

## GO FORTH MINISTRY

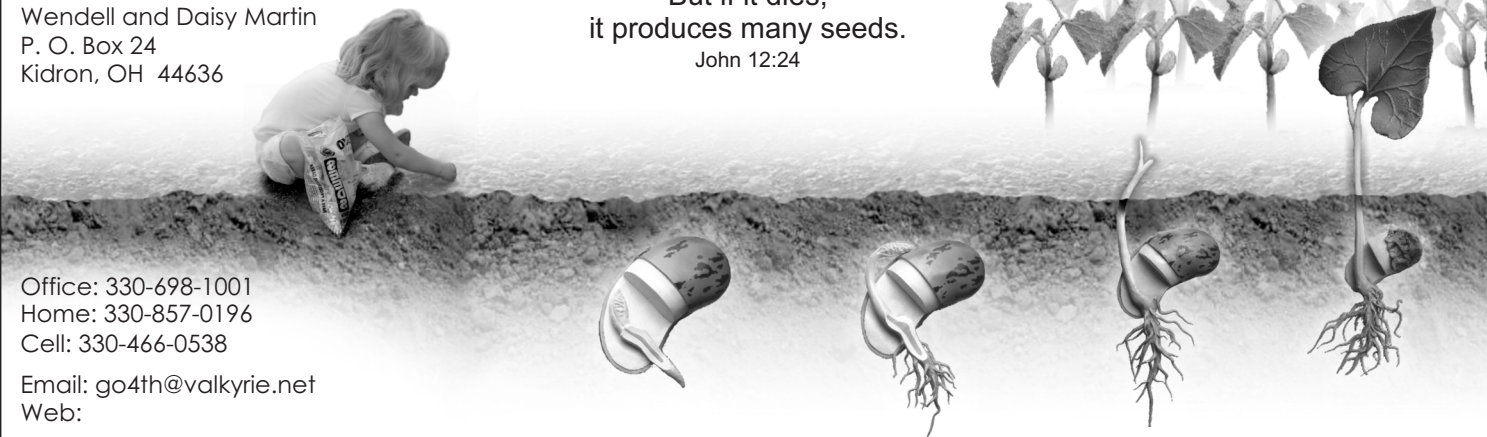
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...unless...  
a kernel of wheat  
falls to the ground and dies,  
it remains only a single seed.  
But if it dies,  
it produces many seeds.

John 12:24



Imagine that you are a little seed. Yeah, I know, it's not really that easy. But just suppose that for a long time, as a seed, you had a nice and comfy existence in a big bag of seeds just like yourself. Life was great until suddenly one day, without cause or explanation, a hand reaches into the bag to draw you out from the safety and comfort of those of like mind and kind, and you are cast down to the ground, abandoned, and left to rot and die under a pile of dirt and manure! Forgotten, isolated and helpless, the seed simply lays there, a victim of undesired circumstances.

If a seed had feelings, initially, it would no doubt feel that it was a total failure and led a worthless existence. Well, ... "ahem", perhaps that is not too much different from the way we feel God is or has treated us from time to time!

Yet, amazingly, this is one of the very foundational principles of God's Kingdom! As unpleasant as it seems, this is one of the methods God uses to bring forth real life, real joy, real usefulness and real multiplication for an eternal harvest. It is through this very process of dying that gives birth to the destinies that God has prepared for you and me, his children.

Before I go too far, I want to clarify that what I'm talking about this is not to be mistaken for "the wages of sin". If you are being misunderstood, confused, feeling isolated from God and other believers because of sin, stubbornness, false doctrine, or spiritual laziness, etc. you need to quickly repent and get back to the place where you can hear from God and you can obey Him.

Can we dare to surrender to His will, not resisting it but simply resting in those confusing and dark seasons of the soul? Can we resist letting our feelings determine our reactions to our circumstances and instead trust in what God has promised, confident by faith that the process we're experiencing is in fact, a result of His love and His desire to miraculously create in and for us what is best and even better than anything we could have ever accomplished or dreamed of for our lives?

When feelings and logic tell us that all is lost and that it would be completely impossible to make anything useful out of the current situation we find ourselves in, into that "seed", miracles happen, if we can rest in the assurance of God's love. From all that death, hopelessness, loneliness and worthlessness,

amazingly, life springs forth!

It is the 'formula' that God uses to grow His Kingdom. Illogical as it may seem to be, it is the formula God uses to grow you and me into something that no person can, in their best efforts, create (though sometimes, in an effort to bypass the required dying process, we create a religious imitation of 'life').

*I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*

*The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. ~*

Jesus



The process of being planted, suffering, dying and rising up to new life obviously is a prophetic picture of Jesus death and resurrection as well as a picture of how a person lost in sin chooses to die to his sinful nature in exchange for the miraculous gift of New Life.

### But, wait, there's more!

While the 'dying seed' is an analogy of a person miraculously entering into the Kingdom of God, it is also be an analogy of how a God inspired vision becomes reality or how the process of God's purposes come to life within a Christian, a ministry, or a church.

Since it is the Christmas season, let's consider Joseph. You already know his story. Here is a great example of how, like a seed, Joseph had to die to the desires of what he wanted in order to come alive to the wonderful purposes God had for him.

Joseph finds himself forced into a very tough situation - by a very loving God! He probably had a few sleepless nights trying to figure out what God (or the devil) was 'trying' to do. Joseph was known for being a righteous person. Yet from all logical appearances, he was now a most unrighteous person.

A quiet divorce would be necessary in order to save himself

from being a total public disgrace. Who would ever believe that Mary and Joseph were innocent of fornication? Their best defense would never stand up! In nine months the reality would certainly confirm the damning facts! Actually, there was no way out for Joseph, ...that is, until God spoke to him!

How reassuring to hear God speak, especially at those times of 'dying'. In those times, whatever people say about us or to us just doesn't matter. All that matters is that we know God sees our situation and that He still loves us. How often our minds churn and trouble because we are more concerned about what people will say or think about something, rather than what God has to say.

When God spoke to Joseph the curse that had seemingly fallen upon him reversed to become his great and joyous blessing! He suddenly found himself caught up in one of the greatest and long awaited events in history! What he had been willing to give up, his future wife, for righteousness sake, was now being restored to him. He discovered that God, in His infinite freedom, operates far and beyond man's limited definition of 'righteousness' and logic.

As in this example of both Joseph and Mary, the Holy Spirit desires to bring new things to life within us. But often what He births in us is not what we desired or can attained through 'proper' methods. We want the Holy Spirit to bring to life God's purposes in us, that's for sure, but can we receive Him on his terms instead of our own terms? The Holy Spirit is fresh and creative; not bound by our religious limitations, our definitions of success and failure, or by the circumstances of our situation.

What God desires from us is that we simply let Him plant us in the very place that He chooses, a place where death must do its work so that the miracle of New Life can produce the kind of fruit that is eternal and brings glory to God alone.

Kingdom Lesson: You are like a seed! God's intention is to plant you wherever, whenever, for whatever purpose He desires, and as often as He chooses.

As you discover this happening - rest in that place - as uncomfortable as it may be. Rest, by faith in assurance of His love and goodness, trusting that indeed, "all things work together for good to them that love the Lord".

Rest in anticipation of seeing God's name glorified by



Many young Vietnamese Refugees heard the gospel for the first time in the Hong Kong Detention Centers. Now years later they are re-emerging in Vietnam, strong and vibrant Christian leaders, out of the soil of

# Vietnam's UNDERGROUND CHURCH

It's a new season for the 'underground' Church in Vietnam! (I'm referring specifically to the those Vietnamese Christians that Go Forth Ministry has been involved with over the past 17 years). Like a seed that has been buried and out of sight, time has passed and the proof of what was planted and what has been taking place beneath the surface is finally emerging.

Hidden away for many years, struggling to survive against a barrage of spiritual and physical persecution and suffering, the faith planted in the hearts of an emerging team of leaders, tested and refined over time, is finally breaking into the light.

The following is brief description of some very exciting things that God is doing in Vietnam. I've had to keep the details to a minimum but I want to share enough so that you can get some idea of what God is doing and how to pray.

## Breaking News

November 2008;

✂ **At the request from the Vietnamese Underground Church Leaders, a team from \* \* Church World Missions came to visit a group of about 50 Vietnamese Christians. This gathering consisted of house church leaders from many areas of Vietnam including several minority groups. Each leader brought several people from their congregations.**

✂ **Purpose: to orient, assess and determine the nature for developing and establishing a recognized Church in Vietnam.**

✂ **A Temporary Board of Administrations was organized.**

✂ **Six Pastors were interviewed and approved as candidates for ordination.**

**"These pastors were an amazingly mature and tested group of leaders who have launched proven ministries in the midst of a hostile environment" - Asia Area Director of \* \* World Missions.**

✂ **With six candidates recognized, the pastors were consecrated, mutual agreements signed, and with the closing celebration of the Lord's Supper the \* \* Church in Vietnam was launched.**

If you have further questions about the above events, please give me a call at 330-466-0538.

## When the enemy comes knocking...

**WHO is really in authority?  
WHERE is the real battle field?**

*For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power,*

Unless officially authorized, assemblies are forbidden in Vietnam. How much more for an assembly of Vietnamese Christians!

Precautions had been taken, but when you add to the situation the element of spiritual warfare (which Vietnam's Christians are very much aware of and must aggressively contend with in order to advance God's kingdom in a very hostile environment), it's not surprising that from time to time the opposition 'punches' back!

So it was that as the 3 days of meetings came to a close, the local authorities stopped by for a 'visit'. One of the Vietnamese leaders immediately left the meeting to redirect the several police by taking them up to his hotel room. There he was aggressively questioned. Meanwhile, according to the warning and clear plan of action God had given in the middle of the preceding night to one of the other Vietnamese leaders, by God's grace the four foreigners were able to leave the conference room before the police had time to set up their intended trap.

As the brother was being questioned by the police, two more Vietnamese brothers boldly entered the room. They immediately began to loudly worship the Lord with raised hands, acknowledging the higher Authority and interrupting the proceedings. **They realized that this was a spiritual battle and they took the battle to the proper battle field.**

The police were left speechless. They calmed down. They told the assembly that they had enough evidence to arrest them all, but out of the goodness of their hearts, they were letting them go on home. The police also gave a warning to let them 'help organize' any future meetings they might have in their town.

Amazingly, no names were taken. No cameras confiscated. What could have happened, didn't. And since the meetings were already over, everyone leisurely proceeded as planned to a restaurant for a final meal before heading home.

We met up with the six pastors hours later at a distant location. The experience had not spawned fear as might be expected. Rather, it sealed together a team of men, joyful in seeing God's power of protection. But beyond that, even much more joyful at being a part of and seeing how God's kingdom is forcefully advancing in a nation dedicated to standing against and exalt itself above God.

*"...From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."  
- Jesus*

## Reality Check!

Several influential Christian leaders are circulating reports that China's Christians have all the Bibles they need! Really?

Do you know the source and who is really providing them with that information and why? You need to know!

Listen to current facts about the growing Bible crisis that is effecting millions in China's house churches.

## November 2008 Missions Team Vietnam and China



For the first time we were able to bring a Ministry Team to Vietnam. Over a period of five days we worked along side \* Ministry (name withheld) that reaches out to local people of all ages, from street people to the highly educated.

The \* Ministry provides unique opportunities and methods to present the gospel by building friendships. The team was astonished at the openness and enthusiasm that we were shown by the many Vietnamese we connected with. Friendships formed quickly. We were bombarded with questions that Westerners seldom ask. For example, in one of the situations, surrounded by a group of very inquisitive students, I was asked, "In your life, what do you consider to be the most important influencing factor, and how does it effect your daily life"? Wow, if that isn't a wide open door!

Imagine my frustration though at not being able to openly tell this group about the Lord Jesus and share about what He has and is doing in my life. Because of the public situation we were in and not being sure of who might be listening in on the conversation, we had to limit the content of our conversation which otherwise could be very damaging against us and the \* Ministry we were working along side. Instead, we had to give a general answer and then invite just one or two from the group to a place where we could hold a more confidential conversation.

Many doors were opened in those few and jam packed days. The \* Ministry will send local Vietnamese Christians to follow up on the leads we gave them. Several of those on a the Go Forth Ministry team returned home with ongoing friendships back in Vietnam which they are continuing with by email.

From Vietnam it was on to Hong Kong for a full week of daily Bible courier trips into China.

Won't you join us on the next  
exciting Bible Courier trip  
to Hong Kong & Beijing, China?



Is God nudging you to help?

See details at: [www.go4thinjesus.name](http://www.go4thinjesus.name)  
Or call: 330-698-1001

## God's Agents on China's Border!

By Janis S. - November

"Not again" I sighed under my breath with my heart sinking. I was pulled over for the 3rd time in a row with a case full of Bibles. I had never before known the border to be this tough, this tight, this merciless.

The border guard asked me if I had Bibles in my case. "Yes" I replied as he told me to go stand in the very long line of other people who had been pulled over by the border guards for having something "bad" in their possession.

I had been through this process before and was becoming quite familiar with it. I knew I would be there for a very long time because of the long line of people milling around who were in front of me. Another gentleman from Florida was also 'caught'. He obediently came over to the counter and stacked his Bibles up for the whole world to see. I did the same.

The guards took his pile of Bibles and tied them up in the large white confiscation bag and threw it on the scales to be weighed. They took my passport and thus began the wait. I waited and waited... Finally the guard that initially asked me if I had Bibles came over to me and silently handed me back my passport along with the other gentleman's passport and said urgently to me, "Go! Go Now!"

My eyes questioned him as this was not part of the normal routine. I knew I needed to get a receipt in order to pick up my Bibles from confiscation after paying my storage fee. Staring straight ahead without looking at me he again said to me under his breath, "Go Now!"

The older gentleman grabbed his passport from out of my hand, grabbed his very large white confiscation bag still sitting on the scales that screamed "BUSTED" to everyone within eye shot. He simply walked out of customs and out the back door to the other side.

I was still standing there stunned when a younger guard a bit further away looked at me, with an ever slight smile on his face and twinkle in his eye he silently mouthed to me while motioning with his thumb, "It's ok, go NOW". So I quickly took my Bibles off the

counter packing them back into my suitcase and simply walked out of the customs area as the tears fell down my face.

I believe God's agents are working the borders to help make sure His word gets to the hungry people who are craving to know more of who He is.

I was greatly humbled to be reminded that I have 5 or 6 personal Bibles sitting on shelves at home in different translations, colors, sizes, etc. I can pick one up and read it any time I choose without worrying about being questioned or thrown in jail. I asked the Lord to forgive me for my complacency and thanked Him for fresh perspective on the value of His word, value of my freedom and most importantly, the incredible value of knowing Him.

## Miracles in the Mountains

A testimony of a Pastor of the Steing Minority Tribe

"In 1990 God called me. During that time, after I received the Lord, I attended some classes. A Brother who was a Christian shared with me about God's Word."

"At that time I faced difficulties and persecution from the government. Also at that time I didn't know how to read. I had not attended any school. And at that time I heard the voice of the Lord from inside and he told me to just go around and testify to people about Jesus and His salvation. I desired to do that."

"But I had a problem. I wanted to read the Bible but I could not read because I had never been taught."

"I had heard from a Brother about how we need to sometimes fast. But at that time no one had told me very clearly about fasting. So I prayed and I heard a Voice that told me I need to fast, so I started to fast. I did this for two days without eating or drinking any water. I just fasted and prayed."

"After two days of fasting, when I looked at the Bible, I began to see words coming out one by one and I could understand them. I took the Bible and I found that I could read it! So I slowly read it word by word."

"I now continued to go to the people of the village and shared the gospel with them."

This Brother now pastors over 3000 believers meeting in 56 house churches.

**Hear his audio testimony & others at:** [www.go4thinjesus.name](http://www.go4thinjesus.name)

Thank you for being a part of enlarging God's Kingdom in Asia!  
Over the past months of 2008:

- ✂ With your gifts, 10,000 Chinese Bibles were printed and distributed for the underground Christians inside China.
- ✂ By making the journey and with hard work, you manually hauled over 5 tons of Bibles across the border into China!
- ✂ Your continued support enables around 70 underground Church pastors and evangelists in Vietnam to serve the Lord.
- ✂ Your gifts made it possible to give training to dozens of Vietnamese leaders in an 'invisible' Bible training and discipleship school.
- ✂ You made it possible to bring many underground Vietnamese leaders together from across their nation for much needed encouragement and to establish them as a strong, emerging, 'on fire' church.

Again, thank you so much! May the Lord bless you in His special way as you endeavor to hear His voice and obey!

*Wendell & Daisy Martin*