

85% of all who accept Christ
do so between the ages
of four and fourteen! *



* statistic from Child Evangelism Fellowship; <http://cefindiana.com/home.htm>

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WINTER NEWSLETTER 2007



Since our return back to the States after twelve years in Asia, Daisy has found a mission field right in our own back yard. She's been investing her heart and time in teaching the Bible to the local school children. Through the 'Released Time for Christian Education' program, our government permits one hour a week for children to leave the school grounds in order to receive Bible teaching. www.rtce.org



"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

When God visited Elephant Mountain

The move of God in Vietnam is escalating at a dramatic rate! Hundreds of new house churches are popping up throughout the countryside and in the cities. How can this be happening under a Communist, anti-God government while in our own country where religious freedom is abundant, churches are closing and God's commands are being compromised?

One of the most difficult areas for Vietnamese Christians to thrive has been in the north. Tighter control has been held over the people in areas nearer the seat of the Communist government in the Capital city of Hanoi as well as the nearby city of Hai-Phong. Christian activity has been extremely difficult and dangerous there.

For years a small group of Christians from this area struggled for survival. Adding to their distress, they were guilt ridden because of their inability to expand God's Kingdom. They wanted to share the gospel, but immobilized by fear, all they could do was to survive,barely.

Recently some Christians from South Vietnam dared to venture north with the gospel. It wasn't long before God led them discovered this group of struggling Christians there.

The local believers were delighted to meet other Christians. They compared experiences and shared honestly with their new South Vietnamese friends the difficulties they were enduring for their faith and failure to expand the work of the Lord.

The believers from the South encouraged their northern friends in the Lord. They reminded them that God's Kingdom, the church, belongs to Jesus Christ and that it is not built by our own might, or power (our ability, our knowledge, our methods) but must be established by the Spirit of God.

Encouraged, they decided to go to a secret place

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Walking kids from school to the local town meeting hall.

Some of the children are completely ignorant of the gospel message when they begin attending the classes. While many kids come from Christian families, others come from broken, dysfunctional homes, having never set foot in a church. For the most part they respond eagerly to the gospel message and frequently express appreciation to Daisy for her concern for them.



This school year Daisy has been teaching 3rd and 4th graders four days a week at two different schools. Volunteers Continued on page 2



help Daisy in each of those classes. Over the past years dozens of children have come to receive Jesus into their hearts in a first time commitment and many others have made a renewed commitment to Him!



People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as them."

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10:13-16

Kids Comments:

The reasons I like Released Time Christian Education...

I like daisy but most of all I like to learn about god even if I have to miss recess.

I like Christian Ed. because I get to learn about God. Also I like it when we play games or quizzes about God + Jesus.

I like to learn all about the bible and God!!

Our family does not go to church and I would really like to go. I really wanted to learn more about God.

I like christian Ed because I like learning about God. And learning words in Chinese. And seeing Daisy.



to pray where they knew they would be safe from the eyes of the police. They went to a place called Elephant Mountain. On that mountain, hidden in the trees and the under the cover of darkness, they prayed throughout the night.

They came to God. He heard their cries of remorse and repentance for not doing the job Jesus had commissioned them to do. He saw their tears for making excuses, for their compromise and lack of faith.

And then it happened! At some time during the night the presence of God came on them! As described in the book of Acts... "the place where they were meeting was shaken". The mountain on which they were kneeling literally shook with the presence of God! The people on the mountain were shaken too!

And God came to them. Immersed in His presence they were filled with the Holy Spirit! They were transformed! The fear was suddenly and mysteriously gone, replaced with the kind of boldness that only God can give. Instead of fear, they were filled with faith. Instead of seeing all the 'giants' that stood between them and God's promises, they met the God of the promises.

Today, new life is running through their veins. They have connected with the Vine. God shook a mountain and he shook a few lives. Now that 'shaking' is spreading across North Vietnam.

The North Vietnamese believers are now on a mission. While the persecution and many great difficulties remain, by faith and emboldened with God's power, the seeds of the gospel are taking root and rapidly spreading. The north is now the area of greatest revival in that nation!



One of 95 new house churches established in 2006 in Vietnam

Why the revival? That's hard to answer, but here is what I see. They got serious about God and the things that God is serious about. That is, lost souls! They got serious enough to do something, to risk everything to prove their love for God - with honesty and obedience!

We are being taught in our own country that the key to revival is prayer. I agree, but our prayer should be the starting point for action! It's time for our prayers to change from, "God give us revival" to prayers that result in deep repentance that may sound like, "God forgive me for only pretending to care about lost souls, for being fearful, faithless, and apathetic. Forgive me for compromising with the standards and sins of a Westernized brand of Christianity, for being proud, unbelieving and unwilling to give my time, pay from my own wallet, and take the risks to wholeheartedly follow you no matter where that journey leads. Forgive me for demanding my 'God given rights' over 'Your will' for my life. Forgive me for not 'co-missioning' with you on your mission of rescuing souls before it is eternally too late.

Consider the greatest revival to ever hit our world. What preceded it was not a massive prayer effort. The revival came on the heels of honesty, confession and 'repentance'.

The repentance that took place was not among bad, rotten worldly people, but rather among God's own Chosen People! These were good 'church' people! They prayed all the time. They were passionate about doing what was right. Yet John the Baptist demanded that they repent in order to be worthy to be included in that revival, God's Kingdom.

Then Jesus Himself came along reiterating John's message as he preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

We need to learn the lesson of Elephant Mountain! We need to learn how to pray the kind of prayers that reach God's heart. We need to learn again how to pray prayers that line up with God's heart and purposes, that meet Him where he is at and on his terms.





Real or Plastic

Throughout the gospels Jesus frequently taught and commanded that those who claim him as Lord and Savior must 'bear fruit'. This should be the natural result of a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:5-8

It should be the goal of every true disciple of Jesus Christ - to bear **much fruit**.

"...the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." Matthew 13:23

Jesus makes it very clear that the kind of fruit God is looking for results out of a relationship with Him. This produces real fruit, not something that only looks like fruit. So, what is real fruit?

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last". John 15:16

Jesus is looking for fruit that is eternal. This is fruit that results from our own connection to what is eternal - Him! We cannot produce healthy, eternal fruit if our connection to the source of what is eternal is weak, compromised or broken. If a 'Christians' connection with God is merely a pretense, a religious charade, a performance enacted before other Christians, then whatever fruit is produced can only be synthetic. It may look very good when on display, but in reality, it has no real value. It is plastic.

So how can we (I) produce much good fruit during our time here on earth?

- 1) We have got to be connected to the Vine. There is no alternative! No program or church, Bible study, how-to-do-it tape or book, or amount of money will substitute. To build on these without a personal Vine connection will only produce 'plastic' results. Nice to look at - no eternal value.
- 2) Commit to Jesus mission deliberately and intelligently. Recognize that it won't be easy. It's tough. It costs. It can be dangerous. It's a battle. But the fruit is life and it's eternal!
- 3) We must invest where, when, and how God directs, having the ability to hear His voice so that we can quickly obey without hesitation. We must have 'ears that hear'.

What You did in 2006!

This has been a full and exciting year. Go Forth Ministry led three teams of Bible Couriers on various routes extending across China and Vietnam. Those teams hauled over 10 tons of Bibles into China, while at the same time taking in sights, sounds, smells, and tastes that range from awesome platters of sweet and sour pork (the real kind!) and the Great Wall in Beijing to crisp Spring Rolls and the Forbidden City ruins in Hue, Vietnam. They have met some of the Underground Church leaders in China and Vietnam and have heard first hand reports of the needs, trials, victories and miracles they experience as they serve the Lord under hostile governments.

- Your gifts of \$62,340.00 have meant that nearly 70 evangelist and pastors and their families have been mobilized and are rapidly expanding the work of the Gospel across Vietnam.
- At a cost of around \$1.50 each, your gifts of \$48,972.00 have been used to print and distribute nearly 32,648 Bibles in China for the underground Christians.
- Your gifts of \$41,000.00 have printed around 13,660 Bibles in the Hmong dialect for Vietnamese minorities at about \$3.00 each.
- Designated gifts of \$21,880.23 have gone to help support the travel and ongoing ministry costs of four long-term Bible Couriers and several other short-term Bible couriers.
- Your gifts of \$16,517.50 repaired the homes of Christians in the Leprosy Village and surrounding area in Vietnam after a direct hit by the nation's worst typhoon. It purchased a motorcycle and a three-wheel motorbike to enable pastors to reach their congregations. It also helped to purchase materials for evangelistic outreaches and teaching supplies.

Because you are praying, going, and giving, thousands of people are hearing the gospel! Thousands more have come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior! Nearly 100 new house churches that we know of have been established! The bottom line is this, in very dark places, the glory of God is shining, his truth is on the march and lives are being transformed by His miraculous power. Praise the Lord!

I asked a pastor in Vietnam what the little money he receives each month means for him. He told me, "For 10 years I've led a house church, but not very unsuccessfully. All my time was used just trying to feed my family. Now I am free to serve the Lord 100%. This year I've led many people to the Lord which has resulted in five new churches."

I asked him what his method was for starting a church. He just laughed and said, "The question should be, What is God's method? Let me tell you a story. There was a Catholic woman living in a strong Catholic community who had stomach cancer. When I prayed for her, God healed her. As a result, 60 Catholics got saved! Many other sick people were healed including the Chief of Police in that village who had a heart problem. Now we have a new church in that village."

"Three months ago our church went to visit a home where there was a young man who was demon possessed. After prayer, the young man was delivered. Forty family members became followers of Jesus as a result and now we have another new church in that place!

"Two months ago revival hit a minority village where we preached the gospel and we now have a new church there of 80 believers."

Another pastor reported that a woman was dying of cancer and was at death's door. As he stood by her bed side, his faith wavered and he did not know how to pray (in faith believing). Several school children from his church just happened to pass by the house and so he called them in and instructed them to pray. As the children laid hands on the dying woman and prayed, she was instantly and completely healed!

You can be a part of encouraging the revival that is taking place across Vietnam and China! **You can GO! You can HELP!**

Call Go Forth Ministry to learn more. ☎ (330) 857-0124

November 2006 Bible Courier Trip Report



We had a small team of six which was balanced out with high energy and hard work. The highlight for me was that our two oldest kids, Lee and Ellie, were along. Both Megan and Ellie (top photo) have stayed on in Hong Kong to help with the Bible

Courier work until early May. They join Judy Higgins who is continuing her one-year term. Michael Steiner

has recently completed one-year of Bible Courier service.

The first part of the trip was spent in Vietnam where we contacted several of the house church leaders being supported through Go Forth Ministry. Our job there was to deliver some finances to be used towards supporting nearly 70 Christian workers there, and encourage and counsel where needed.

We also delivered a gift to help re-roof a number of homes of Christians in the Leprosy Village and surrounding area after a direct hit from one of the worst typhoons in Vietnam's history.

As the ministry of Brother H., who lost both legs in the Vietnam war, is expanding, funds were given to purchase a three-wheeled motor bike for him. This will greatly help him in getting to the different churches and people he serves.

Along with a few other long term workers in Hong Kong, our team was able to help haul over 3 tons of Bibles (over 6000 Bibles) plus 650 packets of children's literature across the border into China. Thank you so much for your prayers and gifts that make it possible to touch so many lives with the gospel in China and Vietnam.

"Currently, 10's of millions of Chinese Christians will die without getting a Bible unless they get one from outside their



Ellie recently wrote the following letter about lessons learned of a Bible Courier worker which I thought worthy of including in this newsletter...

Dear all,

Sorry it has been such an exasperatingly long time since I've posted anything.

You know what they say, "No News is Good News"

So, life here is pretty awesome.

This morning, however, I had a suprising awakening. You see, I was suppose to take a team into China at 9:30, but when my phone rang and woke me up, the time displayed "10:05".

Obviously, there was something amiss.

'Found out that I turned off my alarm clock without even realizing it and fell back asleep.

How idiotic of me?!

This is something that I am constantly kicking myself about - I think it is very vain to continually use the excuse, "I'm just not a morning person."

Seriously, what does that mean anyways?

It doesn't really justify anything anyway.

So, here is what I've learned from this retarded stunt of mine:

One thing that He is really working in me is - Self Discipline.

I think I have a lack of it.

...Actually, I 'know' I do.

[oh Dad and Mom, you two are gona love this part!]

My parents are always telling me to

"get my priorities straight."

I believe getting to bed at a decent hour would help.

I believe getting up at the first ring of the alarm would help.

I believe that the snooze button is evil ☺

Duh, all these things are true...

but it take self control and self discipline to get it done.

I keep asking Him to show me what I need to fix in my life.

I want Him to make me who He wants me to be.

I really desire to make Him proud with the way I live this life [that isn't even mine].

But how can He be proud if I cannot even get the littlest details right?

There are these verses in Proverbs that say stuff like:

[Proverbs 6:9-11]

"How long will you lie there, you sluggard?

When will you get up from your sleep?

A little sleep, a little slumber,

a little folding of the hands to rest -

and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man."

I think this is very applicable to what I'm talking about here, especially when applying it to the spiritual sense.

-- One that lack self discipline

opens a gate to laziness.

And laziness opens a door to all kinds of other things.

Laziness somewhat says to Him,

"Hey, I'm not really interested in what You are doing.

If I was fully interested,

I would care enough to actually put forth effort into it;

I would actually get off my butt and follow where You're leading."

Goodness, I don't want my lack of self discipline to speak that to Him.

I want Him to know that I love Him;

I want to show Him that by putting forth effort in even the little things;

I want to ACT on it and not just Say it.

[1 John 3:18]

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

It all starts with the little things.

He looks at EVERY aspect of my heart.

Not just the most general parts;

Not the ones that Humans look at;

Not only the ones that I think are important;

Not just the ones that are emphasized in the Word.

Nah.

He looks at it ALL.

Imagine that 'aye,

He wants ALL of us.

Sounds kinda selfish;

sounds kinda jealous, right?

oh well lookie here:

"... for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God..." [Exodus 20:5]

I'm glad He is jealous for me;

I am blessed that He desires me;

I'm humbled that He wants me so badly.

Shouldn't it be my favorable opportunity to give Him all of me?

It's up to me to chose to give myself to Him, right?

And I want it.

I want it bad.

And all it starts with the simple control of self discipline.

You can email Ellie in Hong Kong at: jingmun_in_hk@hotmail.com

For those who don't know, Go Forth Ministry started the year off by moving to a new location just above the Post Office in Kidron, Ohio where I share space with a friend. If you get the chance, stop by for a visit.

Thank you so much for rising to the challenge and being involved in taking the life changing Gospel to the world. You are making a difference! God bless you!

Serving with joy, *Wendell & Daisy Martin*