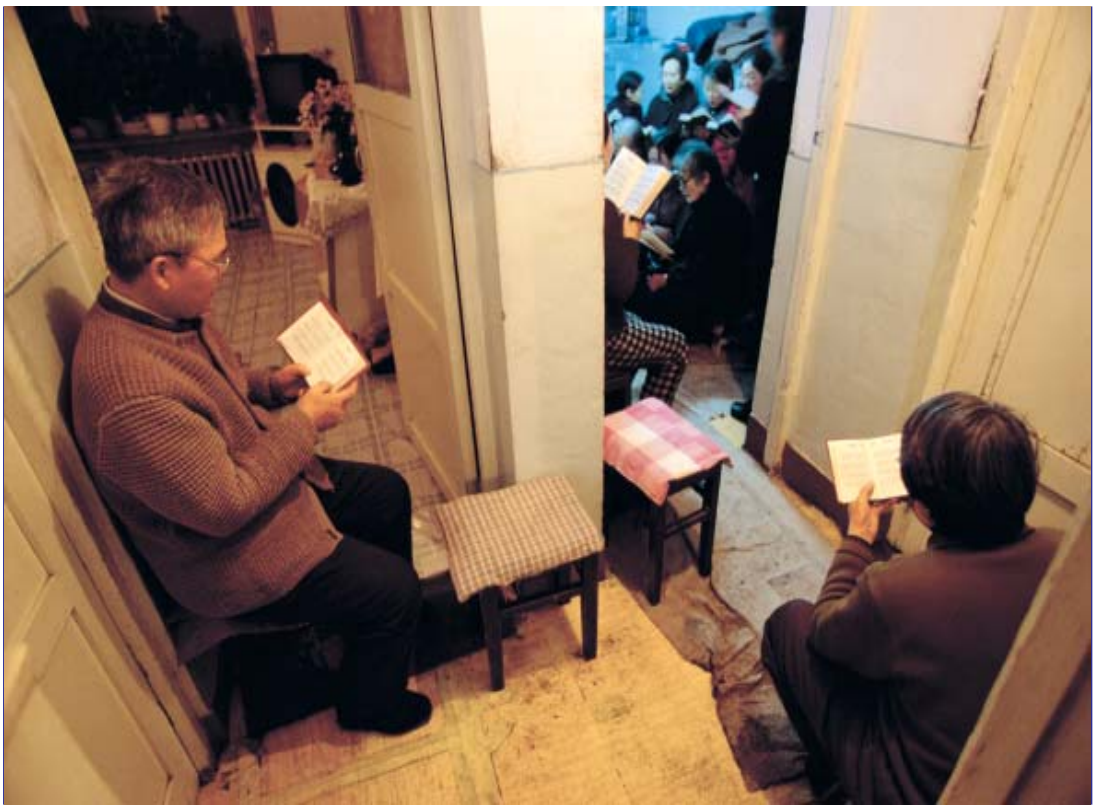
Asia Harvest



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

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Answering the Question:

How Many Christians are in China Today?

How Many Christians are there in China Today?

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

Have you ever wondered how many Christians live in the world's most populated country? Right from the start of our long involvement in China, the question of how many believers are scattered throughout the land has been on the front of our minds. This question is not a new one. When the great Italian explorer Marco Polo returned from China 700 years ago, Europeans were amazed to hear about the churches and Christian monasteries he encountered in various parts of the country.

Since we started serving in Asia in the 1980s, we have found that many people around the world are eager to know how many Christians live in China. Most are aware that God has been doing something wonderful in China since the Communists came to power in 1949, but little research has ever been conducted to put a figure on this phenomenon. Estimates published in recent years give wildly divergent figures, ranging anywhere from 20 to 230 million!

In this newsletter we have done something quite different from normal. In the following pages you will see locator maps and statistical summaries for each of China's 31 major provinces, administrative regions, and municipalities. It should be noted that many of China's provinces have populations that would make them significant countries in their own right. Henan Province, for example, is home to just under 100 million people, which is more than any nation in Europe (not including Russia), and approximately five times as large as the population of Australia.

About ten years ago we started to collect information on how many Christians live in each part of China. The information was meticulously gathered from published sources and from our own contacts within the house church networks, and from many missionaries. This has been no small undertaking as China's 31 provinces are broken down into prefectures, which are subsequently divided into a total of 2,370 counties and cities.

Knowing how many Christians live in different parts of China is important for our work at Asia Harvest, as it helps us pinpoint where we should send more

Bibles to equip believers, and focuses projects like the Asian Workers' fund by showing us which parts of the country need the Gospel more than others.

As you read through this newsletter, most of the provinces of China may be completely unfamiliar to you, but you will immediately notice that in every part of the country the Church has grown exponentially since 1949—the year the Communists took over. Overall, our survey found that China has 24 times more Christians today than it did in 1949. Xinjiang in the northwest has 708 times more believers now than at the advent of Communism! What a marvelous testimony this is to the grace and power of God. No man-made system or government can thwart His plans for the nations of the world!

As you look over the figures of what God has done in China, we encourage you to keep a few things in mind...

- The Church in China has not grown by chance. Thousands of believers have been martyred over the past 60 years, and hundreds of thousands imprisoned and experienced deprivation because of their faith in Jesus Christ. The blood of the saints has been the seed of the Church in China.
- As you read about how revival has swept China, don't be discouraged if where you live has not experienced anything similar. Remember that just a generation ago there were very few Christians in the land. They have been catching up by the hand and mercy of God!
- Despite the spectacular growth of the Church in China, consider that today only 7.6% of people in the country are Christians. More than 92 out of every 100 people remain lost and hell-bound, perishing outside of the kingdom of God. House church leaders have told us how ashamed and burdened they feel that so many of their countrymen have yet to know Jesus as Lord. This motivates them to do whatever it takes to preach the Gospel to every ethnic group and in every city, town and village, and to do everything necessary to see Jesus Christ exalted throughout the land. It is a great blessing to be able to serve them in this mighty endeavor.

The information presented in the following pages is a basic summary of our research. On our website we provide estimates of how many Christians of different church affiliations live in each of China's 2,370 cities and counties, as well as an article explaining the methodology of how we conducted our survey. To access this information, please visit our website **www.asiaharvest.org** and then click on the button "**The Church in China**." Our statistics are constantly being updated as new information comes to light.

ANHUI PROVINCE



Population:
64.2 million

Christians in 1949: **136,000**
All Christians now: **9.1 million** (14.2%)
Growth under Communism: **67 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 304,277 Bibles to the 5.7 million house church believers in Anhui)

BEIJING MUNICIPALITY



Population:
14.7 million

Christians in 1949: **232,000**
All Christians now: **666,600** (4.5%)
Growth under Communism: **3 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 20,480 Bibles to the 413,000 house church believers in Beijing)

CHONGQING MUNICIPALITY



Population:
33.2 million

Christians in 1949: **75,000**
All Christians now: **2.6 million** (7.8%)
Growth under Communism: **34 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 82,199 Bibles to the 1.5 million house church believers in Chongqing)

FUJIAN PROVINCE



Population:
37.1 million

Christians in 1949: **194,700**
All Christians now: **5.1 million** (13.7%)
Growth under Communism: **26 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 56,597 Bibles to the 1.5 million house church believers in Fujian)

GANSU PROVINCE



Population:
27.3 million

Christians in 1949: **38,600**
All Christians now: **1.25 million** (4.6%)
Growth under Communism: **32 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 101,442 Bibles to the 750,000 house church believers in Gansu)

GUANGDONG PROVINCE



Population:
92.7 million

Christians in 1949: **180,000**
All Christians now: **4.2 million** (4.5%)
Growth under Communism: **23 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 30,611 Bibles to the 2.6 mill. house church believers in Guangdong)

GUANGXI REGION



Population:
47.7 million

Christians in 1949: **56,500**
All Christians now: **970,000** (2.0%)
Growth under Communism: **17 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 86,712 Bibles to the 590,000 house church believers in Guangxi)

GUIZHOU PROVINCE



Population:
38.3 million

Christians in 1949: **110,000**
All Christians now: **2.0 million** (5.3%)
Growth under Communism: **18 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 10,078 Bibles to the 1.1 million house church believers in Guizhou)

HAINAN ISLAND



Population:
8.2 million

Christians in 1949: **13,400**
All Christians now: **565,000** (6.9%)
Growth under Communism: **42 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 51,502 Bibles to the 450,000 house church believers in Hainan)

HEBEI PROVINCE



Population:
72.6 million

Christians in 1949: **402,500**
All Christians now: **5.6 million** (7.7%)
Growth under Communism: **14 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 54,828 Bibles to the 890,000 house church believers in Hebei)

HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE



Population:
39.1 million

Christians in 1949: **18,700**
All Christians now: **3.8 million** (9.7%)
Growth under Communism: **203 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 275,985 Bibles to the 2.6m house church believers in Heilongjiang)

HENAN PROVINCE



Population:
99.3 million

Christians in 1949: **290,000**
All Christians now: **14.6 million** (14.7%)
Growth under Communism: **50 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 223,603 Bibles to the 8.8 million house church believers in Henan)

HUBEI PROVINCE



Population:
64.7 million

Christians in 1949: **206,000**
All Christians now: **2.6 million** (4.0%)
Growth under Communism: **13 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 92,137 Bibles to the 1.6 million house church believers in Hubei)

HUNAN PROVINCE



Population:
68.8 million

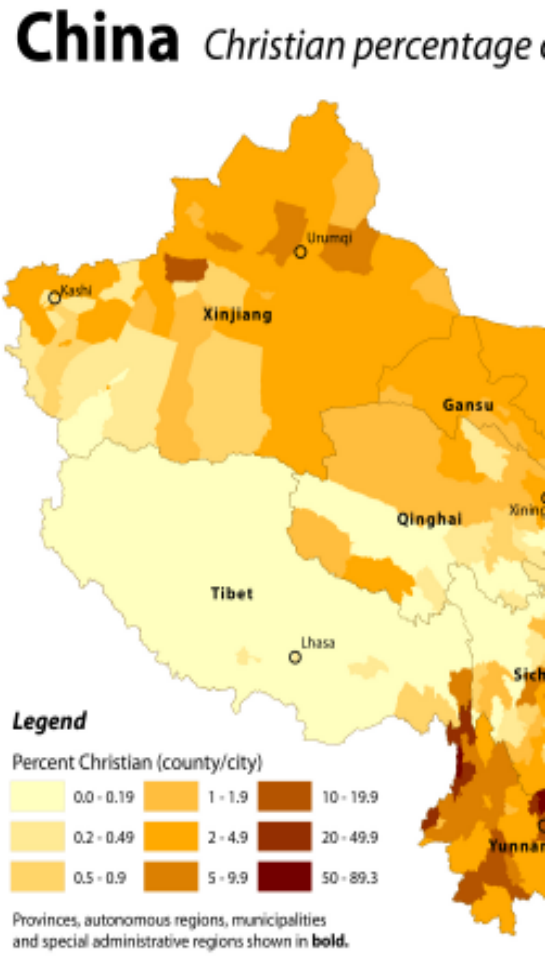
Christians in 1949: **55,000**
All Christians now: **2.3 million** (3.4%)
Growth under Communism: **42 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 12,119 Bibles to the 1.4 million house church believers in Hunan)

INNER MONGOLIA REGION



Population:
25.4 million

Christians in 1949: **180,000**
All Christians now: **2.3 million** (9.2%)
Growth under Communism: **13 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 232,363 Bibles to the 1.3 million house church believers in I.M.)



JIANGSU PROVINCE



Population:
76.4 million

Christians in 1949: **216,000**
All Christians now: **6.6 million** (8.7%)
Growth under Communism: **30 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 115,148 Bibles to the 2.6 million house church believers in Jiangsu)

JILIN PROVINCE



Population:
29.1 million

Christians in 1949: **67,000**
All Christians now: **2.1 million** (7.2%)
Growth under Communism: **31 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 150,080 Bibles to the 1.4 million house church believers in Jilin)

LIAONING PROVINCE



Population:
45.5 million

Christians in 1949: **73,600**
All Christians now: **3.2 million** (7.1%)
Growth under Communism: **43 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 110,507 Bibles to the 2 million house church believers in Liaoning)

JIANGXI PROVINCE



Population:
44.0 million

Christians in 1949: **120,000**
All Christians now: **2.3 million** (5.2%)
Growth under Communism: **19 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 47,506 Bibles to the 1.1 million house church believers in Jiangxi)

NINGXIA REGION



Population:
6.0 million

Christians in 1949: **40,000**
All Christians now: **230,000** (3.8%)
Growth under Communism: **6 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 5,393 Bibles to the 106,000 house church believers in Ningxia)

QINGHAI PROVINCE



Population: **5.2 million**

Christians in 1949: **4,500**
All Christians now: **280,000** (5.4%)
Growth under Communism: **62 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 79,625 Bibles to the 217,000 house church believers in Qinghai)

SHAANXI PROVINCE



Population: **38.5 million**

Christians in 1949: **133,200**
All Christians now: **3.4 million** (8.8%)
Growth under Communism: **26 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 92,318 Bibles to the 1.7 million house church believers in Shaanxi)

SHANDONG PROVINCE



Population: **97.9 million**

Christians in 1949: **414,000**
All Christians now: **5.0 million** (5.2%)
Growth under Communism: **12 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 200,018 Bibles to the 2.7 mil. house church believers in Shandong)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY



Population: **17.9 million**

Christians in 1949: **207,000**
All Christians now: **2.0 million** (11.2%)
Growth under Communism: **10 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 35,099 Bibles to the 910,000 house church believers in Shanghai)

SHANXI PROVINCE



Population: **35.3 million**

Christians in 1949: **185,000**
All Christians now: **2.9 million** (8.2%)
Growth under Communism: **16 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 141,336 Bibles to the 1.6 million house church believers in Shanxi)

SICHUAN PROVINCE



Population: **89.6 million**

Christians in 1949: **160,000**
All Christians now: **2.8 million** (3.1%)
Growth under Communism: **18 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 91,997 Bibles to the 1.1 million house church believers in Sichuan)

TIANJIN MUNICIPALITY



Population: **10.7 million**

Christians in 1949: **57,000**
All Christians now: **397,000** (3.7%)
Growth under Communism: **7 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 0 Bibles to the 86,000 house church believers in Tianjin)

TIBET (XIZANG) REGION



Population: **2.8 million**

Christians in 1949: **3,000**
All Christians now: **9,000** (0.3%)
Growth under Communism: **3 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 0 Bibles to the 1,200 house church believers in Tibet)

XINJIANG REGION



Population: **20.1 million**

Christians in 1949: **1,200**
All Christians now: **850,000** (4.2%)
Growth under Communism: **708 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 94,455 Bibles to the 680,000 house church believers in Xinjiang)

YUNNAN PROVINCE



Population: **46.1 million**

Christians in 1949: **149,000**
All Christians now: **3.3 million** (7.2%)
Growth under Communism: **22 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 28,871 Bibles to the 1.5 million house church believers in Yunnan)

ZHEJIANG PROVINCE



Population: **49.5 million**

Christians in 1949: **320,000**
All Christians now: **9.1 million** (18.5%)
Growth under Communism: **28 times**
(Asia Harvest has provided 265,993 Bibles to the 4.1 mill. house church believers in Zhejiang)

ALL OF CHINA SUMMARY

Population: **1,355,800,000**
Christians in 1949: **4,338,900**
All Christians now (7.6%): **103,470,000**
Growth under Communism: **24 times**

Asia Harvest has provided **3,093,276 Bibles** to the **53,139,000** house church believers in China.

Estimated number of Christians in China without a Bible: **34 million**.

Estimated new Christians in China: 9.1 million each year (25,000 per day)

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 3,093,276 Bibles printed and delivered.

We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term goal to porvide 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 believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival in China. **Each full Bible costs just $1.80 to print and deliver.**

Update: House church contacts in China have recently conducted a thorough survey which found 34 million Christians throughout the country currently need a Bible.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 467 Asian evangelists working among 108 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.



The **Asian Workers Fund** assists church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry 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 pastors should be supported by the flocks they shepherd. Please pray about whether you or your church could help support these dedicated workers, at **$25 per month** each. A prayer card is sent to all regular donors.

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 175,692 Bibles Printed in 31 languages

The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam are home to 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. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities. We are also providing God's Word to tribes in Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, and other Southeast and South Asian nations as the need arises. **Each Bible costs $2.70 to print and deliver.**

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

Because of your partnership we are supporting 677 living martyrs.



"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)

The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists 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 regular supporter of this project.

PROJECT SMILE



Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 8,470 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 received of **$60** helps a child have a better life. A laminated prayer card of a child helped through Project Smile is sent to all donors.

ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND



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

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided relief assistance to the victims of natural disasters such as the earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the Tsunami, and a host of other disasters in India, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. 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 thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.



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