



For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapon of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. *11 Corinthians 10:4 - 5*

'All' or 'Nothing'

I recently sat with three of our long-time Vietnamese friends in a hotel room in Vietnam and basked in the fellowship of their enthusiasm and joy we shared in the excitement of following and serving Jesus Christ. There was no time to discuss trivial things. Rather, there was a focus on what God is doing in and through our lives and a search for strategies to expand the work of the Lord in Vietnam.

It soon became obvious that if these young Christian leaders are to continue to advance God's kingdom in such a difficult environment, there must be more involvement from the rest of the Christian body which just happens to be geographically on the other side of the world. (This doesn't mean that we are no less an intrinsic part of what God intends to do in these very ripe harvest fields of souls just because of our physical distance and cultural differences).

The opportunities for a fantastic eternal investment in souls and the critical need for the involvement of Western Christians cannot continue to be delayed if we are to see the expansion of the great spiritual revival that is taking place in South East Asia. **The bottom line is that God works through people! Primarily, through His people.** But when God's people refuse or delay in getting involved at the time when the harvest is so ripe, we will see yet another generation of souls, ripe and ready for God's Kingdom, fall to the ground like over-ripened grain. Why? Because no one came to preach to them. Why not? Because those (especially the locals) God had raised up to 'go' and bring in that harvest lack some of the basic tools required.

The young men shared with me their vision and passion for doing more. They are ready, seasoned, tried and proven pastors, evangelists, and leaders, yet so limited by lack of finances. (I know, I know - they are always begging for money. But why not, when we in the West have nearly all of the money in the world!) While we in the West pour more and more dollars into projects, programs, performances, equipment, and buildings, all designed to accommodate and entice people who often would rather not be in church in the first place, to reluctantly come in hopes that they will somehow raise their hand (when no one is peeking) and 'join'. Of course this is not true in all churches.

We understand that the answers to victorious Christian lives and churches lie not in our putting faith in our monetary strength or our physical abilities but rather victory is found in the spiritual realms where the real battles of the faith are fought. But so often

we think that it is enough to just 'stay saved' and pray. That's a very good start! But we must go beyond that to understand that while God definitely hears and answers those prayers, most often he works out those answers by stirring the hearts of people to action. But if someone is spiritually deaf, apathetic or resists His call to action, the battle will be lost for someone, somewhere!

One pastor lamented, "There's a large group of minority people up in the mountains who are praying for someone to come and teach them the bible. God has called me to go to them. I want to go, but I haven't been able to get there yet because I don't have a motorbike (imagine if you had no way to get to work each day).

This same pastor told me that he doesn't care anymore about the legal restrictions imposed by his anti-God, Communist government. The last time he was confronted by the local authorities he told them, "I won't change! So don't waste your time or my time with persecution. Either let me preach or kill me!" This Brother has heard the call to the battle and is running to answer it - without reservation!

It's through men and women with this kind of passion that God is establishing his church in Vietnam and China. Perhaps it could happen in our country too! **It's an attitude of "all or nothing". Isn't that exactly what Jesus asks and, in fact, demands of you and me?** And if this is true, what does it mean for you?

The early church told about in the book of Acts began with a call to the warfare. First, God tempered the early disciples hearts for submission and obedience with the command to 'wait'. That required some of the biggest sacrifices because it wasn't just a 'do-my-own-thing till God moves' kind of waiting. It was a time of laying aside everything, EVERYTHING, (personal plans and comforts, important obligations, deep rooted 'kingdom' concepts, etc.) in order to deliberately enter the battle field. It started with a choice to obey, intense prayer, then followed by bold action triggered by a baptism of God's all-powerful Holy Spirit.

So how about you? How goes your battle? Is it an 'all or nothing' commitment to Jesus? Or are you giving in to an attitude of, "I give you my 'all', Jesus, as long as things can stay under my control, is affordable, and as long as I can fit it into my time frame around my own plans and obligations"?

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." *Matthew 17:24-25*



The November China Bible Courier Trip Report

We arrived in Hong Kong on November 23 after a short 13 hour direct-flight out of Chicago. For the next two weeks the little team of seven made numerous trips across the nearby border into China with large loads of Bibles from the Autumn Rain Bible Courier ministry we serve under while in Hong Kong. And as usual, each courier experienced God's power and grace on their lives in very special ways.

They worked hard. Most days they made 3 or 4 trips across the border into China, each time loaded with between 30 to 60 pounds of Bibles or more. Of the many successful trips past the luggage scanners in the China Customs Building, only three times were the Bibles actually confiscated. These confiscated Bibles are then retrieved on departure from China and usually carried back into China later on the same day!

Along side our little team were two elderly gentlemen and a 17 year old young man who had been carrying Bibles a week or two prior to our arrival. A short time later they left Hong Kong. Between our team and these three other couriers, the amount of Bibles carried into China and which were sent within a few days directly to people who were requesting for them, is as follows:

4,498 Regular Bibles
2,333 Study Bibles
1,820 Children's Bibles
Total: 8,651 Bibles

This is equal to nearly 4 tons of Bibles.

One Chinese Bible = 5 souls!*

What would motivate someone to make the sacrifices to do this thankless job? It's very motivating when we understand that these Bibles will NOT be put on a shelf for 6 days out of the week. It's even more motivating when we understand that a result for many of the Bibles carried across the border into China, an average of five people will be directly effected by giving their lives to Jesus!*

That is what makes it worthwhile! That is why I'm working as hard as I can to urge people to sign up on Bible Courier trips. This is not 'just another missionary trip'. It's spiritual warfare on a most clearly defined front line. And God is winning as thousands of souls are entering His kingdom family every day! What a

thrill! What an honor to serve the Christian's in China in this most basic and effective way.

How about you? Are you frustrated and empty spiritually? Do you want to do something that has eternal value? Give someone a Bible or hold someone accountable to read the Bible they already have. Then pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal the mystery of God's Kingdom to that person. Help them read it and understand it. In doing so you will find yourself getting caught up in the effective working power of the Word of God as you make a new disciple of Jesus. It will change you! It will make you come alive! You will know that wonderful stream of Living Water flowing in you as you allow it to flow out of you to others.

You can go!



Sign up now

for the next Bible Courier Mission Trip!

Note: We can accommodate only ten people per trip

Summer 2-week Bible courier trip to Hong Kong, China, & Vietnam!

June 7 - 20, 2004

The trip includes 4 or 5 days in Hue and Hoi An, Vietnam. The estimated cost for this trip is \$2080.00 (not including a suggested \$350.00 - \$450.00 for food and sightseeing)

Fall 2-week Bible courier trip to Hong Kong and China!

November 7 - 20, 2003

The estimated cost for this trip is \$1580.00 (not including a suggested \$300.00 - \$400.00 for food and sightseeing)

This price includes your visas, daily courier travel expenses in and out of China, accommodations, and airfare. Not included is food. You will need an additional \$300.00 - \$400.00 for food and any sightseeing costs.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Please contact us as soon as possible and no later then 8 weeks before the departure date. Send a \$300.00 (tax-deductible) down payment to 'Go Forth Ministry'. Please mail it to: P. O. Box 17, Apple Creek, OH 44606. The balance will be due one month before our departure.

PASSPORT: Make sure that your passport has 4 or 5 blank pages for the many stamps you'll be getting on your frequent trips through Hong Kong and China immigrations. If you don't have a passport or if it expires on or before the date of our arrival back to the USA, please make sure that you receive a new passport before the sign-up deadline (it usually takes from 2-4 weeks to process).

* 'The Bible League', where Bibles are being used for evangelism in certain areas of China.

Acts 14:22 † “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”

The following is the translation of a letter and request for prayer we received from one of the Vietnamese House Church leaders being supporting through Go Forth Ministry.

My family believed in Jesus on 1997. According to the written law of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, people should have freedom to choose their own religious belief. I was arrested for 10 days because I believed in Jesus. The secretary of the District Communist Party ordered the action. The policeman of the district forbade me to practice my faith. An open trial was ordered to beat me in public. The head of the village militia then beat me at that time and the head of the village youth organization then also beat me.

After that, on Aug. 15, 1998 the Secretary of the District Communist Party, the Chairman of the Ward, and the head of the ward police body ordered the my house be burned down. The reason is that they wanted to force my family to give up our faith in Jesus. They said that the Christianity is a religion of the USA. I answered them that I will not give up my faith in God and in Jesus, the Christ. After they finished burning my house they beat my family severely.

On the morning of Aug 16, 1998, we temporarily moved to another district. On September 11, 1999 a group of Government officials who are the head of the district came to our place. An order was given to take a 100 kg. pig and after torturing us, forced us to drink the raw blood of the pig (This is a form of a mock communion). At that time the Lord did a miracle! My wife who was suffering a severe stomachache was healed because I was praying for her. The officials were very surprised by what happened, but they did not believe.

On the morning of Oct. 10, District officials from the Militia, the Communist Party, the Police Department and Revolutionary Frontier, among others, ordered the arrest of the following believers: (Eight names listed)

They imprisoned us (8 people) one month at the District prison. Then they brought us back to our local areas for an open the trial in front of the public. There they beat us severely.

On Dec 3, 2000 we had to move, we went to the office of the Ward to live there for 4 months.

On May 14, 2001 we moved to another village.

On May 16, 2001 the officials interrogated me and my wife the whole day. The ones who came to interrogate us were the Chairman of the Ward, the Treasurer of the Ward, the Ward policeman, and the head of the Ward Youth Organization. They were drunk. They ask me and my wife if we had given up our faith yet. My wife answered them that she would not give up her faith. I answered them that I also would not give up my faith. They beat each of us causing us to bleed. I, my wife and our children still pray for God's help to ease our pain from this and to keep us from sickness.

On Oct. 18, 2002, the militia from two Districts beat me and injured my eyes seriously. My wife and children prayed for me and I was healed.

On July 6, 2002, the people of the village came headed by the Chairman of the Ward, the Ward Jurisdiction, the deputy of the Ward Militia, and the head of the Ward Youth Organization. There was also the presence of the Secretary of the District and the District Police official. They ordered our house to be burned down. All of our belongings were burned.

As they burned our house they shouted the slogan “ Burn the house, burn the house of Tin Lanh (good news) Religion of the USA which is established to overthrow our Government?”. After burning our house we were asked, “ Now, do you agree to give up your faith?” I, D-- H-- answered that we absolutely will not give up our faith. Our family believed in Jesus for 6 years, and we have not done anything to harm the Communist

Party or any of the people. So I and my family will not give up our faith. We would rather die than forsake our faith.

After that the Deputy of the Ward Militia urged the youth of the ward to chase us out of the ward. They do not allow us to live there any more. So we came back to the village in ST--Ward. This place is the fatherland of my wife.

The officials in S--T Ward do not allow us to live here either though. They do not allow us to build our house. They do not allow us to have a piece of land. Till now, 2003, we still do not have a house, or our household registration document. **I and our family ask for your help, in God's love to please pray for us. We thank you very much.**

Writer (signed) *D--H--*

Witnesses: (Four signatures)
We witness everything written above is true

Below is a letter from D--H-- to the local Vietnamese officials requesting permission to have a house. This is followed by their response to his request.



To The Committee of The People and The Police Department of S--T Village

I am D-- H--; 40 years old

Dear Sirs,

I'm writing this letter to ask you for the following:

In the past I lived in S--T Village and worked there to earn my living. Because we could not earn enough to survive, we moved to C--L village, which is our homeland, so we could work there.

I'm writing this application to you, wishing that you would consider our case and allow us to register our household at S--T village.

While waiting for your consideration, we want to thank you very much for helping us to obtain our household registration.

Sincerely yours,

D-- H--(Signature)

June 28, 2003

August 4, 2003

The Ward Committee of the People requires that when the applicants have given a written pledge renouncing their Christian faith, then the applicants will be granted permission to have a household registration.

The office of the Ward Committee of the People.

[Handwritten signature and official stamp]

Acts 14:22 † Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”

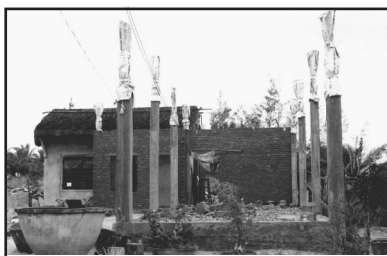
Hmong Bibles!

I'm really excited! I've just learned that 5,000 Hmong NT's have just been successfully delivered to the home of a Hmong contact. Within the next few days he will be personally hand delivering these bibles to the various Hmong villages. So, after a rather uncertain journey, the bibles are almost to their final destinations!

None of us could have imagined that the cost of these Hmong Bibles would be so high - especially for the men who printed those first 10,000 copies. If you remember, those Bibles were confiscated in July last year because (I later learned) one of the workers in the printing company was an enthusiastic evangelist and had, unknowingly, been under surveillance by the local authorities. This apparently is how the project got exposed resulting in the loss of the 10,000 bibles. I also learned that the printer, after a severe beating, was later released from jail after paying a \$12,000 USD fine. But if that wasn't enough, his printing equipment valued at about \$100,000 USD has been confiscated also.

Immediately after the printer was released from jail, he organized with another printer to again attempt to honor his commitment to print the Hmong Bible. He had only enough money left to print 5,000 copies though. It is these 5,000 bibles that are now being delivered to the Hmong Christians in Vietnam. This is a real living example of giving all and then 'going the second mile'!

- **Please pray** for these suffering Hmong believers.
- **Please pray** for the printer who has paid such a huge price for the sake of getting bibles to the Hmong believers.
- **Please pray** for the successful delivery of every one of those Hmong Bibles.
- **Please pray** as we look to find new ways to continue meeting the need of more bibles for the Hmong Christians in Vietnam.



Brother D., one of the key underground church leaders we work with in Vietnam, has been trying to rebuild his house after it was destroyed a few years ago for hosting church meetings. He later obtained government approval to rebuild and has been praying for \$5000 to complete the structure. The new location is strategically located between two large tourist hotels under construction. This will offer some small business opportunities for his family and congregation.

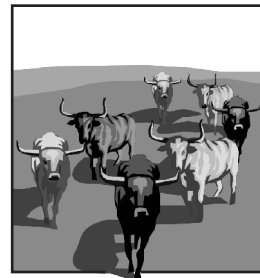
During our visit to Vietnam in December we had the opportunity to visit an English Club that one of the Brothers is directing. I didn't know quite what to expect on arrival that Sunday afternoon, but it didn't take long to learn that his English Club is actually a cleverly disguised church! Nearly all of the 18 students were Christians. A few weren't. Though he had an English lesson plan, everything about it was directed towards a teaching from God's Word.

In this situation it was acceptable for us to meet these people as it is not uncommon for English Clubs to invite Westerners to help the students practice English. It wasn't long before I and my team mate were invited to 'bring the message'. And before the class ended a businessman prayed to receive Jesus into his heart! This was the highlight of the trip. There is little else in this world that gives greater joy and meaning to life than to present a new believer to Jesus!

Pray for our Brother as he strives to serve the Lord. In the past years he has suffered many things for his bold testimony. **Pray** that the Lord will give him great wisdom to build solid disciples from the young men and women who have come to the Lord through his witness which often involves powerful miracles.

Brother N. is gifted with good practical problem solving abilities. He recently completed an intense underground bible college in Vietnam and is now pastoring a group of new believers. Rather than striving for large numbers only, he is focused on training those God has given to be quality leaders. As always though, the problem is how to manage the demands of ministry while struggling to provide the basics of life for his family. And so, Brother N. has proposed a rather bold plan to resolve many of these difficulties, not only for his own family but for others who also desire to serve the Lord.

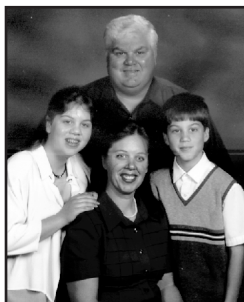
His plan will initially take outside help to launch and this is the reason I'm mentioning it. I'm not going to give more details here, but should the Lord nudge you to help Brother N., please don't brush it off. These Brothers who are serving the Lord in Vietnam have already given everything they have. They would give more - but when you've given everything, what else is there left to give?



But, yes, there is always a way to give if you really want to. Over Christmas all the planned activities of the underground church had to be cancelled because 19 area pastors and leaders had been arrested for openly evangelizing in Saigon. With meets cancelled, Brother N. invited over 40 neighbors and strangers into his home to share Christmas instead! Of course he shared the gospel with them and they were so hungry that they came back for the following two nights!

Doesn't that just challenge you and make you hungry for more of Jesus?

Please pray for Brother N., his ministry, and his vision to meet the practical needs of those who, by faith, have left everything to serve the Lord.



In the summer of 2002 Nelson and Grace Troyer went on a short-term mission trip with a Go Forth Ministry team to help carry bibles into China. They have recently returned Hong Kong to work with the Autumn Rain Bible Courier ministry there for three months along with their children, La Cara and Trenton.

Please pray for the Troyer family, that they will have a very fruitful and unhindered time of ministry. **Pray** also for more families and individuals to follow the example being set by the Troyer's.

Well, here we are suddenly at the end of the letter, and as is so often the case, trying to squeeze in a final comment. What I want to express to you is how grateful I am to Jesus for friends who have been so faithful in reaching out to our persecuted Christian family in China and Vietnam. You are responding to their needs, but in reality you are responding to the Holy Spirit's voice. I feel so honored to share in this work alongside people like you who love Jesus not only in word, but in action. Thank you so much for being such a blessing!

Serving Him with joy,

Wendell & Daisy Martin