Asia Harvest

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

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December 2020 – Newsletter #170



CHINA UPDATE

The Battle for China’s One Billion Souls

From the Frontlines

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens....a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak" (Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 7).

As we come to our final newsletter of the year, you would probably agree that 2020 took an unexpected course that few of us had anticipated. The Covid pandemic has affected all of our lives to various degrees.

If you have read our newsletters over the years you will know that Asia Harvest has been a consistent voice and advocate for the Church in China. This year, however, we have felt it was a season when we could better serve God's people in China by being a little quieter than usual.

As the verse at the top of this page says, there is a time to be silent and a time to speak. The Apostle Paul knew the importance of discerning the seasons and following God accordingly. Paul once boldly declared: ***"I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus"*** (Acts 21:13), but on another occasion he was hidden inside a basket and lowered over the wall of Damascus to escape from those who wanted to kill him (see Acts 9:20-25).

During this year, our newsletters have mostly concentrated on our work in other countries of Asia, but we have continued to wholeheartedly serve the Lord in China. In partnership with our co-workers, the China Bible Fund has continued to operate strongly, and 2020 is shaping up to be a year when **we will print and deliver more Chinese Bibles than any other year in nearly a decade.**

The situation for believers in China has been extremely difficult, as Xi Jinping and the Communist Party gradually prepare for what seems like a final assault to try to rid Christianity from the country once and for all.

The Body of Christ, however, has grown to such a size under Communism that they will find it impossible to completely eradicate God's people. Instead, the authorities have been putting plans into place to corrupt the Gospel. By doing so, they hope to control the Church and ultimately render it powerless and subservient to the Communist system.

To that end, the government has openly announced plans to "reinterpret" the Bible and other religious texts, so they will have "socialist characteristics". A glimpse into what that might look like was seen recently when a government publisher altered the ending of the account of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery. Their blasphemous version now has Jesus concluding his talk by saying: "I too am a sinner," instead of, "Go now and leave your life of sin."

For the record, we would like to state unequivocally that **Asia Harvest will never be involved in producing any such Bibles**, nor would any of the believers we work with consider using one.

The battle lines are drawn. Please pray for our precious brothers and sisters in China. **This year, tens of thousands of house church pastors and evangelists have gone missing**, especially in those provinces with a large concentration of Christians.

Most of those tens of thousands are still alive, but in preparation for the struggle ahead, they have gone into hiding. They have completely disconnected from all phones and computers, because those devices are used by the government to track their location.

Furthermore, each person in China must have an ID card. It is impossible for a person to catch a flight or train, open a bank account, get a job, or rent an apartment without using their card. Each ID card contains a computer chip which is also used to track people's movements. Many Christian leaders, before they go into hiding, have placed their cards inside a microwave oven for a few seconds, which ruins the chips and renders them useless.

In this final newsletter of 2020, we would like to share a powerful recent testimony from the Church in China. It is a wonderful example of how the kingdom of God has grown so powerfully in China, despite seven decades of efforts to crush and suppress God's people by the God-hating Communist Party.

We have also included our latest China Bible distribution map, showing the provinces where each of the Bibles we have produced over the years has ended up. **By the miraculous hand of God**, the project continues to operate full steam. As long as the Lord continues to hold the door open, we plan to keep helping our brothers and sisters in the Chinese house churches have access to God's Word.

If you would like to support the **China Bible Fund**, donations can be made by mailing a check with the enclosed yellow Response form, or by giving either one-time or monthly support via our secure website: **www.asiaharvest.org**

The Battle for China's One Billion Souls



The Chinese Communist Party has long desired to eliminate or control Christianity, but being atheists, they can never understand that they are not dealing with a mere religion or human institution. Instead, the atheistic regime has been picking a fight with the living, resurrected Jesus Christ! And there is only ever one winner when people battle the Lord!

In the 71 years since China became Communist, the Lord has laughed at efforts to destroy His kingdom, and He has overseen the greatest revival in history, with the Church in China growing from about one million believers to well over 100 million!

We would like to share a precious testimony from Sister Hu, who in 2018 shared the amazing story of how their house church movement started in northeast China.

"Some years ago, my son fell seriously ill with a kidney disease. I visited numerous temples where I earnestly worshipped all the idols, but he got worse. Then someone at the hospital told me that if I believed in Jesus my son could be healed.

I had no idea how to pray to this Jesus, or even what 'prayer' was. How many times must I pray? What words should I recite and what postures should I take? It occurred to me that I should take my son to Beijing and shout aloud to Jesus on the streets, in the hope that this mysterious person would hear me and find us. However, I lacked the money to travel to Beijing or to make offerings to Jesus once I found him.

My fellow workers at the factory all laughed at me when I pleaded for their help to sell my house so I could take my son to Beijing. I cried so hard that I had a stroke and was unable to talk. Feeling ashamed, my co-workers loaded me onto a cart and pushed it to a medical clinic. Two doctors treated me, and strangely one of them said, 'God must have a plan for your life.' I found his comment very odd.

Still guilt-ridden because of the way they had treated me, my co-workers had a change of heart and decided to help raise money for our trip. I had no idea where to go once we reached Beijing, but the hospital administrator also had to go to Beijing for a meeting, so he accompanied us on the long train journey.

I felt overwhelmed by the crowds of people and the hustle and bustle of the big city, but the administrator took us to a hospital, where there happened to be a doctor who specialized in kidney disease. He took one look at my son and said he must be admitted immediately. We stayed in Beijing, with my son receiving treatment as I recovered from my stroke.



One day I visited a big cathedral in the city. It was the first time I had ever set foot inside a church building, but somehow I felt at home. I began attending services there, and some sisters encouraged me to follow Jesus and dedicate my son to Him. I told God that if he healed my son, I would always serve Him and would share the Gospel with as many people as I could.

My son's condition improved, but then he suffered a setback and the doctor said there was no hope. I asked Jesus to heal him, and from that moment my son improved, although he still needed treatment.

We traveled back home on the train, and I told my boss I had enough money either to buy food or to pay the medical bills, but not both. I was perplexed about what

to do, but then I remembered my vow to God, so I quit my job and began sharing the Gospel with everyone I met. Soon, a small group of believers emerged, and we began a class to train evangelists and pastors. The fellowship grew quickly and became so large that it caused traffic jams in our town whenever we held a service! We rented a larger building to meet in.

Over time, the Holy Spirit revealed that we should focus on two things: evangelizing the lost and training leaders. We formed teams with five people in each, and we targeted 18 towns with the Gospel. As we approached each town we prayed, and then we would look for the poorest household to share the Good News of Jesus with.



Each team was supported by an intercession and fasting chain, which operated around the clock, with believers rotating in two-hour shifts. We fasted for seven days before a campaign, and to this day we still gather every morning at 4:30 a.m. for prayer, even in winter when it's minus 30 degrees outside.

In the first 15 towns many people believed our message, and we formed new churches in each place. The final three towns were further away, so we had to ride bicycles long distances to reach them. Miraculously, in one town the officials let us use the municipal loudspeaker, to ensure that everyone could hear the message. Many people believed and more churches were formed.

Our meetings were always crowded. Some who came were demon possessed, but when we prayed they were completely delivered. Many others were healed from deafness and other ailments. At first, we had many sisters but only one brother on our teams. We asked God to add 100 new brothers. and after the first evangelistic campaigns, we found that was exactly the number of men who had been converted.

Later, we added mercy ministries to help the sick, elderly, and orphans. Now, our church has grown to 40,000 believers, and we have 1,000 evangelists and pastors. We have seen God perform many remarkable things, which have helped spread His



salvation message more widely. Some towns have been so thoroughly saturated with the Gospel that now over 80 percent of the people are Christians.

Jesus has been so good to us. What a wonderful Lord! He has been our best friend and He sticks closer than a brother. The doctor in Beijing told me that my son would never have children, but now his daughter is ten-years-old!

In recent years we have faced fresh challenges, as the government's strict new religious policies have taken effect. We are under great pressure to compromise, but **we are determined to fully obey Jesus, and we will continue to evangelize, regardless of the cost.**

This is the story of how our churches were formed and grew. Please understand that it has not been human strength that has accomplished any of this! Rather, it has all been the work of the King of Kings, who said: "***'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty***" (Zechariah 4:6).

All glory to God!"

CHINA BIBLE MAP

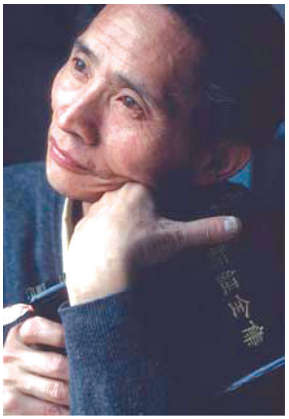


Thanks to the grace of God and your prayers and generous support, a few months ago Asia Harvest passed the milestone of **13 million** Chinese Bibles printed and delivered to house churches in China. We receive detailed reports, allowing us to keep track of the Bibles we print and to create this distribution map. On behalf of all the grateful believers in China, thank you and God bless you!

Bibles Delivered by Province:

1	*Heilongjiang*	*1,162,501*
2	*Henan*	*1,114,969*
3	*Anhui*	*1,109,261*
4	*Shandong*	*1,040,633*
5	*Inner Mongolia*	*1,030,256*
6	*Zhejiang*	*790,043*
7	*Sichuan*	*640,034*
8	*Jilin*	*599,309*
9	*Liaoning*	*556,756*
10	*Jiangsu*	*542,892*
11	*Shanxi*	*497,437*
12	*Gansu*	*465,296*
13	*Shaanxi*	*435,041*
14	*Hebei*	*411,110*
15	*Hubei*	*408,780*
16	*Jiangxi*	*397,902*
17	*Guangxi*	*312,029*
18	*Xinjiang*	*257,153*
19	*Fujian*	*246,684*
20	*Chongqing*	*237,531*
21	*Qinghai*	*233,552*
22	*Shanghai*	*221,364*
23	*Hunan*	*220,940*
24	*Hainan*	*167,782*
25	*Guizhou*	*120,724*
26	*Guangdong*	*89,481*
27	*Beijing*	*79,489*
28	*Yunnan*	*70,010*
29	*Tibet*	*11,969*
30	*Ningxia*	*7,999*
31	*Tianjin*	*5,395*
	TOTAL	*13,484,320*

CHINA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: **13,484,320**
Chinese Bibles printed and distributed.

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

Each full Chinese Bible costs just $1.80 to print and deliver.

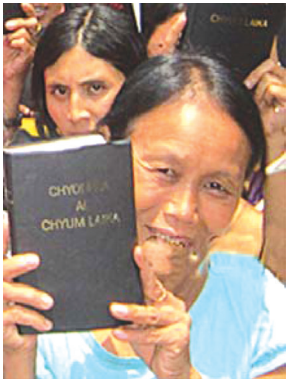
ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



We currently support **1,492** *Asian evangelists among* **1,130** *unreached people groups.*

The **Asian Workers' Fund** supports indigenous church-planting evangelists among unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. These disciples have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. To date, the evangelists we help have reportedly led **546,633 people to faith in Jesus Christ.** You can help support these dedicated workers for **$25 per month** each**.** A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular supporters of this project.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND



Current Total: **1,198,679** *Bibles printed in* **125** *languages.*

The **Asian Bible Fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and anywhere in Asia that God's people need His Word.

Each Bible costs an average of $2.70 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

Because of your partnership we are supporting **1,691** *living martyrs.*



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

The **Living Martyrs' Fund** supports Christian widows and church leaders and their families throughout Asia who are unable to work because of injuries or illness caused by persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through a gift of **$25 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs.

THE CHILDREN'S FUND



Your generous support has so far reached **170,786** *children throughout Asia.*

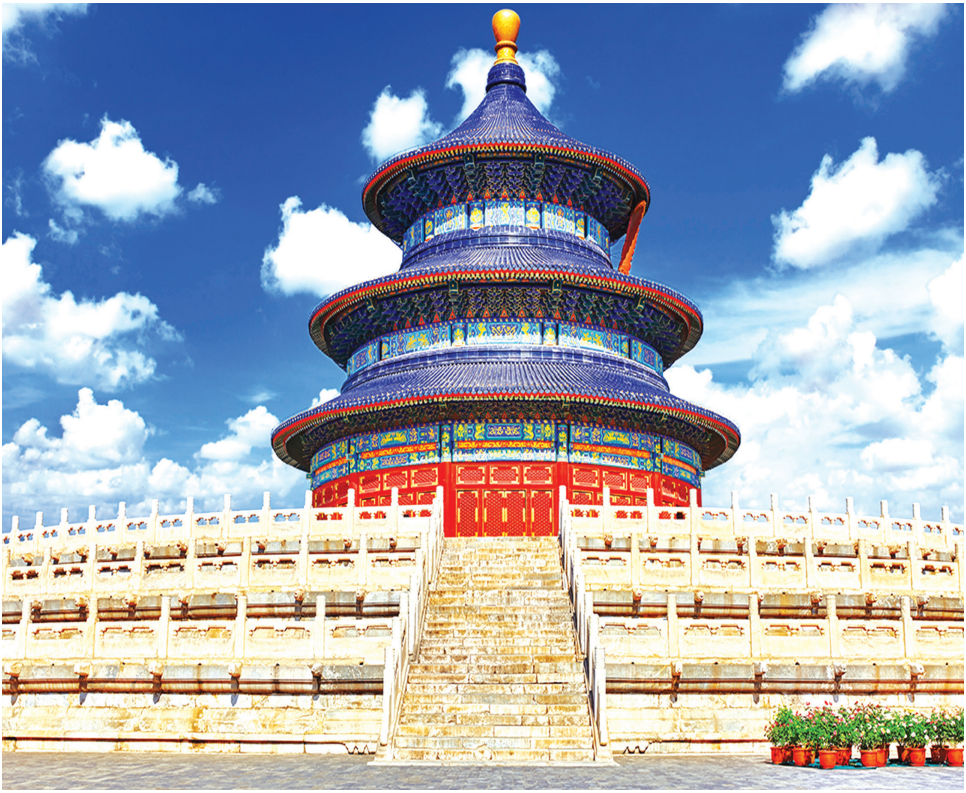
The Children's Fund introduces children to Jesus in India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and a host of other Asian countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, funding Sunday school training classes, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. It costs an average of just **$10 to reach a child for Christ**.

PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



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

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



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