

# Asia Harvest



Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe! (Joel 3:13)

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

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

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**Asia Disaster Relief fund**  
A Pictorial Story of one Chinese Village

# ***The Asia Disaster Relief Fund***

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

*“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’” (Matthew 25:34-36).*

Dear friends, In May we sent a message to everybody on our email list, detailing our plans to help the victims of two massive natural disasters in Asia - the cyclone that killed approximately 100,000 people in Myanmar (Burma) in early May, and the earthquake that has killed 80,000 and left five million people homeless in China's Sichuan Province on May 12. We received a strong response from people on our email list, but we realize there are many who read this newsletter who don't have email. *(By the way, if you would like to be added to our email list, please send us a message at [office@asiaharvest.org](mailto:office@asiaharvest.org) and we will be glad to add you. We generally only send out emails for urgent matters, and usually no more than several messages per year).*

I was in neighboring Thailand when the Myanmar cyclone struck. We experienced some strong winds and rain, but never imagined that just across the border so many people's lives were being destroyed. Since that time, we have been helping the efforts of our Malaysian representatives, who have many years' experience working in relief situations. They have distributed four container loads of food, water, medical supplies, plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, blankets, and other necessities.

Just as we were discussing how we could respond to the need in Myanmar, the massive earthquake struck China's Sichuan Province. The towns near the epicenter of the earthquake were completely obliterated, and about 5 million people are homeless as a result. At Mianzhu, every single member of three house churches (approximately 100 believers) were killed by the quake. They were among 80,000 people who perished.

We immediately got in touch with friends in this part of China. Over the years we have seen that the best way to help in such situations is to network with other members of the Body of Christ who are able to help most effectively. Our contacts launched a program to provide "Emergency Aid kits" to people in the worst-affected areas. The

kits, which cost US\$110 each, include a 9 square meter (97 square feet) tent, flashlights, cooking utensils, blankets, first aid supplies, and other essentials. The help is now moving more towards helping the people rebuild their homes and lives.

**In response to these disasters, we launched the “Asia Disaster Relief Fund.”** So far more than 1,000 Emergency Aid kits have been provided. This work is spearheaded by Chinese house church leaders, many of whom travelled to Sichuan in response to the compassion of Christ in their hearts. By demonstrating the love of God in such a practical way, and by boldly sharing their faith, we have received a report that **more than 3,000 people have bowed their knee to Jesus Christ!** A coworker reported that when they delivered supplies to one village, an evangelist remained behind and preached the Gospel. He wrote, “Every person present at the meeting, which appeared to be the entire village, received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! The man who first received a tent, now uses that tent as the location of the church meetings.”

Over the years we have responded to numerous emergency situations brought about by natural disasters in Asia. These include devastating cyclones in India and Vietnam in 1999, major earthquakes in India and Afghanistan in 2001 and Kashmir in 2005; and of course the Tsunami which struck many Asian countries in 2004. In all of these disasters we have seen that people’s hearts become open to the claims of Jesus Christ, and many people have met the Lord for the first time, while tens of thousands of precious people have been able to survive and restart their lives.

When the two recent disasters struck, we realized that we were not in a strong position to help immediately because we didn’t have an ongoing fund for such relief work. Subsequently, we have decided to launch a long-term project, the Asia Disaster Relief fund, which will allow us to respond immediately when a crisis occurs. From this newsletter onward, and on our website, people can now donate to this important fund.

In this newsletter, we have decided to do something different. We believe the saying, “A picture paints a thousand words” is true, so the rest of this report is simply a series of pictures from China, taken by one of several ministries we are supporting through the Asia Disaster Relief fund. These pictures show how Christians responded to the needs of this one village, which is located near Beichuan, the epicenter of the quake. We thank David Darg of Operation Blessing for allowing us to use these photographs.

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If you would like to donate to the Asia Disaster Relief fund, you can do so either by credit card over our secure website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org), or by filling out the yellow Response form in this newsletter and returning it along with your donation. **We guarantee that every cent will be sent directly to the relief efforts. Nothing will be taken out for administration or any other expense.**





*At 2:28 p.m. on 12 May 2008, a massive earthquake struck China's Sichuan Province. This village, near Beichuan, was just one of thousands decimated.*





*The first response was to provide medical attention and temporary shelter to the inhabitants of the village.*







*Every home in the village was destroyed, so tents and temporary buildings were erected to house the people, including many elderly and children.*





*After the initial shock subsided, the entrepreneurial skills of the Chinese race began to show through. The villagers extracted wire and copper from the rubble, loaded it onto their vehicles, and took it to the town to sell as scrap.*







*The rebuilding stage included restoring fresh water to the village, and providing a diesel-operated generator.*







*Although there is a long road to recovery ahead for this village, life is beginning to get back to normal thanks to the love of Christians who helped them. There are countless other villages not so fortunate as this one. Can you help?*



## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



*Current Total: 1,372,050 Bibles printed and delivered.*

We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests from house church leaders throughout the country, requesting God's Word for their flocks. These Bibles are distributed free of charge to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning brightly. **Each full Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

*Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 368 Asian evangelists working among 107 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*



The **Asian Workers Fund** assists church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry in Asia. These servants of the Lord have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. We only support evangelists/missionaries and not pastors, as we believe pastors should be supported by the flocks they shepherd. Please pray about whether you or your church could help in the support of these dedicated workers, at **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card will be sent to all regular donors.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: 125,635 Bibles Printed in 21 Languages*

The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam contain more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. In some cases, missionaries labored for years translating the Word of God for a tribe, only to have their work cut short by the change of government. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities. **Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.**

## CHINA LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 1,087 living martyrs.*



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

*(The Voice of the Martyrs)*

The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists who are unable to work because of their injuries or illness. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through an occasional or monthly gift of \$25 you can help support one or more of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every regular supporter.

## PROJECT SMILE



*Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 5,766 children in Vietnam.*

Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with disabilities such as cleft palates, cleft lips and club feet, as well as others who need operations for burns, cancerous growths and other conditions. The cost of helping a child varies depending on the kind of surgery required, but each gift received of **\$60 will help a child have a better life**. A laminated prayer card of a child helped through Project Smile is sent to all donors.

## ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND



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

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided relief assistance to the victims of natural disasters such as the 2008 earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the 2004 Tsunami, and a host of other disasters in India, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. At the same time as 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 thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.





## Asia Harvest Addresses

[www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)    [office@asiaharvest.org](mailto:office@asiaharvest.org)

### *NORTH AMERICA*

1903 60th Place, Suite M1204, Bradenton, FL 34203, USA

### *AUSTRALIA*

36 Nelson Street, Stepney, SA 5069, Australia

### *NEW ZEALAND*

P.O.Box 181, Te Anau 9640, New Zealand

### *EUROPE*

SALZ, Postfach 1144, D-72206 Altensteig, Germany

### *MALAYSIA*

STAMP Bhd., P.O.Box 8036, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya,  
46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

### *SINGAPORE*

Clementi Central P.O.Box 119, Singapore 911204

### *UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND*

AsiaLink, Mill Farm, Fleetwood Road, Wesham PR4 3HD, England