"PUT IN THE SICKLE, FOR THE HARVEST HAS COME!" MARK 4:29

Asia Harvest

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER #190



THE MINISTRY TRAINING FUND

Introducing A New Core Asia Harvest Project

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From the Frontlines

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT with us for a while will know that at *Asia Harvest* we conduct numerous different ministry activities, but they all fall under one of just six main core projects, such as our **Asia Bible Fund**; the **Asian Workers' Fund**; **Living Martyrs' Fund**; **Children's Fund**, and **Persecution & Relief Fund**.

Within each project are various sub-projects. For example, we support over 300 Christian lepers in India (highlighted in our October 2022 newsletter). That support comes under the **Relief Fund**. We support hundreds of widows, which is part of the **Living Martyrs' Fund**, in addition to a host of other activities that serve to advance the Gospel.

It is rare for us to announce a new core project, but this month we would like to introduce the **Ministry Training Fund** (**MTF**), which we hope will remain a foundational part of what we do in Asia for many years to come.

As the Lord Jesus commanded in the passage at the top of this page, He did not tell us only to share the Gospel or to get people to make professions of faith.

That is only the start. Missions history shows that works focused only on evangelism usually didn't have lasting fruit, for Jesus told us to *"make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."*

"Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

The **Ministry Training Fund** is therefore about helping the Asian Church disciple believers and to equip them to disciple others, especially among unreached people groups.

FRONT COVER: *Sisters from several tribes in Nepal worshipping the Lord Jesus.*

BACK COVER: *Believers giving their greetings from a remote Himalayan valley.*

THREE REQUESTS FROM ASIAN CHURCH LEADERS

OVER THE YEARS, AS WE HAVE TRAVELED THROUGHOUT ASIA, and developed strong relationships with many church and mission leaders, the three main answers they give when asked what their greatest needs are have consistently been:

1 PLEASE PRAY FOR US; 2 WE NEED BIBLES; AND 3 WE NEED HELP TRAINING LEADERS.

In many parts of Asia, the number of Christians has increased rapidly and churches are overflowing, but the leaders know that if they don't have effective discipleship programs, the harvest might rot, and new believers will be easy prey to cults and false teaching.

Instead of focusing solely on soul-winning, the most effective ministries we partner with have grasped the need to establish biblical leadership as laid out by the Apostle Paul:

> *"He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; "*
> *(Ephesians 4:11-13)*

Even though this is the first time we have officially announced the **Ministry Training Fund** in a newsletter, we have been helping our Asian co-workers with this need for decades. Just in the last few years we have used donations designated "**Where Needed Most**" to **train 9,515 believers throughout Asia**, so this number is our starting statistic for the project. We expect the number of those trained and equipped will rise sharply in the coming years.

In the remainder of this newsletter, we will share a few pictures from training courses we have been honored to support, along with some comments about the importance of the project by various Asian ministry leaders.

As you will see, this project does not at all mean that we are helping establish Western style seminaries or Bible schools. Instead, the Ministry Training Fund exists to **train and equip soldiers for *spiritual* battle, able to win and disciple unreached people groups.**

Training is often held in places and in a manner you may not be used to, in what could be described as biblical settings, like outside under a tree, or with believers sitting in a circle on a dirt floor, facing and interacting with one another.

Apart from new believers being discipled in God's Word, more specialized training is also provided to equip workers in areas like children's ministry, frontline churchplanting among unreached people groups; how to conduct literacy classes; and how to effectively disciple Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists for Christ.

The support we provide includes costs like travel for the participants to attend the training; and food, books, and other resources when the meeting is underway.

Without this help, most would not be able to attend.

On average it costs $50 to help train a worker.



"With less than 10% of active full-time Christian workers in the Himalayas having received theological training, the need for equipping and empowering our pastors and leaders is paramount for our ministry to flourish and thrive.

Training ministers is strategic for the kingdom of God. It ensures the sustainability and growth of the Church. As new believers are nurtured and equipped, they become effective disciple-makers, multiplying the impact of the Gospel exponentially.

They become leaders who can raise up the next generation of believers, ensuring the continuity of God's work in the world. The results of these trainings are awe-inspiring. We witness individuals experiencing transformation, finding purpose in their lives, and discovering their calling in God's kingdom.

Because of help from Asia Harvest's Ministry Training Fund, remarkable results have occurred throughout the Himalayas. Many churches have been planted, filled with passionate worshippers, become beacons of hope in their regions.

One of the participants, Brother Dil, expressed: 'I have never encountered such impactful teaching in my life. The training has transformed me, and I am eager to pass on what I've learned to my people.'"

-The Himalayas

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"Ministry training is of utmost importance, especially during this time of harvest in Myanmar. Currently we have over 50 staff members leading more than 2,000 believers. We utilize a variety of tools which provide deep spiritual truths in a simple way that is easily understood. By discipling trainers, the process can be easily duplicated and is helping with the rapid growth we are experiencing by the grace of God.

Almost all of our new believers come from a Buddhist background, and thus discipling is often tailored to help them understand how to minister to new Buddhist converts.

The results have been astounding. Our biggest challenge is keeping up with the pace of the Holy Spirit. We thank God for Asia Harvest and the Ministry Training Fund. Without your help we would not be able to handle the great revival happening in our area right now."

– Myanmar

Training takes place in many settings, from believers gathered on a beautiful beach on the shores of the Andaman Sea (above) to tribal Christians in a mountainous area of Southwest China (below).



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"Our ministry training courses help move believers into unreached, unengaged, and hostile areas with the Good News of the kingdom.

It's a disciple-making strategy based on training, mentorship, and meeting felt needs in an unreached community. Our leaders are taught how to effectively engage communities, train new disciples in church planting, and disciple others.

This has proven to be a God-anointed process that multiplies itself by training disciples to disciple others. The synergy created by this simple method has resulted in a great harvest of souls for the kingdom of God."

-India

MTF MINISTRY TRAINING FUND

TRAINING AND EQUIPPING BELIEVERS TO EFFECTIVELY SERVE GOD

We invite you to join hands with us in praying for this great need.

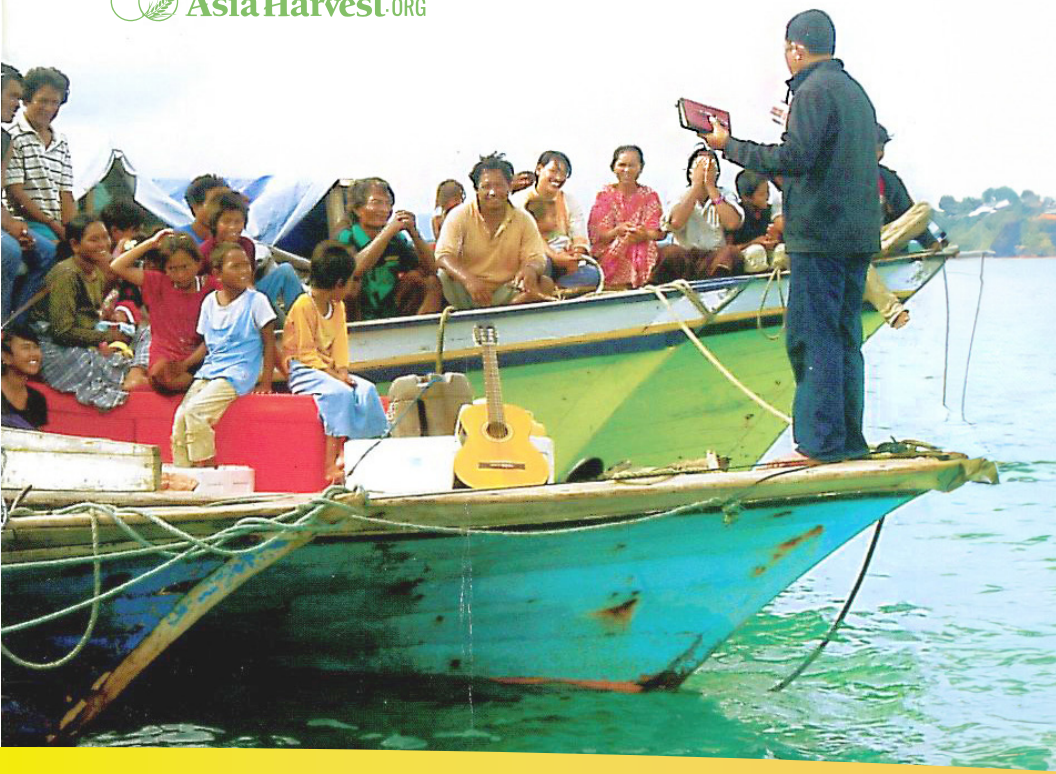
Often workers live in remote places and are only able to assemble together once or twice a year for leadership and ministry training. We cover travel, food and other costs associated with meetings.

To train each worker costs an average of $50.

If you would like to support this strategic project, please fill out the enclosed response form and send it back with your gift.

Alternatively, one-time or monthly donations to the **Ministry Training Fund** *and our other projects can be made via our secure website:*

AsiaHarvest.ORG







ASIA BIBLE FUND (ABF)

CURRENT TOTAL: 19,480,220 BIBLES PRINTED IN 159 LANGUAGES

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

Each Bible costs just $3 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.



THE CHILDREN'S FUND (TCF)

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT HAS REACHED 212,453 CHILDREN THROUGHOUT ASIA SO FAR

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 help reach a child for Christ.



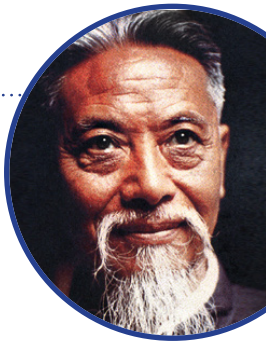
MINISTRY TRAINING FUND (MTF)

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT WE HAVE HELPED TRAIN AND EQUIP 9,515 ASIAN BELIEVERS TO EFFECTIVELY SERVE GOD

The Ministry Training Fund helps the Asian Church disciple and train believers to be effective ministers of the Gospel among the unreached.

Often workers live in remote places and coming together once or twice a year is the only outside fellowship and teaching they receive. We cover travel, food and other costs associated with the meetings. To train each worker costs an average of $50.

LMF LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

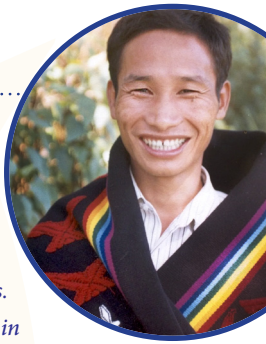


BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP WE ARE CURRENTLY SUPPORTING 804 LIVING MARTYRS

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.

AWF ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT 1,652 ASIAN EVANGELISTS AMONG 1,231 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 1,140,683 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.

PRF 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 lepers, communities and families throughout Asia who are in desperate need.

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