Asia Harvest



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

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Henan Province -
The Galilee of China (PART ONE)

From the Front Lines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him."
1 Corinthians 1:27-29

It is in people's nature to look up to the big, rich, powerful people and organizations in our world, but over the years we've become convinced that God is mostly using small, anonymous, simple-hearted Christians to do His will and work. It seems the Lord delights to take people from insignificant backgrounds and use them to shake the world!

When God uses someone who would never have been able to do anything worthwhile if it wasn't for His power, God gets the glory. When someone does a work that they were more than capable of achieving in their own strength, then that person gets the credit. The American Bishop Phillip Brooks once said, "Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle."

Over the next few issues we plan to focus on a remarkable miracle from China - Henan Province. Henan is a landlocked province with almost 100 million people. It's one of the poorest parts of China, with a high rate of illiteracy. In many ways people from the more sophisticated parts of China look down on people from Henan as poor, uncouth farmers. In the past, many exasperated missionaries complained how stubborn the people of Henan were, and lamented they would never be saved.

Praise God that what seems impossible with man is possible with God! True to His Word, He has chosen the people of Henan to be leaders of the Church in China, and firsthand witnesses of His mighty power. One of the most powerful, sustained revivals in Church history has taken place over the past 25 years in Henan, so that today the province is known as the 'Galilee of China' - the place where Jesus' disciples come from. Regardless of where we travel in China we usually find the majority of the key house church leaders are from Henan. They have been used by the Lord to lead tens of millions of people to Jesus. Many of the Chinese Christians we help support as evangelists and missionaries are from Henan. Many of the Bibles and books the Lord has allowed us to print in China end up in the hands of believers in Henan.

Most Christians around the world are aware God has done something truly awesome in China today, but few know exactly *how* He has done it. In these next few newsletters we hope to share just a few of the many testimonies we've heard from Chinese Christians. Because we don't want to get any of the believers in China into trouble, some of the people's names and specific places have been changed or omitted, but the stories themselves are true. In this Part One on Henan Province we examine the foundations of the Church in Henan, how the Gospel was first brought to this blessed part of China.



Henan - The Heart of China's Revival

Henan, which means "South of the River" is home to almost 100 million souls, crammed into an area less than half the size of Germany, or approximately the same size as the U.S. State of Oklahoma.

The Yellow River cuts across the north of Henan, bringing both life and suffering to millions of people. Frequent floods have afflicted those living near the Yellow River for countless centuries.

Henanese have a reputation in other parts of China for being as "stubborn as donkeys." This character trait frustrated many of the early missionaries who attempted to bring the Gospel to them.

Although Catholic missionaries had been active in Henan since the 1600s, the first Protestant missionaries to set foot in Henan didn't arrive until 1884 when the China Inland Mission secured premises in the town of Zhoujiakou, an important central trading center connected to a tributary of the Yangtze River.

Progress was slow in the early years of work in Henan, but the missionaries faithfully and carefully persevered, laying a solid foundation for what was to follow. If only by faith they'd been able to see what a tremendous work God would bring about on the soil they labored for so long with little apparent success!

Many missionaries were mocked and harassed during the early years, while several spilled their blood and died on Henan soil during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. By 1922, after almost forty years of labor, the total number of Protestant Christians in Henan Province was just 12,418.

No one envisioned what God was about to do! By 1949, when Communism took over China, the Church in Henan had grown to about 120,000 believers, but even that was just a foretaste of what was to come later.

Marie Monsen - Mother of the House Churches

We have found it interesting that often old China missionaries who have a famous reputation in their countries of origin are not even known by house church Christians inside China today, while others who are hardly known in their native lands are considered among the great heroes of the faith by the Chinese people they sought to reach with the Gospel.

One such missionary who is still deeply loved by the Chinese believers in Henan is Marie Monsen, a single, Lutheran lady from Bergen in Norway. Monsen worked in China from 1901 to 1932.



Marie Monsen with Mrs. Hsi, wife of a famous Chinese pastor, 1929

Marie Monsen was greatly used by God to bring revival to the churches in Henan, especially in the southern part of the province. Straight away the Chinese believers knew there was something different about this missionary.

Whereas most of the other missionaries preached messages about God's love and acceptance, Monsen told the church leaders they were all hypocrites. In the words of one present-day house church leader, "Marie Monsen didn't speak smooth words to impress the people when she first came to our area. Instead, she brought fire from the altar of God. She told the Christians they were hypocrites. The people were struck to the bone with God's conviction, were sickened by their sin, and revival broke out."

"Monsen preached that it was not enough for Christians to study the lives of people who are born-again, but they themselves must be radically born-again in order to enter the Kingdom of heaven. With such teaching, she took the emphasis off head knowledge and showed each person they were personally responsible before God for their own inner spiritual life."

Marie Monsen's life-style matched her words. She was fearless, traveling thousands of miles through bandit-infested territory to share the Gospel, and showed great faith, love and courage wherever she went. Although she personally never planted a church in China, God used her to bring revival and the churches grew rapidly.

Today Marie Monsen is fondly remembered as 'The Mother of the House Churches' by believers in Henan Province. Indeed, it can be said that many of the attributes she possessed, including faithful endurance in the face of intense suffering, are traits of the Church in Henan Province today.

The Lord also used this small Lutheran lady to perform many miracles of divine healing and signs and wonders.

Monsen returned to Norway in 1932 to take care of her elderly parents, but by then her work in China was complete. She never returned to China, but her legacy of uncompromising faith, unquenchable zeal, and the necessity of changed hearts and lives fully committed to the cause of Christ lives on in the Chinese Church today.

As an interesting side-note, in 1999 a Chinese house church leader, Brother Yun, happened to be speaking in the city of Bergen, Norway. His hosts asked him if he would like to visit the grave of Marie Monsen. Yun was excited to have a chance to thank God on behalf of Henan's Christians for the blessing this small woman had been to them.

Their car pulled up at the graveyard, and they walked around for a few minutes, hoping to see her name on one of several hundred tombstones. Not being able to locate Monsen's grave, they strolled to the office for help. After flicking through records the graveyard administrator told them, "Marie Monsen was indeed buried here in 1962. But her grave was left untended for many years, so today it is just an empty lot with no headstone."

Yun couldn't understand how a woman so loved and respected thousands of miles away in China be treated so shamefully in her hometown?

Brother Yun said, "In Chinese culture the memory of people who did great things is cherished for generations to come, so I never imagined that such a thing could happen. The local believers explained that Marie Monsen was still held in high regard and that they had honoured her memory in different ways, such as the publication of her biography decades after she had died. But to me her unmarked grave was an insult that had to be made right."

With a heavy heart Brother Yun sternly told the Norwegian Christians, "You must honor this woman of God! I will give you two years to construct a new grave and headstone in memory of Marie Monsen. If you fail to do this, I will personally arrange for some Christian brothers to walk all the way from China to Norway to build one!"

"Many brothers in China are skilled stonecutters because of their years in prison labor camps for the sake of the Gospel. If you don't care enough, they will be more than willing to do it!"

On September 1, 2001, exactly 100 years to the day since Marie Monsen had first arrived in China, more than 200 Norwegian Christians gathered at the graveyard in Bergen. They held a memorial service and thanked God for the life of Marie Monsen.

They also unveiled a new memorial headstone. *The picture below was taken at the Marie Monsen memorial ceremony in Norway last year.*





Mennonite Visionary Has Last Laugh

Times were not always easy for the missionaries. Local Chinese officials and religious leaders often made determined efforts to drive the missionaries out of their towns. They felt Christianity was a threat to their way of life.

On several occasions opponents of the Church even made blood oaths, vowing to kill the missionaries, but every time God protected His children so that no harm came to them.

In Puyang County, northeast Henan, local people ridiculed Mennonite missionary Henry Brown when he constructed a huge church building with 700 seats in 1917. At the time, few Chinese in Puyang showed any interest in the Gospel. Brown's building was compared to the apparent foolishness of Noah's building of the ark.

The church building was confiscated by the Communist authorities in the 1950s and used as a warehouse for many years, but in 1993 it was finally returned to the Christian community.

After repair work was carried out, the church was officially opened at a service in October 1994. More than 1,000 people crammed into the sanctuary, with many more standing outside in the courtyard. The church has continued to overflow with crowds of worshippers and seekers since.

Although he had long since passed away to be with his Lord, Henry Brown's faith and foresight finally paid off, as he saw a day when God would pour His Spirit out in China and churches would overflow with hungry souls. Today the believers in Puyang wish Brown has constructed a larger building!

Fire and Blood

By 1949, when Mao Zedong and the Communists had gained complete control of China, the Church in Henan had grown to significant proportions and was considered one of the spiritually healthiest in China. The strong



Often whole extended families came to Christ in Henan, such as the Chang family in 1915

foundation the Church had been established on proved to be necessary for its survival during the terrible decades of persecution that were to come.

By 1952 all foreign missionaries had been forced to leave Henan Province. Some who refused to leave voluntarily spent time in prison before being made to leave.

Then the brutal persecution began.

All over China the Communists launched a systematic plan to destroy Christianity. In Wenzhou City of Zhejiang Province, 49 leading pastors were arrested and sentenced to long prison terms of twenty years or more each. They were all sent to prison labor camps near the Russian border, where winter temperatures regularly plummet to minus 30 degrees.

Forty-eight of the pastors died before their sentences were completed.

Just one returned home alive.

Henan Province was chosen as one of three experimental zones in an anti-religion drive by the extreme elements of the Communist Party, along with Zhejiang and Inner Mongolia.

The ultimate aim was to eliminate Christianity once and for all, and to consign it to a curiosity section of a museum. As a result, horrific persecution was undertaken, with inhumane cruelty displayed by local officials.

In the Nanyang area of southern Henan, believers were crucified on the walls of their churches for not denying Christ. Others were chained to vehicles and horses and dragged to death.

One pastor was bound and attached to a long rope. The authorities, enraged that the man of God would not deny his faith, used a crane to hoist him high into the air. Before hundreds of witnesses, who had come to accuse the pastor of false charges as a "counter revolutionary," the pastor was asked one last time by his persecutors if he would recant.

He shouted back, "No! I will never deny the Lord who saved me!"

The rope was released and the pastor crashed to the ground below. Upon inspection, the evil tormentors discovered he was not fully dead, so they raised him up into the air for a second time, dropping the rope to finish him off for good.

In this life the pastor was dead, but he lives on in heaven with the reward of one who was faithful to the end.

A Lutheran pastor from Luoshan County in Henan, Dong Shaowu, was physically and mentally tortured around the clock for weeks until he could take no more. His mind snapped from the massive strain being exerted on him.

One of his torturers was a man who later spent more than 30 years as a "respected" standing member of his county's Three-Self Patriotic Church, which is the government-sanctioned church in China.



Dong Shaowu in 1956

On September 6, 1958, after a long torture session, Dong asked to use the toilet. When he failed to return quickly, guards rushed into the bathroom to find Dong slumped over on the floor. He had drowned himself in the urinal, unable to face another moment of the brutal treatment he'd endured for so long.

Even his death did not please his torturers. They officially charged the dead Dong with having "committed suicide to escape punishment".

That evening, as news spread around the town that Dong was dead, a local deacon boldly came to the police station and claimed the body of Dong Shaowu. He washed the corpse and prepared it for burial.

Six other Christians volunteered to help bury Dong, at great personal risk to themselves. Among them was a 14-year-old believer. They covered the face of their beloved pastor with an old straw hat and wrapped the corpse in an old mat. Dong's body was buried in an empty hole in the ground outside the South Gate of the city.

And so ended the life of a simple, good-hearted man whose passion in life was just to preach and teach the Bible and see Christians grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

At a meeting the following evening, the deacon who had come for his pastor's body stood up and announced his commitment to Christ. He was immediately arrested and sent away to a labor camp, and was never heard from again.

The Silent Years

In the late 1950s Chairman Mao launched a campaign called 'The Great Leap Forward,' which was actually a great leap backward! Some scholars estimate the famine which resulted because of his economic experiment resulted in an incredible 8 million people starving to death in Henan Province alone!

As persecution raged against the Church in China, and thousands of leaders were butchered for their belief in Christ, China shut herself off from the rest of the world and a period of silence began. Every church building in China was closed.

Many observers believed the Church in China had been completely eradicated, lamenting that if and when China's doors ever reopened, missionary work would have to start all over again.

When an American delegation visited China in the 1970s Mao's wife arrogantly told them, "There is not a single Christian left in China. Christianity has been consigned to the history section of the museum."

She was wrong!

Throughout the 1950s and '60s the Church in China eached its lowest point. All church activities were forced to go underground, where God preserved a remnant. A few faithful believers continued to meet in secret during those dark years. No pastor remained to shepherd the flock, so elderly, uneducated women led most of the meetings.

Without any leadership, the light of the Gospel in many places was being kept alive by small groups of illiterate women. They served a God who said that unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it will not bear fruit.

Mother Jia of Wuyang



Mother Jia in 1988

One such faithful saint was Mother Jia of Wuyang. When the doors of the churches were closed she organized small meetings in her house, despite the threats of the authorities.

Wuyang County is an impoverished area located in central Henan. Missionaries had commenced work there in 1887. Progress was extremely slow, however, so that by 1924 the number of church members in Wuyang numbered just 36.

When the missionaries focused their efforts more on the countryside, they found people hungrier for the Gospel. By 1949 the total

number of believers in Wuyang County was about 1,000.

Mother Jia had come to Christ in 1941 at the age of 36. Being the only Christian in her family, she was opposed and criticized by her relatives, but her life had been changed by Jesus and she would never turn back.

For years Mother Jia's meetings contained no preaching or even reading of the Bible, because everyone attending the meetings was illiterate. Instead, they worshipped God, prayed, and encouraged one another.

In the late 1960s Mother Jia was called into the local police station on several occasions and questioned about her illegal activities. The believers were never charged but they decided to change their meeting times to start at midnight. Only between three to five people were allowed to come to any one meeting.

The light of the Gospel flickered low in Henan during these difficult years, but thousands of faithful believers like Mother Jia courageously kept the candle burning.

Today the small flame has become a mighty fire.

Starting in the late-1970s, the Church in Wuyang began to experience rapid growth. The harsh years of the Cultural Revolution had created a vacuum in people's hearts, and they were eager to fill it. Zealous preachers traveled from village to village proclaiming the Gospel.

The Four Bravehearts

In the 1960s and '70s the government launched the Cultural Revolution. These were particularly harsh times for Christians. Many denied the Lord, while others often went years without any fellowship at all, as people were too scared to meet together. During this time a person would be publicly beaten and sent to prison for many years just for having a copy of the Bible. As a result, many believers put their Bibles in a can and buried them deep in the ground, hoping a day would come when they could dig their treasure back up and read the Word of God again. Christians sometimes practiced their faith so secretly that even their own family members didn't know they were believers.

It was in the midst of this intense atmosphere that God raised up four brave men in Henan Province. They not only loved Jesus, but were so bold that they decided to preach the Gospel in public, regardless of the consequences.



Xu Yongze, first to preach the Gospel publically in Henan

Xu Yongze, known in the West as Peter Xu (pronounced "Shu"), started preaching the Gospel in public meetings in 1968. According to house church leaders today, he was the first to preach publicly in Henan Province.

During the Cultural Revolution preaching was penalized with a certain death sentence. It was illegal just to believe in Christ. This stand for Christ earned Xu a great deal of respect among the Christian community, as a brother who is willing to risk all for the sake of the Gospel.

Xu founded the Born Again house church movement, which is today the largest in China

with as many as 20-25 million members throughout the entire country, in all its various branches. They experienced phenomonal growth throughout the 1990s after they focused their efforts on the training of new leaders.

Later, Xu was joined by three other men, brothers Yun, Wang and Zhang. They worked closely together until 1983 when a wave of severe persecution caused hundreds of believers to be thrown into prison all across China.

At first their preaching was confined to their home areas in southwestern Henan Province, expanding to other parts of Henan in 1979. After seeing thousands of people come to Christ in the midst of great revival, the group commenced cross-province evangelism in 1982 when they sent workers to Sichuan Province.

Xu was arrested in 1982 and sent to a labor camp. He miraculously escaped in August of that year – after a hundred days imprisonment – when he simply pushed a heavy coal cart out the prison gates. None of the guards questioned him, so he kept walking away to freedom!

During the wave of persecution in 1983, many workers fled across China, thus spreading the flame of the Gospel. By 1985 Xu's group had grown and expanded their work to far-flung parts of China including Tibet, Xinjiang, Yunnan, Guizhou and Heilongjiang.

In 1997 Xu was again arrested. This time it was actually announced in newspapers around the world that he had been executed, but this rumor proved to be unfounded. He was sentenced to ten years in prison, which was later reduced to three years. This was nothing short of a great miracle from the Lord. He was released in May 2000, and immediately continued his ministry of training up new evangelists and church planters.

During his three years in prison, Brother Xu experienced much torture and affliction. The prison officials even handcuffed his wrists to each side of an iron gate in such a way that when the gate was pulled open he was stretched up off the ground in a crucifix position, causing his internal organs to be agonizingly stretched. His torturers would then relax the gate, giving Xu a moment's relief, before again pulling the gate open. They repeated this process again and again, causing this dear brother to later say, "I came to know how Jesus must have felt on the Cross."

Brother Xu Yongze is a humble, gracious and loving man, very personable and approachable. He carries with him an air of brokenness from his years of imprisonment and torture, yet that is not all. People who meet Xu are left with the impression they've met a man with great spiritual authority in God.

These four men risked everything for the sake of the Gospel and paved the way for thousands of like-minded evangelists who followed. These four bravehearts have spent a combined total of more than 40 years in prison for the sake of the Kingdom of God. They've been tortured and have suffered inhumane treatment at the hand of sinful men, yet God has spared the lives of all four.

What are the other three men doing today?

Brother Yun is recognized as a great evangelist and apostle by the Chinese Church, with many signs and wonders accompanying his ministry of the Word of God. Many Christians consider him to have suffered more than any other believer in China, having been



Brother Yun

arrested more than 30 times for preaching the Gospel. In 1997 God enabled him to miraculously escape from a maximum security prison in Henan, when He blinded the eyes of numerous armed guards and opened several iron doors. Later that same year Brother Yun left China and is now the official spokesman and representative of the Sinim Fellowship (a unified fellowship of leaders from China's six largest house church networks), to churches around the world.*

Brother Zhang is the founder of the Fangcheng house church movement, which has grown rapidly to about ten million believers all across China, in all its various branches.

Brother Wang spent more than 15 years in prison for his love of Jesus. After his release several years ago he started rebuilding his network of house churches, and today sits as an elder of the 'Sinim Fellowship.'

* A book about Brother Yun's life, entitled 'The Heavenly Man' will be published in June or July 2002, by Monarch Books. We'll let you know more information closer to the release date.

Heroes of the Faith or Cult Leaders?

As China started to open up to the outside world in the 1980s and '90s the government realized they couldn't continue to openly persecute and torture house church Christians simply because of their faith in Christ, as it would create a bad public image around the world.

Instead, they decided to start classifying all of the house church networks in China as "evil cults that threaten the stability of the nation," thereby allowing them to prosecute believers for "breaking the law."

Under this deceptive pretense, thousands of Christians have been beaten, crippled, imprisoned, tortured, raped and humiliated. Leaders of the Three-Self Patriotic Church in China have launched a strong campaign branding all the house church leaders, such as the four men mentioned above, as cult leaders. They've told Christians around the world not to worry about reports they hear of Christians being persecuted in China, that there is no persecution in China any more, that freedom of religion is guaranteed in the constitution, etc.

The government has then lied and slandered house church believers in order to "prove their case," often accusing pastors of "raping and seducing women," "plotting to overthrow the government," and other such ludicrous charges.

The most ridiculous thing of all is that many Western Christians have believed the lies.

In actual fact, those Christians who have bothered to investigate have found the beliefs and practices of the Chinese house churches conform with standard Biblical theology, and contain all the essential elements of the faith.

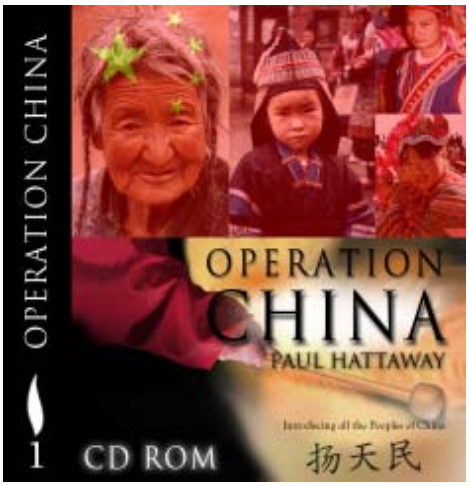
The situation is clouded by the fact that house churches have been placed on the same government list of "evil cults" as other religions such as the Falungong, and other pseudo-Christian groups in China that really are cults.

It's interesting to note some of the official charges brought against Brother Xu and the other leaders to "prove" they are cult leaders:

1. He teaches followers should give 10% of their income to the work of the church.
2. He says only those who know Jesus will go to heaven, while all unbelievers will be condemned to an eternity in hell.
3. People often shout and cry out in his meetings, confessing their sins before God.
4. He prays for the sick to be healed.
5. He preaches the world will come to an end when Jesus returns.

How do these charges measure up with what you believe? Would you be labelled a cult member if you lived in China?

In our next newsletter we'll continue our look at the Church in Henan Province, how it has grown through years of bitter persecution, and how it experiences miracles and blessings similar to the Book of Acts.



OPERATION CHINA CD

We've been encouraged by reports from God's people around the world how much our 'Operation China' book has blessed them. Now it's available on CD!

The entire book is on the CD, including more than 700 color photos. The CD operates on both PCs and Macintosh computers, and has a powerful search engine.

The cost is US$ 17, including post and packing. If you are interested, please include a note "Operation China CD" along with your check. Alternatively, you can order the CD by going to our website and paying with a credit card.

WEBSITE DONATIONS



We're thankful to God for those people who feel the Lord wants them to financially help spread the Gospel throughout Asia. We always endeavor to be the best stewards of these donations as we can. Now, we're able to receive payments by credit card for particular projects listed on our website. This may be a lot more convenient for some people, as it would eliminate the need for writing letters and checks. Supporters can click either for onetime or monthly donations. Our system is 100% secure and easy to use. If you are an internet user, please check out our website at www.asiaharvest.org



FIRST MONPA BELIEVERS!

In our last newsletter before Christmas we profiled the Monpa people of Arunachal Pradesh, India, and asked you to pray for their salvation. The Lord heard your prayers! Recently we were told by Naga missionaries among them that three Monpa have accepted Christ and are being discipled! This is a great breakthrough among a Tibetan Buddhist group considered resistant to the Gospel. Please continue to pray for them. They are already being persecuted by their own families and by the Monpa community.

2001 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

We believe as ministers of the Gospel we should be open and accountable in the area of finances. The 2001 financial statement for Asia Harvest is now available. If you would like to receive a copy, please write and ask.

From our Mailbox

I just wanted to let you know about the kids who raised all of this money for Bibles for China. We are a small private school in Georgia. We have about 25 students who are mostly considered "under achievers" and "castoffs" by the public and private schools. Many come to us defeated and hurt by those who are supposed to be teaching them how to live. Many of our students are not even Christians and a large number had no idea who Jesus Christ was when they came to us. It is a unique situation and a great privilege to be able to serve them and see them grow, succeed and change.

We began a contest in October to see who could raise the most money for Bibles: boys vs. girls. The winners get a half-day off from school in January. The girls started out with a huge lead, prompting the boys to strategize and come up with a plan to win it at the end. The contest was to end on the last day of school prior to the Christmas break. The boys had steadily gained on the girls' large lead and were only about $50 behind. That morning, one of the boys gave me an envelope containing enough money to win it by about $40.

Both sides were excited to be a part of it, both were happy about the results, and both were overjoyed to hear how many Bibles the Chinese believers would be receiving. I was extremely touched by these young people who would give up their afternoons and weekends to raise money so that others would have the opportunity that they often take for granted. Many of our students still don't know Jesus personally (although I believe that will all change soon), but it is awesome to see them sacrifice and serve in this manner.

We pray a special blessing upon Asia Harvest and all of your work. May the work of your hands be fruitful and may the God of peace rest upon all of you as you serve Him and serve those in Asia.

from a private school, Georgia, U.S.A.

You damned Christians must STOP spreading your damned religion to Asian peoples! SO many minority cultures are on the verge of being assimilated into the evil modernization of the WESTERN WORLD. Changing them into blind, irrational, hypocritical Christians will only destroy their unique cultures forever. *received by email*

I have been receiving your newsletters for a few months now and find them informative, inspirational, and a kick in the pants when it comes to prayer. Thanks for your faithfulness to send these out. They are a great encouragement. You are in my prayers, as are the people you represent. May God bless you in all your work. *Rachel, Michigan, U.S.A.*

ASIAN WORKERS FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

Because of your prayers and partnership we are currently able to support 100 Asian evangelists for a 12-month period.

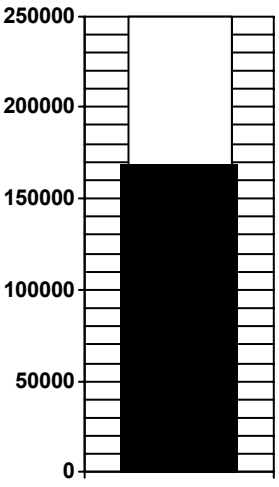
Asian churches give their tithes and offerings, but the economy of many places is so poor that here is little or nothing left for "big" expenses such as sending an evangelist or a missionary to an unreached area. In other cases the church may have enough just to send the worker to the field, but is unable to support them once they are there.

In China some house church evangelists have even sold their own blood at the hospital, receiving just a few cents as payment. They then buy a few meals with this money, giving them enough strength to continue to preach the Gospel for another week or two. These servants of the Lord have given their whole lives to the Gospel. We are in contact with thousands of workers who need support.

The **Asian Workers Fund** assists workers who are doing strategic ministry in Asia. Please pray about whether you, your family, home fellowship or church could help support one or more of these workers with help of **$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to the workers in need.** A prayer card will be sent to every supporter of this project, with information about your worker to help you remember to pray for him or her.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word

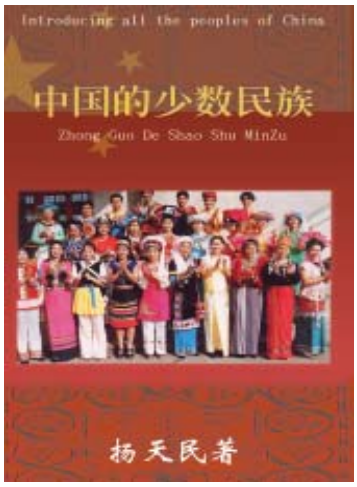


***Current Total*: 168,411**
Chinese Bibles Printed
***Cost:* US$2.00 per Bible**

Although a limited number of Bibles are now permitted to be printed inside China, they are not enough to meet the need. Because of the tremendous growth rate of the church in China (some say 30,000 new believers each day), there is a serious lack of Bibles. Millions of Christians are still without God's Word. We are partnering with six large house church networks in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for the church. These Bibles are distributed to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning throughout the world's largest nation. **100% of your gifts go directly to printing Bibles. Each Bible costs just US$ 2.00 to print and deliver.**

OPERATION CHINA

Printing 200,000 books for the Chinese Church



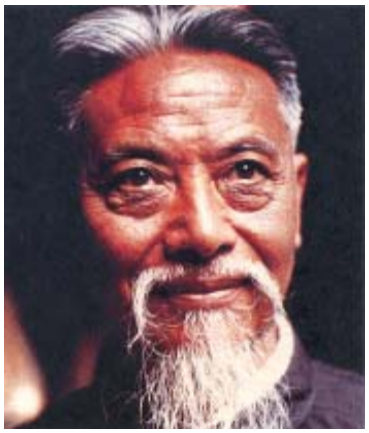
GOAL: 200,000 books for the Chinese house churches
CURRENT TOTAL: 84,066
COST: $1.20 per book

We have had a great response to our project to print 200,000 Chinese-language copies of our book on China's minority groups for the house church networks of China. The books will help mobilize hundreds of Chinese believers to reach all 490 tribes and people groups in China. Costing just US$ 1.20 for a 500-page book, we have so far received enough finances to print more than 84,000 books. Thank you and please continue to pray that God would provide the full amount needed.

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

Supporting pastors now crippled by persecution and torture

Because of your prayers and generous support we are currently able to support 417 living martyrs every month.



In China, Christians are regularly beaten, tortured, and even killed because they love Jesus. One report states there are presently 4,014 house church Christians in prison labor camps, and 23,686 under arrest. 129 have been murdered by the authorities.

Last year house church leaders in China gave us details of about 1,000 Christians leaders who are now permanently crippled or maimed as a result of the torture they received at the hands of the police. Many of their stories are absolutely horrific, yet they remain faithful to the Lord. The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of their injuries. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Please pray about whether you, your family, home fellowship or church could help support one or more of these living martyrs with help of **$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to the workers.** A prayer card will be sent to everyone who regularly supports this project, with information about your worker to help you remember to pray.