# Asia Harvest



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

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# Annual Report

# From the Front Lines

## with Paul & Joy Hattaway

In this issue we would like to report to you on the various projects and activities of Asia Harvest in 2003. We are doing this to inform, educate, and be accountable to our friends around the world. The problem is that whenever an organization writes about its own work it can sound prideful. That is certainly not our intention! We realize anything good that may come about is only by the grace of God. Anyway, none of the work detailed here is "ours" - we are merely a channel of God's blessing to the Asian Church. The projects we do are only possible firstly because of God's leading and empowerment, and secondly because of the participation of Christians around the world who get involved with praying and giving after being prompted to do so by the Holy Spirit.

People sometimes ask us what kind of fund-raising programs we operate at Asia Harvest. The answer is we don't! Apart from our newsletters such as the one you have in your hands, and our website, we don't have any other



*Tribal warriors from Borneo*

way to make what we do known to people. In the past we travelled around churches preaching and sharing quite a lot, but even this has taken a backseat in recent years as we have spent more time in Asia and less in other parts of the world. Being a non-denominational ministry, we don't get any denominational funding, but have a number of committed individuals and fellowships who participate in what we do through prayer and their generosity.

We have found God's promises very true that when we "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" then He adds all the rest to us, providing what is needed to do His work. Hudson Taylor once said, "God's work, done God's way, will never lack God's supply." Note he said "God's work" not "our work." Our responsibility therefore should be to find out what God is doing and see where we can be involved.

That's what we have attempted to do at Asia Harvest, sometimes successfully by the grace of God, other times from learning from mistakes! If it is truly God's work, and God is the one supplying, then we can relax and don't worry about things that are His concern. We don't need to "beg, borrow or steal", but can spend our time and energy doing what He has called us to do: serve the Church in Asia. We do thank you for your participation in this ministry, and appreciate your time and involvement. We hope you feel part of what is happening in Asia.



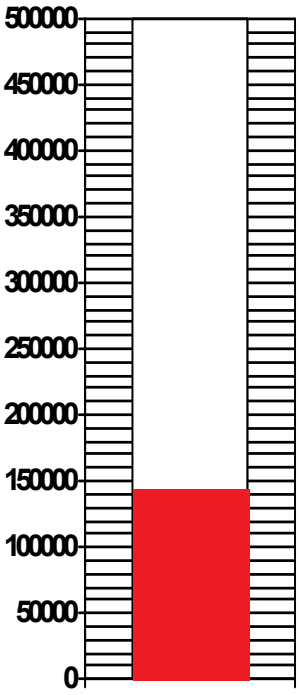
# Asia Harvest Projects 2003

*Due to lack of space in our newsletters, we don't usually have the opportunity to mention some of the lesser known projects we are involved with on an on-going basis, projects like the China Bible printing fund, and the Kashmiri Bible correspondence course in northern India. In this issue we will run through some of our projects and give more background information, starting with some of the lesser-known ones.*

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

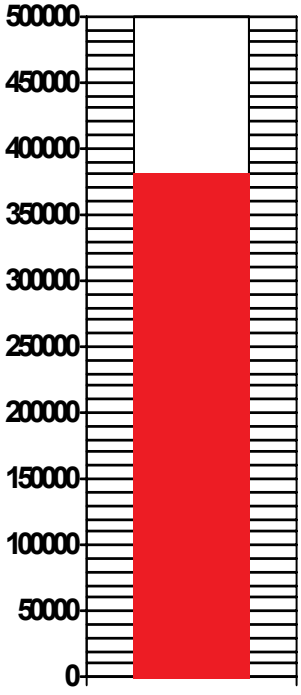
### *Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word*

2003 Bibles Printed: 145,046




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. Each Bible costs just US $2.25 to print and deliver.

Total Bibles since 2000: 378,107





*Picture of a hand-copied Chinese Bible*

**There is much confusion these days about the need to print Bibles in China. Information coming out of China seems to be contradictory. We would like to explain why we help print Bibles in China for the house churches.**

In the 1980s and early 1990s we were heavily involved with carrying Bibles into China from Hong Kong and other places. Those years were very rewarding and extremely important, as the Chinese house churches had little or no access to the Scriptures. We made literally hundreds of trips into China and saw God's hand on numerous occasions.

We believe that the situation changed somewhat around 1993, when the Chinese church started finding ways to print Bibles and other Christian books inside China. At first this was tentative and only small quantities were produced, but over time things developed and today they are able to print and deliver hundreds of thousands of Bibles every year, for just a fraction of what it used to cost to carry them in from another country.

"What about the Bibles the government allows to be printed?" we are often asked. It is a great blessing that the Amity Press in Nanjing is permitted to print Bibles. These are primarily available for members of government-sanctioned Three-Self Churches, although the house churches have also found creative ways to get their hands on many tens of thousands of these as well. The house churches found if they placed a large order they invariably got into trouble with the police but if smaller orders were placed there were usually no problems. Over the last few years they have placed many small orders! This has been a great blessing to many believers, but the number of Bibles they have been able to get their hands on has been woefully inadequate because of the huge increase of new believers coming to Christ all across China.

Between all the various branches of the house churches, the growth rate of new believers far surpasses the supply of Bibles. Some estimate they are growing at between 8-10 million new believers annually. That means that far from meeting the need, there are actually more Christians in China without a Bible every year.

To compound this situation, the Amity Press last year announced they were reducing the number of Bibles they print. Suddenly the house churches reported that the need for Bibles was greater because many of the avenues that had been open to them getting Bibles through official channels suddenly closed.

This is why we are helping the house churches print Bibles inside China. Every Chinese house church leader we know is in agreement that the ministry of printing Bibles internally is a vital one. If the Lord provided the resources we could easily print and distribute five to ten times the number of Bibles that we have been doing in China.

We receive incredibly thorough and detailed reports out of China, showing us where every single box of Bibles goes. In this way we know the Chinese are accountable in the way they handle this project.

Thanks to your prayers and donations we were able to print and deliver 145,046 Bibles to the house churches of China in 2003.

# Kashmiri Bible Course

The four million Muslims living in the northern Indian State of Kashmir are among the most unreached and unevangelized people groups in the world. War and violence have destroyed their communities. Very few Kashmiris have ever found peace in Jesus Christ.

For about five years now we have been partnering with an Indian ministry who are reaching out to the Kashmiris. This is one of the projects we have not mentioned in our newsletters due to the high level of security needed for this work, but we do so now in general terms.

Asia Harvest has provided finances to print thousands of Bible correspondence courses in the Kashmiri language. Many Muslim men and women have written in, asking to do the Bible course. Those graduates who show a keen interest in the Gospel are invited to attend a seminar, during which ex-Muslims explain Christianity from A to Z. The results have been wonderful, with more than 95% of those who attend the seminars making firm commitments to Christ. Some have even been village leaders and influential people in Kashmiri society.

Here are some of the letters received from Kashmiri Muslims in response to studying the Bible.... ***"Respected Teacher, Please send me a copy of your course and also a Holy Bible. Your lessons are very interesting. May God forgive us of our sins committed intentionally and unintentionally! Amen."***

*"God is Great! I have read with great pleasure your books about the Christian faith. I previously thought all Christians were infidels. I have heard that you send free Christian books for study to anyone who requests. I have seen some of these at a friend's house, and we and our friends all want to study these strange teachings and learn more about the man called Jesus."*

*"Dear Sir, The book recently sent to me is really splendid and it is of great spiritual value. Please register me with your church, because I want to follow the True Lord. It is a great honor and I thank you for telling me. I want to know whether there is any institution imparting Christianity. If so, I would like to be a student."*



Every year Asia Harvest provides approximately US$ 10,000 to fund this extremely strategic work. Every year dozens of Muslims are being saved and discipled in Christ! We also support the key ministry leaders in the Kashmir work through our Asian Worker's fund. Please pray God's kingdom would soon come among the Kashmiri people! We presently have no finances available to continue funding this work, so if you would like to be involved please see the yellow Response Form inside this newsletter.

# Laos Evangelism

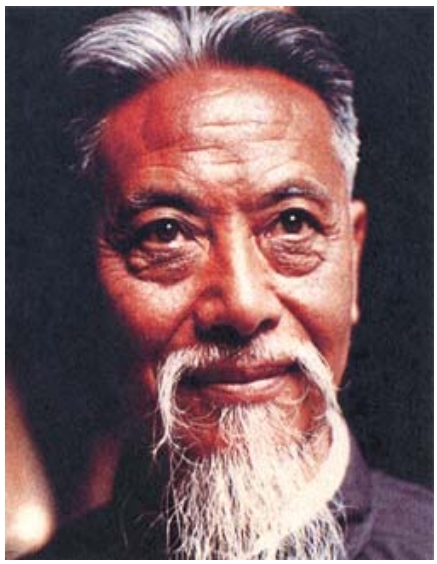
For more than ten years the small Communist country of Laos has been much on our heart. Although we don't report on it in our newsletters, we continue to be involved with the spread of the Gospel in Laos in partnership with other organizations. Every year we print thousands of Gospel tracts and booklets, as well as helping to produce thousands more evangelistic video tapes, audio cassettes, and other forms of media. God is moving in Laos and the Church there is growing steadily despite strong persecution. Thank you for your continued support of our Laos Literature & Evangelism fund!

*And now to our regular major projects.....*

# CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

## *Supporting pastors Crippled by Persecution and Torture*

***Because of your prayers and support we were able to support 577 living martyrs every month throughout 2003. This has been a tremendous blessing to the Church in China.***

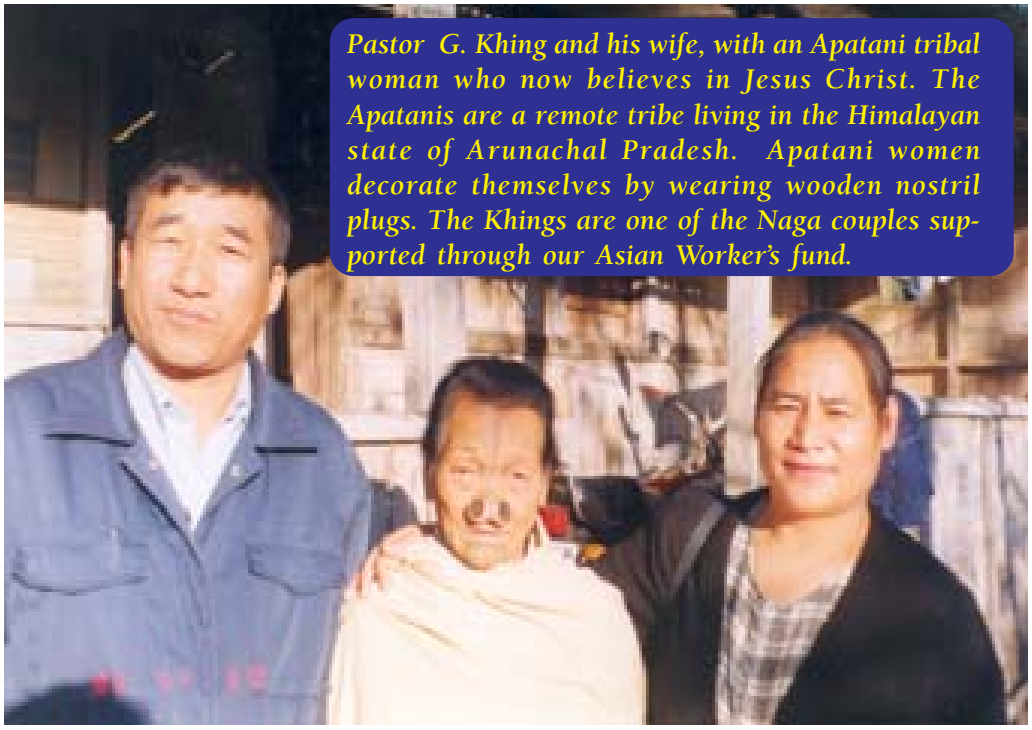


In China today Christians are regularly beaten, tortured and even killed because they love Jesus. House church leaders have given us details of more than 1,000 Christian leaders who have been crippled as a result of torture received at the hands of the authorities. The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of their injuries. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. You can support one or more of these living martyrs with a gift of **US $25 per month each.** A prayer card will be sent to every regular supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to help remind you to pray.

# ASIAN WORKERS FUND

## *Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

***Because of your prayers and partnership we were able to support 205 Asian church-planting missionaries every month throughout 2003.***



*Pastor G. Khing and his wife, with an Apatani tribal woman who now believes in Jesus Christ. The Apatanis are a remote tribe living in the Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh. Apatani women decorate themselves by wearing wooden nostril plugs. The Khings are one of the Naga couples supported through our Asian Worker's fund.*

Asian churches give their tithes and offerings, but the economy of many places like China, India 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 workers to the field, but is unable to support them once they are there. We are in contact with thousands of workers who need support. These servants of the Lord have given their whole lives to the Gospel.

The **Asian Workers Fund** assists workers who are doing strategic ministry in Asia. Please pray about whether you, your family, or church could help support one or more of these workers with a gift of **US $25 per month each.** A prayer card will be sent to every supporter of this project, with information about a worker to remind you to pray.

# PROJECT SMILE

## *Helping Children in Vietnam*

*Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 524 children in Vietnam in 2003.*



**BEFORE SURGERY**



**AFTER SURGERY**

***This little girl was one of the 524 hare-lip and cleft-palate surgeries we were able to fund in 2003 thanks to your donations (1,492 since 1999). Her life will be changed forever.***

Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with cleft palate or hare-lip disabilities. The average cost to help a child is just $ 60. 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 $ 60 will help 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 $ 240 will bless four children.*** Each donation of $ 60 or more will receive a picture of the child before and after their life-changing operation, so you can continue to pray for them.

# The Printed Word

***In addition to printing Bibles, in 2003 we received enough funds to print 17,750 Chinese Operation China books and 14,800 Chinese anti-cult books for the house churches.***



One of the greatest blessings in the past year has been to see how God has blessed the books that Paul Hattaway has written. *The Heavenly Man* continues to be one of the bestselling Christian book in many parts of the world. It was voted "Christian Book of the year" in the United Kingdom. There are now more than 300,000 copies in print in English, plus translations either completed or underway in Croatian, Korean, Hebrew, German, Norwegian, Italian, Finnish, Swedish, Danish, Arabic, Russian, Polish, Dutch, Japanese, Thai and Indonesian. It has been one of those experiences where we have to just sit back and praise God! It was agreed before the book was written that every cent of the royalties would go to the work of Chinese house churches, so this has also helped to advance the gospel where it is needed most. *Back to Jerusalem* is also doing very well. **Please pray for God's grace and strength on Paul** as he is working on four new books at the moment (in his "spare" time)! These will all be published, God willing, in 2004:

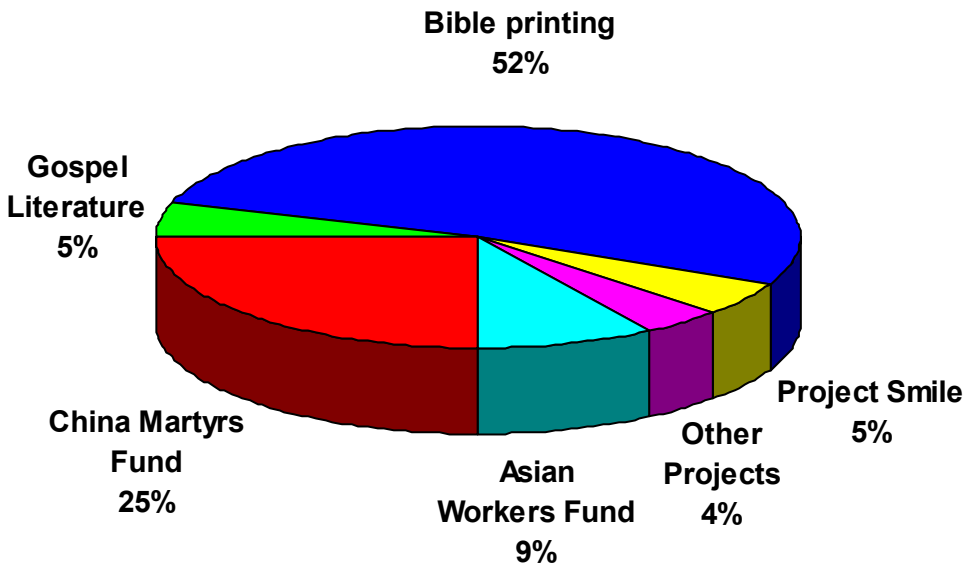
***Peoples of the Buddhist World*** (a large pictorial book profiling every Buddhist people group in the world, similar in style to Operation China).

***From Headhunters to Soul Winners***: A Remarkable Account of Revival Among the People of Nagaland.

***The Gospel of the Kingdom*** - an uplifing teaching book with Asia Harvest friend and board member Eivind Froen.

***The Biography of Chinese housechurch leader Peter Xu Yongze*** - title not yet decided.

# Summary of Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2003




## 2003 Financial Statement

**At Asia Harvest we desire to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2003 is now available upon request. Please write and ask if you would like to receive it.**

# From our Mailbox

I was a Jehovah's Witness for 14 years. During that time I did sixty hours preaching work a week in China Town and was committed to teaching the Bible in Chinese. One day, feeling tired and weary, I went into the Christian bookshop to buy a concordance and looking around the shop I saw a bestselling book called 'The Heavenly Man.' Seeing that it was about China I decided to buy it despite the Jehovah's Witnesses advising against buying books from Christian sources as they believe it is false teaching and that only Watchtower published books can be trusted. When I got home I started to read the book and it was like a modern-day Book of Acts.... As I read this I wept, but I was also scared because I was starting to see that this Christianity was the truth, not the Jehovah's Witnesses. I broke down under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and committed my life to the Lord Jesus Christ. I have started to go to a Chinese church, and started an Alpha course to learn more about God and His Word. Thank you for writing this story, and please pray for me.

**Martin S., England**

You and your people are terribly lost and have absolutely no idea as to what being a Christian means. What a lost tribe you are, yes, a tribe, not a religion. Where is your humility in Christ? xxxxheads.

**"A more humble Christian" - received by email**

I received your wonderful newsletters. I'm so excited about what is happening all the way over in China and other places. I am 12 years old and have been living in Fiji for 6 years now. When I grow up I want to be part of the Back to Jerusalem vision. My parents are missionaries here and they are working with the Indian people so I can understand the Hindi language. I also want to learn Chinese and Arabic. I am praying for the people and the house churches in China.

**Stephanie G., Fiji**

I am very thankful for what you are doing to the glory of God the Father. All the newsletters that you have sent me since last year are life to me and everyone that reads them. After reading everyone is led to prayer. Our local assembly has really benefited and people have redirected their hopes in Christ Jesus that He will save and help them. We have put some of the principles in place and God is doing great things. We are beliving in God that one day He will make a way for you to come and minister in Zambia.

**Aaron G., Zambia**