Asia Harvest



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

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September 2001 - Newsletter #63



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.

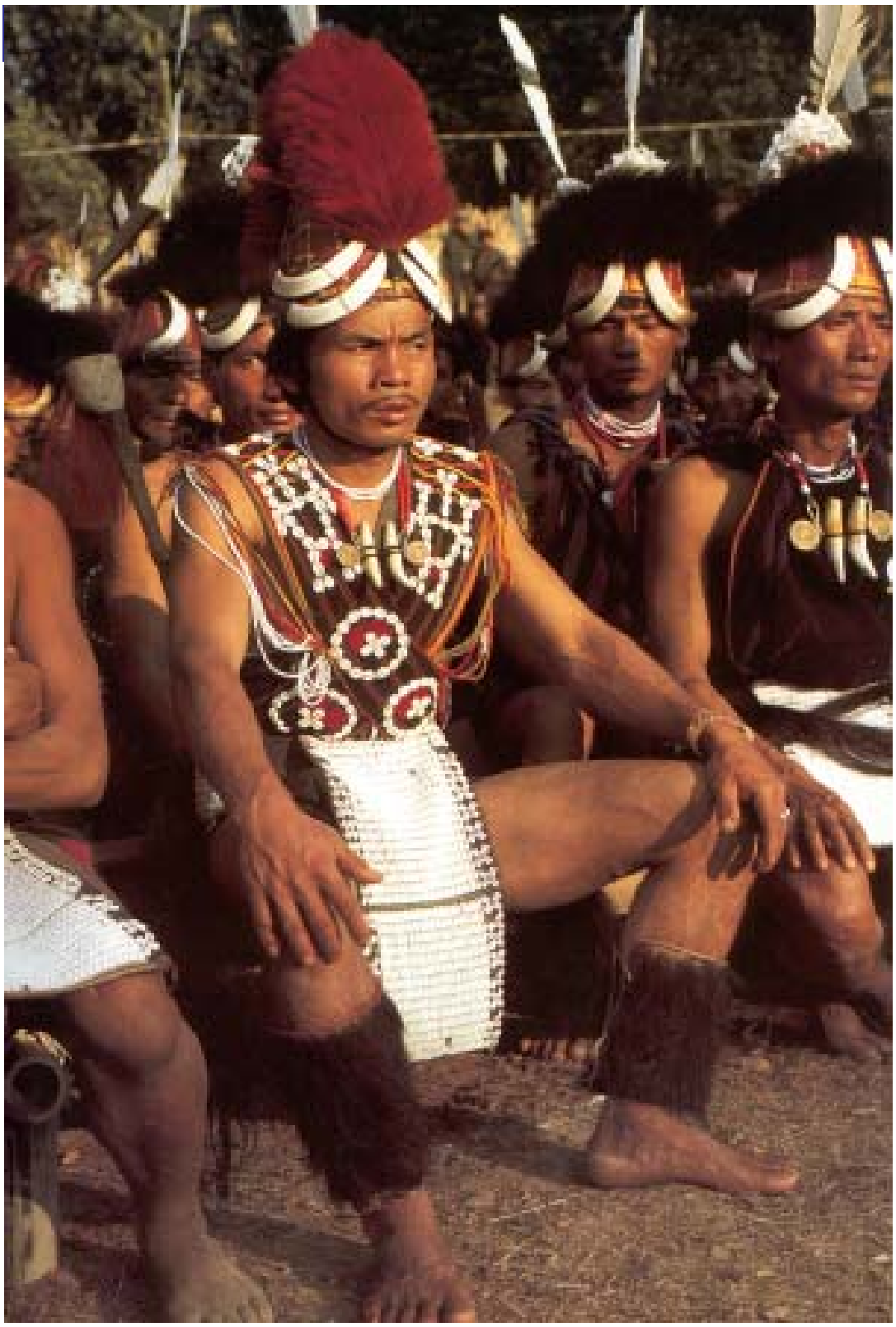
In 1655, English Puritan writer William Gurnall accurately summarized the war which you and I are engaged in. In the Introduction to his classic book *The Christian In Complete Armour,* Gurnall wrote,

> *"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.

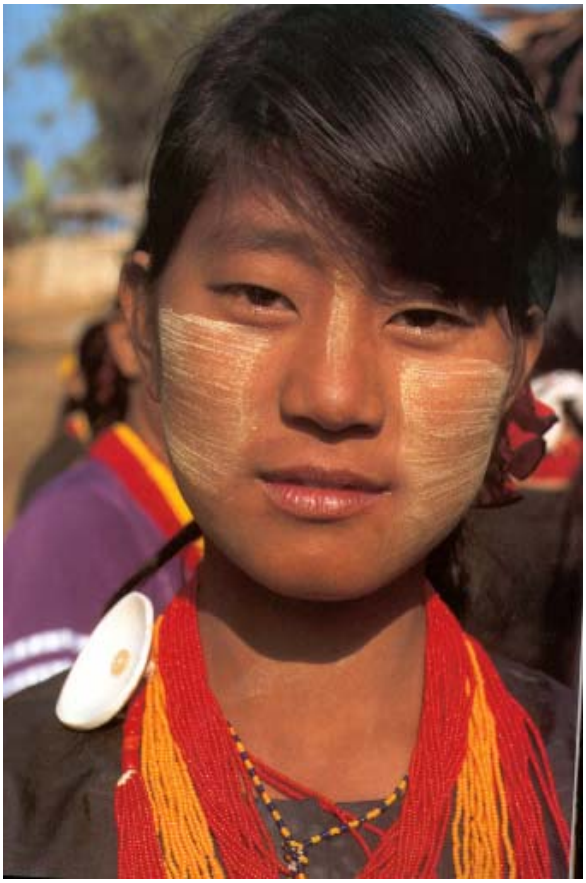
One evening, although he did not believe the revival was God-sent, Gwanilo Seb and two of his gang members came near the door of the church to satisfy their curiosity. An elderly Christian man, Jihlo Bukh, saw Gwanilo standing near the door, took hold of his hands, and pulled him towards the pulpit at 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.

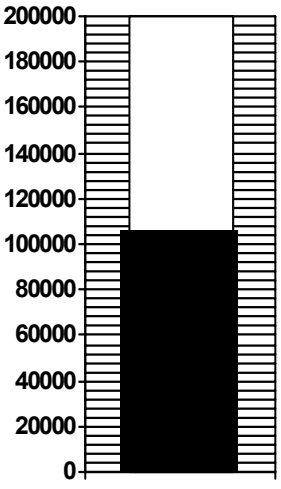
In China some house church evangelists have even sold their own blood at the hospital, receiving just a few cents as payment. They then buy a few meals with this money, giving them enough strength to continue to preach the Gospel for another week or two. Some have fainted from hunger. These servants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



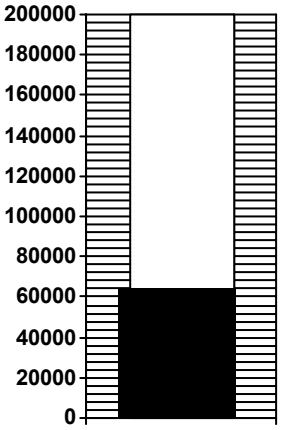
***Current Total*: 105,916**
Chinese Bibles Printed
***Cost:* US$2.00 per Bible**

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.