school, because of the dry and boring way it was often presented.

In *SHAANXI: The Cradle of Chinese Civilization*, the fascinating history of China is laid out in a relevant way that may amaze and surprise you, as you see how God's plan for the Chinese people has unfolded over the last several thousand years.

For example, did you know that

At the very beginning of recorded Chinese history, Shaanxi was the home of the 'Yellow Emperor,' Huang Di, who is believed to have ruled from about 2698 to 2598 BC.

According to some Bible scholars, these dates would place Huang Di's reign in the century following the dispersion of the human race after Noah's flood, and within decades of the Tower of Babel, when the Bible states: "From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth" (Gen. 11:9).

Although it's impossible to prove dates from so long ago, it is startling that the Chinese chronologies so closely parallel the earliest biblical records. While Western evolutionists claim people have been present for tens or hundreds of thousands of years, Chinese history stretches back no further than the accounts of Genesis.

If the first inhabitants of China arrived soon after the biblical flood recorded in Genesis, they would have possessed accounts of the event that wiped out almost the entire human race.

Incredibly, at least a dozen ethnic groups in China have retained oral accounts of a global flood. The earliest written Chinese records also tell of a cataclysmic flood.

In the Shu Jing ('Classic of History'), Emperor Yao (c. 2356-2255 BC) described the epic event in these words:

"Like endless boiling water, the flood is pouring forth destruction. Boundless and overwhelming, it overtops hills and mountains. Rising and ever rising, it threatens the very heavens. How the people must be groaning and suffering!"

EMPEROR SHUN AND THE 'HEAVENLY EMPEROR'

Emperor Shun lived from approximately 2317 to 2208 BC, making him a contemporary of Abraham according to some Bible timelines. Remarkably, the two patriarchs—despite living several thousand miles apart—shared many of the same characteristics in the way they sought to honor the true God of Heaven.

In a crucial decision that was to have major ramifications in China for countless generations, after ascending the throne Emperor Shun offered sacrifices to the Heavenly Emperor, Shangdi—which is the name still used for God in the Chinese Bible today.

The attributes of Shangdi include that He is the Creator of the universe, is all-knowing and all-powerful, cannot be represented by any image, and He controls all the affairs of mankind. Some have suggested the ancient Chinese must have heard of the sacrificial rites revealed by God to the Israelites, but Emperor Shun lived centuries before the Law of Moses was given.

This circular 26-foot high altar, discovered in the suburbs of Xi'an in 1999, is where Chinese emperors are believed to have offered annual sacrifices to the God of Heaven.





The earliest Chinese rulers offered their sacrifices to Shangdi atop a circular mound, during a ceremony consisting of nine stages. During the annual Border Sacrifice, musicians played tunes and ancient lyrics were sung which told of events in history dating back to God's creation. Just when these songs were composed, and how the ancient Chinese knew the information contained in them has baffled historians.

One song, the Zhonghe Zhiqiu ('Song of Central Peace') said:

"In the beginning, there was great chaos, without form and dark. The five planets had not begun to revolve, nor the two lights to shine. In the midst of it there existed neither matter nor sound. You, O Spiritual Sovereign, came forth in Your sovereignty, and first did separate the impure from the pure. You made heaven; you made earth; You made man. All things became alive with reproducing power."


A second song, Yuanhe Zhiqiu ('Song of Beginning Peace'), began:

"Lord, when You separated the heavens and the earth, Your creative work had begun. You did produce, O Spirit, the seven elements. Their beautiful and brilliant lights lit up the sky and the earth. All things were good. I, Your servant, thank You fearfully, and while I worship, present this memorial to You, calling you Sovereign."

While this worship was conducted, the emperor of China prostrated himself on the ground in sub-zero temperatures before Shangdi. In a third song, the emperor proclaimed God's love and the greatness of His Name:

"You have promised to hear us, for You are our Father. I, Your child, dull and unenlightened, am unable to show forth my dutiful feelings. I thank You that You have accepted our pronouncement. Honorable is your great Name.... As swallows rejoice in the spring, we praise Your abundant love."

By offering an annual sacrifice, the emperor of China sought God's favor on the nation, and His blessing on their crops. Many centuries later, after China's capital was moved to Beijing, the emperors of the Ming Dynasty rekindled the annual sacrifice at the Temple of Heaven, observing rituals based on ancient records that stemmed from the time of Emperor Shun and his successors.

The annual sacrifices to the Creator continued for over one thousand years in China, until idolatry entered through the wicked Emperor Yu Di (reigned 1147-1112 BC), which started the Chinese race on a long slide into spiritual pollution and darkness. 

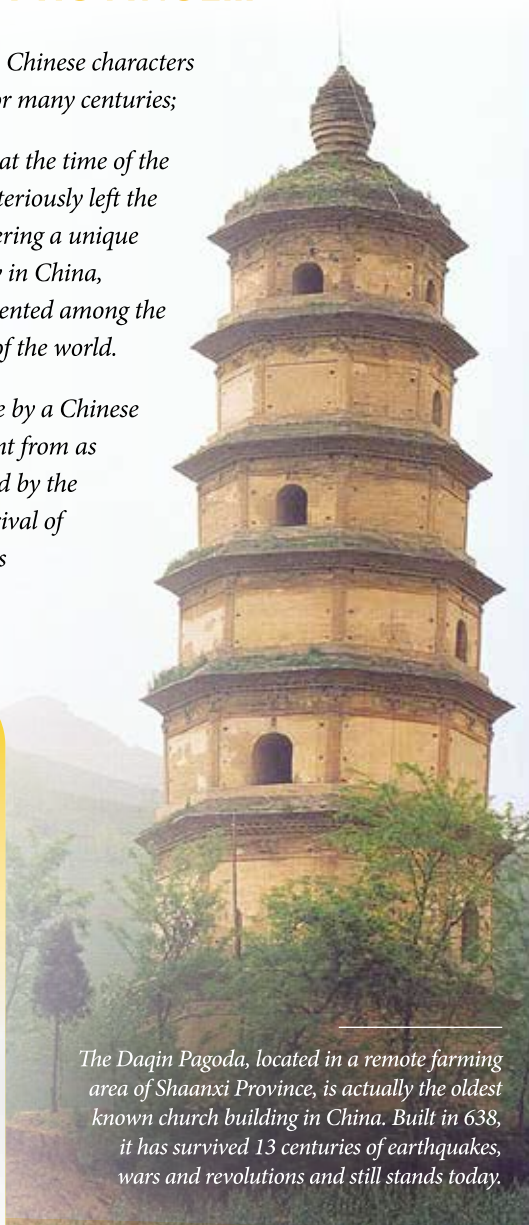
IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WE WILL CONTINUE OUR LOOK AT THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF SHAANXI PROVINCE...

We will share how the origins of some written Chinese characters reveal biblical truths that have been hidden for many centuries;

We tell how the leading astronomer in China at the time of the birth of Christ, a man named Liu Xiang, mysteriously left the imperial court for over two years after discovering a unique 'King star'. From the earliest Christian history in China, stories circulated that the Chinese were represented among the Magi who went to pay homage to the Savior of the world.

We will examine claims and physical evidence by a Chinese professor that Christians in China were present from as early as AD 86, only for his claims to be erased by the Communist Party, as an early date for the arrival of Christianity in China undermines their efforts to eradicate the faith and to label it as a tool of Western imperialism.

Over the years Asia Harvest has successfully printed and delivered MORE THAN 420,000 BIBLES to house church Christians in Shaanxi through our Asia Bible Fund, in addition to supporting many evangelists and providing aid to hundreds of persecuted church leaders and their families.



The Daqin Pagoda, located in a remote farming area of Shaanxi Province, is actually the oldest known church building in China. Built in 638, it has survived 13 centuries of earthquakes, wars and revolutions and still stands today.



WHERE NEEDED MOST

WNM

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THE CHILDREN'S FUND

TCF

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AWF

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

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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.

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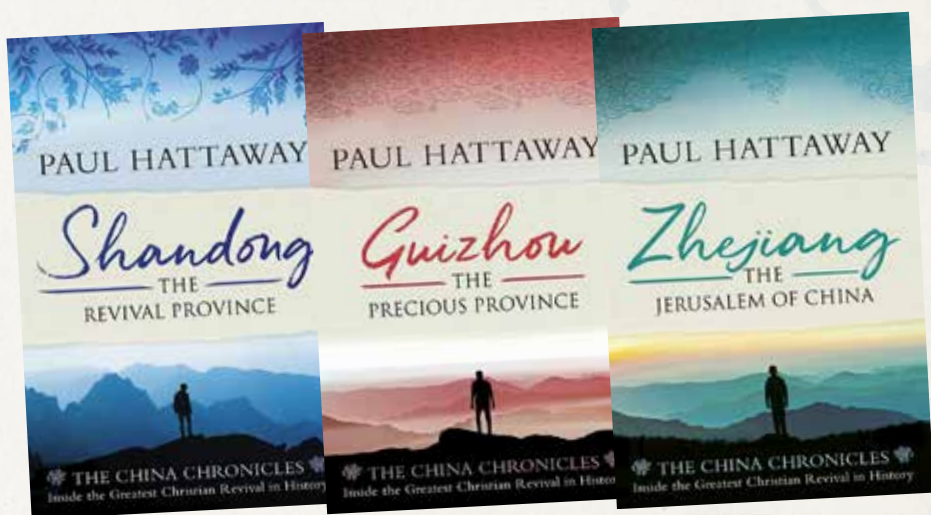


What People are Saying about The China Chronicles...

"These are not only really excellent books, but are rare and precious. The author goes inside the greatest revival in Christian history. Each book leaves me looking forward to the next one with greater anticipation." *Jeff Schuster*

"These ground-breaking books are modern day Acts of the Apostles. Paul intersperses history with amazing miracles and events that make the reader want to read them again in case they read it wrong!" *Robert Johnson*

"Strength for the soul, Cheer for the heart, Victory in Jesus!" *Judith Hannah*



“*The China Chronicles* are a province-by-province, decade-by-decade account of God’s astonishing work in China, ‘the greatest Christian revival in history.’

I find each book in this series more intriguing than the last.”

Missions Catalyst Magazine

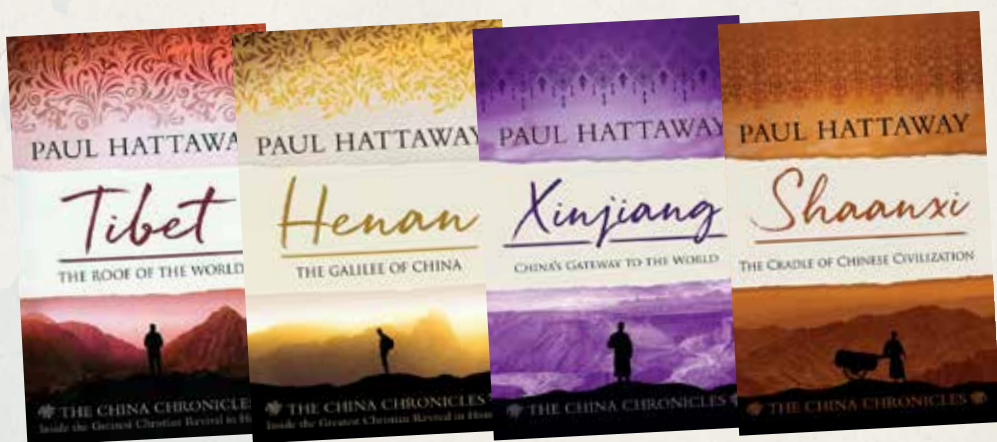
“I find *The China Chronicles* to be not only most informative but also fascinating and deeply moving. Hattaway’s scholarship is impeccable but unobtrusive, for you are caught up in the thrilling narrative of God’s work among the people of China over the centuries....

With each installment in the series, the author solidifies his position as one of the outstanding scholars of Christianity in China. Though not an academic, he is producing books of high academic value. Perhaps just as importantly, he writes with clarity, vividness, balance, accuracy, and passion....

Be careful before starting to read any of these works: You may not be able to put the book down! The energetic, vivid, and fast-moving narratives carry you along, and the telling of God’s mighty acts among the Chinese never fails to grip the reader with its drama, pathos, and sheer magnitude, reflecting both the long history and great diversity of this nation and its peoples.”

G. Wright Doyle

Director of the Global China Center and Editor of the
Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Christianity





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

Asia Harvest

JULY 2023



NEWSLETTER #189



NOT WITHOUT WITNESS

Excerpts from our new "Shaanxi" book

ASIAHARVEST.ORG • OFFICE@ASIAHARVEST.ORG

From the Frontlines

IN OUR PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER we introduced our new book, *SHAANXI: The Cradle of Chinese Civilization*.

We examined how the earliest Chinese people knew about a global flood that had wiped out almost all of mankind, and after arriving in today's north China just a century or so after the Tower of Babel, for thousands of years the Chinese worshipped only the one true Creator God, *Shangdi*.

*“In bygone
generations
God allowed
all nations
to walk in their
own ways.*

*Nevertheless
He did not
leave Himself
without witness”*

(Acts 14:16-17)

There was no idolatry, and the emperor offered sacrifices to *Shangdi* at prescribed times to seek His blessing and protection.

Alas, the wicked emperor Wu Yi (who reigned from 1147-1112 BC) came to power and a long slide into spiritual darkness began, with idolatry infesting the land.

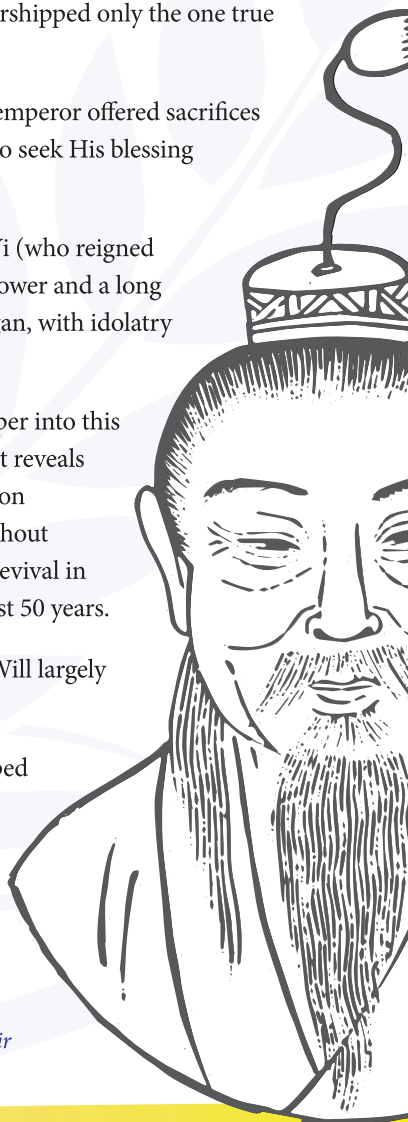
In this issue, we want to go deeper into this fascinating ancient history, for it reveals how the great Chinese civilization has interacted with God throughout history, leading to the greatest revival in Christian history during the past 50 years.

Just how God shaped Chinese history to conform to His Will largely remains a mystery.

Some things are simply inexplicable and can only be grasped by faith that throughout the centuries He “*did not leave Himself without witness*” among the Chinese and other peoples of the world.

FRONT COVER: *Atop the 600-year-old city wall of Xi'an, the ancient capital of China.*

BACK COVER: *Shaanxi believers worshipping the Lord ioutside their ‘cave church,’ which has been dug out of a sandstone cliff.*



The Missing Astronomer

AT AROUND THE TIME OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, one of the chief Chinese astronomers at the imperial court in Xi'an was a high-ranking official named Liu Xiang. Liu mysteriously disappeared from China for over two years at the time of Christ's birth, after he and his team discovered a unique star, which they called the 'King Star'.

Liu Xiang is believed to have lived from 77 BC to 6 BC.

While at first glance that would appear to place him outside the span of Jesus' birth, many Bible scholars point out that due to differences in calendars, Jesus was actually born between 6 BC and 4 BC according to today's widely-used Gregorian calendar.

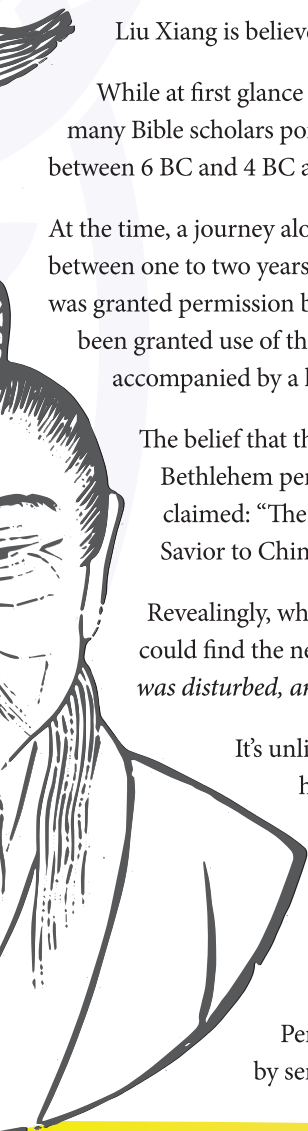
At the time, a journey along the Silk Road from Shaanxi to Judea took from between one to two years, depending on the quality of mounts used by the traveler. If Liu was granted permission by the emperor to undertake the journey, it's likely he would have been granted use of the finest horses and camels, and being a high official, he was likely accompanied by a large group of soldiers for protection.

The belief that the Chinese were represented among the Magi who traveled to Bethlehem persisted, and in the eighth century a Nestorian church leader claimed: "The Magi, returning from Bethlehem, brought the first news of the Savior to China."

Revealingly, when the wise men first arrived in Jerusalem and asked where they could find the new-born king, Matthew records: "*When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him*" (Matthew. 2:3).

It's unlikely the whole city would have been disturbed if just three men had arrived in Jerusalem, which saw many merchants continually passing through it. If a large group of men had turned up together, however, along with hundreds of soldiers and bodyguards—some from as far afield as China—it would have caused quite a stir, causing the jealous king to attempt to annihilate all competition to his throne.

Perhaps God, in His wisdom, chose to honor the birth of His Son by sending dignitaries from across the ancient world to mark the





momentous event. Many Chinese Christians today are thrilled to think that their race may have been among the first worshippers of Jesus Christ.

The remarkable chain of events did not stop there. Thirteen months after the “King star” appeared, a special comet appeared in the sky over China for 70 days at a time that may correlate with the birth of Jesus in faraway Bethlehem.

Thirty-three years later, a total eclipse is detailed in Chinese history.

The Bible records that when Jesus died, darkness fell upon the land for three hours. According to the Chinese classic, *History of the Latter Han Dynasty*:

“In the summer, fourth month of the year...the sun and moon were eclipsed. **The sins of all people are now on one man.** The emperor now proclaims pardon to all under heaven.” Another note in the imperial records of the time simply stated: “**The Man from Heaven died.**”

How the Chinese thousands of miles away knew that the sins of all people had fallen upon one man defies human explanation.

The best way to understand such things may be to simply accept that God “*did not leave Himself without witness.*”





GOD'S WITNESS IN CHINESE WRITING

The first thing many non-Chinese people notice about China is their unique writing system, but few realize that the origins of Chinese characters date back thousands of years.

Each word, or character, is made up of smaller pictographs, or radicals, that have individual meaning.

In recent decades, scholars have examined many of the characters and found uncanny parallels with events recorded in the Bible.

We have already discussed how recorded Chinese history began less than a century after the dispersion of people groups at the Tower of Babel.

So catastrophic was the flood and subsequent events, it's natural to assume that the earliest people to reach China would have brought the story of God's creation and mankind's fall with them, to be handed down as a warning to future generations.

Could it be that God, in His infinite wisdom, chose to preserve a testimony of His great acts within the very structure of the Chinese language?

The earliest forms of Chinese writing are found on tortoise shells and animal bones from the later part of Shang Dynasty. The Shang ruled China from 1600 to 1046 BC—approximately from the time from Moses to King David in the Bible.



Let's examine just five Chinese characters, which may help you grasp this unique concept:



to Create

The character
'to create'
consists of
several radicals,
including:

DUST / MUD 土
SPEECH 告
WALKING 辶

生 LIFE
口 MOUTH

Furthermore, the radical for "speech" consists of the characters "life" and "mouth."

It is surely more than coincidence that the ancient Chinese combined these components together in such a way that resembles the account of the creation of Adam found in Gen 2:7:

"Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

the Devil

Adam and Eve enjoyed a time of perfect peace and harmony in the Garden of Eden, until the devil tempted them to sin and their relationship with God was ruined.

The Chinese character for 'the devil' or 'tempter' includes three components.

Thus, the ancient characters for 'devil' or 'tempter' include a man in a private garden, again reflecting the account in Genesis, where Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden before the devil tempted them to rebel against God.



儿 MAN
田 GARDEN / FIELD
厶 SECRET / PRIVATE



Boat

The traumatic global flood that wiped out humanity except eight survivors would have been fresh in the minds of the earliest Chinese, and flood accounts persist to the present day among many of China's ethnic groups.

舟 VESSEL

八 EIGHT

口 MOUTH

The full Chinese character for 'boat' consisted of three interesting components, with the character for *mouth* also used to signify people.

The Book of Genesis records that only Noah and his family—eight people in total—survived the cataclysmic flood in a boat that God instructed Noah to build. The Bible says:

"He did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others" (2 Peter 2:5).

Righteousness

God delivered the Israelites from Egypt and from the angel of death by commanding them to sacrifice a lamb and apply the blood to the doorposts of their homes (Exodus 12:1-3).

Then in the wilderness of Sinai, He gave them instructions for sacrificing animals to atone for sin (see Leviticus 16:15-16). This concept appears to have come into the Chinese language, as the traditional character for 'righteousness' consists of four components:



羊

SHEEP

我

I / ME

手

HAND

戈

SPEAR

According to this ancient concept, righteousness is obtained by a person being covered by a sheep (or lamb) that has been slain by their own hand.



Come

Finally, many Chinese believers have used the origins of their ancient characters as a bridge to share the Gospel with non-Christians.

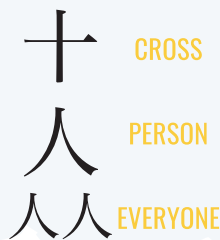
A favorite witnessing-tool is the character for the Chinese word “come”:



The character consists of a cross, along with a person on that cross. Fascinatingly, as well as the person on the cross, there are two other people present.

In Chinese, when the character for person is written twice, the meaning changes to “everyone”. This is significant because Jesus died on the cross with two thieves on either side of Him.

By piecing these different radicals together, a person may see the example of Christ dying on a cross between two guilty thieves, as a sacrifice for all who will believe and come to Him.



Over the years, many Chinese have come to faith in Jesus Christ after the composition of this one character has been explained to them.

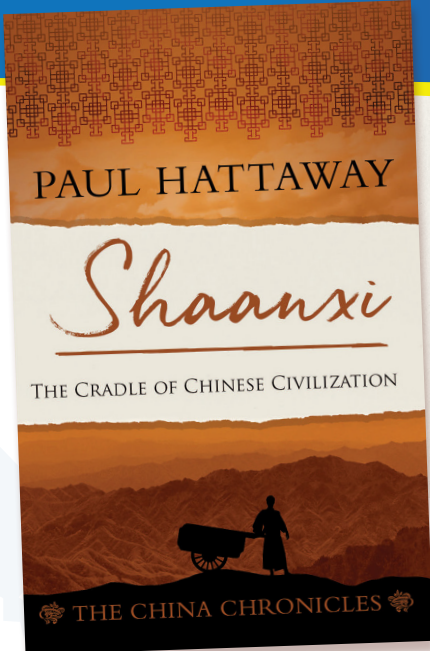
This approach often piques people’s interest and enables Christians to explain that Christ’s invitation to “come” for salvation is freely available to everyone, but at the crucifixion one of the thieves believed in Jesus and the other rejected Him.

Evangelists may then pivot the conversation to ask the hearer, “which one are you?”

There are dozens of other examples of Chinese characters that appear to reflect biblical text!

God surely did leave a witness for the Chinese people both in their ancient written language and by His provision for righteousness, which was fulfilled by the perfect sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.





The China Chronicles Book 7

SHAANXI

THE CRADLE OF CHINESE CIVILIZATION

by Paul Hattaway

In this newsletter we are pleased to announce the seventh 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 lives of those who read them.

Shaanxi (meaning “west of the mountain passes”) is a province in north China that served as the cradle of Chinese civilization for thousands of years. The city of Xi’an was the capital of China for two millennia before the honor was transferred to Beijing.

From Shaanxi came what the Chinese call ‘*Four Great Inventions*’ that changed the world—the compass, paper, printing, and gunpowder.

It is also home to the first recorded Christians in China, while the first known church building, constructed in 638, remarkably is still standing today.



This newsletter contains excerpts from ‘SHAANXI: The Cradle of Chinese Civilization.’

To order a copy of the book, please fill out and return the enclosed form or visit AsiaHarvest.org for details. A kindle/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.

FIND BOOKS + E-BOOKS IN OUR ONLINE BOOKSTORE:



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WHERE NEEDED MOST

WNM

AS YOU CONSIDER THE BEST WAY TO GIVE TO THE WORK OF ASIA HARVEST, PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO THIS CRUCIAL FUND

Donations allocated this way enable us to cover all expenses and overhead costs, and to allocate funds to the projects in greatest need at any given time, so that we can plan ahead with confidence, and have resources available whenever a sudden need emerges.



THE CHILDREN'S FUND

TCF

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT HAS REACHED 210,114 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.

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LMF

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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 1,630 ASIAN EVANGELISTS
AMONG 1,224 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 1,131,164 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

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

Asia Harvest

SEPTEMBER 2023



NEWSLETTER #190



THE MINISTRY TRAINING FUND

Introducing A New Core Asia Harvest Project

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From the Frontlines

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT with us for a while will know that at *Asia Harvest* we conduct numerous different ministry activities, but they all fall under one of just six main core projects, such as our **Asia Bible Fund**; the **Asian Workers' Fund**; **Living Martyrs' Fund**; **Children's Fund**, and **Persecution & Relief Fund**.

Within each project are various sub-projects. For example, we support over 300 Christian lepers in India (highlighted in our October 2022 newsletter). That support comes under the **Relief Fund**. We support hundreds of widows, which is part of the **Living Martyrs' Fund**, in addition to a host of other activities that serve to advance the Gospel.

It is rare for us to announce a new core project, but this month we would like to introduce the **Ministry Training Fund (MTF)**, which we hope will remain a foundational part of what we do in Asia for many years to come.

As the Lord Jesus commanded in the passage at the top of this page, He did not tell us only to share the Gospel or to get people to make professions of faith.

That is only the start. Missions history shows that works focused only on evangelism usually didn't have lasting fruit, for Jesus told us to *"make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."*

The **Ministry Training Fund** is therefore about helping the Asian Church disciple believers and to equip them to disciple others, especially among unreached people groups.

"Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

Matthew 28:18-20



FRONT COVER: *Sisters from several tribes in Nepal worshipping the Lord Jesus.*

BACK COVER: *Believers giving their greetings from a remote Himalayan valley.*

THREE REQUESTS FROM ASIAN CHURCH LEADERS

OVER THE YEARS, AS WE HAVE TRAVELED THROUGHOUT ASIA, and developed strong relationships with many church and mission leaders, the three main answers they give when asked what their greatest needs are have consistently been:

1 PLEASE PRAY FOR US; 2 WE NEED BIBLES; AND 3 WE NEED HELP TRAINING LEADERS.

In many parts of Asia, the number of Christians has increased rapidly and churches are overflowing, but the leaders know that if they don't have effective discipleship programs, the harvest might rot, and new believers will be easy prey to cults and false teaching.

Instead of focusing solely on soul-winning, the most effective ministries we partner with have grasped the need to establish biblical leadership as laid out by the Apostle Paul:

“He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”

(Ephesians 4:11-13)

Even though this is the first time we have officially announced the **Ministry Training Fund** in a newsletter, we have been helping our Asian co-workers with this need for decades. Just in the last few years we have used donations designated “**Where Needed Most**” to **train 9,515 believers throughout Asia**, so this number is our starting statistic for the project. We expect the number of those trained and equipped will rise sharply in the coming years.

In the remainder of this newsletter, we will share a few pictures from training courses we have been honored to support, along with some comments about the importance of the project by various Asian ministry leaders.

As you will see, this project does not at all mean that we are helping establish Western style seminaries or Bible schools. Instead, the Ministry Training Fund exists to **train and equip soldiers for spiritual battle, able to win and disciple unreached people groups.**

Training is often held in places and in a manner you may not be used to, in what could be described as biblical settings, like outside under a tree, or with believers sitting in a circle on a dirt floor, facing and interacting with one another.

Apart from new believers being discipled in God's Word, more specialized training is also provided to equip workers in areas like children's ministry, frontline churchplanting among unreached people groups; how to conduct literacy classes; and how to effectively disciple Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists for Christ.

The support we provide includes costs like travel for the participants to attend the training; and food, books, and other resources when the meeting is underway.

Without this help, most would not be able to attend.

On average it costs \$50 to help train a worker.



“

“With less than 10% of active full-time Christian workers in the Himalayas having received theological training, the need for equipping and empowering our pastors and leaders is paramount for our ministry to flourish and thrive.

Training ministers is strategic for the kingdom of God. It ensures the sustainability and growth of the Church. As new believers are nurtured and equipped, they become effective disciple-makers, multiplying the impact of the Gospel exponentially.

They become leaders who can raise up the next generation of believers, ensuring the continuity of God’s work in the world. The results of these trainings are awe-inspiring. We witness individuals experiencing transformation, finding purpose in their lives, and discovering their calling in God’s kingdom.

Because of help from Asia Harvest’s Ministry Training Fund, remarkable results have occurred throughout the Himalayas. Many churches have been planted, filled with passionate worshippers, become beacons of hope in their regions.

One of the participants, Brother Dil, expressed: ‘I have never encountered such impactful teaching in my life. The training has transformed me, and I am eager to pass on what I’ve learned to my people.’”

-The Himalayas



“

“Ministry training is of utmost importance, especially during this time of harvest in Myanmar. Currently we have over 50 staff members leading more than 2,000 believers. We utilize a variety of tools which provide deep spiritual truths in a simple way that is easily understood. By discipling trainers, the process can be easily duplicated and is helping with the rapid growth we are experiencing by the grace of God.

Almost all of our new believers come from a Buddhist background, and thus discipling is often tailored to help them understand how to minister to new Buddhist converts.

The results have been astounding. Our biggest challenge is keeping up with the pace of the Holy Spirit. We thank God for Asia Harvest and the Ministry Training Fund. Without your help we would not be able to handle the great revival happening in our area right now.”

- Myanmar



Training takes place in many settings, from believers gathered on a beautiful beach on the shores of the Andaman Sea (above) to tribal Christians in a mountainous area of Southwest China (below).





“

“Our ministry training courses help move believers into unreached, unengaged, and hostile areas with the Good News of the kingdom.

It's a disciple-making strategy based on training, mentorship, and meeting felt needs in an unreached community. Our leaders are taught how to effectively engage communities, train new disciples in church planting, and disciple others.

This has proven to be a God-anointed process that multiplies itself by training disciples to disciple others. The synergy created by this simple method has resulted in a great harvest of souls for the kingdom of God.”

- India



MINISTRY TRAINING FUND

TRAINING AND EQUIPPING BELIEVERS TO EFFECTIVELY SERVE GOD

We invite you to join hands with us in praying for this great need.

Often workers live in remote places and are only able to assemble together once or twice a year for leadership and ministry training. We cover travel, food and other costs associated with meetings.

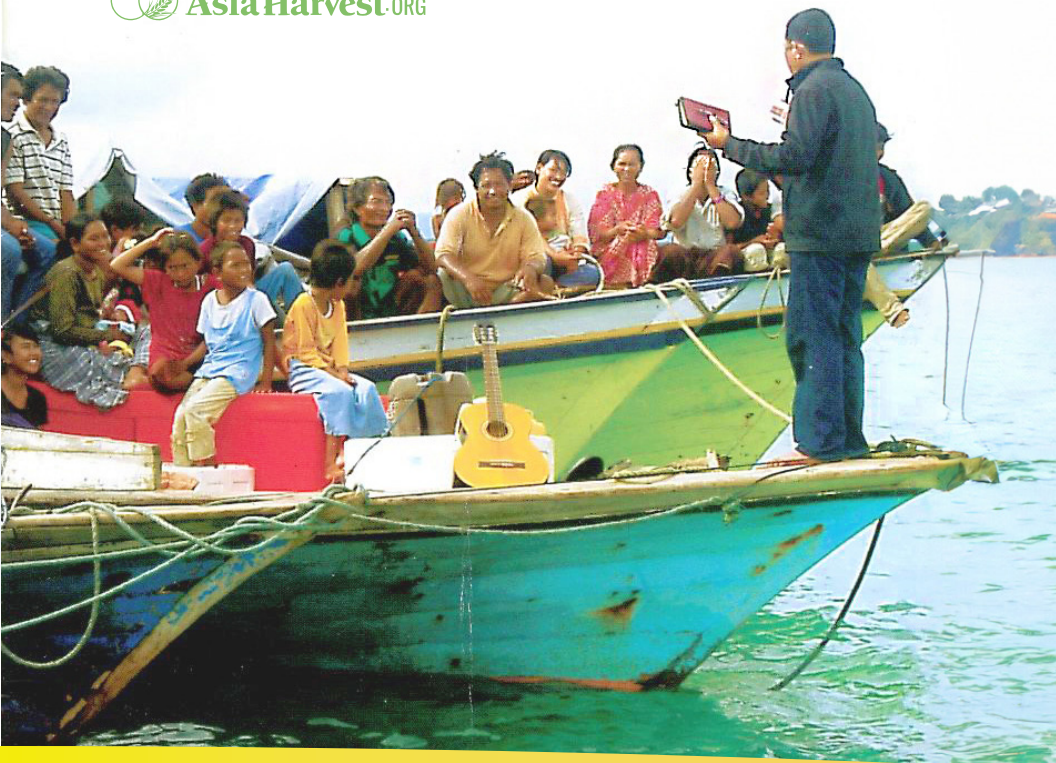
To train each worker costs an average of \$50.

If you would like to support this strategic project, please fill out the enclosed response form and send it back with your gift.

*Alternatively, one-time or monthly donations to the **Ministry Training Fund** and our other projects can be made via our secure website:*



Asia Harvest.ORG





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THE CHILDREN'S FUND TCF

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT HAS REACHED 212,453 CHILDREN THROUGHOUT ASIA SO FAR

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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.

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MINISTRY TRAINING FUND MTF

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT WE HAVE HELPED TRAIN AND EQUIP 9,515 ASIAN BELIEVERS TO EFFECTIVELY SERVE GOD

The Ministry Training Fund helps the Asian Church disciple and train believers to be effective ministers of the Gospel among the unreached.

Often workers live in remote places and coming together once or twice a year is the only outside fellowship and teaching they receive. We cover travel, food and other costs associated with the meetings. To train each worker costs an average of \$50.



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

Asia Harvest

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NEWSLETTER #191



CHINA UPDATE

President Xi Jinping and His Role in the World

ASIAHARVEST.ORG • OFFICE@ASIAHARVEST.ORG

Emperor of the World

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS many Christians have asked us to help them understand what's going on in China.

Many people are shocked, because for years all they heard was how revival was bringing millions of Chinese into God's kingdom. Suddenly all news from the Church in China stopped in its tracks, as a new Emperor, Xi Jinping, caused the Body of Christ to adopt a defensive posture.

NOTE: IN THIS NEWSLETTER WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER SOME INSIGHTS INTO THE POSSIBLE MINDSET OF PRESIDENT XI JINPING, WHO HAS RESHAPED EVERYTHING IN CHINA DURING THE DECADE HE HAS BEEN IN POWER.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ MORE ABOUT SOME OF THE CLAIMS MADE IN THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE GO TO THE ONLINE VERSION ON OUR WEBSITE, AND FIND LINKS TO VARIOUS ARTICLES AND VIDEOS THAT SUPPORT WHAT WE ARE SAYING.

Who is this man who has “purged” (i.e., killed or imprisoned) hundreds of thousands of people, and who has created such a stench across Asia that 20 neighboring countries — from Central Asia to India and the Philippines — now have disputes with China. Let's take a closer look at this man who has so enlarged the Chinese military and covert influence that a World War seems inevitable if things continue on their present trajectory.

We deliberately used the term “*Emperor*” to describe Xi Jinping. While technically he is the atheistic head of the Chinese Communist Party, for thousands of years China was ruled by emperors whose authority was absolute.

*“How long, Lord,
will the wicked, how
long will the wicked
be jubilant? They
pour out arrogant
words; all the evildoers
are full of boasting.
They crush your
people, Lord;
they oppress your
inheritance....*

*Does he who
disciplines nations
not punish? Does he
who teaches mankind
lack knowledge? The
Lord knows all human
plans; he knows that
they are futile.”*

Psalm 94:3-5, 10-11

FRONT COVER: *Thousands of people in Beijing's Tian'anmen Square paying homage to a gigantic portrait of Chinese President Xi Jinping.*

BACK COVER: *Large open meetings like this have largely become a thing of the past in China, as the Church has once again gone “underground” to avoid persecution.*


There were no elections, debates, or protests against emperors. Any perceived hesitancy to obey an emperor's edict was met with swift and severe punishment. In their paranoia, many Chinese emperors killed millions of their subjects to consolidate their power.

Although emperors have not officially ruled China since 1912, in reality Communist leaders like Mao and Xi have been emperors in all but name. It is important to understand that Chinese emperors were never viewed merely as leaders of China.

You may know that the Chinese name for their country, Zhong Guo, means “*Middle Kingdom*.” The belief that their country is the center of the world is deeply ingrained in the hearts and minds of every Chinese generation. Emperors are believed to have a “Mandate of Heaven,” by which they receive the authority to rule. This philosophy, which dates back 2,500 years, assumes that because there is only one heaven, there can only be one emperor and one state with legitimacy in the whole world.

Over the years we have frequently met Chinese from all walks of life who are glad and proud that China is now throwing its weight around in the world. From taxi drivers in Singapore to businessmen in San Francisco, countless Chinese believe that now is the time for China to rise up and seize its destiny as world leader—economically, culturally, and militarily. It is not so much a desire as a statement of fact. Even among Chinese Christians we have met few who would ever dare to openly criticize Xi Jinping or his decisions. After all, he is the emperor, appointed by heaven itself. Opponents are seen as evildoers and are mercilessly crushed. Just ask people in Hong Kong how life has changed since Xi came to power.

The *Mandate of Heaven* philosophy spread to many parts of East Asia. It explains why countries like North Korea have been unable to throw off its heavy yoke of rule by the Kim family for so long. Japanese emperors were also seen as heaven-sent leaders who were invincible because of the Mandate of Heaven. The Japanese belief of invincibility abruptly ended when two atomic bombs fell on Japan in 1945.

In 2016, we began to report that a major shift was happening in China, and the emerging dynamic would change the way Christians function in China, while the country itself would become a huge threat to democracies. China decided it was time to throw off its “*Century of humiliation*” at the hands of foreign powers and take its rightful place as leader of the world, with Xi Jinping on the throne. 

A PREDICTION...

WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE RISE OF CHINA will lead to world domination.

“Emperor” Xi’s harsh authoritarian rule, as he has consolidated absolute power in China and made enemies all around Asia and the world, has not been working out too well.

The economy in China is in tatters (far worse than reports in Western media), and a growing number of Chinese are beginning to quietly question if their leader is taking the country on a path that will end well for them. Many nations now see China as the number one threat to global security, and Xi’s aggressive stance has brought about the formation of military alliances to counter his plans.

It has been said that *“power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”* Strongmen like Xi Jinping believe they operate with impunity, as it is their birthright. Above all else, the thing they desire most is regime survival.

For that reason, Xi constantly purges his leaders, isolating himself more and more while at the same time changing the constitution to guarantee he will never be replaced. Emperors of China were never changed. They ruled for life.

Do we think that Xi and the Chinese Communist Party will reach their goals of world domination?

No, for the following SEVEN REASONS:

1 GOD HAS THE FINAL SAY. We believe it is not a coincidence that as soon as China launched its campaign to systematically destroy Christianity in 2016-17, their economy began to disintegrate. Ultimately, the battle for the 1.4 billion souls of China is what is at stake. The Lord Jesus Christ has purchased a pure bride numbering over 100 million believers in China. They are the apple of His eye, and He will not stand by and let His precious inheritance be decimated.

2 THE DEMOGRAPHICS FOR CHINA ARE A NIGHTMARE. With a rapidly ageing population and a lack of young people of tax-paying age to pay for Xi's military expansion, things are likely to stagnate and deteriorate in China. Some economists estimate that China needs 400 million more people of working age to keep its economy going forward and fund their military aspirations. The Communist Party's *one-child policy*, accompanied by hundreds of millions of *forced abortions*, has wiped out a generation of Chinese. The very people they need to pay for their plans don't exist. They were sacrificed on the altar of the Communist Party death cult. *"They have sown the wind and reaped the whirlwind."* (Hosea 8:7)

3 THE POPULATION OF CHINA IS ALREADY IN RAPID DECLINE with some provinces shrinking by millions of people each year. Some experts calculate that by the end of this century the population of China may be half of what it is now. Two years ago, it was hardly noticed when the government lowered the national population by 121 million from previous inflated figures.

An increasing number of young people in China today have no desire to have children, which are considered an economic inconvenience. Their natural instincts have been suppressed by generations of Marxist propaganda that *work and money*—not *faith in God and a loving family*—are the keys to happiness.

4 STRETCHED TO BREAKING POINT. Xi's reign has been greatly helped by his access to technology that previous rulers like Mao Zedong could never have dreamed of.

A friend who recently returned from his first visit to China in several years was shocked at the changes he saw. He said: *"Everywhere I experienced anti-foreign sentiment from unfriendly people, and I saw many people paying for things with their faces. By allowing their faces to be scanned, payments are deducted directly from their accounts. No phone or bank card is needed, and cash is practically unheard of."*



With more than 400 million facial recognition cameras watching and evaluating their every move, and Xi demanding complete obedience to the Marxist-socialist agenda, many people feel stretched to breaking point and are increasingly fed up with the system.

5 XI HAS TRIED TO REPLACE GOD WITH A CULT OF HIMSELF. He wants to be all-seeing, all-knowing, and all-powerful. He has erected giant billboards and posters of his face (like the one on the cover of this newsletter) and he demands unwavering devotion and commitment to his cause. In tens of thousands of churches across China, crosses and Scripture verses have been forcibly removed and replaced with posters of Xi and Mao, or with Chinese flags.

The Chinese Communist Party always claims there is no God, while setting themselves up as gods who must be obeyed and worshipped at all times. Interestingly, in churches where posters of the Ten Commandments were displayed, instead of the authorities removing them they just scratched out the first commandment that says: “*You shall have no other gods before me.*” They didn’t object to any of the other nine commandments, but only the first one upset them. Why? Because like Satan, *they* desire to fill the role of God in people’s lives.

6 A GENERAL MALAISE HAS COME UPON THE YOUTH OF CHINA. After studying hard all their lives, tens of millions of university graduates can’t find any work at all,

and a new expression, *tang ping*, or “*lying down flat*” swept over many Chinese young people.

Countless millions have lost the desire to excel, and they now see life as meaningless.

More recently, during Xi’s harsh Covid restrictions,



tang ping was replaced by a new catch-phrase: *bai lan*, meaning “let it rot.” These developments refer to a voluntary retreat from pursuing goals and will expediate decay in Chinese society and the economy.

7 XI JINPING SEEMS TO HAVE A PERSONAL HATRED FOR CHRISTIANITY. After systematically expelling almost all foreign Christians from China over the past 6 or 7 years, a widespread persecution has afflicted God’s people in every part of the nation, but especially in the border provinces. The Communist Party has even been working on a new Bible, removing passages they don’t like, and replacing them with socialist teachings.

One proposed change is the story of the woman caught in the act of adultery. The Communist Party didn’t like that she was forgiven, so they are reportedly changing it. So instead of Jesus telling her, “*Go and sin no more,*” the new Communist Bible has Jesus picking up a stone and stoning her to death! Let’s see if God will allow such blatant blasphemy and corruption of His holy Word to go unpunished.

WHAT IS *GOD* DOING IN CHINA TODAY?

Despite the harsh conditions and almost total blanket of silence that has descended from the Church due to rampant persecution, we still receive reports from China of the Gospel continuing to spread, and of multitudes of people coming to faith in Jesus!

This is especially true of Han communities in the cities, where disillusionment and discontent brought on by Xi’s Covid lockdowns and the crumbling economy have created a hunger in the hearts of millions of Chinese for truth.

Many who were previously closed to the claims of the Gospel have now dedicated their lives to the *King of kings*. We thank God for this!

Instead of large churches full of hundreds or thousands of worshippers, new believers often now find themselves included in small groups of four or five Christians who meet discreetly for prayer and Bible study. The Body of Christ in China has largely broken itself down into small cells to avoid detection during this dark time.



TWO Kings AND THEIR Choices

Xi Jinping is just one of a long line of godless rulers throughout history who thought they can destroy God's people and demolish His kingdom.

Things tend to end very badly for such people, as Jesus Christ sets a limit to how far He will tolerate their actions before He steps in.

Xi himself has a choice...

Will his destiny be like King Nebuchadnezzar, who *provoked* God and ended up being humbled for seven years before he finally came to his senses and repented?

In the end, that broken king made this remarkable declaration:

"At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'What have you done?' The Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people." (Daniel 4:34-35)

Or will Xi Jinping be like *another* king, Herod, who refused to bow his knee to God's will?

The New Testament records the final act of his life with these chilling words:

"Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died." (Acts 12:23)

Please pray for President

Xi Jinping and China's other leaders, that God would soften their hearts and cause them to repent and submit their lives to Jesus Christ before it is too late.

And please continue to **pray for the Body of Christ in China**, that the great revival of the past 50 years would continue to burn and bring many millions more people into the kingdom of God.

In several speeches, Xi has spoken about his desire for a “*great nationalist revival*” of the Chinese people.

Pray the Living God will indeed continue and expand His great revival — just *not* the kind Xi Jinping expects!



ASIA HARVEST'S WORK CONTINUES IN CHINA

Despite the strong headwinds, Asia Harvest continues to work in China, strengthening the Church and helping them take the Gospel to the unreached.

So far this year we have printed and distributed 211,000 Chinese Bibles to house church believers in China. Although that number is a sharp drop from previous years, our contacts appear to be among the last remaining providers of God's Word in China. In our next newsletter we will share details of a new initiative for providing Bibles to the Lisu people of southwest China.

We are also thankful that we continue to support a number of strategic initiatives that are impacting more than 20 different ethnic minority groups in China.



ASIA BIBLE FUND ABF

CURRENT TOTAL: 19,557,307 BIBLES PRINTED IN 159 LANGUAGES

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

Each Bible costs just \$3 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.



MINISTRY TRAINING FUND MTF

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT WE HAVE HELPED TRAIN AND EQUIP 15,465 ASIAN BELIEVERS TO EFFECTIVELY SERVE GOD

The Ministry Training Fund helps the Asian Church disciple and train believers to be effective ministers of the Gospel among the unreached.

Often workers live in remote places and coming together once or twice a year is the only outside fellowship and teaching they receive. We cover travel, food and other costs associated with the meetings. To train each worker costs an average of \$50.



ASIAN WORKERS' FUND AWF

WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT 1,710 ASIAN EVANGELISTS AMONG 1,253 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 1,306,911 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.



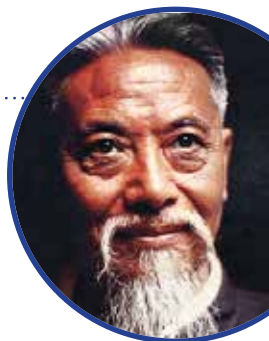
LMF

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP WE ARE CURRENTLY SUPPORTING 883 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.



TCF

THE CHILDREN'S FUND

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT HAS REACHED 214,433 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.



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.





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