

Asia Harvest

2001

NEWSLETTERS

(Combined)

Asia Harvest

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



Box 17 - Chang Klan P.O. - Chiang Mai 50101 - THAILAND
Tel: (66-53) 801-487 Fax: (66-53) 800-665
Email: amo@xc.org Web: www.antioch.com.sg/mission/asianmo

April 2001 - Newsletter #61



China's Neglected Minorities

From the Front Lines

with Paul and Joy

In the last issue of our newsletter we introduced you to our new name, Asia Harvest. This issue we introduce you to our new style of newsletter.

We believe a large part of our ministry is to profile and present unreached people groups to Christians around the world. Thanks to the Lord, we have seen and heard of thousands of Christians praying for these needy groups, and efforts have been made by many ministries to take the Gospel to those who have never heard it before. Often we handed to our printer excellent and visually powerful color pictures of minority people, only to be disappointed when the completed newsletter came back in black and white, losing the impact it had in color.

A few months ago we asked our printer, just out of curiosity, how much more it would cost if our newsletter was all in full color. We were shocked to find the differences were minimal! In fact, it costs just a few cents more to print in color than in black and white! For this reason we plan to produce our newsletters in color. Hopefully the visual difference will help generate even more prayer and interest in the unreached peoples of Asia! Please look through the pictures in this issue and see the difference color makes.

Also, you may notice our newsletters are now longer than before. We have found that even though we have increased the number of pages by 33%, that by reducing the weight of the paper we use and by continuing to send them sealed and folded over rather than in an envelope, our newsletter still falls within the minimum postage rate—exactly the same as before.

We don't want to look like a flash ministry that has nothing better to do than write glossy publications. In fact, we have been so busy in the ministry that we have not had time to write a newsletter for almost six months! We want to be fully accountable to use God's finances in the most frugal way possible, so that more can be used where it is needed—winning souls among the unreached peoples of Asia. But we also desire to present Asia's lost in such a way that encourages more people to pray for them and be involved with the advance of the Gospel among them. Please let us know your comments and suggestions.

This issue we focus on China's unreached people groups, and introduce to you our new book, *Operation China*. China has always been the main focus of our attention, and the salvation of her peoples the main passion of our hearts.

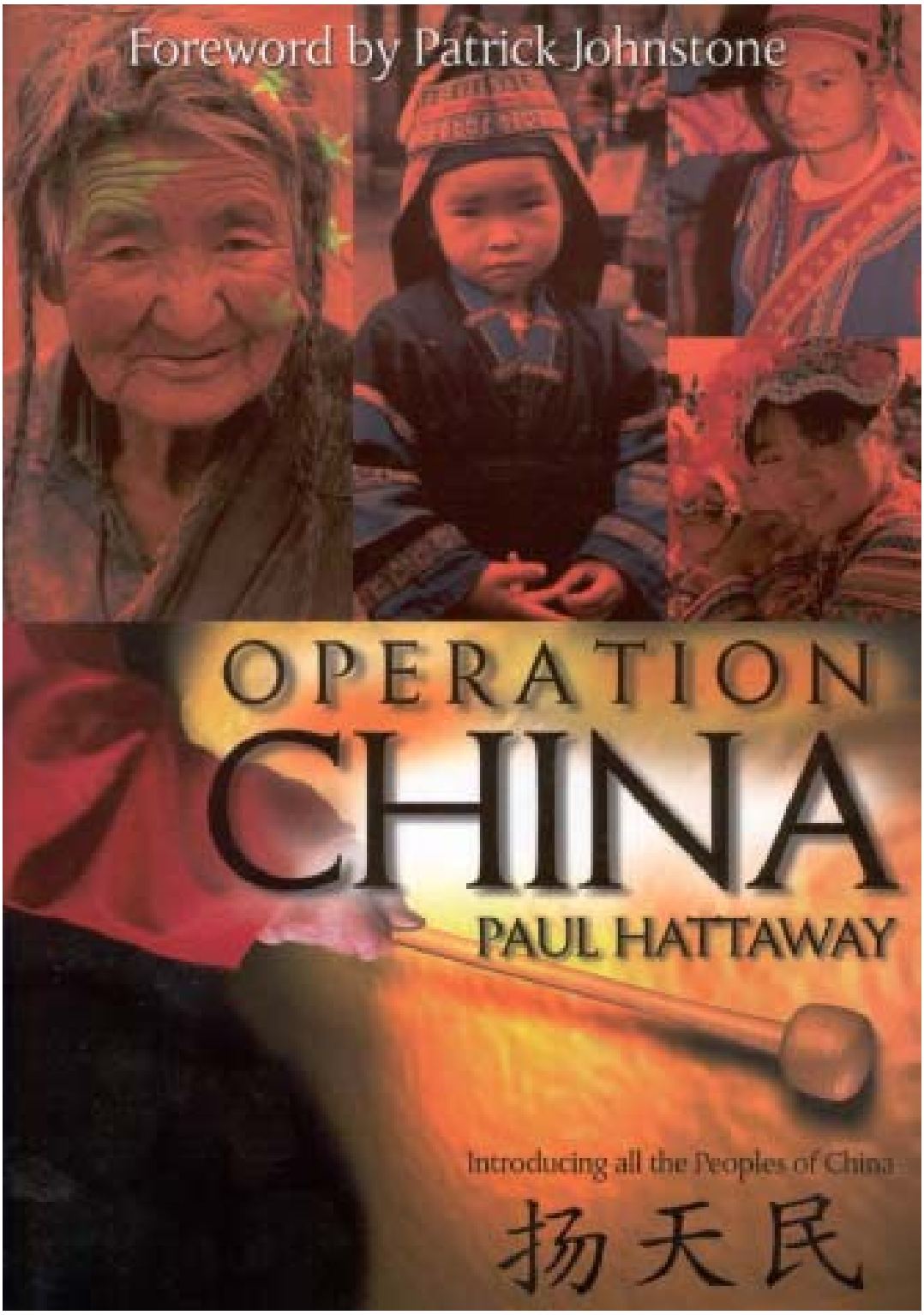
Writing *Operation China* was an amazing experience for me, because more than almost anything else I have ever done, I had an overwhelming feeling that God was behind the whole process. At just the right time He would send a person, a book, or a scrap of vital information that allowed us to piece together God's heart for all the peoples of China. Like a giant jigsaw puzzle it came together, thousands of pieces seemingly unrelated, until it started to form into a beautiful picture. I guess what I am trying to say is that the book was written with an acute awareness of God's involvement. Why? Perhaps because these are the tribes and people groups that He has created and loves. Can you imagine how it grieves the heart of God that almost 90% of China's minority groups have no understanding of the Gospel, this 2,000 years after His Only Begotten Son spilled His Blood and gave His Life that we could all come to the Father through Him?

If you do order a copy of *Operation China,* we are sure you will not be disappointed. On page 4 of this newsletter is a picture of the cover of the book, while on page 5 is a sample profile. The one we have chosen on page 5 is of the Laluo tribe of Southwest China - more than half-a-million precious souls who are without a Gospel witness. Please pray for the Laluo people when you reach page 5. Pray for some friends of ours who are soon going among this group to take the Gospel to them.

We introduce a new project to you in this issue - a project to put 200,000 Chinese-language version of *Operation China* into the hands of Chinese house church believers. We invite you to pray for this and also to consider possible involvement, as the Lord leads you.

We know that these endeavors will be in vain if we do not have people upholding the efforts in prayer. To do anything without God's blessing is a waste of time; to do even a small thing with the touch of the Lord on it will reap eternal fruit for His kingdom. We hope when you receive our newsletters that you don't just view it as information, but that you might be actively involved with seeing God's kingdom expand in Asia through your prayers and practical participation as the Lord leads.

Thank you so much for your precious time, your prayers, encouragement and support! If you get a chance to write and let us know how you are, we would love to hear from you. We appreciate you!


Foreword by Patrick Johnstone
OPERATION
CHINA
PAUL HATTAWAY
Introducing all the Peoples of China
扬天民

Laluo, Mishaba 腊罗，迷撒拔

June 16

Location: More than 575,000 Mishaba Laluo people are distributed throughout 16 counties of north central Yunnan Province. They are concentrated in the counties of southern Dali Prefecture, northern Lincang Prefecture, and eastern Baoshan Prefecture. Jingdong County in northern Simao Prefecture is also represented by a large number of Mishaba Laluo.[1]

Identity: The Mishaba Laluo are the largest Western Yi group in China. Until the 1950s, present-day Weishan and Nanjian counties were one administrative unit called Menghua. Since the beginning of the Tang Dynasty (AD 618) Menghua had been inhabited almost exclusively by the Laluo. As a result, the Mishaba Laluo are often called Menghuaor Menghuazu by their neighbors. This group could be said to have two self-names in their language: *Laluo* and *Mishaba*. Laluo denotes their ethnic identity while Mishaba denotes their regional identity. "This people has, since ancient times, been 'the Laluo from the land of Misha', and, in their hearts, consider themselves as nothing else — certainly not 'Yi'."[2]

Language: Mishaba is a Western Yi language, although many have already lost the use of their mother tongue and have assimilated to Han culture and language. An estimated 400,000 Laluo (about 70%) still speak their language.[3]

History: Although they had exclusively inhabited the Menghua region since the eighth century, by the start of the Qing Dynasty (1644) the Laluo made up just 70% of the population. Large-scale Han migrations to the area during the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries made the Laluo a minority in their homeland and forced many to seek refuge in the mountains for the first time, in order to retain their culture and identity.



James Pelley

Customs: In Weishan County, the Laluo celebrate the Festival of the Tree King on the eighth day of the second lunar month. The entire community gathers around a large tree that stands outside the village. A black piglet is sacrificed and the pig's front teeth are offered to the spirit of the tree. The rest of the pig is cooked and eaten by the people, who sing a song in praise of the power of the Tree god.

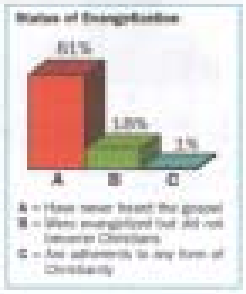
Religion: Most of the Mishaba Laluo are animists. On the fifth day of the second lunar month they hold a ceremony called Calling Back the Spirit of the Rice. A young man dressed in a goatskin is responsible for making contact with the spirit. He cracks a whip and shouts toward the hills. If an echo is heard, the spirit is believed to have entered their presence. In one region around Weibao in Weishan County the Mishaba Laluo engage in Daoism, which they inherited from the Chinese centuries ago. Some Laluo have even become Daoist priests.

Christianity: The extent of Christianity among the Mishaba Laluo is uncertain, but there are believed to be a small number of Christians, mostly among assimilated Laluo. The majority of this people group, however, have no knowledge of the gospel and no contact with any Christian communities.



Overview of the Mishaba Laluo

Countries: China
Pronunciation:
Other Names:
Population Source:
Location:
Status:
Language:
Dialects (3+):
Religion:
Christians:
Scripture: None
Jesus film: None
Gospel Recordings: None
Christian Broadcasting: None
JESUS film: None



SAMPLE PAGE FROM *OPERATION CHINA*

Introducing *Operation China*

Many of you who personally know us are aware that for four years Paul has been busy writing a large book on China's people groups. Finally it is done! *Operation China* profiles almost 500 different tribes and ethnic groups of China. This number is almost 300 more than the Christian world has known about before!



For centuries the outside world has yearned to understand the mysterious land of China. Since the 1970s - when China again opened her doors to foreign trade and tourism - millions of visitors have flocked into the Middle Kingdom, sampling her sumptuous food, photographing her scenic beauty, and experiencing her bustling marketplaces.

People around the world conjure up several key images when they think of China - the Great Wall, the Forbidden City of Beijing, the canals of Suzhou, or the spectacular karst peaks of Guilin.

Few, however, have been fortunate enough to experience the 'hidden' China which offers a side so dramatically colorful and enticing, that many are surprised to find it even exists. Woven into the fabric of the largest population on earth is the rich thread of China's ethnic minorities - numbering more than 100 million people - lost, largely, amid the vast population of 1.2 billion Han Chinese.

Operation China introduces the reader to these hidden minority groups, to peoples and cultures as diverse as the pale, blue-eyed Muslims of Xinjiang and the tribal people of the jungles of Yunnan with their intricately-embroidered costumes; the Tibetans in the west, proud of their fascinating heritage, and the nomadic hunter tribes, related to the Eskimos, in the extreme north-east of this vast country.

Because information in China is controlled by the government, who officially recognize just 55 'minority groups' in their country, hundreds of distinct tribes and language groups have been hidden away from the public eye, and from the attention of the Body of Christ. It has been a miracle to find and document each group in China! *Operation China* was written with an acute awareness that God was guiding every step, because of His great

love for the unreached and His desire that they would all know and worship His Son.

It is our hope that readers will gain a burden for the condition of China's unreached peoples, and through *Operation China* will gain a searing realization that they are truly precious in God's sight. We hope that many Christians may be spurred on to pray for and give their time, talents, energy, resources and lives to whatever is necessary for all China's peoples to have access to the indwelling life of Jesus Christ.

Operation China is a large book, about 750 pages long, and all in color! There are more than 700 attractive color pictures of China's peoples inside. Each page has a date at the top. This way, a person can pray or read through the book one or two groups per day throughout the course of a year.

Here is what some missionary leaders have said about *Operation China*:

"The most significant new contribution to missions research in twenty years." - Dr.David Barrett, President, Global Evangelization Movement

"A remarkable, graphic visualization of the urgent reality of the unreached peoples." - Dr. Ralph Winter, Founder, U.S. Center for World Mission

"The massive revival among the Han Chinese in recent decades may have led to a neglect of many other large groups in China which are still totally unreached by the Gospel. Operation China is an essential tool for prayer, strategy and action." - Tony Lambert, Director, OMF International

"A helpful resource as we mobilize people to pray for China and reach these groups. The color photos help to give a greater vision and appreciation for the unreached peoples." - Paul Eshleman, President, The *Jesus* Film Project

"Carefully researched and brilliantly presented, this book will wake up those who think the Great Commission is virtually completed and bless those who want to see it completed. This book is a spiritual pacemaker, getting our hearts to beat in time with God's." - Michael O'Rear, President, Global Mapping International





How to Order

Unlike our other books, *Operation China* is **NOT** available from us (unless you live in Thailand). The book is so large and heavy that it is not practical for us to send it to people around the world. The cost of postage would be more than the cost of the book! *Operation China* is being distributed by different organizations is different places around the world. Please see below for your country, or the country nearest to you:

U.S.A. and CANADA
North Americans can order from William Carey Library in California. If you have a credit card, you can order by calling their toll free number: 1-800-MISSION (1-800-6477-466). If you do not want to pay by credit card, you can send a check to them, but please call first for prices and address.
Cost: US$ 23.50 each; or $ 19.77 each for three or more copies.

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IVP, Norton Street, Nottingham,
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Tel: (44-115) 978-1054; Fax (44-115) 942-2694; Email: ivp@ivpbooks.com
or Piquant Publishing: info@piquant.net
Cost: £ 20 for one; second copy half-price

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Contact Word Australia for details:
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norm@word.com.au
Cost: AUD$ 44.50 each;
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Australians could also try contacting Koorong bookstores.

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Pustaka SUFES, 386 Jalan 5/59,
Petaling Garden, Petaling Jaya, Selangor
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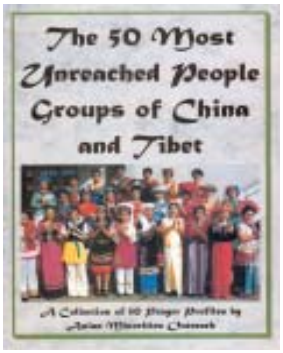
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Tel & Fax: (021) 685-3663;
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SKS Book Warehouse,
315 Outram Road,
#10-05 Tan Boon Liat Building or
Campus Crusade for Christ, 315 Outram Road, #06-08 Tan Boon Liat Building; or
Bethesda Book Centre, Blk.126,
No.551, Lorong 1, Toa Payoh

HONG KONG
Contact Cross Publishing for details

All Other Countries and Enquires
Contact the Publisher,
Piquant
P.O.Box 83
Carlisle
England CA3 9GR
Email: info@piquant.net

Other Books by Asia Harvest

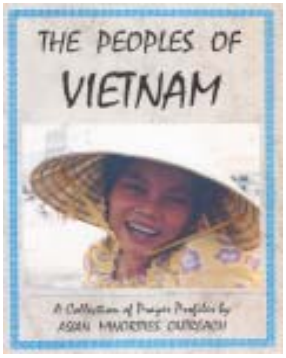


The 50 Most Unreached People Groups of China and Tibet

Thousands of people around the world have used this book to pray and intercede for the needy peoples of China and Tibet, and new workers have been mobilized for this harvest field.

110 pages. ISBN 974-85307-0-1

COST: $ 10 including postage

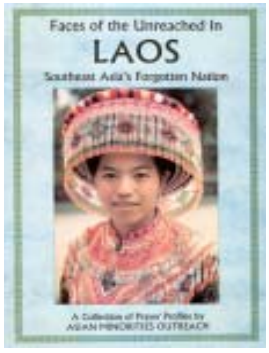


The Peoples of Vietnam

The Peoples of Vietnam examines the unique and varied cultures of Vietnam. It encourages caring Christians around the world to pray in an informed way for salvation of all the peoples of Vietnam.

114 pages. ISBN 974-85301-6-7

COST: $ 12 including postage

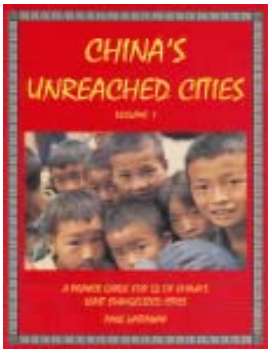


Faces of the Unreached in Laos: Southeast Asia's Forgotten Nation

For centuries landlocked Laos has been forgotten by politicians, explorers and missionaries alike. This is the first known book to attempt to profile all 138 people groups of this fascinating, needy country.

158 pages. ISBN 974-85302-7-2

COST: $ 15 including postage



China's Unreached Cities, Vol.1

By the year 2010 it is estimated half of China's population will live in urban areas - up from 28% in 1994. The cities of China are largely unevangelized. Reaching them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a daunting task, but it must be done.

124 pages. ISBN 974-85302-8-8

COST: $ 13 including postage

A set of all four of the above books can be ordered for $39, including postage. To order, please send a check to Asia Harvest.

OPERATION CHINA

Help Needed for Chinese Version

The main purpose for writing Operation China was so that each of China's unreached people groups would know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. At the moment, of the 490 groups profiled in the book, just 52 could be considered "reached" by the Gospel (more than 5% Christian). That means that almost 90% of the tribes and peoples in China have yet to receive the Gospel.

Most Christians know that a great revival has been occurring in China for the past 20-30 years, but few realize that the revival has largely been confined to the majority Han Chinese people, and has not yet had much impact among the various tribes and minority groups, who are separated by culture, language and geographical barriers.



In recent years God has given a burden to China's house churches (who may now number as many as 80-100 million believers) for the salvation of China's minority groups.

Recently we met with leaders from six of the house church networks. They expressed a desire for us to immediately get Operation China translated into Chinese, so that they can use the information to take the Gospel to each group.

Just one of the house church networks has committed to send church planting teams to live among every single group profiled in our book! A few weeks ago we had the privilege to go into China and help train more than 60 of these Chinese missionaries as they go to various minority groups.

These evangelists have already suffered much for the Gospel, and they are willing to do whatever it takes to see the Gospel established among all of China's peoples. Their ministries are often marked with signs, wonders and miracles.

We have just one problem we would like you to pray with us about: The house church leaders have requested a total of 200,000 books in Chinese! They believe it will help give a deep vision to the Chinese church, and will mobilize prayer and effort to reach all peoples.

The translation of the Chinese version of Operation China will be completed in a few weeks. It will then be printed inside China and distributed among the various house church networks. It will be a cheaper version than the English one, with no color pictures, but it will still be more than 500 pages in length.

Each Chinese book will cost just $ 1.20 to print and distribute. Would you, your Bible study group, or church consider involvement in this strategic project? We covet your prayers for this project. Every gift, small or large, will place this information in the hands of a house church pastor or evangelist.

A gift of $ 36 will allow us to print 30 books for the Chinese church. $ 180 will enable us to print 150 books.

If you would like to help with this project, please include a note "Operation China fund" along with your gift.

Thank you!

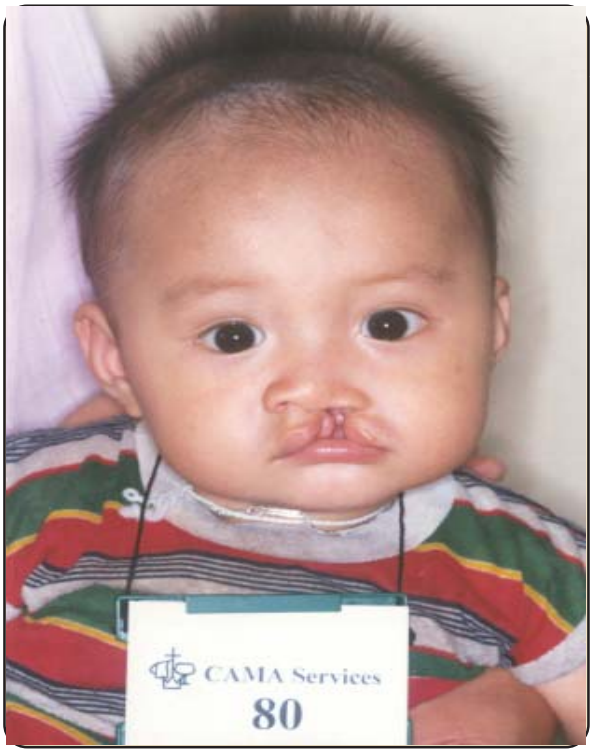


2000 Financial Statement

We believe it is imperative that all Christian ministries be accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for the year 2000 is now available upon request to all of our supporters and prayer partners. Please write and request a copy if you are interested.

PROJECT SMILE
Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 393 children in Vietnam.



Thank you for your generous support to help children from poor families in northern Vietnam who were born with cleft pallets or hair-lip disabilities.

At the time of this newsletter going to print, we thank you that we have received enough finances to provide operations for **393** children. In recent months our coworkers in Vietnam have focused on helping children from minority hilltribes in the mountains in the northern part of the country.

Please pray the operations would go smoothly and the Holy Spirit would open the door to the hearts of many people to hear and accept the Gospel.

The average cost to help a child is just $ 50.

This pays for the cost of the operation, the travel expenses for the child and his/her parents to come to the city where the operation takes place, and the cost of an overnight stay in the hospital.

A gift of $ 50 will enable one child to have a better life, and an opportunity for his or her family to hear about Jesus Christ for the first time.

A gift of $ 250 will bless 5 children.

If you would like to assist with this on-going need, please send a note,

"Project Smile" along with your financial gift. All U.S. contributions are tax-deductible.

Each gift of $ 50 or more will receive a picture of the child that was helped, showing the child before and after their life-changing operation. We will also provide the child's name and home village, so you can continue to pray for them.



Recently we received the following letter from one Bible study group in Indiana, USA, who have supported several operations:

Dear Asia Harvest,

"Our Bible study group again delights in helping you with Project Smile. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to serve our gracious Lord Jesus!!

The pictures we received of the children we supported includes a girl. Our hearts rejoiced and broke at the same time for this precious child. We pray for her and her family to come and know Christ as Savior and Lord, as we do for all the pictures you send."

Stan & Jeri H., Indiana, U.S.A.

From our Mailbox

We are so encouraged by your newsletters. A couple of times we have asked our friends over for tea to pray for the different people groups from your books. Such an awesome prayer tool! May God continue to bless you and bless others through the work that you do. Our God is surely on the move!

Jason and Paula, Australia

Greetings! About five months ago we began a missions-based Bible study for the 5th Grade Sunday School department here at First Baptist Church. As leader of our study group I am constantly looking for ways to involve the children in a meaningful way. Your publications have greatly increased their understanding of the peoples of Asia, and the efforts of believers to reach them. The money enclosed for the Yi tape project was raised by the children from allowances and by doing odd jobs. You are constantly in our prayers.

First Baptist Church, Oregon, USA

I was involved in Buddhism and chanted and meditated frequently. I was touched by God, Jesus Christ, when I finished praying the Sinner's prayer. I have found there is a great difference between God and the world. There is much for me to share with you. Recently my wife also accepted the Lord! Now all I am concerned about is whether or not a person is a Born-Again Christian. I want to encourage you to continue your mission. We do not have much time as the day of the rapture draws closer. **Timothy, Singapore**

I'd like to start off with how much I am moved by your ministry in Asia and the reports of all these people who have never heard of Christ. It is extremely sobering and a shame to us Christians who thrive in our freedom and don't do anything to share it with others. God bless you all!

Alexandria, Virginia, USA

Last year I wrote to you and informed you of a prayer group we have here in Barbados focusing on Asia. Since then, we have faithfully received your newsletters and we've been soooooooo blessed by them. The group here meets once a month. We continue to lift up each prayer need you specify in your newsletters and plan on continuing to do so until there are no more unreached groups left!

Andrew, Barbados

Asia Harvest



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

Box 17 - Chang Klan P.O. - Chiang Mai 50101 - THAILAND
Tel: (66-53) 801-487 Fax: (66-53) 800-665
Email: amo@xc.org Web: www.antioch.com.sg/mission/asianmo

July 2001 - Newsletter #62



The Naga People (Part One) & The Asian Workers Fund

From the Front Lines

with Paul and Joy

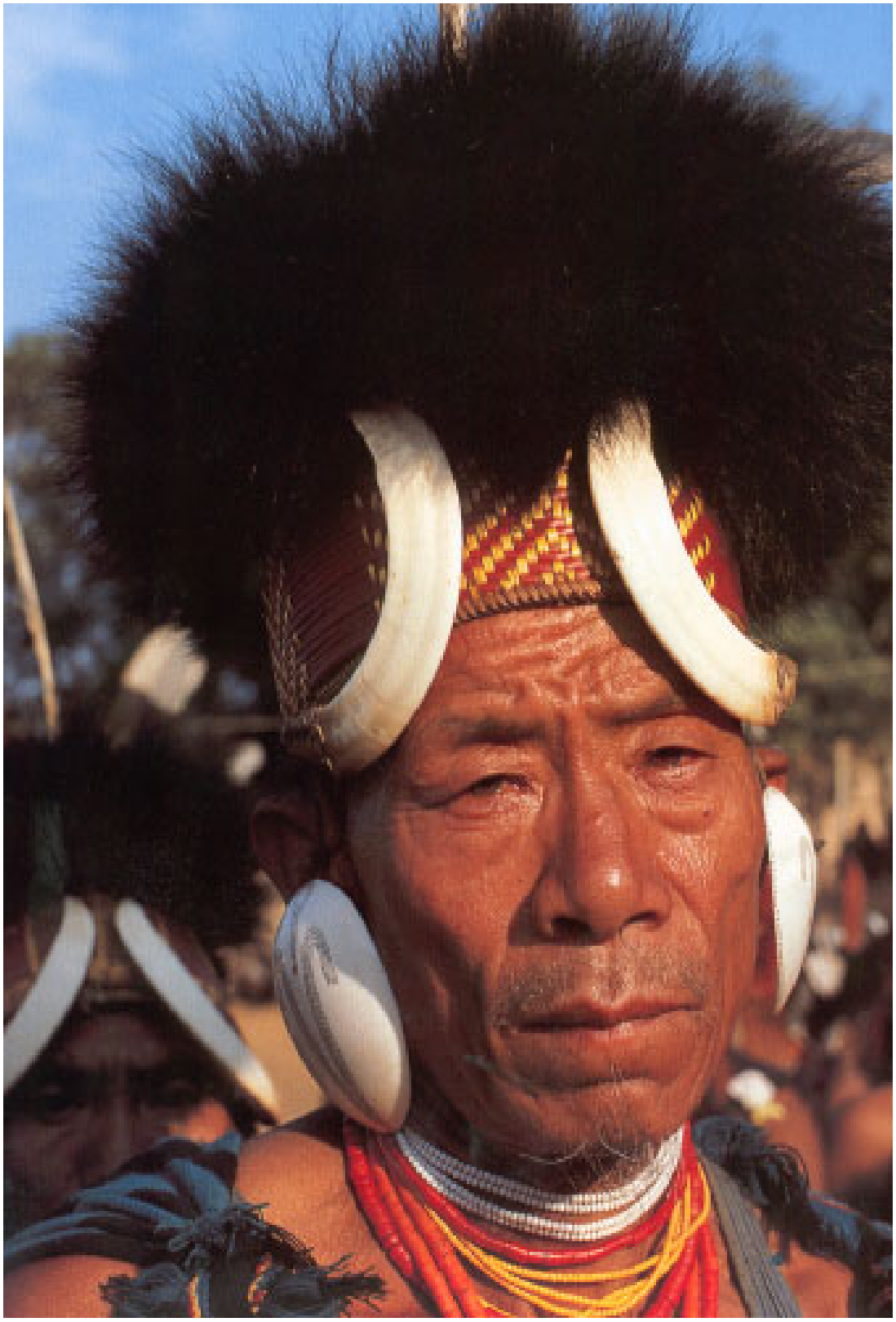
Over the years we have been told many firsthand testimonies of how God is working in Asia. We want to use this column from time to time to recount some of these remarkable stories of God's grace and power.

In 1993 Philip, a house church leader in China, was thrown in prison after he and a number of believers were arrested. His 'welcome' to prison was a savage beating from the guards. They kicked him viciously with their steel-capped boots, beat him with batons, and tortured him with electric cattle-prods, designed to shock his body with high voltage. Philip was left unconscious with a broken collarbone, arm, and ribs. The prison authorities then threw his bloody and bruised body into a small cell that already contained 28 prisoners. The cell had just one bed and a bucket, used by all the prisoners as a toilet. The cell leader was a rough man who had already formed a gang inside the prison. No one was allowed to sit on or touch his bed. When Brother Philip's lifeless body was thrown inside the cell, however, even this hardened criminal had compassion on Philip and lay him down on his bed.

At around 2 a.m., according to the testimony of the other prisoners, a supernatural light or glow appeared over Philip's body. It shone on him for several hours. The other prisoners were absolutely terrified and backed up against the corner of the cell. They cried for the guards to come and let them out. The guards also saw the supernatural light and were terrified, but they refused to let the prisoners out.

By sunrise, Brother Philip was much better and had regained consciousness. At no time did he actually see the light, but all the other prisoners did. Surprisingly for the serious injuries he had received the previous night, he was feeling much better and his broken collarbone and ribs seemed to be healed. Not surprisingly, the first question the prisoners asked him was "Who are you?" He replied, "It doesn't matter who I am, but let me tell you about Jesus Christ." He led all 28 of the prisoners to faith in Christ!

Today Brother Philip continues his ministry and is responsible for hundreds of house churches across China. He is a godly, humble and committed Christian who is willing to die for the Gospel. He receives no income and often goes hungry. Believers sometimes give him love gifts, but most rural Christians in China are so poor that their sacrificial gifts are barely enough for Philip to buy a train or bus ticket to the next town. There are thousands of Gospel-warriors like Philip in China and in the surrounding nations of Asia. In this issue of our newsletter we launch a new project, called the "Asian Workers Fund," in which we invite you to consider partnering in prayer and finances with workers like Brother Philip who are being used by God to do mighty works in different locations around Asia.



The Nagas

Population: 1,655,000
Location: northeast India, 100,000 in Myanmar (Burma)
Christians: 95% to 99%

The NAGA TRIBES AND LANGUAGES IN INDIA

1.	Angami	118,000
2.	Ao	152,800
3.	Chang	33,500
4.	Chakhru	24,000
5.	Chothe	3,600
6.	Kabui	55,000
7.	Khezha	24,800
8.	Khiamngan	26,700
9.	Khoibu Maring	25,600
10.	Khoirao	23,600
11.	Konyak	113,600
12.	Liangmai	22,800
13.	Lotha	86,800
14.	Mao	87,800
15.	Maram	17,400
16.	Maring	17,500
17.	Meluri	?
18.	Monsang	3,200
19.	Moyon	3,700
20.	Mzieme	31,400
21.	Nocte	35,500
22.	Ntenyi	9,300
23.	Phom	36,600
24.	Pochuri	10,100
25.	Poumei	55,700
26.	Puimei	3,000
27.	Rengma	37,000
28.	Rongmei	64,000
29.	Sangtam	31,000
30.	Sema	142,800
31.	Tangkhul	119,300
32.	Tarao	720
33.	Tangsa	18,200
34.	Wancho	48,500
35.	Yimchunger	39,800
36.	Zeme	30,800

The Naga People -

From Head-Hunters to Soul-Winners

(PART ONE)

For years we have profiled groups which are completely unreached by the Gospel, and asked you to pray for their salvation (the 'Harvest Field'). In this issue we have changed our approach to inform you about one of the groups in Asia that God has already done a mighty work among (these believers represent the 'Harvest Force').

It is groups like the Naga Christians that we believe God wants to use to reach their Asian neighbors who have yet to be impacted by the Gospel.

So how did this tribal group, living in the middle of some of the most unevangelized areas in the world, become almost completely Christian today?

Late last year we traveled to Nagaland in northeast India and were told many stories by church leaders about how revival came to their midst. We would like to reprint some of it in this newsletter (Part One), and will complete our look at the Naga People in our next issue (Part Two).

Most of our years in Christian ministry have been spent in places where the light of the Gospel has yet to make any visible impact on society, where the Name of Jesus Christ is unknown. Often our work has been among tiny groups of Christians who are surrounded by countless millions of Buddhists, Muslims and Hindus.



I knew before I ever set foot in Nagaland that the majority of Nagas were professing Christians, but I knew little about how their conversion had come about or how their faith had fared after so long in isolation. For the past 50 years all but a handful of foreigners have been banned from entering the remote Naga Mountains. Little news ever makes its way to the rest of the world.

After spending time with many Naga Christians, sharing in their churches and eating with them in their homes, I realized I was among a part of the Body of Christ that reflects His beauty, humility, gentleness and faithfulness. What kind of things could have happened here among these people, a rare light in the midst of overwhelming darkness in Asia? It is said that during the Naga Christian revival, a person could accidentally drop a bundle of cash on the street, and find it untouched the next day. The Nagas would never consider taking the money, as their lives were ruled by extreme reverence and fear of the holy God.

As I came to learn, the fruit of the Spirit that God has produced in the lives of more than 1.5 million Naga Christians has come at great cost, through many severe trials and testings.

Who Are the Nagas?

Some Naga tribes retain oral stories, songs and poems recounting how their ancestors originated in or near what today would be Mongolia. Wherever the first Nagas came from, there is no doubt they have been living almost exclusively in their present location for many centuries. Naga oral traditions trace at least 52 generations of Nagas.

The fact that most Nagas now find themselves living within the borders of India certainly does not mean they are associated historically, culturally, linguistically or ethnically with other Indian races. In fact, their language is part of the Tibeto-Burman family, related to more than 1,000 distinct tribes and people groups in China, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal. The eight million Yi people of China, for example, are linguistically and culturally related to the Nagas. They also look similar in appearance. These are all encouraging signs when we think about Naga Christians going to take the Gospel to the hundreds of related tribes in Asia who have yet to hear the Name of Jesus.

Head Hunting

The Nagas are actually a collection of 36 different tribes, each speaking its own language, inhabiting its own area and observing unique customs and habits. Each Naga tribe also has

its own name. Despite the differences between the tribes, there are also similarities that bind the Nagas together and give them a common identity. One of the main things that historically differentiated the Naga from the non-Naga was headhunting. Until just several decades ago, Naga men frequently cut off the heads of other humans, using a sharp machete-like tool called a *dao*. This was done as a mark of manhood. The young man with the most human skulls won the respect of all people.

The Nagas believed that the spirit of a person was released through the head, so in a bizarre way, when they cut off a head they thought they were liberating the soul of the person and setting their spirit free.

Since their conversion to Christ, the Nagas have forsaken this practice, although it is still rumored to be active in remote villages among the non-Christian Konyak Nagas in Myanmar today. Today most Nagas use *daos* not for cutting off heads, but for working in the fields and for clearing land.

When I was in Nagaland I was given a *dao*. If you ever visit our office in Thailand you can see it hanging on our office wall, as a symbol of God's grace for a whole people group. Long ago God announced that the power of the Gospel would make people lay down the weapons they used for violence and use them for farm work.... ***"He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.... They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." (Micah 4:2-3)***

The Light Slowly Dawns

Although the first Naga Christian (a man named Hube from the Konyak tribe) was baptized in 1847, American Baptist missionaries didn't permanently move into the Naga Hills until 1872. In the beginning just a few Nagas believed, but it soon became a steady trickle. By 1911, after almost 40 years of work, there were only 1,128 Naga Christians, but the Gospel was slowly beginning to take hold.

It is fair to say that these godly missionaries, who worked on despite many threats from the Nagas to cut off their heads, sowed the seed of God's Word for what was to follow, but it wasn't until after the foreign missionaries were expelled from the area in 1955 that revival from God came down. As with every true revival from God, the Nagaland revival was marked with deep repentance of sin and changed lives from the inside out.

Before the light of dawn arose over the Naga Hills, however, a time of terrible darkness came.

When Hell Came to Nagaland

Nagaland had never been a part of India but after India's independence in 1947 there were many simmering tensions. The Nagas wanted to rule their own country while India wanted to integrate the mountainous region into the new India. These tensions led to a full-scale war in 1956, which continues to this day, although a cease-fire has been in force for the past few years. For more than 40 years the fighting between the stubborn Nagas and the Indian military has been brutal, yet it has been a war that few people in the Western world have heard about or cared to know about. More than 200,000 Nagas are estimated to have been killed in the battles; and countless more maimed. Thousands of Christian women and girls have been gang-raped, some younger than ten years of age – such as the mass rape of the women of the Yankeli Baptist Church, or the 24 female victims of Cheswezouma village.

The list goes on and on....

It is easy to forget, when talking of hundreds of thousands of people killed and hundreds of villages burned to the ground, that these horrible statistics are made up of real human beings like you and me.



Thousands of Naga Christians who suffered unmentionable abuses are now in heaven, where they do not bear the physical and emotional scars of their torment any longer – they are whole, full of joy and safe in the arms of their loving Savior. ***"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."***
(Revelation 21:4)

For the Naga people, starvation became a real threat as the war raged on. The Indian army customarily burned and destroyed fields, livestock and granaries as they pillaged their way across Nagaland. For two years no crops were planted as the people hid in the hills, surviving on roots, bark from trees, and the occasional small animal or bird they managed to catch. The weaker segments of society – the elderly and the small children – fared the worst. Countless thousands perished. It was in this context of extreme pain and struggle that God came with mighty revival fire.

When I first traveled to Nagaland I asked one pastor what the most difficult thing has been to face the Naga church over the years. It should not be a surprise when he replied, "The most difficult thing we have had to do is to forgive."

Does Anyone Care for the Nagas?

The years of death and destruction among the Nagas left them disillusioned, downtrodden, and oppressed. It seemed like the world had forsaken them, left them alone to suffer and die in isolation. It was at the lowest point of their despair that revival broke forth among the Nagas – surely one of the most powerful and far-reaching revivals ever to have impacted a nation at any time in history. Indeed there had been One who cared for the Nagas and longed to show His love and compassion to them – the Lord Jesus Christ.

As one elderly Naga church leader told us, "After the missionaries left we had nothing and no-one to depend on, except God. We organized our own prayer meetings, and God moved! Revival swept from village to village, house to house. Everywhere people wept for their sins with deep repentance. Old hardened sinners cried out for God's mercy. Young people committed their lives to know and obey the Word of God."

When Heaven Came Down

Of the 36 tribes and language groups of Nagas in northeast India, all were deeply impacted by the light and power of the Gospel. The miracles and signs and wonders that accompanied the revival are so numerous that it would take a book thousands of pages long just to begin to scratch the surface of God's wonderful works.

Here we faithfully recount some of the remarkable testimonies of what happened in just one church – the Sendenyu Baptist Church in Tseminyu, Nagaland. Some of these stories are so remarkable that you may struggle to believe they happened, but they were witnessed by many people.

Beginning in February 1959, after several years of terrible suffering for all Naga people, the Holy Spirit was poured out in a mighty, unexpected way upon the Sendenyu Christians. Many lives were transformed and regenerated into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

"Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting." (Acts 2:2)

The Sendenyu Baptist Church had existed for many years before the events that shook the congregation in February 1959. The Christians had grown somewhat apathetic in their faith and commitment, and many had lost their spiritual fervor.

Gradually, the believers had become more aware of their sins. Spontaneous confession of sin began to break out in their meetings. After pouring out their souls and receiving God's forgiveness, their sorrow was overtaken by overflowing peace, joy and happiness.

One evening, after three consecutive nights of special meetings, most of the believers began to leave the church for their homes. Some Christians, however, stayed in the church and continued in prayer and worship, sensing that God wanted to do something new in their midst. Suddenly, a flame of fire appeared in the church in full view of many people. It came down and settled over the pulpit at the front of the sanctuary. The people were shocked and awestruck, as the fire was accompanied by a mighty, loud sound like a roar. The fire divided itself into tongues of fire. Some people immediately began to prophesy, while others saw visions.

This was the start of the tremendous visitation of the Holy Spirit among the Sendenyu body of believers. They came to despair for their state of rebellion and hopelessness outside of complete submission to the True and Living God. They came to understand that their greatest acts of self-righteousness were no more than filthy rags in the sight of God. Only Jesus Christ and the Word of God could satisfy the deep spiritual longing felt by all.

Over the ensuing days and weeks many people in the church stood up and, under the power of the Holy Spirit, exposed the secret sins of church members. Accurate Bible references were spoken that often spoke directly to the condition of a person's heart, in a way that only God could know. Sometimes, the prophets speaking these pinpoint Scriptural messages

were illiterate people who had never learned to read the Bible for himself or herself.

During one worship service, a church member prophesied that God would send a pillar of fire, and that everyone must confess and repent from their sins. He also said that the fire would burn down an unbeliever's house when it came.



The whole church gathered together that evening and earnestly prayed and confessed their sins to the Lord. Suddenly, a strange pillar of fire shone above the church between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. The light was so pure that it was brighter than at noontime on a normal day. No reflection or shadow was cast in any direction, however. It was unlike any other light the people had seen before.

After a short time, the pillar of fire from the Lord vanished. The people then noticed that the house of a non-Christian named Tesinlo Khing had caught on fire! The fire raged out of control. In those days, there was hardly any gap between the houses in the village. The roofs were made of straw and the walls were mats. However, in full view of the people, the destructive fire miraculously did not spread to any of the neighboring houses owned by Christians.

"This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat.... Let no man leave any of it till morning.... But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank.... So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his own need." (Exodus 16:15, 19-21)

God sovereignly undertook to take care of His people during the famine. The believers in Sendenyu asked the Lord to provide their daily bread, according to His Word. The merciful God answered their prayers by miraculously providing them with a form of manna, an edible wild creeper known locally as *kenrhe*. The kenrhe has large edible roots that taste like potato.

Every family in Sendenyu collected just what they needed for that day. If anyone collected the manna for the next day, they would not be able to eat it because it starts to stink and tastes bitter if left overnight. This manna was eaten by the people every meal for almost one year, until they were able to replant some of their crops.

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper... this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me."
(Isaiah 54:17)

One evening in 1959, while an evening worship service of the Sendenyu Baptist Church was in progress, soldiers from the 7th Gorkha Regiment of the Indian army came and surrounded the church. Inspired by the hosts of hell, they decided to massacre the entire congregation.

The troops opened fire for several minutes, spraying hundreds of bullets into the straw roof and walls. The building was completely filled with holes, but when the soldiers inspected, they were amazed to find none of the believers were harmed. Not one hair on their heads had been hurt. Confused but determined to finish the job, the soldiers then lobbed three live hand grenades into the church. When the Christians saw the grenades roll into the church, they immediately fell to their knees, covered the grenades with their hands, and cried out to God for His protection. None of the grenades detonated.

Finally the Commander ordered the use of L.M.G. to annihilate the entire congregation. Astonishingly, all of the bullets discharged through the chamber failed to ignite and fire. The Gorkha Regiment, now afraid and aware that God's hand was against them, hurriedly withdrew back to their base, leaving the Christians alone.

An interesting side-note to this testimony is that during their attempted massacre, the Regiment also fired their rifles randomly around the houses of the village. That night there were four Christian villagers who happened to be staying at home instead of attending the worship service. The four people were Vilhoulie Kent, Yhunlonyu Kent, Alisa Kemp and Tenyuhun Seb. As the soldiers fired indiscriminately throughout the village, bullets hit all four people. The bullets pierced their clothes, leaving holes in their garments, but fell down without penetrating their skin. None of them were harmed or injured in any way!

"Submit yourselves, therefore, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
(James 4:7)

Near the start of the revival in 1959, not all Nagas believed in the Gospel. Many were still animists, worshipping the spirits and demons that the ancestors of the Naga had done for countless centuries. The Naga Christians banded together and determined to fast and pray until the Holy Spirit removed all remaining demonic strongholds which kept people from acknowledging the truth of Jesus Christ.

In Sendenyu village, the Christians prayed and fasted for 15 days, crying out to God and binding the works of the devil. Three strange, yet dramatic events then took place on one single day. Numerous people witnessed these.

Outside the village, on a hill the Rengma tribe called "Temi Sukenko Thun" (Mount for Drying Human Flesh), there was a large rocky cave known as Demon's Cave, where the villagers traditionally believed Satan roasted human flesh. On the 15th day of the Christians' fast, the cave simply collapsed and disintegrated, so that no one could enter it again.

"They found the stone rolled away." (Luke 24:2)

On the plain between the Nyeshweru River and the Temejochon River, there was a huge solid rock that the local people believed was a sacred spiritual stronghold. People were afraid to go near the rock. No one dared to even cultivate the land around the rock, for fear of evil

consequences. Local legend and experience taught that everyone who went near the rock would return home gravely ill. Many people even died. The rock was so large and heavy that no number of people could possibly have budged it from its location if they had tried. It weighed many tons.

On the same day that the Demon's Cave collapsed, after the Christians had fasted for 15 days, the local people were astonished to find that the huge rock on the plains had simply disappeared! The people searched high and low for it, but no trace of the rock could be found. It simply vanished! Today, the Nagas grow crops on the land where they were previously too afraid to go near.



"He removed the altars to foreign gods and the high places, smashed the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images." (2 Chronicles 14:3)

During headhunting days, when few Nagas knew the Lord, the elders of Sendenyu village planted three wild rubber trees, known as "Chin Bin," at the entrance to the village gate. Over the decades, the three trees grew to enormous heights. The tops of the branches joined together so that the three trees looked like one gigantic tree.

The villagers ascribed spiritual power to the trees, so that ancestral worship and other rituals were conducted there. Whenever the village warriors went to war and on headhunting expeditions, the severed heads of their victims were hung from the branches of the tree. In their language, the locals called the tree *Rupe bin* which means, "Tree for hanging human heads."

On the same day that the Lord destroyed the Demon Cave and the large rock disappeared, all three large trees at the village gate fell to the ground with a great crash.

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21)

In April 1959, a well-known Indian Army Officer, Major Thomas, decided to completely annihilate all the people living in Sendenyu village, a Rengma Naga village near Tseminyu. This village had gained the wrath of the Indians because it had been one of the first villages to hoist the flag of the Independent Republic of Nagaland, and the villagers were known to be active in helping the Naga armies who were hiding out in the mountains.

Two days' prior to the arrival of Major Thomas and his men, the occupants of Sendenyu were alerted to his diabolical plans to wipe out the people and destroy the village to ashes.

The trembling villagers gathered in the church and prayed to the Merciful God for deliverance from the cruel hand of the devil. The Holy Spirit spoke through various members of the congregation and instructed the people on how to receive Major Thomas. The Lord told them not to be afraid because He was with them. They were to receive the Major at the village gate, on the eastern side, by singing a hymn entitled 'Let Him In'.

Let us continue the story in the words of eyewitnesses of that day.... "They were to stand in a row, with the Pastor in the front, followed by the little children, then the young girls and women folks and so on. Upon his arrival, everyone should greet him by shaking hands with him, all the while singing the proposed hymn as they escort him to the church. It was further instructed that once they reached the doorstep of the church the Major's shoes should be removed and his feet washed. Then he must be made to sit at the pulpit next to the Pastor, and time allotted for him to give a speech....

Before reaching the village, the Major and his troops burned the shacks in the fields that lay on his way. This terrified the villagers, but the Lord God reminded them not to be afraid because He was with them. Upon his arrival at the reception gate at the village entrance, the Pastor, children and everyone in the row greeted him by shaking his hands, singing songs, and escorted him to the church.

At the church entrance, the believers took off the Major's shoes, washed his feet and made him sit with the Pastor at the pulpit. The congregation prayed for him and gave him time to deliver a speech to them.

Major Thomas then stood up in the pulpit and started to tremble. His voice stammering, he said that he had been sent by the Government of India to destroy the village of Sendenyu. 'I, therefore, have come to burn down Sendenyu village to ashes and wipe out the people in it.' The Major continued, saying that his intentions had completely changed at the village gate when he saw the little children singing joyful songs.

The next day, Major Thomas left the village with his troops and went to Tsosinyu village, another Rengma village situated on the other side of the Nra River. Reaching the village, he looked back at Sendenyu and announced that he would supply rice to them [because he had destroyed their fields] as soon as he reached his station at Chiechama village, until the time of the next harvest. And true to his promise, he supplied rice to the village of Sendenyu till harvest that year."

Joseph S. Thong, *Miracles of the Holy Spirit,* (Kohima: Sendenyu Baptist Church), 1995. This and many of the other testimonies of God's power and protection come from this small booklet.

ASIAN WORKERS FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

The Naga Christians today are strategically placed to take the Gospel to hundreds of unreached people groups in surrounding areas. In the past the Naga church committed to send out 10,000 cross-cultural missionaries. Many have gone and have impacted places like Nepal, Bhutan, and other parts of India. But the target of 10,000 Naga missionaries has not been reached, partly because of the lack of finances. The churches give their tithes and offerings, but the economy of places like Nagaland, Nepal, or rural China is so poor that there 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 this has led to some amazing stories of dedication and hardship. Some house church evangelists have sold their own blood at the hospital, receiving just ¥ 2.50 (about 30 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. Some have fainted from hunger. These servants of the Lord have given their whole lives to the Gospel. They lead many people to Christ, and are busy making new inroads for the Lord among people who have never heard the Name of Jesus before. We are in contact with the leaders of literally thousands of church planting evangelists who need support.

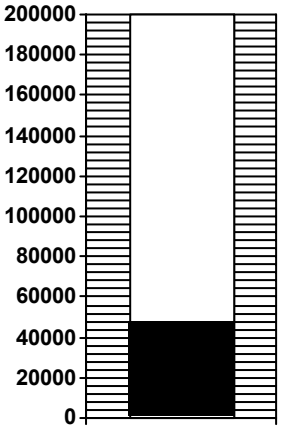
For this reason we are launching the **Asian Workers Fund**, to assist many of those workers who are doing strategic work in Asia. We are only supporting those churches and organizations that are fruitful and which have a good record of integrity and accountability. We believe that all evangelists should look first to God, and next to their home churches for support, as this is the Biblical pattern. We also only support pioneer evangelists and church-planters in unreached areas, not pastors, as we believe shepherds should receive their support from those they pastor. We are not planning to fully support any worker, but to provide a basic "survival level" help of **$ 25 per month**, which is often used on travel and other expenses that often burden evangelists and hinder the effectiveness of their ministry.

Please pray about whether you, your family, home fellowship or church could help support one or more of these workers on a monthly basis. All U.S. gifts are tax-deductible. We will send a small prayer card to all regular supporters of the **Asian Workers Fund**, containing basic information, which you can hang on your refrigerator to remind you to pray for the worker you are helping.

If you would like to help, either with regular support or a one-time contribution, please send a note **"Asian Workers Fund"** along with your gift. To begin with, we are helping house church evangelists from China, and Naga evangelists from Nagaland, India. If you have a preference, please state whom you would like to support.

OPERATION CHINA

Printing 200,000 books for the Chinese Church



GOAL: 200,000 books for the Chinese house churches
CURRENT TOTAL: 46,732
COST: $1.20 per book

We have had an overwhelming response to our project mentioned in our last newsletter, to print 200,000 books on China's minority groups for the house church networks of China, helping mobilize hundreds of believers to reach all 490 tribes and people groups in China. Costing just $ 1.20 for a 500-page book, we have so-far received enough finances already to print 46,732 books. Thank you and please continue to pray that God would provide the full amount needed.

PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 472 children in Vietnam.



Thank you for your generous support to help children from poor families in northern Vietnam who were born with cleft pallets or hair-lip disabilities.

The average cost to help a child is just $ 50. This pays for the cost of the operation, the travel expenses for the child and his/her parents to come to the city where the operation takes place, and the cost of an overnight stay in the hospital. ***A gift of $ 50 will enable one child to have a better life, and an opportunity for his or her family to hear about Jesus Christ for the first time. A gift of $ 250 will bless 5 children.***

If you would like to assist with this on-going need, please send a note, "Project Smile" along with your financial gift. Each gift of $ 50 or more will receive a picture of the child that was helped, showing the child before and after their life-changing operation. We will also provide the child's name and home village, so you can continue to pray for their salvation.

Asia Harvest



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

Box 17 - Chang Klan P.O. - Chiang Mai 50101 - THAILAND
Tel: (66-53) 801-487 Fax: (66-53) 800-665
Email: office@asiaharvest.org Website: www.asiaharvest.org

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The Naga People (Part Two)

From the Front Lines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

Recently while traveling in a Western nation we became greatly concerned with what we saw in the established, institutionalized churches there. Though there are always genuine believers who hunger and thirst for God's righteousness, it seemed the majority of churchgoers in that land were completely oblivious to spiritual things. Though they speak of God they have no experience of His power and life-changing grace. Jesus Christ is more an historical figure rather than a present-day living reality. How sad! Preachers don't know how much of the Bible is true anymore. Meetings are held not to plan evangelism and soul-winning strategies but to discuss whether homosexuals should be ordained as ministers of the Gospel!

Attending "church" has become a burden for many, little more than a cultural tradition. Their spiritual lamps are flickering low, if at all, and the nonbelievers have long since dismissed the "church" as irrelevant to people's lives today. In its present condition they are right! A spiritually asleep Christian is a blight on their community and a terrible witness to Jesus Christ, who said, **"I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever!"** (Revelation 1:18). No wonder Jesus said He would rather our hearts were stone-cold instead of being lukewarm with a halfhearted commitment, which is a slap in the face of Christ: **"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold not hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot not cold - I am about to spit you out of my mouth."** (Revelation 3:15-16).

I believe part of the reason for the decline of so many denominations, churches and believers is that they never really understood the fact that every human being is involved in a fierce war. Many believers do have an idea of such a war, but never gain the knowledge needed to be able to compete ably in it. They are soon swept away by Satan and his forces, and by their inability to conquer the sin in their own lives. Shockingly, a recent poll conducted by the highly-respected Barna Research Group in America found that 47% (nearly half!) of those professing to be born-again Christians agree that Satan is "not a living being but is a symbol of evil." Satan and his wicked forces are laughing at their success as they drag millions into an eternal torment in hell, while enslaving them into a life of misery and bondage in this world.

Barna also found that about one out of four (26%) "born again Christians" believe that it doesn't matter what religion you follow because they all teach the same lessons! His research also revealed that Christians spend 7 times as much time on

entertainment as they do on spiritual activities. These findings are hardly surprising. If we do not understand the war we are involved in our lives will soon reflect the feeble commitment of our lukewarm faith.

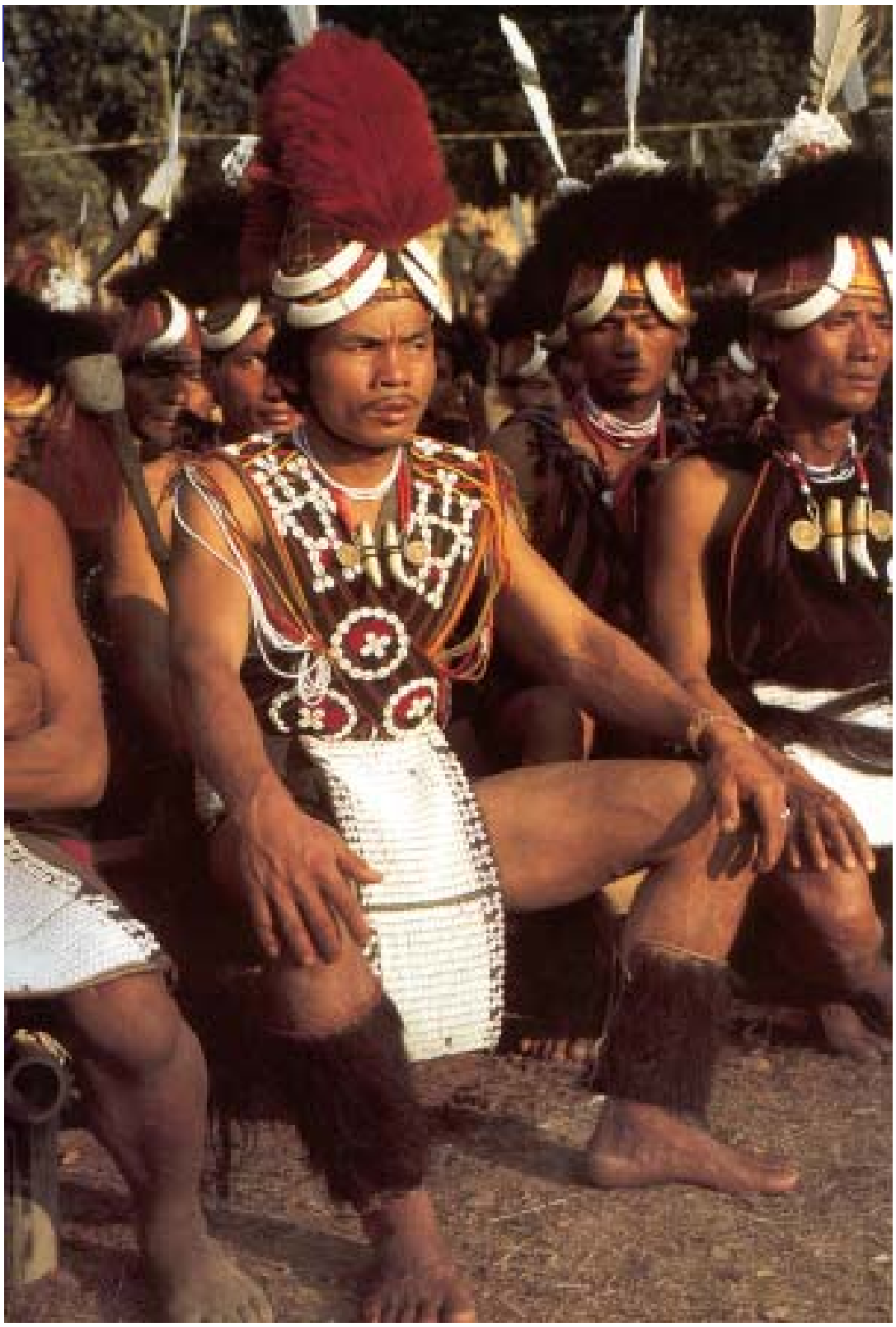
In 1655, English Puritan writer William Gurnall accurately summarized the war which you and I are engaged in. In the Introduction to his classic book *The Christian In Complete Armour,* Gurnall wrote,

> *"The subject of the treatise is solemn: A War between the Saint and Satan. And it is such a bloody one that the cruellest war ever fought by men will be seen as but sport and child's play compared to this. It is a spiritual war that you shall read of; not a history of what was fought many ages past and is now over, but of a war now going on - the tragedy is present with us. And it is not taking place at the farthest end of the world; it concerns you and everyone who reads of it. The stage on which this war is fought is every man's own soul. There are no neutrals in this war. The whole world is engaged in the quarrel, either for God against Satan, or for Satan against God."*

Some Christians feel discouraged and tired in the spiritual conflict. They are worn down by temptation and don't know how much longer they can continue swimming up stream against the tide of world opinion and often pressure from other "believers." But the beauty is that none of us can compete against sin and Satan in our own human strength anyway! We have no chance! It is only by submitting to God and being obedient to Him do we experience His strength and power to not only survive, but be more than conquerors in this spiritual war. **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged...for there is a greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of the flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles."** (2 Chronicles 32:7-8)

In recent years there has been a lot of teaching that spiritual warfare for the Christian is about binding spiritual forces in the air. This may be one part of spiritual warfare but we should pay most attention to fighting the sins, weaknesses and disobedience that plague our own rebellious hearts. Not until our hearts are liberated from being dominated by sin and Satan can we begin to experience true freedom and God's fullness in our lives.

If you find your own heart has grown cold to spiritual things, that prayer and Bible reading have become burdensome and the joy of the Lord, repent and cry out for God's mercy. God's help is not far from those who are willing to turn their hearts towards Him in humility and obedience. Determine to believe and honor God's Word in all circumstances and God will make you more than a conqueror in this war we are in!



The Naga People -

From Head-Hunters to Soul-Winners

(PART TWO)

In our last newsletter we recorded how the 1.6 million Naga tribesmen in India and Myanmar have come to Christ over the past 50 years. Several waves of powerful God-fearing revival swept Nagaland, resulting in their mass conversion. The Naga revivals were in no way attributable to the efforts of men. They were sovereign moves of God, with outpourings of genuine miracles and deep conviction of sin.

The result is that today the Nagas find themselves a Christian people strategically placed in the midst of some of the most unreached areas of Asia. Within a few days' bus journey are hundreds of totally unreached people groups in northeast India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar (Burma). Because of the Nagas potential to impact the region with the Gospel we have decided to profile them over two issues, and to ask you to pray earnestly that the Naga's vision to send 10,000 cross-cultural missionaries out into the harvest field will be realized. Pray that on judgment day many tribes and people groups will rise up and bless the Nagas for bringing spiritual light into their darkness.

Now we continue our look at how God saved the Naga people....

"Everyone who asks receives; and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks the door will be opened." (Luke 11:10)

One way that the Lord Jesus Christ showed his loving concern for the plight of the Naga people during their years of turmoil, war, and famine was demonstrated by several examples of lost people being found.

Nichulo Rengma of Nyishunyu village became deeply traumatized when he saw the dead and mutilated body of his father, who had been butchered by Indian soldiers. Nichulo, without saying a word, took a gun and went into the forest, and did not return. The villagers organized search parties, but after three days there was no sight of the boy.

Seven days after his disappearance, a message was sent to various churches, asking the believers to pray for the missing boy. As they prayed, the Holy Spirit gave a vision to the Christians. In the vision they saw the lost boy sitting under a big brown tree in the forest, east of the timber mill in the Nyishunyu area. When a message was sent to the relatives of the boy, they immediately went to the tree and found the boy sitting there, exactly as the Lord had revealed. The village of Nyishunyu is far from the church where God gave the vision, so the Christians had absolutely no knowledge of the surroundings where the boy was found.

"Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell.... Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists." (Acts 12:7)

In May 1962, Ngaseng Kent and Solomon Kent were arrested by the Rajput Regiment of the Indian Army and were handed over to the 11th Gorkha Regiment for interrogation. They

were bound together with iron chains and delivered to the military barracks at a place called Zubza.



The two prisoners continually prayed for God's protection and help. The church members were also crying out to God and interceding on their behalf. Despite their prayers, their situation seemed to get worse and they were ordered to be shot dead.

The two Christian men were forcibly taken outside the tent to be shot. While they waited for the executioner to arrive, the two Naga men prayed and committed their souls to the Lord's care. While they were praying, the Holy Spirit revealed to Solomon Kent that he should not be afraid because the Lord was with him in his trial. The executioner arrived and took aim at the two men, bound like animals. They closed their eyes and waited for the bullet to send them into eternity with their loving Savior.

After a few seconds they looked up and saw that the rifle had failed to fire. One of the Indian officers became outraged at the failure of the weapon. He checked the rifle and the bullets and out of intense anger he went to beat the two defenseless men with the rifle butt. As he drew the weapon above his head, however, it stuck in a rope that was holding the tent, and the officer struck himself in the forehead. The officer threw away the gun and began to weep, for he knew the presence of a greater power was against him and his evil intentions.

The prisoners were sent back to their cell, as those in charge thought about what action to take against them. After a while Ngaseng Kent dozed off and had a dream. In his dream the Lord revealed to him that the believers were praying earnestly for him and that he should get up and escape immediately. When he awoke he noted the time was 2 p.m.

After a short prayer, Ngaseng Kent touched the iron chain, which suddenly broke off, setting him free from his shackles! The Indian guards gave chase but could not catch him.

This testimony was not the first time that a Naga Christian had experienced such a miraculous escape. Earlier, in 1957, Kesinga Seb was arrested and taken to the jungle. After praying to the Lord of Lords and asking Him to show Himself strong, the chains binding Kesinga loosened by themselves, allowing him

to escape. As he ran off, bullets were fired and grenades were thrown at him by the Indian soldiers, but the Living God granted Seb's prayer and he escaped unharmed.

"The Lord hurled large hailstones down on them from the sky." (Joshua 10:11)

During many revivals around the world, God speaks through the weakness of human vessels with words of prophecy, challenge, or exhortation. Although there are always people who abuse prophecy and claim God is speaking when it is just their own flesh and imaginations, certain messages were surely uttered in the power of the Holy Spirit during the Nagaland revival.

On one occasion at Sendenyu, Rosenle Seb brought a prophecy that if people continued to murmur against the workings of the Holy Spirit, hailstones would be poured down from heaven to undo their unbelief.

No sooner had she finished speaking this message when a storm of hailstones came from the heavens, crashing down on the church roof in broad daylight, without a single drop of accompanying rain.

Through many such signs and wonders the fear of God fell on the entire village and many were added to the church.

"He sent forth His Word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave." (Psalm 107:20)

Of all the miracles that God performs during revivals, the one that causes the most skepticism in the logical minds of many Western believers is when a dead person is raised back to life again. It is particularly strange that some Christians mock such an occurrence, as there are more than ten clear instances of the dead being raised in the Scriptures.

In Nagaland, at least four people were raised from the dead during the revivals. These miracles were witnessed by hundreds of people who have given firsthand testimonies to what they saw.



One day, Pastor Kegwahi Kent, the leader of the Sendenyu Baptist Church, fired his weapon; an old muzzle-loading gun such as is used by many people for hunting in Nagaland. On this occasion, Pastor Kent's gun exploded near the firing pin, causing serious injury to his face and hands. Over the ensuing days his condition grew worse until he fell unconscious and died. A doctor was summoned who confirmed that Pastor Kent's heart had stopped functioning and he was indeed dead.

According to Naga tradition, the church bell was rung to notify the community of the tragic death. Funeral arrangements were made. The believers who were attending to the corpse, however, continued to pray for his life, refusing to believe their beloved pastor had so suddenly departed from this life. They pleaded for the Lord to bring Kegwahi Kent back to life. Inwardly, the intercessors sensed the death was the result of a Satanic attack, rather than the will of God wanting to take His servant home.

According to Pastor Kent, after he died he was approached by a person or angel dressed in white who told him not to worry because God had ordained that he would be healed. As the man in white left, Pastor Kent returned to life in his conscious state.

Over the coming weeks Kent gradually recovered from the effect of his injuries, and was able to return to the ministry of preaching God's Word for many more years.

Other Naga men from the Sendenyu area whose lives were supernaturally extended by God include the Rev. Tsonthonga Kemp, and David Kemp.

"As many as I love, I rebuke. So be earnest, and repent." (Revelation 3:19)

During the revival countless people committed their lives to Christ, but some sinners held out and resisted the conviction of the Holy Spirit. One such man was Gwanilo Seb, a notorious drunkard who had been excommunicated from the church membership because of his unrepentant heart. Gwanilo was furious at the church and was looking for a way to humiliate and persecute the believers whom he felt had rejected him.

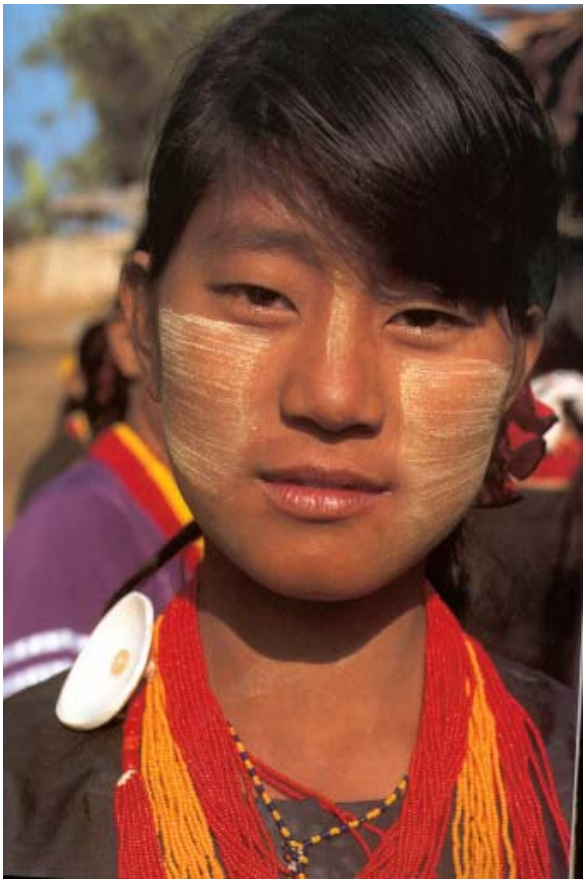
One evening, although he did not believe the revival was God-sent, Gwanilo Seb and two of his gang members came near the door of the church to satisfy their curiosity. An elderly Christian man, Jihlo Bukh, saw Gwanilo standing near the door, took hold of his hands, and pulled him towards the pulpit at the front of the sanctuary. Gwanilo started to tremble from the fear of God. All of a sudden an invisible hand struck him so hard on the back of his head that he fell to the ground and could not speak.

Gwanilo was unable to regain his speech for one full day, as the conviction of the Holy Spirit broke down his stubborn heart. Finally, Gwanilo motioned for a piece of chalk. He wrote on the church blackboard, requesting the believers to forgive him and to pray for his readmission into church membership. The church prayed for him, but he still could not speak. But the instant they took out the church membership book and wrote Gwanilo's name in the register, he regained his speech. Gwanilo remained a committed and active member of the Sendenyu Baptist Church.

As for Jihlo Bukh, who had taken Gwanilo by the arm and led him into the church, God did an unusual miracle for him. Jihlo had never received a formal education in his life, and now that he was an old man, he regretted that he had never been able to read the Bible or the church hymnbook. During the revival, he re-

ceived a divine enablement from the Holy Spirit so that he was suddenly able to read fluently. This gift completely changed Jihlo Bukh's life. He was so grateful to God to be able to read His Word day and night.

God continued to work powerfully in the hearts of the Naga people, purifying and empowering them for service. The fear of God gripped the whole community. All that mattered to believers was obedience to God's will. People desired the meat of God's Word more than they desired their lunch and dinner. Some of the miracles that took place were unusual.



"For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds, declares the Lord."
(Jeremiah 30:17)

The gift of divine healing was also in evident in Sendenyu village. In fact, Naga believers from many locations have heard about God's grace and power to heal through the believers there, resulting in many sick and injured people traveling to Sendenyu for prayer to the present day. Literally hundreds of people have been dramatically and often instantly healed, many from life-threatening illnesses.

There are too many wonderful healing testimonies to start listing here, so let us just examine the background of one story, as a representative of countless others.

On the 4th of January 1994, the prayer group of the Sendenyu Baptist Church was notified of the grave situation of a boy named Atobu, son of Kholie of Botsa town. Atobu was terribly ill, with profuse bleeding from his nostrils and mouth. Doctors had been unable to diagnose the problem, and had prepared the boy's family to prepare for the worst.

Atobu's condition worsened until he could neither talk, move, eat nor drink. But when the prayer team laid hands on the boy he was instantly healed. He started to move his hands and feet, and asked his awestruck parents and onlookers for food and drink. Atobu soon regained his full health.

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not overflow you." ***(Isaiah 43:2)***

In Nagaland the monsoon season lasts from around April to November every year. During the wet season roads and trails turn into mud, landslides are common, and rivers prove impassable.

On one occasion during the revival, the Lord spoke to the prayer group at the Sendenyu Church that they must take the message of repentance and faith to surrounding communities and tribes. Through prophecy, the Holy Spirit told the believers the time and date that they should go across the Nra River to share the Gospel with various villages of the Sema Naga tribe living west of the river.

On the set day, the Christians obeyed God's command and proceeded towards the Nra River. The Nra is the largest and widest river in all the territory occupied by the Rengma Naga tribe. When they reached its bank, they found it in full flood and impossible to cross. There were no bridges at that time, and no boats to take people across.

Some of the evangelistic team wanted to turn back, but others reminded the team how the Lord had spoken to them and commanded them to go on that day. The group decided they must obey God's command at all costs. They prayed and asked the Lord to protect them from the raging waters and to enable them to witness for His glory.

The faithful believers took a step into the river, then another, then yet another. They were surprised to find that the water wasn't as deep as they had thought, so they boldly walked across the river to the other side. As they walked across, they could feel the bottom of the river on the soles of their bare feet.

To this day, the Christians are not entirely sure how God enabled them to cross the Nra River. They seem to think the Lord somehow made the river shallow for their crossing.

At the place they crossed it was later found the water is at least 20 to 30-feet deep during the rainy season!

These accounts of miracles all took place in and around the one village of Sendenyu, but they are typical of hundreds of similar testimonies that took place throughout the length and breadth of Nagaland during the revival years.

According to one account from Sendenyu, "Peace, tranquility and health, economic progress and prosperity prevailed in the village. Disputes, quarrelling and social disorders were hardly heard of or seen, or experienced during the first seven years of revival in Sendenyu."

Many of the testimonies of God's power and protection come from the excellent small booklet by Joseph S. Thong, *Miracles of the Holy Spirit* (Kohima, Nagaland: Sendenyu Baptist Church), 1995.



From our Mailbox

At the moment my fellow church members and I are praying for the Uygur people of China. We believe that God wants us to have a church there. Our mother language is very similar to the language that Uygur people speak. We have a similar culture and customs. They don't have much but they have that what Jesus wants – open and broken hearts. There are 8,100,000 Uygur people living in China and every one of them is precious to Jesus. Their religion is Islam. We are also are Islamic country and I believe that we can be a great testimony of converted life to Uygur people.

Javid, Azerbaijian, Central Asia

My name is Olga and I live in Russia. I am always waiting for your newsletters, and sometimes I gave it to my friends to read, and they would give it to their friends. At one point I don't even know how many people read the story about the Boxer Rebellion, I think up to a hundred or more. Your newsletters are a source of blessing that made me cry thanking God for your ministry, and a source of inspiration. I always felt I wanted to be a missionary in Asia. I believe one day the Lord will lead me to one of the Asian countries.

Olga, Russia

What nonsense you write! I cannot understand how anyone would send through a letter like that. It has no value for a true Christian to read as it is full of errors and misgivings. We know that there is no place of torture or hell and to get to the truth of the message Christ brought you should not teach such nonsense. Your servant in Christ,

Norel, Singapore

Last time I told you that your newsletter was not what I need. But when I received your second newsletter I was so touched, I can't really express how it touched me. I personally and strongly believe the love you have is not you own but from God. Please let me to be your partner in prayer, will you? I will really be very glad to hear Yes from you.

Robin, Philippines

Greetings and salutations in the precious Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Lord has given me a vision to get every unreached people group in Asia adopted by churches in the Philippines. After a church adopts an unreached people group, I give them as much information about that group as I can come up with so that they can pray more effectively. Please send me your book. I promise it will be used by many churches with hundreds if not thousands of people praying for the people there.

Thomas, Philippines

ASIAN WORKERS FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

Because of your prayers and partnership we are currently able to support 47 Asian evangelists for a 12-month period.

Asian churches give their tithes and offerings, but the economy of many places like China or Nepal 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.

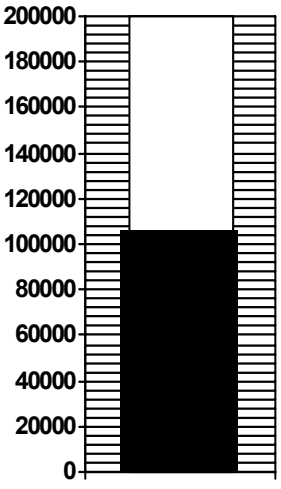
In China some house church evangelists have even sold their own blood at the hospital, receiving just a few cents as payment. They then buy a few meals with this money, giving them enough strength to continue to preach the Gospel for another week or two. Some have fainted from hunger. These servants of the Lord have given their whole lives to the Gospel.

We are in contact with the leaders of literally thousands of church planting evangelists who need support.

The **Asian Workers Fund** will assist many of those workers who are doing strategic work 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.**

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word



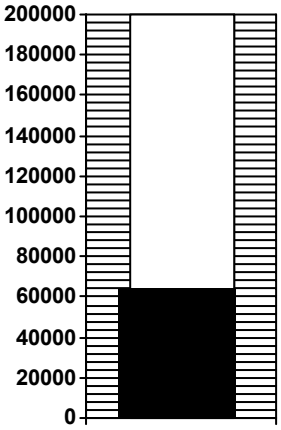
***Current Total*: 105,916**
Chinese Bibles Printed
***Cost:* US$2.00 per Bible**

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 several 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.

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: 61,812
COST: $1.20 per book

We have had a great response to our project mentioned in our recent newsletter 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 $ 1.20 for a 500-page book, we have so far received enough finances to print more than 61,800 books. Thank you and please continue to pray that God would provide the full amount needed.

PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 495 children in Vietnam.



Thank you for your generous support to help children from poor families in northern Vietnam who were born with cleft pallets or hair-lip disabilities.

The average cost to help a child is just $ 50. This pays for the cost of the operation, the travel expenses for the child and his/her parents to come to the city where the operation takes place, and the cost of an overnight stay in the hospital. ***A gift of $ 50 will enable one child to have a better life, and an opportunity for his or her family to hear about Jesus Christ for the first time. A gift of $ 250 will bless 5 children.***

If you would like to assist with this on-going need, please send a note, "Project Smile" along with your financial gift. Each gift of $ 50 or more will receive a picture of the child that was helped, showing the child before and after their life-changing operation. We will also provide the child's name and home village, so you can continue to pray for them.

Asia Harvest



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

Box 17 - Chang Klan P.O. - Chiang Mai 50101 - THAILAND
Tel: (66-53) 801-487 Fax: (66-53) 800-665
Email: office@asiaharvest.org Website: www.asiaharvest.org

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Arunachal Pradesh

Little-Known Home to 67 unreached tribes

From the Front Lines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

A few years ago, during a ministry trip to the United Kingdom, I was driving through southern Scotland when I noticed a sign to the town of Lockerbie, the place where a Pan Am jumbo jet crashed after being blown out of the sky by a Libyan terrorist bomb in 1988. Having a little time to spare, I made a detour and soon found the graveyard.

I walked around the graveyard for about half an hour, reading the tombstones and memorials to the 270 victims of Pan Am flight 103. Reading the names and seeing the pictures of the dead made this barbarous act much more real to me. I started to feel anger for the carnage and waste of life. As I drove away from Lockerbie, it started to dawn on me that for more than one thousand years Libya has been a Gospel-starved land. Could we expect anything better from a nation that lives in complete demonic darkness, without any light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Similar feelings flooded my mind when I saw, as you have, the horrendous scenes of September 11, 2001 in the United States. Five thousand people killed in an instant by Satanically-inspired Muslim terrorists.

In one of our newsletters more than three years ago (#50, September 1998), we warned readers about the Taliban in Afghanistan and what a terrible blight on the world they could potentially be. Unfortunately, the reality of this came in September.

Should Christians be angry for what occurred? Certainly! All sin and human suffering should give us a righteous anger. But when we look past that, should we really be surprised that people's hearts could become so evil when they have been blocked off from the Gospel for generation after generation, century after century? Is it all the fault of Afghanistan, or are disobedient Christians also to blame? Two thousand years after Jesus **commanded** his followers to ***"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation"*** (Mark 16:15), do we care that 26 million people in more than 40 distinct people groups in Afghanistan are still waiting to hear it?

Charles Spurgeon, the great 19th century English preacher, was once asked, "Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel possibly be saved when they die?" He replied, "The question should be, 'If we continue to disobey God and ignore the claims of the heathen, will it be possible for **us** to be saved'?"

Sure, there have been a few courageous missionaries who have ventured into Afghanistan, risking their very lives to see the Gospel planted there. As I write this, eight of those missionaries are languishing in a prison cell for the sake of Jesus Christ. But overall the Church has disobeyed Jesus' command in Afghanistan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran.... and numerous other "hard" places around the world. Not many Christians have been

willing to lay down their lives for the task. If you are a Christian, then it is your responsibility to do what God commands, to pray for the nations, and do whatever it takes to see them come to know Jesus. It's no point saying, "The Christians over there can reach Afghanistan." **There are none! Afghanistan is home to 48,000 Muslim mosques and not a single church!**

It is **ONLY** the Blood of Jesus that saves. It is **ONLY** the Life of Jesus in a person's heart that can change us and make us live pleasing to God. When a society is left alone to fester and rot without any knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus, it will become darker and darker until the natural consequence is that acts like those of September 11th will take place.

If you are a Christian, do not feel proud that you or your culture are better than a place like Afghanistan. It is only by the grace of God. Without His love and life we would also be terrorists in one form or another, "deceiving and being deceived" as the Bible says. (2 Tim.3:13)

We are all brutal savages without the light of Jesus in our hearts.

It is not "politically correct" these days to compare religions or suggest one way of living is better than another. But we would rather live by the Word of God! We believe Jesus is the **ONLY** way to heaven. Only by repenting and living for Him can a person be saved from hell. He is the **ONLY** answer for mankind. Islam can never cleanse a person's heart, Buddhism and Hinduism are not acceptable to God. Joining a particular church or denomination will not save you, ***"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*** (Acts 4:12)

We believe the Word of God teaches all people who are not born-again believers in Jesus Christ will surely go to hell when they die, and will dwell in darkness and ignorance while they are alive here. That is why we are missionaries. We are not here because we are some kind of special people (we certainly are not!), or because we love to live in Asia, or because we had nothing better to do. No! We are here because we believe people are lost outside of Jesus Christ, and we want to share the blessings that God has showered on our own lives when He saved us from the pit and placed our feet upon the Rock - Jesus Christ.

It is for this reason that we have been helping Afghan people both inside Afghanistan and among refugee camps in Pakistan for several years now. We have helped Christians feed them, house them, clothe them, and tell them of Jesus' love for each soul. Some have responded to the Gospel.

Now is **not** the time for Christians around the world to withdraw their prayers, interest and resources from missionary work! In fact, your involvement now is more needed than ever before!

In this issue we examine another place where spiritual darkness and decay reigns - the state of Arunachal Pradesh in northeast India. You have probably never heard of Arunachal Pradesh, yet it is home to more than 60 tribes who have never been reached by the Gospel. Please open your hearts as you read and allow God to speak to you how you could pray or be involved in being a blessing to this neglected part of the world.





Arunachal Pradesh -

The Land of Dawn

In today's modern information age we sometimes forget there are still some remarkably isolated areas of the world left, where few white men have ever set foot. Arunachal Pradesh, a state in northeast India sandwiched between China, India, and Myanmar, is one such place.

The world has largely forgotten about Arunachal, which means "Land of the Dawn." It contains the world's largest mountain range to the north (the Himalayas); deep, impenetrable jungles and river valleys in the central parts; and more accessible and fertile areas in the south.

Despite there being less than 900,000 people in the whole state, they are divided into more than 60 distinct tribes and language groups, making Arunachal Pradesh one of the most ethnically-diverse areas in the world.

Arunachal Pradesh is unique. In the mid-1900s a European anthropologist named von Haimemdorf persuaded the government of India to leave Arunachal alone as a kind of "anthropological zoo." This man, who hated missionaries, wanted the dozens of isolated tribes of Arunachal to remain in their primitive state, untouched by all outside influence. Few roads were constructed in the state, and until recently there were few schools, hospitals, or other infrastructure.

Not only were Westerners and missionaries banned from setting foot in the state, but until recently even other Indian citizens were not permitted to enter Arunachal. Even today a lot of paperwork is required to get permission just to visit.

In the 1970s the *National Geographic* magazine did receive permission to do an article on the peoples of Arunachal Pradesh. They were amazed to find people living in societies

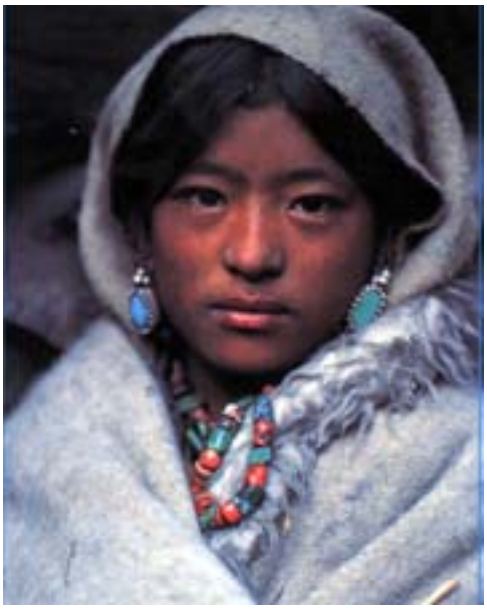
not far removed from cavemen. Many tribes existed by hunting with bows and arrows. They even reported finding one tribe who lived in trees, walking around naked in the jungle, eating roots and berries.

Unfortunately, the Body of Christ has also largely forgotten about this small part of the world, where tribes have survived for thousands of years without the slightest knowledge of the Gospel.

Despite the existence of so many different spoken languages, few tribes possess a written script. This has made it difficult for Bible translators to reach them with the Word of God, as first they must invent an alphabet and teach the people how to read it before they can have access to the Word of God.

Thankfully, God has not forgotten the people of Arunachal Pradesh!

In recent years the number of Christians in Arunachal has grown, largely because of the efforts of missionaries from Nagaland and other parts of India. But most of this growth has occurred among the tribes living in the more accessible areas in the southern part of the state. The dozens of groups in the jungles and along the Tibetan border are still completely untouched by the Gospel. Few are even aware that Jesus Christ exists or that He died for their sins 2,000 years ago.



Many of our newsletters and books on people groups carry images of smiling men and women dressed in colorful clothing. This newsletter is different! Many of the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh have been oppressed by Satanic forces for countless centuries, without even the slightest sign of spiritual light to release them from their bondage. If you look at the picture of the Wancho tribesman on page four you will look into the eyes of man whom Christ died for, but who is still waiting to hear the Good News for the first time.

How will it look on judgement day when the people of Arunachal Pradesh cry out to God, "But none of your people came to tell us about the sacrifice of your Son!" ?

For centuries the 67 tribes hidden away in this remote corner of the world have cried out like Jeremiah, *"The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved."* (Jeremiah 8:20)

The time has come for Christians all around the world to rise up and pray for and reach out to these forgotten people! Near the end of this newsletter we mention practical ways you can be involved with work currently underway to take the Gospel to some of the most unreached tribes in Arunachal.

Please take a few minutes in your own personal devotions, or in your church or group, to pray for each of these tribes by name. Very little prayer has ever gone up before God's throne on behalf of these forgotten peoples. Let us begin our walk through mini-profiles of some of the most needy tribes in Arunachal Pradesh....



The APATANI
Population: 22,800

The Apatani people believe they are descended from their mythical father, Abo Tani, who came from a country to the north (Tibet) many centuries ago.

Today they hunt in hills about 5,500-feet above sea-level. The Apatani eat a lot of meat such as pork, beef, and the flesh from an animal called a *mithun* - a large cow-like beast.

Animism (the worship of spirits) is the main religious practice among the Apatani. Shamans (spirit priests) are summoned to placate a number of spirits who are thought responsible for all good and bad that happens in life.

There are a small number of Christians among the Apatani, but most of this group remain trapped in spiritual darkness.

Please pray the Apatani would soon believe and trust in Jesus Christ!



The DIGARU MISHMI
Population: 5,200

The Digaru are the largest of the three Mishmi tribes in Arunachal Pradesh. Like many of the peoples surrounding them, the Digarui Mishmi are believed to have originated in Tibet long ago, before migrating down the river systems into northeast India. Their language is part of the Tibeto-Burman linguistic family.

The Digaru believe they are descended from the tiger, so they worship and honor the spirit of the tiger as the most revered animal in the jungle.

The Digaru Mishmi believe in a wide variety of demons. They believe each spirit is responsible for exercising control over the land and water.

Few Digaru Mishmi have ever placed their trust in the true and Living God. They live enslaved by fear and poverty. ***Please pray God would soon be glorified among the unreached Digaru Mishmi.***



The WANCHO

Population: 44,600

The Wancho people are believed to be related to the Konyak Naga tribe of Myanmar (Burma) and Nagaland. Whereas a great Christian revival has swept through other Naga areas over the past 50 years, the majority of Wancho in Arunachal Pradesh remain animists, worshipping demons and the elements of nature.

The Wancho migrated to Arunachal centuries ago and have been separated from the rest of the Naga world, and the Gospel, ever since.

Both men and women tattoo their bodies and faces. They are not fond of wearing clothes. Most men just wear a simple loincloth to cover their private parts.

The Wancho worship the sun, sky, and land. Each family also worships a spirit they believe resides in one of the pillars of the home. There are just a few small churches among the Wancho people. The majority of villages are completely without a Gospel witness.

Please pray Naga Christians will make a concerted effort to reach this needy tribe with the Good News of salvation in Jesus Name.



The PAILIBO ADI

Population: 1,200

The Pailibo are one of the smallest tribes of the 15 distinct Adi people groups in Arunachal. A small number of Adi also live across the border in southern Tibet. The Pailibo claim to be the descendants of Sisu ('mother earth'). Cat meat is taboo among all Pailibo, while women are also forbidden to eat goats, dogs and snakes.

During delivery, the mother is expected to cut her own umbilical cord. After birth neither the mother or baby are allowed outside the house for five days, as they believe doing so will bring bad luck on the family.

The Pailibo worship Donyi-Polo (the sun and moon god). There are no known Christians among this small tribe. ***Fervently pray God would send workers to the Pailibo Adi in the near future.***



The HILL MIRI
Population: 10,050

The Hill Miri inhabit a beautiful area on the southern slopes of the Himalayas. Their diet consists of beef, pork, mutton, and the meat of bears, tigers, monkeys, rats, and birds. They also like to brew their own banana beer.

The Hill Miri worship Doje, whom they consider the Supreme spirit of all mankind. Before a man can make a marriage proposal, he must visit a shaman, or spirit-priest. The priest sacrifices a chicken and examines the lines on the inside of the dead bird's liver, as a form of divination. Only when the priest is certain the spirits will bless the arrangement can the marriage proceed.

Like many of the tribes in this remote part of the world, the Miris worship the sun and moon. Some Hill Miri children who were sent to study outside Arunachal have become Christians, but most of this tribe have never heard the Gospel.



The BUGUN
Population: 900

The Bugun, who are also known as the Khowa, or Kho, are one of the smallest distinct tribes in Arunachal Pradesh - numbering less than one thousand people.

The Bugun inhabit eight villages in the mountains on both sides of the Rupa River, in a beautiful area lined by pine and oak forests. Heavy snow falls each winter. Of the eight Bugun villages, only two are accessible by road.

The Bugun believe in a mixture of Tibetan Buddhism and spirit-worship. They sacrifice to demons and observe a complex array of superstitions, in a bid to keep harmony between themselves and the spirit world.

There is no Gospel witness at all among the Bugun. ***Pray this will soon change, and the precious Bugun people will love Jesus as their Lord and Savior.***



The TAGIN
Population: 37,300

One of the largest tribes in Arunachal Pradesh, the Tagin live in a diverse region, ranging from valleys just 1,000 feet above sea level to mountains 18,000 feet-high. Despite their remote locations, the Tagin have skillfully constructed an intricate system of bamboo pipes to channel water into all of their villages.

Tagin men do not like to dress up, but prefer just to sling a blanket over their shoulder to keep warm.

Tagin men are rarely found without a pipe in their mouths, while alcoholism is rampant, even among young children. Polygamy (marrying more than one woman) is allowed. There is believed to be a small number of Tagin believers in the lower areas, but most Tagin remain completely unaware of the existence of Jesus Christ. ***Pray for a breakthrough.***



The SHERDUKPEN
Population: 3,100

The Sherdukpen are followers of Tibetan Buddhism, unlike most of the other tribes in Arunachal who believe in animism. They also practice witchcraft and appease demonic spirits. The Sherdukpen believe they are the descendants of a Tibetan prince who married a princess from the Indian state of Assam.

Living in a cold area about 5,000 feet above sea-level, the Sherdukpen practice polygamy and polyandry. *Polygamy* means a man can have multiple wives; while *polyandry* occurs when two or more brothers share the same wife.

There is not a single known Christian among the Sherdukpen. ***Pray someone will boldly take the Gospel to the Sherdukpen. Pray the Holy Spirit will deeply convict them of sin, righteousness, and judgement.***



The MIJI

Population: 6,500

Spread over about 25 villages in Arunachal, the Miji, who are also known as the Sajalong, like to live at the top of high, densely-forested mountains.

Many Miji women tattoo their faces, while on festivals and special days they dress up with a great deal of ornaments and jewelry.

The most powerful deity worshipped by the Miji is called Zang-Lang. Natural disasters, sickness and death in the village are considered the outcome of evil action by this spirit. To stop the problem the Miji make animal sacrifices to appease him. By sacrificing their valuable animals, the Miji keep themselves trapped in poverty.

The Miji are a close-knit community who resist outside change. They have no Bible and no Gospel witness among them. ***Please pray for a breakthrough in Jesus Name!***



The NISHING

Population: 85,000

The Nishing - also known as Nishi and Dafla - are one of the largest tribes in Arunachal Pradesh. They inhabit a vast area of land, which had led to the existence of numerous subgroups and clans among them.

The Nishing love to chew on mustard seeds. Monkey meat is also a favorite, while they hunt and eat all kinds of birds.

The Nishing worship the sun and moon god, known as Donyi-Polo. This tribe is rare in Arunachal Pradesh because they have some Scriptures - the Gospels of Luke and John - available in their language. Today there may be as many as 2,000 Nishing Christians.

Pray the Nishing believers will grow in grace and take the Gospel to all their tribe, as well as to the dozens of tribes surrounding them who have never heard.



The MONPA

Population: 47,000

The Monpa in Arunachal Pradesh are a collection of six different groups, each speaking their own dialect. The Monpa originally came from Tibet. In fact, a similar number (about 40,000) of Monpas still live inside China today.

The Monpas practice a mix of Tibetan Buddhism and witchcraft. Each community has a spirit priest whose job is to mediate between the people and the spirit world. The identity of the Monpas is closely tied in to their religion, so reaching them with the Gospel has so far been very difficult. They cannot see any need for a Savior, as they do not believe in sin as we know it. The Monpa believe life is an endless cycle of reincarnations, where good and bad deeds are weighed to see what state a person will come back in the next life.

One source states "only one or two Monpas have become Christians and the vast majority have not received the Gospel till now."

The last two Asia Harvest newsletters have focused on the **Asian Workers Fund**, a project to support Asian missionaries who are reaching out to some of these neglected groups. Several Naga workers are living among the Monpa, endeavoring to present the Gospel to them by deed and word.

These workers have found the going quite tough. Satan does not let whole people groups like the Monpa go without a struggle. The team has encountered fierce demonic opposition to their efforts: sickness, freak snowstorms, persecution, dark figures and faces appearing at their windows and in their rooms at night, and many such occurrences. For those Christians attempting to reach Tibetan people groups, such experiences are quite common.

The Monpa team need your prayer support as they obediently take the Gospel to this dark people group. ***Pray specifically for Satan to be bound over the Monpa, for the team of missionaries reaching them to be united, healthy and focused, and for a door of effective ministry to open to them, resulting in key Monpa people coming to the feet of Jesus Christ.***

Please continue to support our **Asian Workers Fund** prayerfully and financially. This is such a vital project for so many of our Asian brethren who have boldly committed to go to tribes with no knowledge of the Gospel whatsoever. Your partnership is greatly needed!

ASIAN WORKERS FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

Because of your prayers and partnership we are currently able to support 62 Asian evangelists for a 12-month period.

Asian churches give their tithes and offerings, but the economy of many places like China or Nepal 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.

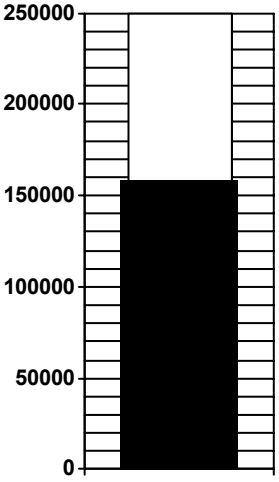
In China some house church evangelists have even sold their own blood at the hospital, receiving just a few cents as payment. They then buy a few meals with this money, giving them enough strength to continue to preach the Gospel for another week or two. Some have fainted from hunger. These servants of the Lord have given their whole lives to the Gospel.

We are in contact with the leaders of literally thousands of church planting evangelists who need support.

The **Asian Workers Fund** will assist many of those workers who are doing strategic work 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.**

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word

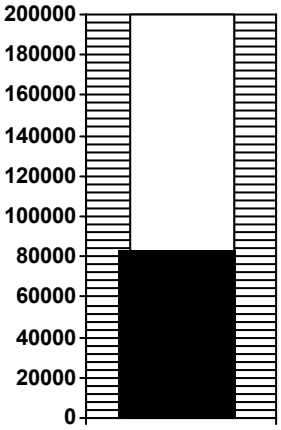


***Current Total*: 156,602**
Chinese Bibles Printed
***Cost:* US$ 2.00 per Bible**

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: 81,656
COST: $1.20 per book

We have had a great response to our project mentioned in our recent newsletter 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 $ 1.20 for a 500-page book, we have so far received enough finances to print more than 81,600 books. Thank you and please continue to pray that God would provide the full amount needed.

PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 507 children in Vietnam.



Thank you for your generous support to help children from poor families in northern Vietnam who were born with cleft pallets or hair-lip disabilities.

The average cost to help a child is just $ 50. This pays for the cost of the operation, the travel expenses for the child and his/her parents to come to the city where the operation takes place, and the cost of an overnight stay in the hospital. ***A gift of $ 50 will enable one child to have a better life, and an opportunity for his or her family to hear about Jesus Christ for the first time. A gift of $ 250 will bless 5 children.***

If you would like to assist with this on-going need, please send a note, "Project Smile" along with your financial gift. Each gift of $ 50 or more will receive a picture of the child that was helped, showing the child before and after their life-changing operation. We will also provide the child's name and home village, so you can continue to pray for them.