Asia Harvest

'Put in the Sickle, for the Harvest has Come!' (Mark 4:29)

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A Christmas Miracle in China

From the Frontlines

with Hammie & Alti

This guest editorial was written by Hammie and Alti, who are friends of Asia Harvest and dedicated missionaries working in some of the most remote and dangerous parts of Asia among unreached people groups with no Gospel witness.

"For we live by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Iin 1815 the leader of France, Napoleon, had conquered the whole of Europe except Britain. France fought against Britain in the Battle of Waterloo. If Napoleon had won, the whole of Europe would have been in slavery to him. The man who stood between him and victory was General Wellington, the leader of the British troops. The whole of Britain waited anxiously to hear news of the outcome of the battle. Would they be free, or would they become the slaves of Napoleon? To carry the news of the Battle of Waterloo to England, a ship used flags to signal a message to a man standing on land, who then signalled the news to another man on a hill, and so on across the country. The first word, "Wellington," was signalled. The next word was "defeated." Then a fog quickly descended and the message was interrupted as they couldn't see what the man on the ship was signalling with his flags. Across England, people openly wept over the message: "Wellington defeated." Then the fog lifted, and they could again see the signal flags on the ship. The communication continued with two extra words: "the enemy." The whole message was: "Wellington defeated the enemy." The people of Britain were immediately changed from being in deep despair to celebrating the victory.

Similarly, there was great sorrow when the body of Jesus was carried from the cross to the tomb. The signal seemed to say, "Jesus Christ defeated." But three days later the "fog" lifted and the whole message was announced: "Jesus Christ defeated the enemy!" Through Christ we have complete victory over our enemies of sin, death, and Satan. We have new life, a glorious hope, and the certainty of our own resurrection one day. Let us not live by sight, for everything around us seems to say "Jesus Christ defeated."Let us live according to our spiritual sight, for only then we will be able to see the whole message: "Jesus Christ defeated the enemy."

A Christmas Miracle in China

As we near the end of another year, we would like to share one of our favorite testimonies with you — 'A Christmas Miracle in China'. We hope you will take the time to read it, for we are sure it will be a great blessing and encouragement to you. May the Lord Jesus draw you and your loved ones closer to the Father's heart than ever before this Christmas.



It was the greatest miracle that ever happened to Brother Duan, and he would not have experienced it had his bus not broken down. Travelling from a northern to a southern province of China one chilly December day, he happened to be passing through Henan Province when the engine of the bus expired in its futile battle with the cold.

On a whim, Duan trudged off through the fields, leaving the other passengers huddled inside the bus. He was a house church leader in northern China. Now 77-years-old, he still had no home to call his own. The truth is, he was deeply depressed. He was on his way to mediate a dispute among church leaders and was weary of all the infighting that seemed to be harming the house churches. And he was lonely.

As he crossed the frozen field, Duan thought longingly of his beloved wife who had died years earlier. He wished she was alive to listen to him and give her sweet counsel. And then the thought of his little son came into his tired mind, and an even darker cloud settled over his heart.

He found a village and knocked on a door. A little cross was notched on the doorpost. "Is there anyone here who loves the Lord?" he asked. "I would love some fellowship tonight."

The door was opened by a man in his fifties, and Duan was warmly welcomed inside. His feet were washed in a basin—the custom of welcoming a stranger to their home, and he was fed hot congee and steaming vegetables. He noticed that the family members were excited. It turned out they would be travelling to a neighboring town to hear a dynamic Bible teacher from



a large city. "What's his name?" asked Duan. "Brother Wang," they replied.

As they made their way to the meeting, they told Duan stories about this mysterious Brother Wang. It was clear they loved him dearly, and one of the men explained why. "We once held a training seminar here and heard the police were coming to arrest us. Brother Wang helped everyone escape, except our main pastor. When the police arrived, Wang dared to bargain with them. He offered to go to prison if our pastor, whose wife was eight months pregnant, would be allowed to go free. The opfficers accepted his terms, and Brother Wang spent the next three years in prison."

"How old is Brother Wang?" Duan asked. When told he was in his early 40's, Duan's face showed great pain. "What's the matter?" he was asked. "Are you ill from your trip?" "No, I'm not ill," he replied, "just very sad. I once had a son, whom I knew for just two months. He's dead now, but if alive he would have been 42 today. My wife called him the 'Christmas Child' since he was born at Christmas time. I called him 'Isaac,' because we had despaired for so long of having a child."

There was silence as they rode in the open cart under the stars. Brother Duan told the incredible story of how he and his wife had been evangelists in the 1950's. They refused

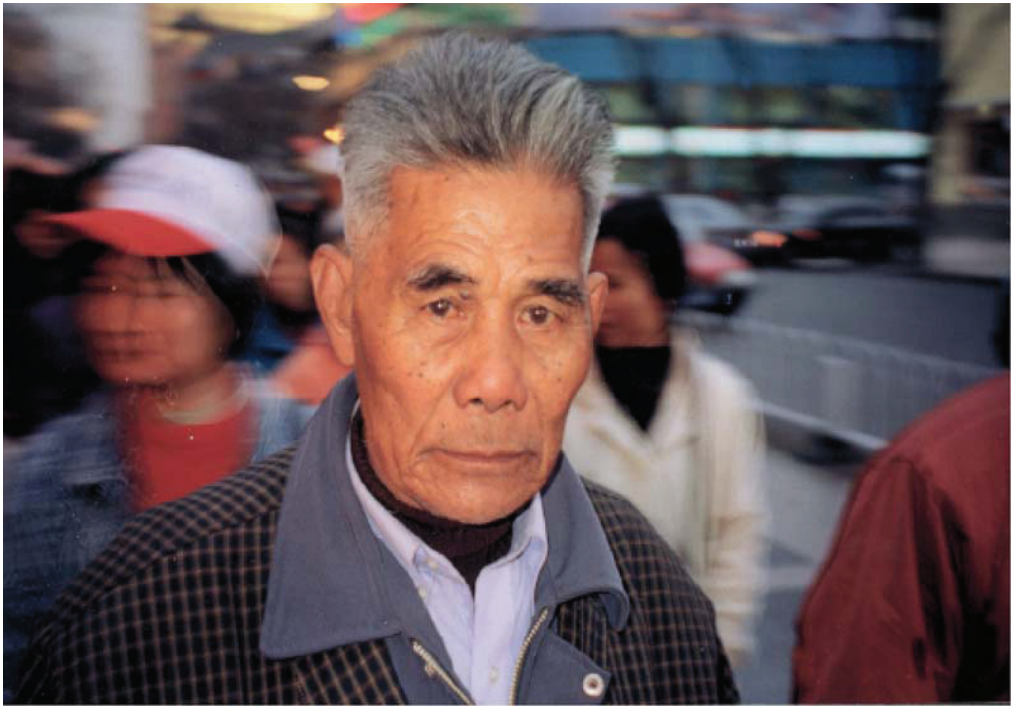
to join the government-approved Three-Self church, and an unbeliever named Wu kept accusing them of political and criminal offenses. It was only a matter of time before they were imprisoned or killed, but what would happen to their baby boy?

One night, Duan's wife heard a strong voice in a vision, saying, "Give your son to your enemy." Knowing nothing about this, Duan read Genesis 22:2 the following morning: ***"Take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."***

Sharing their impressions, the couple decided on a course of action that had caused Duan to wince in pain every day since. They gave their boy to Wu and his wife—who was childless—even as Wu arranged for the couple's arrest.

It wasn't until 1978, when Duan was released from prison, that he learned what had happened to his wife and son. She had died in the terrible famine of 1958, and his son had disappeared along with the Wu family under the rubble of a devastating earthquake in 1975. Said Duan as the rickety cart approached the meeting place, "God judged me for being so irresponsible with my little son." As they arrived at the place where the evangelist was to speak, a crowd of 200 people were already packed into the house. Like many others, Duan had to sit in the courtyard and listen to the teacher through an open window.





When Brother Wang began preaching, Duan felt a terrible shock. It was like hearing himself! He began to tremble with fear. Even the phrases the teacher used sounded familiar. Confused, he staggered up to the window to see the preacher, causing a commotion as he fell over people. The preacher stopped, and there was a moment of shocked silence as the two stared at each other. The crowd was hushed as they realized the amazing physical likeness between the two men.

"I'm sorry for interrupting your excellent message," Duan began. "You see, I had a son who would be your age right now. If he had lived, he would have looked and sounded just like you."

Brother Wang began to tremble violently. Suddenly, his legs buckled beneath him, and he had to be caught before he fell to the floor. Clutching his pounding chest, he sobbed, "Are you Daddy Duan?"

Everyone wept as father and son were reunited. The preacher told how he had indeed been brought up by Wu, who was so impressed by Duan's selfless act that he had become a strong Christian.

"I'm not your father," Wu used to say to him. "Your real father is a great man of God, full of grace and love. He gave you to me, and I give you all my love and the encouragement to put God first, just like your real dad would have done."

Wang's adopted parents had moved away from the earthquake zone before the tragedy, but both had died of cancer in their 60's. Wang became an evangelist and tried to find his real father, but Duan had changed

his name so many times to avoid arrest that he had proved untraceable.

As father and son continued to hug and weep, the elder of the church stood up and declared, "It's December. We have seen our sermon tonight: Christ came into the world to save sinners—that is the essence of Christmas. Just as Duan handed his only son into the care of his enemy, so God handed over His own Son to us sinners. Let us rejoice in their reconciliation and ours, too."

Have you given your heart and life to Jesus? If not, please pray now. Ask Jesus to forgive all of your sins and come into your heart to take control of your life. If you are a believer already, please think of the incredible sacrifice God made so that you can have life. May we not be unthankful like nine of the ten lepers who didn't bother thanking Jesus after He healed them of their horrible disease (see Luke 17:11-19).

Regardless of how difficult our lives become, we should never forget to thank the Lord Jesus for His countless mercies and blessings—we should even thank him for the very air we breathe. Can you imagine what this world, and your life, would be like if God had never sent His beloved Son to rescue our broken and evil world?

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

(Philippians 2:5-11)



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM ASIA HARVEST

As this is our final newsletter for 2013, we want to thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support throughout the year. We pray the risen Jesus Christ will truly be part of the Christmas and New Year period for you and your family. Next year we hope, by God's grace, to continue serving the Church in Asia and we invite you to partner with us to see this happen. God bless you!

CHINA BIBLE MAP



Thanks to the grace of God and your prayers and generous support, Asia Harvest recently passed the milestone of 7 million Chinese Bibles printed and delivered to the house churches in China. Our coworkers provide detailed reports, which allow us keep track of every Bible we print and to create this distribution map. On behalf of all the grateful believers in China, thank you and God bless you!

Bibles Delivered by Province:

1	Heilongjiang	712,385
2	Anhui	717,385
3	Henan	573,561
4	Inner Mongolia	655,950
5	Zhejiang	558,594
6	Shandong	512,682
7	Jilin	367,180
8	Shanxi	310,439
9	Gansu	276,653
10	Jiangsu	251,749
11	Sichuan	220,915
12	Liaoning	227,898
13	Shaanxi	205,842
14	Hebei	206,262
15	Hubei	190,012
16	Guangxi	208,674
17	Xinjiang	169,314
18	Chongqing	159,110
19	Qinghai	170,256
20	Shanghai	160,512
21	Jiangxi	187,229
22	Hainan Island	109,254
23	Fujian	104,663
24	Guangdong	64,627
25	Beijing	58,197
26	Yunnan	28,530
27	Hunan	11,819
28	Guizhou	9,680
29	Ningxia	5,180

TOTAL 7,434,949

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

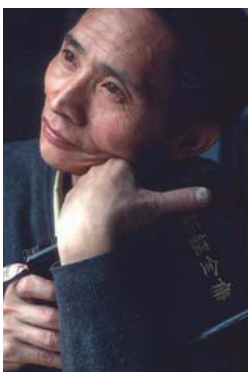
Thanks to your support we are currently able to support 591 Asian evangelists working among 377 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.



The **Asian Workers Fund** assists indigenous church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry to Asian unreached people groups in Asia. These servants of the Lord have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. We only support evangelists/missionaries and not pastors, as we believe shepherds should be supported by the flocks they lead. You can help support these dedicated workers for **$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular donors of this project.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Current Total: 7,434,949 Chinese Bibles distributed.

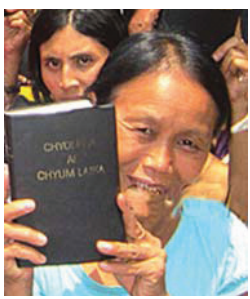


We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term project to provide Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests for God's Word from church leaders throughout the country. These Bibles are distributed free of charge, equipping the Body of Christ and helping add fuel to the revival in China. **Each full Bible costs just $1.80 to print and deliver.**

A donor has offered Asia Harvest a "dollar for dollar" matching grant. For a period of time each donation we receive for Bibles will be doubled, so that two Bibles will be printed and delivered instead of one.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND

Current Total: 377,824 Bibles printed in 48 languages



Asia is home to many ethnic groups where the people have been deprived of God's Word, sometimes for decades. The **Asian Bible fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in Southeast Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere.The one country where the Asian Bible fund doesn't apply to is China, where our China Bible fund functions as a separate project. **Each Bible costs $2.70 to print and deliver through the Asian Bible fund.**

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

Because of your partnership we are supporting 747 living martyrs.



"A martyr has been defined as "a Christian who chooses to suffer death rather than deny Christ or His work... One who sacrifices something very important to further the Kingdom of God and endures great suffering for Christian witness."

The **Living Martyrs' Fund** assists pastors and evangelists in China and Vietnam who are unable to work because of injuries or illness caused by persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through a gift of **$35 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.

PROJECT SMILE



Your generous support has so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 12,710 children in Vietnam.

Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with disabilities such as cleft palates, cleft lips and club feet, as well as others who need operations for burns, cancerous growths and other conditions. The cost of helping a child varies depending on the kind of surgery required, but each gift of **$60 changes a child's life.** A laminated prayer card of a child helped through Project Smile is sent to all donors.

PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



Transforming lives from ashes to beauty with God's love.

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided assistance to the victims of natural disasters that have struck Asia. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and many people have come to know Jesus Christ. This project also provides physical and spiritual relief to Christian communities and families throughout Asia who have been affected by persecution.



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