

Asia Harvest 2024

NEWSLETTERS (Combined)

Asía Harvest

FEBRUARY 2024



NEWSLETTER #193



ANNUAL REPORT

No Shrinking Back in Times of Chaos

From the Frontlines

"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. For 'In just a little while, He who is coming will come and will not delay.' And 'But my righteous one will live by faith.

And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.'

But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved." (Hebrews 10:36-39)

AT THE BEGINNING of 2024, we give thanks for the opportunity to once again serve the Lord Jesus Christ in Asia.

We greatly appreciate the prayers, encouragement and support of those Christians around the world who have been led by the Holy Spirit to join hands with us. Together, we are helping many who have never heard the Gospel become aware of the incredible salvation the Son of God has won for them.

As we began the new year, we made a list of all the Asian ministries we are privileged to partner with, and we found we are currently supporting 119 different ministries across 22 Asian countries. We are deeply thankful for each one of them.

As we meet and communicate with the leaders of these diverse groups, it is clear that Christians everywhere are under heavy pressure. Today, almost all the servants of God we know are surrounded by chaos, and are experiencing tremendous stress both personally and in their relationships and ministries.

Peter wrote: "Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings" (1 Peter 5:9).

It is not only your country where evil is on the rise and dark forces are twisting and perverting all that is good and true. Believers in China, India, and everywhere else we serve are crying out for stability and peace, but those things are becoming increasingly rare in a

FRONT COVER: An evangelist teaching the Gospel to hundreds of eager children. Through simple-hearted believers of all ages, the Good News is being proclaimed and the Holy Spirit is transforming communities throughout Asia.

decaying world that seems to lurch from one crisis to another.

God's Word in the above passage encourages us to persevere, and not to shrink back and be destroyed. If there is one thing we would like to exhort you to do, it is to daily read or listen to the Word of God, allowing His living water to wash over you and transform your mind.

If we lack the discipline of daily coming to eat the bread of God, we have no chance. We have yet to meet anyone who fell away from Christ while they were strong in the Word of God.

The good news is that "we do not belong to those who shrink back." *No!* We serve a Living God who specializes in helping His children triumph in the midst of darkness.

In the Scriptures we read about Job, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Paul and others who faced continual struggle and chaos around them but continued to serve God. This has been the testimony of the Church in China, as over 100 million people have fallen in love with the Lord Jesus in the past half century, despite unceasing efforts by the government to destroy their faith.

Do you feel weak as you try to live out your faith in a world that increasingly hates God and His ways? *Good!* For we are not called to overcome the world by feeling strong, but by embracing our weakness and giving it to the Lord.

The Apostle Paul testified: "He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

In Asia, we are honored to serve the Lord's people, many of whom are seeing greater fruitfulness for the kingdom of God than ever before! Revival has broken out among the poor and destitute in many places, and thousands of people have found a new depth of sweetness in Jesus Christ that they didn't know during easier times.

If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed in the midst of life's storms, **don't give up!** Our King promises a time of fruitfulness will result if you cling to Him in faith.

No matter how difficult things may become in the future, "My dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).









2.9%



2023/24 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 2023.

It has been a privilege to serve the Lord for another year.

We feel greatly
blessed to be a link in
the chain that resulted
in many people coming
to know Him. Last year, more
than 850,000 Christian families
were strengthened by receiving God's

Word through our *Asia Bible Fund*, while the 1,744 evangelists we support led a total of 302,107 people

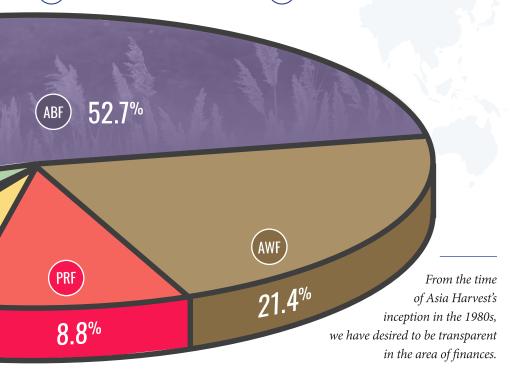
to Christ among 1,256 different tribes and ethnic groups.

For over 35 years now, our strategy has been to operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, so that resources will reach the hands of frontline workers who need them the most—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 2023

- (ABF) ASIA BIBLE FUND **52.7%**
- (PRF) PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND 8.3%
- (MTF) MINISTRY TRAINING FUND 8.3%
- (LMF) LIVING MARTYRS' FUND 5.9%
- (TCF) THE CHILDREN'S FUND 2.9%
- (AWF) ASIAN WORKERS' FUND 21.4%



Our annual financial statements are independently audited 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 your project donations are used on the field in Asia exactly as specified. To read our audited financial statements, please click 'resources' at:

Asia Harvest. ORG



19,762,723
BIBLES
PRINTED
IN 159
DIFFERENT
LANGUAGES.

CURRENT TOTAL

EACH BIBLE COSTS AN AVERAGE OF \$3 TO PRINT AND DELIVER.

ASIA BIBLE FUND

Asia is home to many groups where people have been prevented from accessing God's Word—sometimes for decades. The *Asia Bible Fund* provides the Scriptures in numerous languages throughout China, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere.

In 2023 we printed and distributed **850,613** Bibles in **23 languages** through the *Asia Bible Fund* (which works out to 2,330 Bibles per day, or 97 each hour throughout the year).

For many people groups it was the first time in history they had the Scriptures 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 2023 we printed Bibles in the following languages:

Bengali	Halbi	Koho	Rohingya	Telugu
Boro	Hindi	Lahu	Santali	Urdu
Burmese	Hindustani	Lisu	Shan	Wa
Chinese	Indonesian	Meitei	Sqaw Karen	Wakhi
	Kalacha	Nepali	Todim Chin	



THE CHILDREN'S FUND

In addition to our normal activities of printing children's Bible story books and other materials, and helping train Sunday school teachers, **one of the greatest new opportunities in 2023 was to serve a tremendous new move of God** that has broken out in the most desperate slum areas of Myanmar.

The Holy Spirit is moving powerfully, with thousands of ex-Buddhist Burmese families hearing the Gospel, repenting of their sins, and embracing Jesus for the first time.

Part of our response has been to rescue many children who were at risk of being trafficked into prostitution, the drug world, and other crime. Often their parents were forced to sell their children to gangs to repay loans, which were taken out to allow the families to buy food to survive, due to the dire poverty in the slums.

Two of our leaders visited the slums recently and were deeply touched by the children they met, whose faces now shine with love and the presence of God. We have helped Christian families get free of debt, provided food, medicine and other essentials until they can get back on their own feet, and equipped them to have a small enterprise to generate income.

Now, thousands of children have a future of light and hope instead of darkness and despair. Your prayers and support of *The Children's Fund* will enable us to reach many more precious children like these.



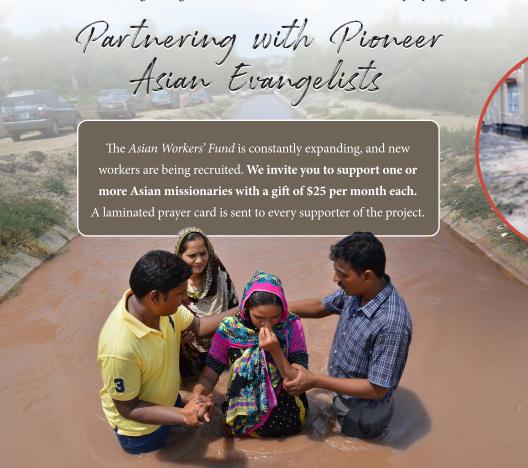


ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

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

In 2023, those we support through this project **led 302,107 people to salvation** in Jesus Christ (an average of 173 per worker). A total of just **over 1.3 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.



Equipping Asian Believers TRAINING FUND In 2023 we were pleased to introduce the Miles of the Control of the C

In 2023 we were pleased to introduce the *Ministry Training Fund*, which 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 are only able to assemble once or twice a year for ministry and leadership training. We cover travel, food and other expenses associated with meetings. To train each worker costs an average of \$50.

PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND

We were privileged to help the physical and spiritual needs of thousands of people through the *Persecution & Relief Fund* last year. **The Gospel is always shared with those who receive assistance**, including hundreds of lepers, orphans, and widows.

The myriad of ways this project assisted people in 2023 included: providing relief after floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters; the provision of hundreds of blankets to the elderly before the onset of a bitter Himalayan winter; dozens of motorcycles and bicycles for evangelists; the construction of fresh-water wells; funding sewing centers and vocational training for girls at risk of being trafficked; and holding medical clinics for the sick and impoverished.

Last year, 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.

Transforming Lives from Ashes to Beauty

ASIA BIBLE FUND (ABF

CURRENT TOTAL: 19,762,723 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 (AWE

WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT 1,744 ASIAN EVANGELISTS AMONG 1.256 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 1,308,496 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 15,450 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 218,023 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.



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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Asía Harvest

MARCH 2024



NEWSLETTER #194



HAINAN

A New Book by Paul Hattaway

From the Frontlines

THE SOUTHERNMOST Chinese province of Hainan is home to more than 10 million people. Separated from mainland China by just 12 miles at the narrowest point, the tropical island is warm and humid most of the year, with severe typhoons lashing it between May and October.

Although the Chinese government has tried to boost the profile of Hainan Island by describing it as "the Hawaii of Asia," historically it was viewed as a miserable backwater of the Chinese empire.

One disgraced official who was exiled to Hainan during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) described it as "the gateway to hell" because of its harsh, disease-ridden climate.

"The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God." (Psalm 98:2-3)

Hainan is inhabited by 13 different people groups today, with the five distinct branches of the Li people recognized as the original inhabitants of the island, having arrived from the mainland at least 2,000 years ago.

Many people are aware of the threat of a major war with China over the Taiwan issue, but few realize that a possibly greater risk of conflict exists in the South China Sea, which China administers from Hainan. Many China-watchers see war in the region as inevitable, as China continues to rewrite maps and trample on recognized international laws.

China has claimed the entire South China Sea and the vast oil, gas and mineral resources beneath its waves. A staggering \$5 trillion worth of global trade is transported through these waters each year. These factors have created flashpoints between China and five countries (Vietnam, Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia), all of which claim part of the territory now occupied by China.

Under the current aggressive President Xi Jinping, China no longer cares what the rest of the world thinks of them, and they have continued to consolidate their power in the

region, building military runways on remote atolls and sending warships to patrol their dubious "homeland."

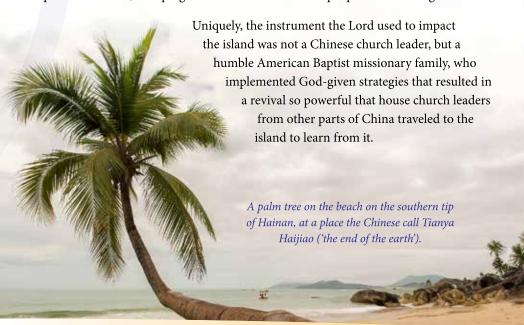
The two countries most upset about China's military expansion are Vietnam and the Philippines. The disputed Spratly Islands sit just 100 miles from the coast of the Philippines, but more than 1,000 miles from the Chinese coast. China has constructed a military base on the islands, while their largest nuclear submarine base is located near Sanya in Hainan.

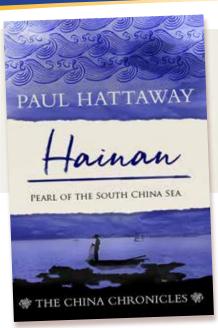
Hainan is also from where China launches many of their 'spy balloons' that circumnavigate the globe collecting data, including the one that hovered over sensitive military sites in the United States in early 2023, before it was shot down.

In the coming years, the world is likely to hear much more troubling news about this strategic part of the world.

As we have researched and written each book in *The China Chronicles* it has become apparent that not only is each region of China unique, but the way God has worked throughout history to glorify His Name is also different in each place.

Hainan had very few Christians until the 1990s, when God transformed the island with a powerful revival, sweeping hundreds of thousands of people into His kingdom.





Book 8 of The China Chronicles

HAINAN

PEARL OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

by Paul Hattaway

In this newsletter we are pleased to announce the eighth 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.

Hainan is a small tropical island province situated off China's southern coast. Once nicknamed 'The Gateway to Hell,' Hainan had few Christians until the 1990s, when God sent a powerful revival which touched every part of society there. Today, Hainan is home to more than 600,000 vibrant Christians.

Learn how the Lord Jesus Christ established His kingdom in Hainan, and the surprising vessels and strategies He chose to impact the island.

The growth of the Church in Hainan did not come without intense struggle, with many believers suffering for their faith. The fire of the Holy Spirit fell here with great power, and subsequently the book contains numerous firsthand accounts of 'power encounters' against the forces of darkness which transformed entire communities.

The remainder of this newsletter has excerpts from 'HAINAN: Pearl of the South China Sea."

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.

THE QIGONG MASTER'S DEFEAT

AS REVIVAL BEGAN TO SPREAD in Hainan in the early 1990s, the forces of darkness rose in opposition and tried to snuff out the movement. Christ's followers, however, learned to stand in the full armor of God and battle against these insidious dark forces, emerging victorious on many occasions.

After being developed millennia ago as part of traditional Chinese medicine, Qigong (pronounced 'chee-gong') had gained great popularity among millions of people in China. Although in Western nations today it is merely considered a helpful breathing and exercise regime, in China it has morphed to include a dark spiritual element characterized by power encounters, miracles, healings, and unusual events.

Qigong proved increasingly attractive to multitudes of people in China who were hungry for spiritual reality to fill the void created by Communism. Mass meetings by Qigong masters were often held in sports stadiums and other large arenas, attended by huge crowds of 50,000 people or more.

Because it is not an organized religion, Qigong was not considered a direct threat to Communist ideology. It became popular even at the top levels of Chinese government, and political leaders were seen on television attending Qigong exhibitions.

A Qigong master named Zhang Zhixiang decided the benefits of Qigong should be made available to all Chinese, so he founded a school to place a Qigong practitioner in every household throughout China, so that their spiritual 'energy' would care for the other family members. Children were taught to chant and meditate so they might enjoy the 'benefits' for themselves.

In 1992, Zhang visited Hainan to hold exhibitions, where he planned to heal the sick and perform signs and wonders. In the days before he arrived, a massive crime-wave erupted across the island. Nobody understood what was happening.

Mass murders, gang rapes, and every conceivable act of demonic filth took place.

Downtown Haikou, the modern capital city of Hainan.

Thousands of families were affected in peculiar ways. Many became so desperate for assistance that they visited anyone they thought might have spiritual power to help them. They flocked to Buddhist monks, Daoist priests, and Christian pastors, saying they had family members who had suddenly become demon-possessed. They begged the religious leaders to free their loved ones from the evil powers that had seized them.

In Hainan, the wave of interest in Qigong coincided with the start of the Christian revival, and when news of the Qigong master's visit emerged, a ministry launched an intercessory prayer initiative, mobilizing believers throughout Hainan and around the world to fast and pray against the evil powers behind Qigong. A newsletter was sent out with the following requests:

"Pray for the breaking down of spiritual strongholds, the dethroning of principalities and powers, for the protection of children, and for God's light to expose the falsehoods and half-truths of the adversary. Pray for the discrediting of the Qigong movement's leaders and trainers through illness (to which they are supposedly impervious) or some other means. Pray for their conversion."

Many Christians responded by crying out to the Lord Jesus Christ, and He answered their fervent prayers.

Much of Hainan Island was abuzz with anticipation in the days leading up to the Qigong master's visit. The government closed a large market area in downtown Haikou and turned it into a meeting place. A stage and floodlights were erected, and a massive crowd turned up. Zhang Zhixiang was touted as being able to levitate in public view, and he reputedly had the power to heal all kinds of diseases. It was even announced that he would make his body supernaturally glow during the night meeting.

That night, after he mounted the stage before thousands of adoring spectators, Zhang was completely powerless, and he couldn't do any miracles at all. No one was healed, and he was unable to levitate. Zhang tried to heal a deaf-mute boy in dramatic fashion but failed, which

was quite an embarrassment. The meeting was a huge flop.



When Zhang traveled down the east coast of the island, he stopped at Wenchang to hold a meeting in the town hall. The local officials, however, suddenly changed their minds and he was

no longer welcome. Instead, a county official obtained the use of the local school building. Zhang said, "I sense a spiritual opposition here, but we will have the meeting anyway."

When the official who acquired the use of the building was climbing a ladder to put up special lights, he suddenly fell to the floor dead. The meeting was cancelled.

Zhang returned to mainland China after his unsuccessful Hainan experience. His meetings had failed because of Christians' fervent intercession.

THE PIANO PLAYER

In a related story, the highest-ranked Qigong master in Hainan at the time was a woman who was also the piano instructor at Haikou University.

Every year a prestigious piano competition was held, which was broadcast throughout China on national television. That year a 19-year-old Christian girl from Hainan won the competition.

As soon as the winner was announced, the television interviewers crowded around the piano instructor, asking how she had been able to train such a great talent. The woman replied that her success was due to her being a Qigong master. She proudly boasted, "I give all my students amulets to wear, and I teach them how to meditate. I also give them Qigong blessings to help them outperform their competitors."

The teenage girl who won the competition was a member of a church in Haikou. She felt intimidated by her teacher, but when she heard the Name of Jesus Christ being dishonored on national television, she couldn't remain silent. She stepped in front of her teacher and boldly proclaimed:

"This is not true! I am a Christian! I have never used this woman's amulets and I have never practiced Qigong. I was able to win this competition because the Lord God, my Creator, has given me the abilities and honored my hard work to serve Him and glorify His Name."

After the Christian girl returned to Hainan, she was blacklisted from attending university. She paid a dear price for her bold stand for the Lord, but this was just the beginning of trouble in her life.

One evening she was badly injured in a terrible car crash, which left her in a deep coma. The hospital refused to treat her in the emergency room because she had no money.

It later emerged that the crash had not been an accident at all, but a targeted hit-and-run

orchestrated by the Qigong woman who felt she had been publicly humiliated by her Christian student on television.

In God's providence, local believers heard about the desperate girl and arranged to pay her medical bills from their own meagre resources. The doctors examined her and offered no hope, declaring that if she lived, the massive brain damage she had suffered would leave her in a vegetative state for the rest of her life.

Two Christian nurses, whose lives had been transformed in the revival, decided to visit and pray for her every day. They read the Bible over her and took care of her medical needs, cleaning her and providing physical therapy several times a day.

The nurses also contacted the girl's family, and two of her sisters traveled from another province to help care for her. They were amazed by the prayers, Bible reading, and loving care they witnessed from the Christians, and they surrendered their lives to Jesus.

After a while the money ran out, and the hospital sent the girl home to die. The two sisters waited for the end. Finally, when they were at the point of giving up and had decided to let her starve to death, they tried one more thing.

Because she had been such an accomplished musician before the accident, they carried her limp body and sat her down on a piano bench, placing her fingers on the keys. Suddenly, without warning, she came out of the coma! Everyone who saw it was amazed and humbled, and they realized a great miracle had taken place.

Two days later the girl took her first steps, and within a week it was clear that she was on the road to recovery. The girl and her entire family knew it was the prayers of Christians that had resulted in this great act of mercy from God.

Despite this great miracle, her life continued to be a daily struggle. Due to her neurological injuries, she was never able to play the piano at the same level again, and the Hainan

authorities—still angry that she had mentioned Jesus Christ on national television—further punished her by refusing to let her get a job of any description.

Through this and many other demonstrations of God's power, the revival fire continued to spread throughout Hainan during the 1990s and 2000s, impacting every segment of society and bringing



hundreds of thousands of people into the kingdom of God.

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."



Wright Donle Director of the Global

China Center

Over the years Asia Harvest has successfully printed and delivered MORE THAN 160,000 BIBLES to house church Christians in HAINAN

ASIA BIBLE FUND (ABF



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MINISTRY TRAINING FUND



THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT WE HAVE HELPED TRAIN AND EOUIP 15.860 ASIAN BELIEVERS TO EFFECTIVELY SERVE GOD

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PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND

TRANSFORMING LIVES FROM ASHES TO BEAUTY WITH GOD'S LOVE

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided assistance to the victims of natural disasters that have struck Asia. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and many people have come to know Jesus Christ.

This project also provides physical and spiritual relief to Christian lepers, communities and families throughout Asia who are in desperate need.





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HAINAN

The Reality of Revival

"To the Church, a revival means humiliation, a bitter knowledge of unworthiness. It is not the easy and glorious thing many think it to be....

It comes to scorch before it heals; it comes to condemn ministers and people for their unfaithful witness, for their selfish living, for their neglect of the cross.

That is why a revival has ever been unpopular with large numbers within the church." – James Burns

From the Frontlines

FOR DECADES, countless Christian leaders and believers around the world have told us how they long for true revival, and after reading our newsletters and books about revival in China, they ask what the secret is for them to have similar experiences in their local communities.

Over time, however, we have come to see that usually what people mean by that question is that they want to adjust a few things in their churches, hoping that will somehow plunge them from lukewarmness into heaven-sent revival.

Many have become so accustomed to "faith by numbers" type of teaching, where they are told if they can just get the formula right, revival must come out the other end.

We have found that most Christians who ask us how they can experience the presence and power of God like in China end up disappointed with our answer. "Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Salt is good;
but if the salt has
lost its flavor, how
shall it be seasoned?

It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

(Luke 14:33-35 NKJV)

They want a simple set of rules to follow, but most have no real appetite for sacrifice or the radical changes needed to see true fire from the Spirit of God fall on them and their congregations.

Genuine revival does not come to Christians with a comfortable "country club" type of faith, but it is a boost of ammunition for soldiers on the frontline who are waging war against Satan's forces, risking their lives to see God glorified in their society.

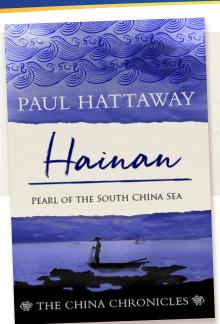
In the remainder of this newsletter, we will share more excepts from our new book *Hainan: Pearl of the South China Sea*.

As you read about some of the ways the Holy Spirit has shaken Hainan since the 1990s (resulting in more than half a million people coming to faith), honestly ask yourself these questions if you would like to see similar results come to your country and church....

- Would you be willing to be debased and humbled under the hand of God for many years?
- Are you willing to endure extreme hardship, suffering, imprisonment, and possibly death for the Name of Jesus Christ?
- Would you agree for all visible representations of your faith church buildings, pastors, meetings, musical instruments, even your Bibles to be taken away so all you have left to cling to is Jesus? And to keep clinging to Him for years or even decades?
- After being revived, would you agree to zealously go wherever He says and so whatever it takes to reach the lost in your nation and beyond?

In short, many want the thrill of living a resurrected life of revival, miracles, and God's mighty power, but few want to experience the crucified life first. But no resurrection is possible without there first being a crucifixion.

This, dear friends, is the secret of the revival in China. Do you still want to share in their experiences?



Book 8 of The China Chronicles

HAINAN

PEARL OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

by Paul Hattaway

In this newsletter we are pleased to announce the eighth 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.

Hainan is a small tropical island province situated off China's southern coast. Once nicknamed 'The Gateway to Hell,' Hainan had few Christians until the 1990s, when God sent a powerful revival which touched every part of society there. Today, Hainan is home to more than 600,000 vibrant Christians.

Learn how the Lord Jesus Christ established His kingdom in Hainan, and the surprising vessels and strategies He chose to impact the island.

The growth of the Church in Hainan did not come without intense struggle, with many believers suffering for their faith. The fire of the Holy Spirit fell here with great power, and subsequently the book contains numerous firsthand accounts of 'power encounters' against the forces of darkness which transformed entire communities.

The remainder of this newsletter has excerpts from 'HAINAN: Pearl of the South China Sea."

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.

WHEN HEAVEN CAME TO HAINAN

ONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS of the revival in Hainan during the 1990s and beyond was *simplicity*. The Christians involved with the movement were determined to implement biblical Christianity.

For that to happen, they carefully studied the Scriptures and found that countless beliefs and practices of churches around the world are not based on the New Testament pattern of church life, but are man-made traditions and denominational rules. These may have an appearance of godliness, but in reality they prohibit the flow of the Holy Spirit and result in dead formalism and legalism, instead of rivers of living water flowing out from the Body of Christ to the communities they serve.

Before the Hainan revival commenced, a decision was made to strip away all nonessential religious forms. There would be no distinction between clergy and "lay" Christians, and each child of God was to be a soul-winner and disciple-maker. All believers had an important role to play, and their diverse spiritual gifts would benefit the whole Body of Christ.

Crucially, those who were already engaged in "fulltime ministry" for Christ were not moved to the side or pushed down. Rather, everyone was raised up so that all Christians, from the youngest to the oldest, were fulltime ministers of the gospel. The tendency for such roles to be performed by a special class of Christian was discarded.

Because almost all converts in the Hainan revival came from a non-Christian background, they had no "baggage" from prior church experiences. As far as they were concerned, the pattern of Christian life they experienced was normal, and they assumed that Christians around the world all lived and worshipped God the same way.

The results in Hainan were astonishing, as God had a blank canvas upon which to paint a masterpiece. He did so, transforming hundreds of thousands of lives in every segment of Hainan society.

The training process that helped spur the revival began with just three house churches, totaling less than 100 members. As the leaders were trained to evangelize the lost, they were encouraged to focus on the needlest areas of the island where there were no existing churches.

An important principle that created a springboard for the Hainan revival was

'shared leadership' (i.e., leaders were not allowed to become dictators to their flocks, but were required to practice mutual accountability). In this way, each fellowship remained healthy because of the input of new ideas, fresh teaching, and the balanced acceptance of different spiritual gifts.

Teaching was imparted in such a way that poorly educated and illiterate people did not feel left behind. Leaders were required to be unpaid volunteers, and meetings were held in believers' homes rather than church buildings. Consequently, despite believers' meagre salaries, money was available to send evangelists and church planters throughout the island, while the financial needs of church members were also met.

The love Christians had for one another, and for non-believers, was a powerful testimony to the people of Hainan. God's children even shared their financial resources with strangers in need — something rarely seen in modern, materialistic China. This stark contrast and display of selflessness attracted thousands of people to the Lord.

When a household displayed an interest or had already accepted Christ, their family members and friends were invited to attend Bible studies. In this way, the base of interested people grew ever wider. After a few weeks of simple witness, an invitation was given for people to believe. Those who decided for Christ immediately joined a basic discipleship program which lasted a few weeks. Upon completion of the program, the new believers were baptized.

Church planters identified which of the new converts were potential leaders, after



taking careful note of each person's integrity, character, and hunger for God's Word. Soon, all public meetings were turned over to them. By appointing multiple leaders, the churches grew without excessive outside influence, and a leadership vacuum was prevented should one or two leaders be arrested.

The evangelists, meanwhile, stayed behind to mentor the new leaders, advising them how to deal with problems in the church, and teaching them God's Word, which they immediately re-taught to new believers. Subsequently, the movement was completely localized and grew naturally. Because the church leaders were already known and respected in their communities, the Name of Jesus was revered and accepted as a positive influence.

Critics could never charge that Christianity was a Western religion, because the movement was completely led and funded by local people.

After a house church had become firmly established, it was required to divide into smaller groups, according to the security concerns in each area. In cities and towns, house groups never exceeded 30 members, although in rural areas where the police presence was less threatening, congregations often grew to hundreds of believers.

Most churches met twice a week; including once on Sunday when non-believers were welcome to attend. An additional mid-week service, held exclusively for Christians, concentrated on discipleship, training, and receiving strategies from God.

House church leaders in each county gathered on the first day of every month for a day of prayer, fasting, and training, while on the 15th day of every month church leaders throughout the entire province gathered in one place for unified prayer and fasting.

The power of God began to transform many parts of the island like wildfire. At the height of the revival, the approximate doubling time for Christians in Hainan was seven months. That is, every seven months the number of believers doubled!

Vision and responsibility for the completion of the Great Commission was extensively taught in the new churches. All trainers and leaders were consumed with the task of reaching the lost, and on-the-job evangelism and discipleship was at the heart of everything they did.

The rapid advance of the Gospel did not occur without great opposition, however, and soon some of the new believers in Hainan experienced the blessing of laying down their lives for Jesus....

LITTLE WANG

IN 1994, A SMALL GROUP of three Christian men traveled to an unreached Li tribal area to share the Gospel, but things did not go to plan. The team consisted of Old Wang, his son Little Wang, and their colleague Cai Wen. A report by a Christian worker in Hainan detailed their dramatic story:

"Old Wang winced in pain as the creaking bus bounced along the dirt road. His broken ribs gave him excruciating pain, but he was better off than his co-worker Cai Wen. He looked at Cai, weak from blood loss, who had his eyes closed and was cradling a broken arm.

Wang wasn't eager to get home, because he had to face Little Wang's wife, Liang, and her 10-year-old son. He wondered how he would break the news to her that her husband had been murdered by an angry mob of Li people the previous evening. He could still hear the mob's accusations: 'The spirits of the mountains rule our land. You Chinese dogs have only been here 500 years and you know nothing. You have stolen our land and now you wish to steal our gods as well. You will pay for this!'

The mob beat the evangelists with sticks and farm implements. A particularly fierce young man continued to beat Little Wang, and when the crowd dispersed, Little Wang didn't move. He had paid the ultimate price. He and his family had only believed in Jesus Christ for five months."

After letting them recover from their injuries for a few weeks, the church decided to send Old Wang and Cai Wen back to the same village to preach again.

There were no churches in the entire county, and someone had to take the message of salvation to the Li people. The gathered believers grew silent when the newly-widowed Liang spoke up and requested to accompany Old Wang and Cai Wen on their return trip.

The Christians worshipped for hours that day, praying fervently for the trip and for the salvation of the Li. House churches in other parts of the county were also notified to pray and fast for three days.

A report of their courageous return journey said:

"The sun had already set when the trio reached their destination, and they slept beside a pigpen outside the village. Whether due to discomfort or busy minds,

none of them slept well that night. The next morning, they went to the market. Word quickly spread of their return, and as a mob formed some people began to yell threats.

Old Wang felt fear sweep over him. Suddenly, Liang stepped forward and spoke:

"I am the widow of the man you killed less than three weeks ago. My husband is not dead, however, because Jesus Christ has given him eternal life. Now he is living in paradise with God forever! My husband came here to share how you can have that same eternal life. If he was here, he would forgive you for what you did. I forgive you as well. I can forgive you because God has forgiven me. If you would like to hear more about our God, then meet us under the big tree outside the village this evening."

Old Wang spent the afternoon instructing Liang what to say that night. At sunset, most of the villagers gathered under the big tree to listen to her.

After hearing the Good News of God's salvation, many Li people decided to follow Jesus Christ. Old Wang stayed behind to baptize them and to teach them how to serve God, while Cai Wen accompanied Liang on the long bus journey home.

Two months later, Old Wang returned home with two leaders and a young man from the new Li church. During the Sunday service, the young man stood up and said:

"I am the man who murdered Little Wang. The Lord has graciously forgiven me, and I ask for your forgiveness as well. I, and our entire church, owe an eternal debt of gratitude to Little Wang and Liang for bringing us the message of life. We want to give a monthly love offering to help support Liang and her son. This is the least we can do to show our appreciation."

Several months later, news emerged from the mountains that the new Li fellowship had planted another church in the same county.

THANK GOD FOR THE WONDERFUL THINGS HE HAS DONE IN HAINAN IN RECENT DECADES! Please pray for the hundreds of thousands of believers on the island, and the tens of millions of Christians throughout China who are currently undergoing the most severe examination of their faith in the past 50 years. Pray the Body of Christ will not only survive the fierce Communist persecution, but will emerge triumphant, more refined, and greater in number than ever before!

Over the years Asia Harvest has successfully printed and delivered MORE THAN 160,000 BIBLES to house church Christians in HAINAN





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

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND (AWE



WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT 1,782 ASIAN EVANGELISTS AMONG 1.260 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 1,515,190 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



THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT WE HAVE HELPED TRAIN AND EQUIP 20,046 ASIAN BELIEVERS TO EFFECTIVELY SERVE GOD

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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.



TOF) THE CHILDREN'S FUND

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT HAS REACHED 220.428 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.

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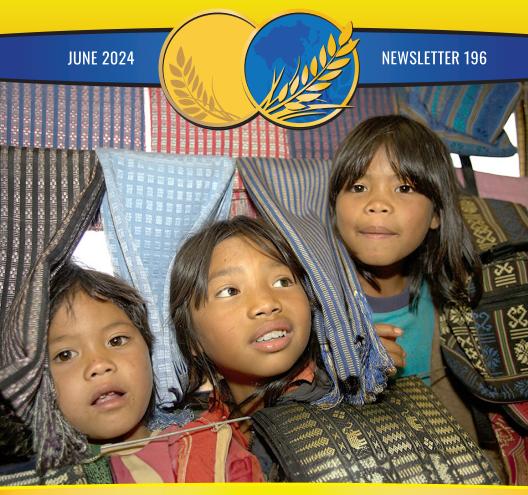
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THE KOHO PEOPLE

Bibles at Last for the Koho of Vietnam

"For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."— Hebrews 4:12

THE KOHO PEOPLE OF VIETNAM

TITH A POPULATION of 190,000 people, for countless centuries the Koho have inhabited villages nestled in the beautiful mountains of south-central Vietnam, with the majority in Lam Dong Province.

More than 3,000 Koho people also live in the United States, where they were granted access as refugees after the Vietnam War, as many Koho had fought alongside the US military. Because they fought against the Communists, at times the Koho and other tribes have been despised as traitors and persecuted by the Vietnamese government since the end of the war in 1975.

The main livelihood for rural Koho families is hunting and fishing, while

many families cultivate rice and coffee and grow a wide variety of fruit, including banana, watermelon, pineapple, and mulberry.

Koho society is matrilineal. This means that after marriage the groom moves in with his wife's family, and children take the name of their mother. Extended Koho families often live in large houses on stilts.

For countless generations the Koho people have been animists, worshipping numerous deities. including the sun, moon, prominent mountains, rivers, and large trees.

MEMORIES OF AN ANCIENT GOD

Despite their separation from the one true God, He graciously did not forget the Koho people. As the Apostle Paul said long ago:

"In the past, He let all nations go their own way. Yet He has not left Himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."— Acts 14:16-17



Despite not having a written language until recently, many legends similar to accounts in the book of Genesis have been retained by the Koho and passed down through songs and poems to each new generation. God "has not left himself without testimony" among the Koho.

Although over the millennia the details of the stories have changed, some of the Koho legends include an account of a worldwide flood, which says:

"All the creatures of the earth perished in the water except two humans—a man and woman—who, accompanied by a pair of every animal and bird, took refuge in a wooden chest. The flood lasted seven days and nights. Then the man and the woman heard a chicken clucking outside of the chest, so they knew they could come out."

Remarkably, over many centuries the Koho have also orally passed down the story of Noah's shame (see Genesis 9:20-25). The Koho story says:



"Some years after the flood, the grandfather drank rice wine and fell into a stupor. When the eldest son saw him asleep naked, he began to mock his father. A younger son reproached his brother and covered his father with a banana leaf."

As you may know, from the late 1800s to 1954, Vietnam was part of a French colony called Indo-China. During that time many Catholic missionaries entered the land, and today millions of people in south Vietnam are Catholics, especially among the majority Kinh (Vietnamese) people.

Catholicism also impacted the Koho tribe, especially those living in the towns. In the remote villages, however, their ancient traditional beliefs were not replaced, but were combined with Catholicism to create a toxic syncretic religion "having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:5).

DESPERATE FOR GOD'S WORD

Evangelical missionaries only commenced work among the Koho in the 1940s, more than half a century after the Catholics. They soon found many fertile hearts eager for the Gospel, and thousands of Koho repented of their sins, denounced their spirit worship and idolatry, and embraced the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Koho believers were desperate for the Bible in their own language, as most of them struggle to understand Vietnamese. When the Koho New Testament was finally published in 1967, having God's Word in their heart language made an immediate and powerful impact on Koho society.

By 1998, the Koho Evangelical churches had a combined 57,000 believers, which was almost half of the population at the time. In that year, now

over a quarter of a century ago, *Asia Harvest* printed and delivered our first Koho Bibles, even though they are viewed as contraband by the Communist government in Vietnam.

The years have rolled on, and the Koho Church continues to walk with God.

In 2009 the full Bible was translated, but over the years, due to the challenge of doing Christian work in Vietnam, the number of new Koho Bibles has dwindled, falling far behind the need. The Koho Bible is NOT available in Vietnam, and printing it is considered illegal.

Late last year, Koho church leaders expressed their urgent need for Bibles, having been largely starved of God's Word for the past two decades.



Our co-workers in Vietnam immediately went to work to meet the request of the Koho churches, and because of support we have received for our *Asia Bible Fund*, we recently printed and successfully delivered 20,000 full Koho Bibles!

While we cannot share too many details for security reasons, below is a photo of some of the Bibles before they made their way to the Koho villages, where thousands of Christians have given thanks to God for not forgetting them and for helping them access His Word again after such a long time.

To everyone who has prayed and given to the *Asia Bible Fund*, we thank you on behalf of our Koho brothers and sisters!



THANKS FROM A KOHO CHURCH LEADER:

My name is Brother R. and I lead Bible study groups among the Koho churches in my area.

I was raised in a nominal Christian family, but I grew up without a real faith in Jesus. I was taken to church by my parents, but I hooked up with bad influences and went astray into this world.

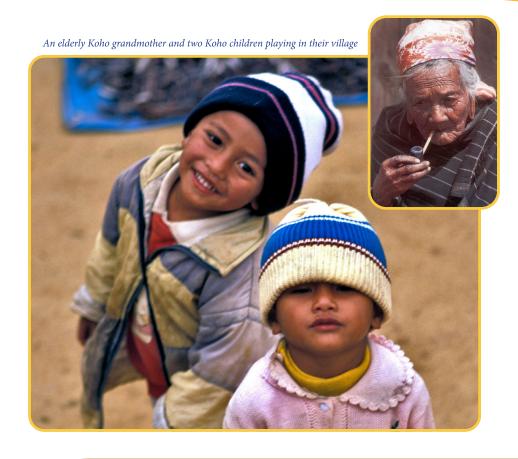
One day when I was almost 20, my pastor told me how to be a real disciple of Jesus. I was touched, and at that moment I invited Jesus into my heart. He completely transformed my life, and my addiction to alcohol and tobacco instantly disappeared.

I then wanted to study God's Word, but we didn't have any Bibles in our Koho language. I could get a Bible in Vietnamese, but many things are hard to understand.

So I prayed to have His Word in my language, and recently every family in our churches have received a free gift of a Koho Bible! We thank God for this amazing answer to prayer.

Now we use our Bibles in our study groups, and we are understanding the truth better. We also use the Bibles to share the Gospel with non-believers, and some of them have come to the Lord.

Thank you for providing His Word to us! It has changed our lives, and we are deeply thankful to you for providing these Bibles for free.



Soon, we anticipate that requests for thousands more Koho Bibles will arrive. When people give to the ASIA BIBLE FUND it enables us to respond quickly to this and many other needs for Bibles throughout Asia.

OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE PRINTED OR PROVIDED GOD'S WORD IN 159 DIFFERENT ASIAN LANGUAGES.

We invite you to pray for the Koho people, and if you would like to give to the ASIA BIBLE FUND, your help will be greatly appreciated. We know of no more worthy investment in God's kingdom than providing His Word to hungry Christians who are unable to access it.





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MYANMAR

War and Revival

"From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."— Matthew 11:12

THE REVIVALIST CHARLES FINNEY, when commenting on the Matthew 11:12 passage, accurately captured the desperate circumstance through which God had moved mightily in history. He said, "Revival comes from heaven when heroic souls enter the conflict determined to win or die—or if need be, to win and die!"

Such words prove true whenever believers choose an uncomfortable and inconvenient obedience over the easy life. War, struggle, and various forms of persecution are unwanted external pressures, but in Christ, they have the potential to push the believer to greater faith.

"*Hangry*" is an expression sometimes used by Westerners to describe the uncomfortable, annoyed, or even angry state of an individual who hasn't eaten in some hours.

But the fact is that most of us in the West don't even know what *true* hunger is. To go *days* without eating due to an unreliable food source or to be faced daily with violence and the threat of human trafficking is beyond the experience of most of us.

Yet, this is the state of many today in war-torn Myanmar where not only starving bodies, but starving *souls*, are desperate for a life-saving intervention.

It's during this life-and-death struggle that multitudes of idol worshippers are turning to the Lord in vast numbers—turning the tables on demonic darkness that has held so many spiritually bound for so long. It is truly the unfolding of Matthew 4:16 which says: *The people living in darkness have*

Mandala

seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

And while the stakes continue to remain high as the warfront and bloodshed spread, an undercurrent of Christian revival is sweeping across these bruised and battered lands.

In this issue, we invite you to learn of an experience our Asia Harvest team had on a recent visit to Myanmar.

Here is their story in their own words...

A VIEW FROM INSIDE

From the moment our plane touched down in Myanmar, the sense of tension and turmoil quickly became apparent.

Barbed wire lined many roads, and city intersections had become military checkpoints controlled by soldiers with high-powered weapons—scenes that reinforced the reality of the conflict around us.

Because much of the fighting in Myanmar had gone unreported to the rest of the world, we were shocked to see the

deep poverty, pain, and economic ruin. It was then that we understood the despair of many Burmese who felt the world had forgotten them.

Although we were in areas hundreds of miles from the front lines of military conflict, that was enough for us to get a glimpse of Myanmar's dark underbelly, blackened by kidnappings, sex trafficking, organ harvesting, drug trafficking, and enslavements of the worst kind.

Asia Harvest's
PERSECUTION &
RELIEF FUND has
helped free dozens
of trafficked victims
who are now dedicated
Christians. We hope
to provide details of
how we are helping in
future newsletters.

Our ministry guides were careful to ensure our safe passage by paying "fees" to gangsters, military, police, and village leaders along with abiding by a strict "back-before-dark" curfew.

Despite overwhelming spiritual darkness we experienced in Myanmar, God was about to give us insight into His strategy of light.

Just when we thought it couldn't get any worse, our Christian hosts took us to a slum where a tin door to a run-down shack opened in front of us. When we stepped inside, it was as though we had passed through a portal and entered another dimension, a heavenly one—a world where Jesus reigns. It was a church meeting of Burmese children deep in the heart of the slums, providing a ray of hope to penetrate the darkness many were living in!

We were slightly embarrassed to be the only ones with socks and shoes among these bare-footed believers, but that didn't bother these children whose eyes remained closed with tears streaming down their faces as their attention was fully fixated on their Savior.

This experience was repeated again and again at each of the centers we visited. Healings and deliverance from demons, drugs, and crime were commonplace. Most of the gatherings consisted of believers who had come to Christ within the past few years. Ex-prostitutes sat shoulder-to-shoulder

with former murderers and gang members whose tattoos told the tale of their past, but who had now found redemption and cleansing through the blood of Jesus.



The best part of this story is that it is not transpiring based on the efforts of a single ministry, but rather through a sovereign move of the Spirit of God that is sweeping across this vast land—a move that is finally penetrating the poorest and hardest demographic in Myanmar: the 50 million ethnic Burmese people.

SHINE AND THE WITCHDOCTOR

Shine (not his real name) was one young man we met who was swept up in this revival just a few years ago. His story is one that demonstrates the bold faith that is emerging throughout Myanmar today among many Burmese.

Raised a devout idol worshipper, his commitments to witchcraft were influenced by his parents from a very young age. But everything changed the moment he found Christ! At just 17 years of age and a newborn in the faith, Shine's burden for those bound by darkness caused him to conquer his fears, and he unreservedly gave his life to serve God and to do whatever Jesus asked him to do.

His journey has led him down some extremely dangerous paths, where very few believers dare to go. On one occasion, Shine was inspired by a dream to take the gospel to a famous witchdoctor in the area (who had a reputation for cursing people to death).



It was no surprise that other believers were unwilling to go with him when he shared this burden with them.

But with little care for his own well-being and focused on the eternal well-being of this witchdoctor and his family, Shine daringly approached the "unapproachable."

(Now, if at this point in the story you are expecting the witchdoctor to open his door in friendship and immediately surrender his heart to the Lord, we're sorry to disappoint you—the exact opposite happened.)

The door was slammed angrily in Shine's face.

Undaunted by the rejection and not fearing what this dangerous man might do should he try again, Shine came back later with gifts for the witchdoctor's family. This time he was granted entrance to their home and the opportunity to share Christ with all of them.

After demonstrating the love of Christ in selfless and practical ways over a few visits, the witch doctor's entire family was converted, including the man himself!

We would expect to find daring stories like this in historical missions books that tell the tales of great believers of old. But this is a new story, and it didn't involve a well-known minister! It instead happened through the bold obedience of a simple Burmese teenager—and it is not an isolated incident. Shine continues to boldly proclaim Christ to many more people, and he has even led two more witchdoctors to the Lord in the months that followed.

Shine shared his account with us first-hand while we were among other

young ministers who validated his story. It was also during that interview that he shared with us how the week prior, he had prayed for a poor woman who had been pronounced clinically dead for 30 minutes, and the power of Christ raised her to life again!

The other evangelists in the room had not heard this before, and the Burmese believers rejoiced together when they heard the news but didn't seem overly surprised, as this miracle was consistent with how God had been moving in their midst.

SHINE IS JUST ONE OF DOZENS
OF EVANGELISTS IN MYANMAR
THAT ASIA HARVEST IS HELPING
SUPPORT THROUGH THE AWF
(ASIAN WORKERS' FUND).

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPIRITUAL
WAR EFFORT IN MYANMAR
AND MANY OTHER DARK
PARTS OF ASIA, YOU CAN JOIN
US BY HELPING SEND OUT
EVANGELISTS LIKE SHINE WHO
WILLINGLY LAY THEIR LIVES ON
THE LINE FOR THE GOSPEL.

IDOL TEMPLES AND DRUG FACTORIES CLOSING

True revival effects change. This is the reality for any genuine move of God that has occurred throughout history. A supernatural outpouring of the Spirit always leads to societal change in some degree.

Just a few short years ago, Myanmar was doing better economically in relation to its current state, while idol temples shadowed every street, overflowing with devotees.



Then suddenly the government changed hands after a military coup, and all international trade ceased. Jobs were lost, and areas became dangerous. Then again quite unexpectedly, COVID mandates eliminated the few jobs that were left, civil wars worsened, and the entire country became desperate. Black markets replaced honest trade, and the rule of thugs replaced the rule of law.

Illegal drug factories popped up overnight and provided the only jobs available in some areas. As the drugs flooded the markets, traffickers targeted every class throughout society, luring in many addicted customers across all income levels. Starving children were recruited to walk the streets, selling opiate drugs from open baskets they balanced on their heads.

And yet in the midst of this hopelessness, God was stirring His Church.

Not only have scores of idol temples closed for good due to lack of attendance while new churches spread like wildfire, but one of the ministry training centers we support has reported that the largest drug factory in their area is now closed!

And what became of the workers and distributors for this factory?





Many of them became believers, joined the church, and are being trained to go forth and spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

As a result of accounts like these, we trust that you will be encouraged by the fact that, even in the darkest hour, we have reason to hope in Christ who can do the impossible, bringing lasting societal change through His Church. We also trust that you will know better how to pray for these dear believers who still face many dangerous days ahead, and that you will consider helping to support their efforts.

Pray that the Lord will keep them strong!

Asia Harvest currently supports over 80 ministry training centers (in Myanmar and other countries) that send out hundreds of evangelists to unreached people groups. Each center on average supports ten house churches that together report thousands of conversions every year.

In the past year alone, more than 6,000 Burmese have experienced new life in Jesus Christ through the centers in just one of the ministries we support in Myanmar.

Please join us in getting the Gospel to these people while their hearts are open and hungry for the truth!

YOUR FAITHFUL PRAYER & GENEROUS SUPPORT

ASIA BIBLE FUND (ABF



CURRENT TOTAL: 20,093,594 BIBLES PRINTED IN 163 LANGUAGES

The Asia Bible Fund provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in China, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and anywhere 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



YOU ARE CURRENTLY HELPING SUPPORT 1,779 ASIAN **EVANGELISTS AMONG 1.270 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 1,518,385 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 35.313 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.

TRANSFORMING LIVES AROUND THE GLOBE

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 223.313 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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Asía Harvest



THE 'OPERATION' SERIES

A Message & Prayer Request from Paul Hattaway

"Indeed, of Zion it will be said, 'This one and that one were born in her, and the Most High himself will establish her.' The Lord will write in the register of the peoples: 'This one was born in Zion."— Psalm 87:5-6

THE 'OPERATION' SERIES

THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S CALL ON MY LIFE Paul Hattaway

T HAS ALWAYS SADDENED ME that many church-goers around the world seem to lead directionless lives, when there are so many opportunities to be involved in God's glorious, expanding kingdom. Many Christians have not even had their eyes opened to one of the great themes that weaves its way throughout the entire Bible: the theme of God's plan to redeem souls from every ethnic group (translated "nation" in most English Bibles). Much of Scripture does not make sense unless we understand that God is working to fulfill His purposes among all the people groups of the world.

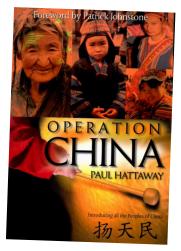
Indeed, the above Scripture speaks of "the register of the peoples" in heaven. I have always been encouraged by the fact that any work that reveals people groups to the Body of Christ here on earth is but a pale reflection of God's full list!

God's plan of redemption for all peoples runs through the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. It started with His promise to Abraham: "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3). His wonderful plan culminates with the Lamb of God receiving His reward in heaven: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,

because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God people from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:7-9).

Those who have followed the work of *Asia Harvest* over the years will know that in the 1990s, as the ministry grew and branched out into the various projects we continue to implement today, I was privileged to write a series of books, including *Operation China* and *Peoples of the Buddhist World*, which profiled hundreds of new ethnic groups in Asia.

From the start, I was determined to portray these tribes and people groups in all their God-given splendor. They are His creation, with unique customs and languages designed to glorify God. I thought there could be nothing more ludicrous than to present such fascinating and vibrant people groups in a drab, colorless format. That would be like writing a book on the beauty of butterflies or the world's most exotic birds, and illustrating it in black and white!



Although the paper book versions of *Operation China* and *Peoples of the Buddhist World* have been out of print for years, the full-color PDF files, complete with photos and maps, can be downloaded from the *asiaharvest.org* bookstore and saved to your computer for lifelong use.

As there is a saying "a picture paints a thousand words," I have always insisted that these people group books be attractive, full-color productions that would not only provide information, but would instill in readers a heart for Asia's unreached peoples and motivate them to pray for their salvation.

As an example of how a good picture can tell a story, please note some background information of the photos on the front and back covers of this newsletter:

FRONT COVER:

For centuries, girls from several Chin tribes in western Myanmar had their faces tattooed at puberty in a bid to make them appear "ugly" so they would not be carried off by men from other tribes. Face tattoos were outlawed in the 1960s, so this dear lady is one of the last living examples from that bygone era.

BACK COVER:

Millions of young Burmese boys like this teenager are sent to serve as novice monks in Buddhist monasteries

Special thanks to the photographer David Lazar, who granted permission for us to share these images.

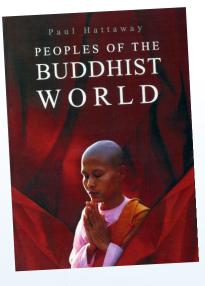
THE 'OPERATION' SERIES

One of the greatest blessings of my life has been to see how dozens of previously unreached people groups have heard the Gospel from various ministries and now have thriving churches in their midst. Although our research was only a small part in the process, I think that bringing them to the attention of the Body of Christ was a key link in the chain of events that resulted in many of those groups coming to the Lord Jesus Christ.

After researching and writing many hundreds of profiles of Asia's unreached people groups, years ago I sensed it was time to put that side of my call aside for a while and focus on helping the Asian Church reach those groups with the Gospel. That is how many of the projects Asia Harvest has undertaken came about. Every ministry decision we make first considers the strategic importance of how Bibles, evangelists, children's work, relief, etc. will impact unreached peoples for the Lord.

A Chinese house church leader once honored me with the Chinese name 扬天民 (Yang Tian Min), which means "Advocate of Heavenly Peoples." I feel it's time for me to take up that mantle again and refocus my efforts on this part of my calling.

Even though I have never stopped researching and working daily toward the goal of seeing all of Asia's peoples glorify



the Lord Jesus, in recent years I have focused on writing different kinds of books and sharing testimonies about what God is doing in China and other parts of Asia. I am thankful that God has used these books to encourage the faith of many believers around the world.

Now, as the years go by and I am beginning to operate at a slower pace, I believe the Spirit of God is prompting me to again take up the challenge of writing a few thousand new profiles of people groups in Asia! We are calling this

project the *Operation* series, as it is a continuation of the books that began with the publication of *Operation China* in the year 2000.

Most of Myanmar's 233 ethnic groups are located in poor, rural communities that have

changed little in many generations. This photo of people from the Intha tribe in Shan State shows life there is little different than from a century ago.

OPERATION MYANMAR

There is a tendency in the world today to think that all knowledge has already been revealed and there is nothing new to be discovered.

People who think like that have obviously never been off the beaten track in Asia!

The first part of our new *Operation* series is *Operation Myanmar (Burma)*. The research has already been completed, and in the coming months we will be releasing individual prayer profiles of people groups in this deeply troubled, war-torn country.

It is a perfect time to pray for Myanmar, for it is a failed state that is falling apart. Multiple civil wars are raging across the country, and millions of precious people are experiencing horrific suffering as a result.

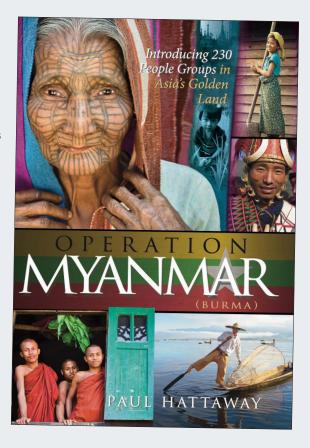
Our plan is to release three one-page profiles of groups in Myanmar every week until we have covered the entire country. This will take a while, as we expect to profile over 230 distinct groups in Myanmar.

Approximately 100 of these will be groups that the world has never heard of. It also will be the first time the Body of Christ has heard of their existence, including believers in Myanmar, where no proper census of ethnic groups has been conducted since the British colonial period in 1931!

Each profile will be presented in full color and will be accompanied by a quality photo of the group, and a map showing where that group lives. Each profile will be in a simple format to help people pray for God's salvation and purposes to be accomplished among them.

PLEASE NOTE...

- * These profiles are completely free BUT will only be available on our website asiaharvest.org. You can sign up for notifications to be delivered to your email inbox whenever we post a new prayer profile. (These will not be available in paper form, for it is impractical for us to send out three paper copies per week to people around the world.)
- * You can subscribe to receive these prayer profiles by filling out the subscription form on our website, or by letting us know your email address so



we can add it to our list. **If you are already subscribed to our email newsletters you will automatically receive these** *Operation* **profiles.** If you would rather not receive them, you can "unsubscribe" from this list at any time.

* As we near the end of the *Myanmar* series, we plan to make available the complete *Operation Myanmar* book in paper or e-book form, which will contain all the profiles. Please don't ask about these for a while though, as it will take at least 18 months before they are ready.

Meanwhile, we will send the individual profiles to you as they become available.

FUTURE SERIES

God willing, we hope *Operation Myanmar* will be just the first in a series of new profiles and books. Other possible books in the series include:

- * A five-part *Operation India* series, dividing that extraordinarily diverse unreached country into five regions (*North India, Central India*, etc.). We hope to begin sharing the India profiles soon after the completion of the Myanmar series.
- Operation Laos
- Operation Vietnam
- Operation Nepal
- and possibly Operation Bhutan, Thailand, Bangladesh, and the Philippines.

It would be a great benefit if you or your fellowship group would consider taking time each week to pray for the peoples of Asia. We believe that doing so will not only bless the work of the Kingdom of God in Asia, but it will also build your faith as you take your mind off local issues and life's problems and invest time praying for the nations of Asia.

Finally, for the many people who are enjoying *The China Chronicles*, please don't worry! By God's grace the series will continue until it is completed, and a record of the wonderful things God has done in all of China's provinces has been told.

Work is already well underway on the next few books in the series.

We are excited about *The China Chronicles* and encouraged by all the positive feedback we receive from you each time a new book is released.



Please Pray...

- > PLEASE ASK THE LORD TO GRANT ME GOOD HEALTH

 AND A SHARP FOCUS TO FULFILL HIS CALL ON MY LIFE.
- PETITION GOD TO OPEN DOORS THAT NO MAN CAN SHUT, SO
 THAT THESE NEW PROFILES WILL GLORIFY THE LORD JESUS
 AND RESULT IN MORE ETHNIC GROUPS WORSHIPPING JESUS.
- > PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL PROTECTION OVER ME,

 MY FAMILY, AND ALL WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH ASIA HARVEST.

 (THERE ARE GROUPS THAT HAVE BEEN CAPTIVES OF

 SATAN FOR COUNTLESS GENERATIONS, AND HE DOES NOT

 SURRENDER ANY OF THEM WITHOUT A FIERCE BATTLE.)
- > ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO RAISE UP INTERCESSORS

 AROUND THE WORLD TO FERVENTLY PRAY FOR EACH GROUP.

AS THE MORAVIANS USED TO SHOUT AS THEY BOARDED SHIPS TO TAKE THEM TO THE MISSION FIELD:

"MAY THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN RECEIVE THE REWARD OF HIS SUFFERING!"

THE LORD JESUS DECLARED: "AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED IN ALL THE WORLD AS A WITNESS TO ALL NATIONS [ETHNIC GROUPS], AND THEN THE END SHALL COME" (MATTHEW 24:14).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT

AND PRAYER SUPPORT-

UNTIL ALL PEOPLES HAVE HEARD
THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS,





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Asía Harvest



20 MILLION MIRACLES

...and counting!

"The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough and is never considered a foreigner."

— Cameron Townsend, Founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators

OME OF THE MORE EAGLE-EYED READERS of our newsletter noticed that several months ago we passed the milestone of 20 million Bibles printed and distributed throughout Asia! The vision of bringing Bibles to Christians in Asia

who can't access them has been an integral part of our foundation since God first called us to carry Bibles into China in 1988.

Over the years our vision has expanded. While by far the most Bibles we have provided have been used to fuel the mighty Chinese house church revival, God has enabled us to print and deliver His Word in 167 different Asian languages, often to believers who receive the Scriptures in their heart language for the very first time. For us, there is no greater honor and privilege than to be part of a chain that impacts entire ethnic and language groups.

"They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away.... Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."—

Psalm 107:5, 8-9

Cameron Townsend, whom we cited above, also said this great quote that may help people understand why we have such a sharp focus on providing the Scriptures in so many obscure languages. He said: "Understanding Scripture in a language other

FRONT COVER: The Asia Bible Fund provides Bibles to all Asian believers who hunger and thirst for God's Word. In this photo from about 20 years ago, two teenage soldiers with the Karen Liberation Army are glad to receive Kachin Bibles before being deployed to the frontlines in their battle against the Burmese military.

BACK COVER: We have found that often the people most eager to read the Bible and learn about Jesus are strict Muslims.

than the heart language in which we think and experience emotion is like trying to eat soup with a fork. You can get a little taste, but you cannot get nourished."

In this special Asia Harvest newsletter, we give thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ, who has enabled His Word to go forth and has transformed entire communities and millions of lives through the Asia Bible Fund.

One of our most touching testimonies over the years came from this dear 84-year-old Karen sister in Myanmar, who had been praying 71 years for her own Bible!

She was overcome with emotion when our co-workers delivered Bibles to her village in 2016.

Many other Karen had been praying decades for a Bible. In response, Asia Harvest has provided more than 320,000 Karen Bibles to believers in Myanmar.





OUR SECRET FUNDRAISER

THE FAMOUS MISSIONARY TO CHINA, Hudson Taylor, once wrote, "God's work, done God's way, will never lack God's supply."

Some people who read that we have provided over 20 million Bibles may wrongly assume that we are well-connected to some wealthy people or foundations.

God has had a far better plan for us, and the Lord Jesus Himself decided to be our fund-raiser! As this crucial project blossomed, *the Holy Spirit moved on the hearts of many people to pray and give* so that Asia's Christians—especially new believers living in impoverished rural areas—would have access to His Word.

Instead of connecting us with a *few* large donors, the Lord chose to link us together with *hundreds of normal believers* throughout the world.

We marvel at the wisdom of God in leading us to function in this manner.



A few individual snowflakes can easily be brushed aside, but a multitude of snowflakes can join together to stop trucks and derail freight trains.

Over the years, the median size donation we have received is \$52, as the Holy Spirit has connected us with many members of the Body of Christ.

This way, the number of Bibles we have been able to provide has grown rapidly, and the Lord has gained much glory for His Name.







HEADWINDS

RIGHT NOW, THE *ASIA BIBLE FUND* FACES STRONGER HEADWINDS THAN EVER BEFORE, with persecution, invasive technology, and other challenges such as war combining to create new challenges to all ministries who attempt to provide large quantities of Bibles to God's people across Asia.

Over the decades about a dozen Asian believers have been killed for their involvement in this project, especially in China. Dozens of others have been imprisoned for years, including some who are behind bars right now.

This project has experienced every kind of stress and problem you could imagine. Satan despises the Word of God and particularly hates it when a tribe or group of believers who hunger for Bibles finally gain access to them.

The 20 million Bibles we have provided are physical, paper Bibles. Some people ask why we don't focus on Bible apps and various forms of electronic Bibles. It's not so simple. For example, a few years ago the Chinese government **blocked access** to Bible apps and websites, willingly aided by Google and Apple.

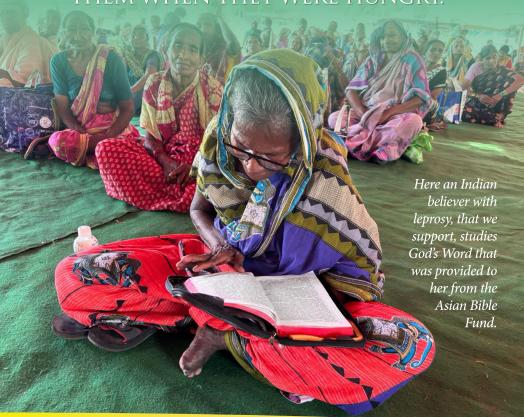
A **bigger** potential problem is that the Communists are now writing their own socialist version of the Bible, and a future app update may automatically replace God's Word with their perverted version, with new believers not even noticing or being able to discern the difference.

Please pray for us and all who are involved in this project. As long as the Lord Jesus gives us strength, we want to continue to do everything possible to get God's Word to believers in Asia so they can be nourished, strengthened, and empowered by the Bread of Life.

TO EVERYONE OVER THE YEARS WHO
HAS PRAYED AND GIVEN TO THE ASIA
BIBLE FUND SO THAT OUR BROTHERS AND
SISTERS THROUGHOUT ASIA WOULD HAVE
ACCESS TO GOD'S WORD:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CRUCIAL PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL!

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT ONE DAY IN HEAVEN **Many** People you have never met will call you blessed for feeding them when they were hungry.







CURRENT TOTAL: 20.324.021 BIBLES PRINTED IN 167 LANGUAGES

The Asia Bible Fund provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in China, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and anywhere 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 (AWE



WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT 1,734 ASIAN EVANGELISTS AMONG 1.270 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 1,669,209 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 39.813 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.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP WE ARE CURRENTLY SUPPORTING 943 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 226.640 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.



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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