

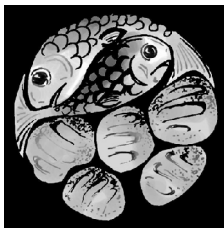
# ...at the back of the crowd...

**T**aking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. **They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.** The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Mark 6:41-44

Summer 2007 Newsletter

**W**hen Jesus fed the multitude of 5000 men (add to that number women and children), he assigned his 12 disciples to go out and meet the needs of the hungry mass that was facing them. In the hands of each of the disciples He placed the fragments of two fish and five loaves of bread. It seemed like an absolutely impossible task considering the great lack of resources. In fact it was impossible!



I can just imagine the embarrassment each disciple must have felt as he approached the first person among those thousands to offer him the insignificant little he had! How pointless the effort must have seemed. Why bother to even offer the food - especially when it was the lunch of a growing young boy who probably needed it as much as anyone. Anyway, it wasn't their fault that these people hadn't planned ahead!

I think this has to be one of the most amazing miracle stories in the Bible! I love to imagine what it must have been like to have been one of the

disciples walking among those hungry people, looking into their eyes while breaking off and passing out the small bit of food - and never running out. What amazement the disciples must have felt as the miracle unfolded right in their hands! No longer embarrassed by what they didn't have, they were, no doubt, exhilarated to be a part of what God was doing with their obedience, faith, and little they had to offer. And as a result, in the great supernatural power of Almighty God, they found themselves caught up on a 'mission impossible' - made possible.

I love to reenact these stories in my mind, imagining how the event may have unfolded. Let's just imagine that there are perhaps at least 10,000 people in the crowd. It will take some time for the 12 disciples to actually get around to distribute the food to everybody. Perhaps, by the time half the crowd received their food, the first to have received might have already finished their meal and are ready to move on to other things. This is kind of like a church pot-luck dinner where the kids get in line first, eat and are ready for seconds before those at the end of the line have had a chance to put anything on their plate.

Just imagine that some of the people in the front of the crowd who had already been fed began complaining and saying things like, "Let's get on with the program. Those in the back should skip the meal. Don't they know that Jesus has important things to say and do and this delay for simply eating is taking too much time and effort. My time is precious and we need to move to more important things. You in the back, quit complaining and just be glad some of us got to eat."

It's hard to imagine that ever happening! How could anyone be so unthoughtful and calloused? And it is actually very doubtful that any such complaints ever did happen. In fact, we know from the story "everyone ate and were satisfied".

There is a similar situation like this miracle story unfolding in the world today. Millions of Chinese Christians are hungry for God's Word, their hungry souls unsatisfied for lack of spiritual nourishment. And while many millions of Chinese Christians

have been able to get a personal Bible, millions of others have not.

Regretfully, some of those Chinese who have ready accessibility to Bibles have been reporting that China has all the Bibles they need and that people who are bringing Bibles in through unconventional methods, should stop. For those who are directly involved in getting Bibles to those who's plea's barely rise above a whisper from the back of the crowd, it is unthinkable that they should be ignored while others who have a powerful voice call for an end to the Bible courier ministry

In fact, through a disinformation effort, people both inside and outside of China are being led to believe that China is providing all the Bibles they need. We are being lead to believe that we should not listen any longer to the plea of millions of Chinese Christians who continue to say, "We still don't have access to Bibles. We are still waiting. We don't have the money even if we could find Bibles to purchase."

**Why don't they have Bibles?** There are many reasons, but a big one is that millions of Christians refuse to compromise by registering and submitting to the authority of the government

*If anyone among you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead.*

James 2:16-17

*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; All things are possible with God."*

Mark 10:27

controlled Official Church instead of to God. Also, because they don't have connections the way some city based unregistered churches have to the Official Churches who control the flow of government issued Bibles.

We have seen miracles unimaginable over these many years of feeding God's hungry souls in China with Bibles. But the needs are still far from being met. Millions are waiting at the back of the crowd, hungry for God's Word. While Chinese Christians in the large cities are generally satisfied with plenty of Bibles on hand and can purchase them in book stores in a few places, 80% of China's 1.3 billion souls living in the countryside are isolated from opportunities and the finances available in the wealthy showcase cities that have blossomed up across China the past 15-20 years.

#### Why are there conflicting reports about the need for Bibles in China?

Ultimately the source of mixed messages is the work of Satan. He hates God's Word! He is the author of confusion and does his work unmercifully. He is very focused in his efforts to keep God's Word and its power away from all people, no matter who they are or where they live, by whatever means he has available.

Many of the statistics being used about the church and need for Bibles in China - are true! True, that is, in some parts of China, but cannot be used as blanket statements to represent the whole nation.

Truth cannot be understood like this. For example, a visitor to the State of Florida might make a statement that 'America is a land filled with sunshine'. As a citizen of the United States, I know that isn't true. Yet indeed Florida is America and it is often filled with sunshine.

The same is true when a visitor travels to Beijing or Shanghai. These are beautiful, modern cities. There you can find Official Churches where Christians can meet freely and even relatively free in unregistered churches. You can even find Christian bookstores where Bibles can be purchased. But Beijing and Shanghai do not represent the entire nation of China and it would be wrong to say you have a clear picture about the needs of millions of Christians in China based on just a few pieces of a very large puzzle. This reminds me of the truth in the story about the elephant and six blind men.

While there are many people expressing conflicting opinions about what is happening within the Christian community in China, we must be very careful to not overlook or turn a deaf ear to the opinion that really counts, that is, God's opinion. Of all the voices, we must choose to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.

## The Blind Men and the Elephant

American poet John Godfrey Saxe (1816-1887)  
based the poem on a fable which was  
told in India many years ago.

It was six men of Indostan  
To learning much inclined,  
Who went to see the Elephant  
(Though all of them were blind),  
That each by observation  
Might satisfy his mind!

The First approached the Elephant,  
And happening to fall  
Against his broad and sturdy side,  
At once began to bawl:  
God bless me! but the Elephant  
Is very like a wall!

The Second, feeling of the tusk,  
Cried, Ho! what have we here  
So very round and smooth and sharp?  
To me tis mighty clear  
This wonder of an Elephant  
Is very like a spear!

The Third approached the animal,  
And happening to take  
The squirming trunk within his hands,  
Thus boldly up and spake:  
I see, quoth he, the Elephant  
Is very like a snake!

The Fourth reached out an eager hand,  
And felt about the knee.

What most this wondrous beast is like  
Is mighty plain, quoth he;  
Tis clear enough the Elephant  
Is very like a tree!

The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,  
Said: Een the blindest man  
Can tell what this resembles most;  
Deny the fact who can  
This marvel of an Elephant  
Is very like a fan!?

The Sixth no sooner had begun  
About the beast to grope,  
Than, seizing on the swinging tail  
That fell within his scope,  
I see, quoth he, the Elephant  
Is very like a rope!

And so these men of Indostan  
Disputed loud and long,  
Each in his own opinion  
Exceeding stiff and strong,  
Though each was partly in the right,  
And all were in the wrong!



## Next Bible Courier Trip to China

November 10 - 24, 2007

Will God use you to answer the prayers of  
thousands of Chinese who are waiting for  
Bibles?



**Go Forth** MINISTRY

P. O. Box 24  
Kidron, OH 44636  
Phone: 330-857-0124  
Email:

Send \$300.00 deposit to reserve your place with the team!

Price: **Only \$1889.00** (+ \$300.00 for food and sightseeing)

**Contact Go Forth Ministry for details!**

Other trips: July 12-26, 2008 and November 8-22, 2008

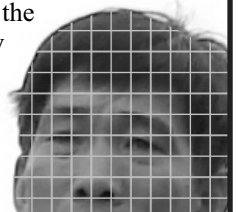
So, what IS God saying about the Christians in China?  
What is he saying to the church outside China?

Beneath all the discussion and opinions being voiced around the world about China and the need for Bibles comes a very simple ongoing plea from within. "Pray for us and please send us Bibles." Can we neglect this voice coming from the back of the crowd?

What will it take from those outside China to answer this plea? We reason that they are so far away, there are so many millions with such great need, and against such need we really have a very insignificant little to offer. But as in the story of the miracle of feeding the 5000, we can be assured that the task is not impossible. Jesus simply requires that we acknowledge the need (whatever the need might be that He directs our attention to), that we respond to the need in Christ-like compassion, and that we offer what He has put in our hand, in obedience and active faith.

I know, it's been years that we've been working at getting God's Word to China's ever increasing numbers of Christians. (It's reported that on an average, every Bible in China results in 5 new believers!) But just because much time has passed and we've met at least some of the needs and perhaps we're tired of hearing that same plea over and over again, does that give us the right to now move on to other exciting things and in doing so ignore those who remain hungry and unsatisfied at the back of the crowd?

Well, you've heard me talking about getting Bibles to the underground Church Christians in China in just about every newsletter that we've ever sent out over the past 20 years. You're probably getting tired of it and wonder when I'll ever move on to something else. That is up to the Lord, but for now, as long as God continues to keep this need before me and I remain convinced that God's Word holds the key to transforming a person, families and nations, I'll keep speaking out on behalf of the millions who still only ask that we pray for them and help them get a Bible so that, like you and me, they too can have a chance to grow in the hope and knowledge of the One who loves and saved them.



# the scene behind the scene

There are as many Christian books stores in a medium sized US city as in all of China! These stores are not allowed to sell Bibles though they may have them on display. They can be ordered through the store for delivery, though some stores do sell them unofficially over the counter. Amity Press, the Bible publishing company approved by the government, claims to have printed 50 million Bibles since 1987 for all the churches in China. Note: they often do not recognize Christians in the 'underground churches' who are not baptized by a TSPM \* 'official' pastor.

<http://www.amitynewsservice.org/page.php?page=1151> states:

*"Due to the lack of ordained pastors, in many rural areas less than 50% of the regular churchgoers are baptized. Should those who have not been baptized be counted? Similarly, there are many groups who use the name Christian but have limited understanding of the Christian faith, such as those who have only heard that prayer in the name of Jesus heals the sick. Should they be counted as Christians, or should one wait until they have a better knowledge of what Christian faith entails? Such problems of definition mean that any statistics must be used with care."*

According to the United Bible Society 20% of those 50 million Bibles were exported overseas. Check out these articles "Amity Press passes 50 million mark" and "Bible Smuggling into China a waste of donors' funds" at:

<http://www.Biblesocietynsw.com.au/LatestNews/pressReleases>

The TSPM official church does not encourage preaching the gospel outside the church. The TSPM requires that to become a Christian you must attend an official church for 1 year and then be baptized (...no mention of salvation or the name of Jesus!). An article from Amity Press News Service "Frequently asked questions about the Protestant Church in China" at:

<http://www.amitynewsservice.org/page.php?page=1150> states...

*"Chinese Christians are encouraged to demonstrate Christ's love in the way they live, and most evangelism happens in one-to-one contacts. Evangelism also occurs when non-believers come to churches, either invited by friends or relatives or drawn by a special service or religious event. By law foreigners are not allowed to proselytize."*

On the other hand, the unregistered house church Christians take the gospel out to the people, demonstrating it in how they live as well as boldly preaching and testifying one-on-one and to large crowds. As a result, unprecedented revival is sweeping China.

## Why do people so readily accept the Official Church version?

We won't need to be held accountable for the millions of Chinese believers who do not have a Bible.

## Why does God not allow China to be open?

God wants Christians around the world to come together to address the problems of the Christians in China.

## What are the current different methods being used to address the lack of Bibles in China.

- A - Allowed; Bibles currently being officially printed in China
- B - Bulk; some ministries take in bulk through various means
- C - Courier; steady stream of Bibles hand-carried into China
- D - Discretely; Bibles being printed discretely in China

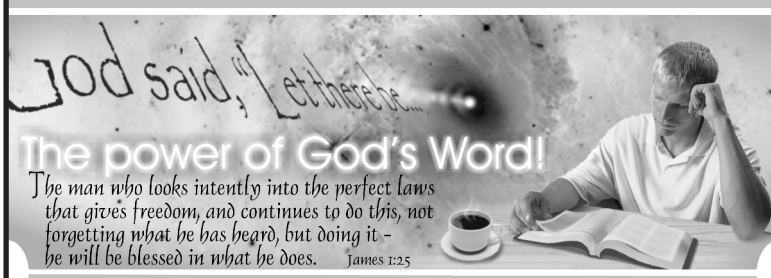
These methods still do not come close to meeting the real needs of the Christians, much less provide Bibles for the multiple millions of people who have never yet had a chance to hear who Jesus is.

## Is taking Bibles into China illegal?

No! But in order to control the people of China, the government says, "Not a lot of anything can go into China". When a courier is stopped at the border, normally most of his Bibles are confiscated but he is allowed to bring in a few. There is no defined policy on how

many Bibles are acceptable to bring into China, but what we can see is that some Bibles are allowed - making it clear that it is not illegal to bring Bibles into China.

- The Bible Courier Ministry is provided with Chinese Bibles free of charge by a printing company that prints a large percentage of the Bibles that enter China from outside the borders. To date this company has printed 20 million Bibles for distribution in China, mostly being done by overseas short-term couriers.
- There are circulating reports of 20,000 - 30,000 people becoming believers in China every day. If we cut in half the most conservative figure (20,000), using a number of only 10,000 Chinese being saved per day, that means that in one year there is, at a most conservative estimate, 3.65 million new believers in China!
- The church in China is twice the size of the Communist party.
- Olympics 2008 will probably result in increased persecution and greater control of the house churches.
- The enemy of God's Word is not the China government or custom officials, it is Satan!
- Being stopped at the border does not mean that you are a sinner or you lack enough prayer! God has a purpose for us when we are stopped. We don't need to consider it a failure.
- Pray for an increase in the volume of Bibles going into China so that the needs can be met there. This will require more volunteers!



One of the main focuses of Go Forth Ministry over the years has been on getting Bibles to people in China and Vietnam who are praying and waiting for them. We are looking to get the best results for the effort and the dollars spent. We believe that getting God's Word to people who will read it has to be a good investment.

## Why? Because God guarantees that when his Word goes out...

...it will not return empty!

...it will accomplish His purposes!

Is. 55:10-11

- Just one Bible can impact many readers both young and old, over a long period of time and distance.
- God's Word is truth which teaches and convicts people of right and wrong. It demands that the reader make choices.
- God's Word changes hearts, resulting in changed lives and lifestyles, resulting in changed families, communities and nations.
- God's Word is supernatural. It is light. It is life. It is power. It extends down into the deepest pit of hopelessness. It is the voice of God Himself speaking words of hope from His throne in every language, to every culture, and to every person who is willing to listen regardless of status or circumstance.
- God's Word is unique in that it can be read over and over, each time made fresh and alive by the Holy Spirit who is the Teacher and Revealer of God's Word.
- God's Word is like a seed, when taking root in fertile places it will grow and multiply to produce a harvest. Matthew 13:18-23
- God's Word is eternal. *"Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away."* - Jesus Matthew 24:35
- God's Word is the most precious possession a person can own. Generation after generation, men, women and children are laying down their lives for the sake of the Words of Life found in this wonderful, amazing book.

\* TSPM "Three Self Patriotic Movement"; (self supporting, self governing, self propagating)

## Bible Courier trip Report



The most recent 4/17 - 5/6 mission trip consisted of over a week of Bible courier work, then a short break for a sightseeing trip to beautiful Guilin (two self-appointed tour guides received Jesus), followed by several more days of courier work. During our time with the courier work, Bibles brought in met needs in eight different areas of China representing over 5000 books (4000 Old and New Testaments, 400 Study Bibles, 500 Children's Bible lesson packets).

After seeing two of the team members off for the States, the rest of the team then traveled to Vietnam where we joined with about 55 leaders (including a few spouses and kids) for two days of very intense Bible teaching and fellowship in specially arranged and secure places (our bus driver and his assistant both received Jesus along the way).

Brother N. wrote from Vietnam after our return home, "...I am very grateful to your trip and your teachings, man! We all have been encouraged and learned many valuable things for our personal life and walking with the Lord and our ministries. Thoughts and ways of lives of many attendants have been changed through the power of the word."

As this was the first time for me to meet with some of the leaders in a larger group like this, I found it so amazing to see their maturity from the time I first met them as young men in the Hong Kong refugee camps. Many of them now have wives and kids and are being refined through the fires of persecution and sacrifice as they serve the Lord. I felt humbled by their boldness and love for the Lord Jesus. I left these dear people greatly encouraged that indeed, Jesus is in control in Vietnam and is building His church in His way in a place where, given the circumstances, it should never survive. But not only is it surviving, it is thriving and rapidly expanding in a revival very similar to what is being experienced just across Vietnam's northern border in China.

### ▲ **Miracle at the China border!**

We never want to take it for granted. Every successful load of Bibles to pass through China's customs is a miracle. I've often told different team members that if they are looking for God, they can almost be certain to find Him 'hanging out' on China's border in the Immigration and Customs building - and especially next to the dreaded luggage scanner! Of course I'm being a bit humorous about that because we all know God is everywhere. But it does seem that we are especially aware of His presence and see many miracles when going through China's Customs with Bibles. Daisy shares this story...

At 10:30am we left for our first trip of the day to take Bibles into China. After my heavy suitcase went through the luggage scanner at the China border I heard voices in Chinese saying "stop her", "Miss", "Hello", and then finally repeated in English. I tried to ignore the Chinese language but when they called me in English and because of the urgency of the tone, I acknowledged them.

Afraid I would make them mad I turned around reluctantly. With a smiling face I handed my passport to the man who was one of the

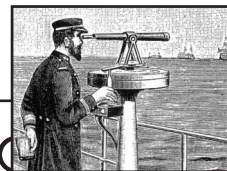
two guards chasing me. The other was the woman I recognized who took half of the Bibles from my own suitcase the week before (I made many more successful trips after that).

He tried two times to say it clearly, "custom inspection" in Chinese, after seeing my passport. He told me to open the first zipper on my suitcase which revealed four Bibles. He took one out and thumbed through it. "Oh, Bibles," his voice almost sounded disappointed. (I said, "duì, duì!" in Chinese meekly. ["duì" means "correct"]. Almost hidden though is the meaning of "what do you think..." Not that I know...)

Wendell had already gone through the customs area with his Bibles and had seen that I was being called aside. Later he told me that as soon as he saw what was happening, he went on around the corner and began praying like crazy, asking God to let me though with all my Bibles anyway, even though I had been stopped.

The guard then motioned me to open my suitcase wider. I did. Interestingly this other layer opened into many layers. The way the suitcase was packed, it looked like the whole suitcase had the same kind of Bibles. This didn't seem to be the "thing" he was looking for. He questioned softly in Chinese, "All Bibles?" I threw my hands in the air slightly and replied "duì, duì" again with the hidden meaning of "what do you think...?" Amazingly, he motioned me to go! I quickly zipped up my full suitcase of Bibles and said "Xiè xie" (thank you) to him after I received my passport back. I could almost see a grateful grin on the corner of his mouth.

for Him,  
Daisy



## Looking Ahead

July 20 - 22; Pensacola, FL A Reunion and Bible Conference with former Vietnamese refugees now living in the States.

These are friends who became Christians and received Bible training throughout the 90's in the Hong Kong Refugee Camps.

August 15 - October 20; "A Journey with Jesus" (click on the pdf file link at <http://www.go4thinjesus.name/challenge.htm>) Teaching in a small Bible School in Rumbek, Sudan.

November 10 - 25; Bible Courier Trip to Hong Kong and China.

September 18; Daisy begins teaching 'Release Time for Christian Education' in the public school after a month with Wendell in Rumbek, Sudan.

### JUST IN ...an amazing Bible printing opportunity!

In Vietnam's recent effort to obtain WTO status, an amazing and probably very brief window of opportunity to print Bibles in the languages of eight different minority groups in Vietnam is before us. We are looking at total costs of between US \$10,000 and US \$15,000 for each project or an average of about \$2.70 per Bible. This price includes government permission to print, the printing, the transportation costs to move the materials into the villages, and the administrative expenses.

Please **contact Go Forth Ministry for more information** if you believe God wants you to be involved in this wonderful opportunity.

*I've saved the most important words for last! Thank you so much for your encouragement, prayers and support. I wish I could say it more proficiently, but what is simply said comes from the heart. Thank you!*

*In His service, Wendell and Daisy Martin*