Asia Harvest



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

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2008 Annual Report
Abiding in the Vine

Asia Harvest Annual Report

by Paul & Joy Hattaway

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 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.... This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." *(John 15:1-5, 8)*

Serving the Lord sometimes feels like a continual process of being pruned by God so that we might abide in Jesus Christ more, which subsequently enables us to bear more fruit for God's kingdom. The process of pruning is not always pleasant. When we think of pruning we may imagine that it means God is cutting off those areas in our life that are unruly and unfruitful. While that is certainly part of the pruning process, Jesus also said that "every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

Last year we enjoyed watching roses bloom in a beautiful garden not far from our home. One day a gardener came along and pruned the rose bushes back until they looked like barren stumps protruding from the soil. A few months later, however, the wisdom of the gardener's actions became clear when the change of seasons produced another beautiful display of red, yellow and pink roses in full bloom.

If you are a disciple of Jesus and endeavor to follow Him, you will find your life in a constant process of being pruned and molded by the Master Gardener, God. During such times the process often feels painful, but we should prayerfully submit to God's process, for as the writer of Hebrews explained, *"Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:10-11).*

During the last year we feel the ministry of Asia Harvest went through a pruning process, so that the projects and work the Lord has called us to would be more effective and fruitful for the kingdom of God. This has resulted in fresh opportunities, new strategic partnerships with other members of the Body of Christ, and an ever-increasing awareness that our primary role must always be simply to remain in the vine, Jesus Christ.

Surely one of Satan's major plans is to persuade Christians to operate in their own strength and wisdom, instead of daily abiding and trusting in the Lord. This is easy to do if we are not careful, and it immediately destroys our ability to bear fruit for God's kingdom. The Apostle Paul bluntly compared God's wisdom to human wisdom when he wrote: "*For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength" (1 Corinthians 1:25).*

Our strategy has always been to send God's resources to the front lines in Asia, where they are needed the most. We operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, which means that in the West we operate with a staff of just a few administrative workers who work hard for God's kingdom. The real frontline work of God's kingdom is done by thousands of Asian Christians whom we feel privileged to assist and serve.

This approach means we are able to maximize the fruitfulness of people's precious gifts, and enables us to get as many resources as possible to where it is needed most. One example of this recently occurred when we were able to lower the cost of the Bibles we produce inside China from $2.25 to just $1.80, including delivery. We rejoice that this change means that by God's grace, every year thousands more hungry believers throughout China will be able to have their own Bibles.

We want to thank all of you who have participated in the advance of the kingdom of God throughout Asia in the past year, whether through Asia Harvest or another organization. Our vision since we started working in Asia has been simply to serve as a link between the Asian Church and Christians around the world, so that the Gospel may spread, changing lives and ethnic groups throughout Asia where two-thirds of the world's population lives. We are so thankful for each individual, family, and fellowship of believers who prayed for the work in Asia, or encouraged us, or helped through giving. On behalf of the believers in China, Vietnam, Laos, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and everywhere else in Asia your support reached to, we thank you for your wonderful participation!

On the following pages we present summaries of Asia Harvest projects in 2007. We are acutely aware that without God's guiding hand, and the Spirit-led participation of His people, nothing of eternal value would be accomplished. Our prayer is that God would be glorified, for He alone is worthy!

Thank you and God bless you.

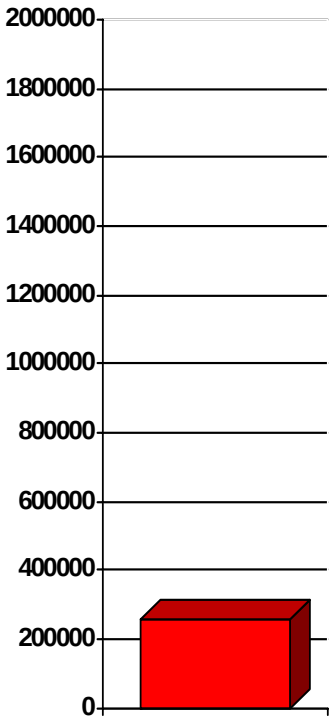
CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Equipping China's Christians with God's Word

We are thankful to the many people who pray and give so that Christians in China might have their own Bible. In 2007 we passed the milestone of printing and delivering one million Bibles to the house church believers in China, and by the end of the year the total had reached more than 1.2 million. By the grace of God and the diligence of our coworkers in China we were also able to lower the cost of our Bibles from $2.25 to just $1.80, including delivery. The need for God's Word remains great, especially in rural areas where the revival fires are burning most brightly. We continue to receive many requests for Bibles from house church leaders throughout the country. One recent letter said,

"Praise the Lord for the Bible delivery we received recently. We don't want to sound greedy and ungrateful, but could you please send us more? We need at least 60,000 Bibles this year just to keep pace with the growth the Lord has given us in recent years."

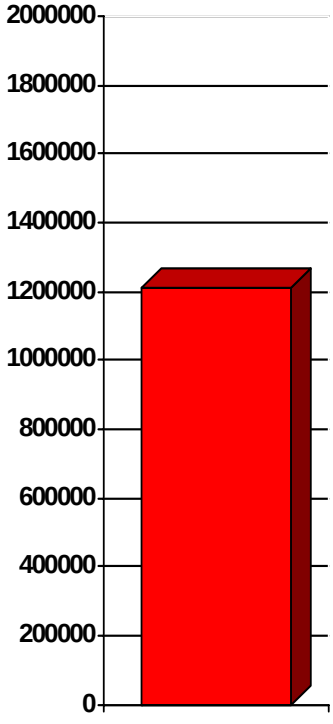
2007 Bibles printed: 256,895



Although a limited number of Bibles are now allowed to be printed inside China, there remains a serious lack because of the tremendous growth rate of the church in rural areas of China. Millions of Christians are still without God's Word. We are partnering with 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.

Each Bible costs just $1.80 to print and deliver.

Total Bibles since 2000: 1,212,860



SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

Current Total: 93,850 Bibles printed in 21 different languages

The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam contain more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. In some cases, missionaries labored for years translating the Word of God for a tribe, only to have their work cut short when they were expelled by the new Communist government. Since then, these believers have been deprived of the Scriptures.



Last year we increased efforts to print Bibles in nine different languages of Vietnam (Stieng, Jeh, Koho, Mnong Ralam, Hre, Churu, Mnong Gar, Bahnar and Bru). Thanks to the generous participation of Christians around the world, in 2007 we provided funds to complete several of these projects, while several more are in progress now, with translations being double checked before printing commences. This strategic project is an ongoing one, as there are many other tribal groups in desperate need of God's Word in their own language.



Because of your gifts, in 2007 Asia Harvest provided funds to produce and distribute 56,636 Bibles in many different languages of Southeast Asia. On average, each Bible costs $2.70 to print and deliver. If you would like to participate, please fill out the enclosed yellow Response Form and send it to us with your gift.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

Because of your prayers and partnership we were able to support an average of 350 Asian church-planting missionaries every month throughout 2007.



The Asian workers' fund provides financial support to evangelists in Asia who are involved with strategic and ground-breaking work in areas that have never had a Gospel witness before. We work alongside Asian Christian leaders, helping to strengthen their ministries and giving in a non-controlling manner to those who are serving Christ wholeheartedly.

The fruit of their labors can be clearly seen as thousands of people have found faith in Jesus Christ each year, with dozens of church fellowships established in some of the darkest parts of Asia. One such place is the small country of Bhutan, a Buddhist kingdom hidden in the Himalayas bordering Tibet and India. Others work in Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), and areas of northern India, reaching out to a number of needy tribes.

In China we are privileged to support many Chinese evangelists who are taking the Gospel to the ethnic minority groups throughout the country, including in Tibet and the Muslim-dominated Xinjiang Region. They have encountered many hardships and persecutions for the Gospel, but they have persevered and have begun to see dozens of people come to faith in Jesus.

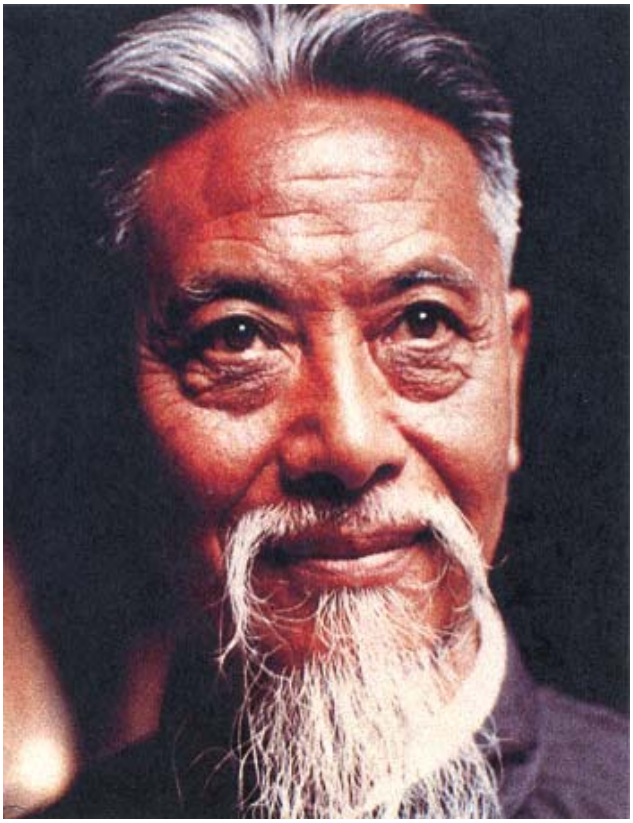
The workers we are privileged to support in the Himalayan region continue to enjoy great success. In 2007, in the north Indian state of Arunchal Pradesh alone, they baptized 795 new believers and established 22 churches among many different tribes. God has been moving powerfully in this remote and untouched part of the earth. The evangelists have witnessed many outstanding miracles, including people being completely healed from cancer, lukemia, blindness, tuberculosis, and other serious afflictions.

Through your prayers and generous gifts, we were able to support many new evangelists in 2007. This work is constantly expanding and new workers are being recruited. You can support one or more of these workers with a gift of **$25 per month each.** A laminated prayer card of a worker is sent to every supporter of this project.

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

Supporting Christians disabled by Persecution

Because of your prayers and support we were able to help 1,130 living martyrs throughout 2007. This has been a tremendous blessing to the Church in China.



"A martyr is 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 Voice of the Martyrs)

In China today, many house church Christians are still beaten and persecuted because of their faith. Over the years, many have been tortured and some have even died because they love Jesus.

House church leaders have provided us with details of more than 1,000 Christian leaders who have been disabled or are faced with long-term illness or injury as a result of persecution and imprisonment.

The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. The families of imprisoned Christians are also supported. A house church leader recently said, "The Martyrs' fund is very important. It helps many who are not able to support their families because they are in prison or disabled and unable to work. It also helps the Church provide for the families of martyrs. Many of them have no other means of income."

You can support one or more of these living martyrs with a gift of **$25 per month each.** A prayer card is sent to every regular supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to remind you to pray.

CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Euipping the Church to Reach China's Children

In 2007, Asia Harvest was able to help the Chinese house churches train and equip 1,184 Sunday School teachers (3,517 since 2005). Each teacher is expected to train an average of 100 children.



Thank you for the generous response to this strategic project to reach China's children for Christ. Each teacher, on average, is expected to teach 100 children and establish them in the Word of God. Teachers attending the training have their travel costs covered, and a set of materials is given to them for free. These materials include a children's Bible, teacher's manual, teaching books with visual aids, and VCD (video cassette disc) teaching. **The total cost of $47 per set** includes printing and production, and training expenses.



PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 942 children in Vietnam in 2007 (5,623 since 1999).

You are probably aware that Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with cleft palate or cleft lip disabilities. What you may not know is that our coworkers are now also helping children with various forms of cancer, burns, club-feet, and other conditions. We received the following testimony from our colleagues in Vietnam:





What caught our attention was Giau's beautiful eyes, and the mask covering her mouth.

"Why is she wearing a mask?" we asked. Without speaking the child's mother pulled the mask down. We were stunned at what first appeared to be a piece of black banana protruding from her mouth. But this was not a banana, it was her tongue, black and swollen, forcing the child's mouth permanently open.

Giau's mother was desperate until she heard on the radio of our free surgery program. Giau was one of many to arrive at the hospital that week. For most it was to have cleft lips repaired, but for Giau it was a matter of life and death. The tumor in her tongue meant the clock was ticking, for without surgery her life would soon be cut short.

It was a complicated and risky operation, but thank God as the days passed her discomfort subsided and for the first time in a long time, Giau smiled.

Other Projects



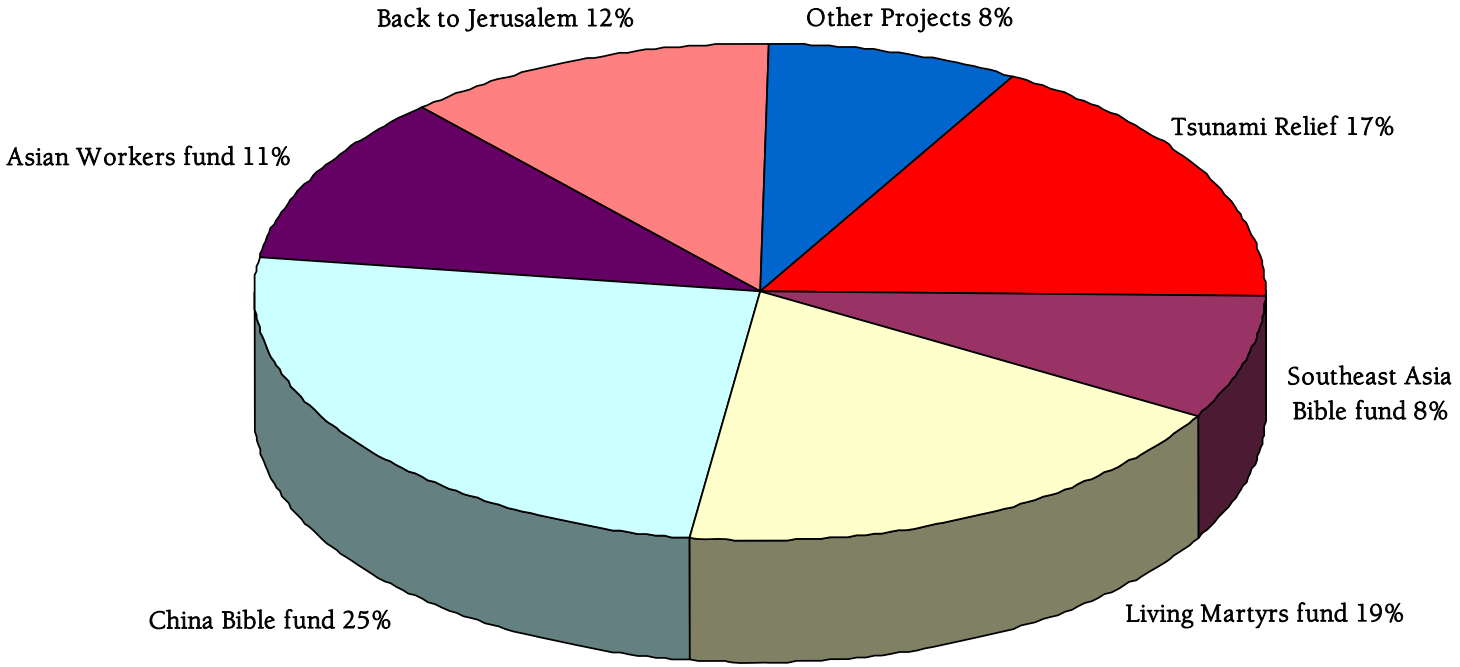
In 2007 Asia Harvest was involved with a host of other projects throughout Asia. Some of these are highly-sensitive initiatives in nations where the government strongly persecutes Christians, so we are unable to even mention these in our newsletters. Some projects that have made a great impact for God's kingdom include:

TSUNAMI RELIEF - Last year we concluded helping victims of the Tsunami which struck Asia at the end of 2004. Our role was to help channel funds to where they were most needed. The result is that many communities have been able to get back on their feet, and the Gospel has been presented to them both in word and in deed. In 2007 we were able to send a total of **US$312,845.42** to help in the rebuilding, most of which was sent through us by a Christian organization that specializes in helping such needs around the world. Since the tsunami struck, we have sent a grand total of **$2,107,920.63**. Every cent of this has been sent to the neediest areas. We did not use any part of it for administration or any other purposes. This project has now been wound down, and we believe many people have found Jesus as a result.Thank you for your prayers and participation!

KASHMIR EVANGELISM - In one fanatical Muslim area of Asia, we have been partnering with a local Christian ministry for almost a decade, helping them reach the lost through supporting evangelists, and by funding training classes and Bible correspondence courses. The results have been remarkable, and many people who used to be fanatical for the devil now serve Christ wholeheartedly. They are willing to lay their lives down so that their countrymen might experience salvation in Jesus Christ.

BACK TO JERUSALEM - Asia Harvest continues to support initiatives connected to the Back to Jerusalem movement - that is the vision of the Chinese Church to send missionaries into the Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu nations between China and Jerusalem. This region contains more than 5,000 unreached ethnic groups, and the fewest number of Christians anywhere in the world. Although the number of missionaries leaving China is still modest, we are encouraged by the many good reports we have received from different countries. Please pray God would continue to bless, strengthen and empower the Back to Jerusalem vision.

Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2007



2007 Financial Statement

At Asia Harvest we desire to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2007 is now available upon request. Please write and ask if you would like to receive it.