

Asia Harvest



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

www.asiaharvest.org

office@asiaharvest.org

July 2009 - Newsletter #100



The Father's Heart

Reaching Tribes in Remote Asia

From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

Welcome to Asia Harvest newsletter number 100! Our first newsletter was sent out to about 50 people, more than 21 years ago in April 1988. Since then we have been humbled and amazed to see God grow His kingdom in Asia. We thank the Lord Jesus for connecting us with many Christian friends like you, who share the same vision and concern for the unreached people of Asia. Thank you for your prayers and support throughout the years. God willing, we plan to continue serving the church in Asia until Jesus returns. We can not think of any greater honor and privilege.

“Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together” (John 4:34-36).

In our previous newsletter we shared about the Back to Jerusalem movement of the Chinese Church, and included some testimonies of how Chinese believers have begun to preach the Gospel among Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists. We were quite surprised by the overwhelming response to the newsletter. Many people wrote to say how deeply touched they were to hear of how God is moving in other parts of the world. Others lamented how much of a struggle it is in their own countries, as people’s hearts appear to be getting harder, and the pessimism of economic gloom is enveloping them.

God is moving in tremendous power and grace in many parts of Asia, and we are continually hearing from our coworkers about how breakthroughs are occurring in various places, of large numbers of new believers being baptized, and of Christian fellowships being formed among some of the world’s most isolated and unreached tribes and ethnic groups. We have come to realize that such experiences in Asia are considered quite “abnormal” by many Christians in other parts of the world. Although we move back and forward between the Church in Asia and the West, most of our Christian experience has been in the heart of Asia. I (Paul) began work as a missionary in China as a new believer at the age of 19, and Joy when she was 20. We met on the mission field and were

married a few years later. I guess in many ways we have not fully realized the deep struggle and disillusionment many Christians around the world feel.

We want to encourage you not to lose heart if you are experiencing difficulty in your Christian life and witness. There are different seasons, both in the natural world and in the spiritual. You will have heard how tens of millions of Chinese people follow Jesus, and how countless miracles have occurred the length and breadth of that great country. Do you realize, however, that it was not always like this in China? Griffith John, a missionary to China's Shandong Province a century ago, sent this sobering report: *"The good news is moving but very slowly. The people are as hard as steel. They are eaten up both soul and body by the world, and do not seem to feel that there can be reality in anything beyond sense. To them our doctrine is foolishness, our talk jargon. We discuss and beat them in argument. We reason them into silence and shame; but the whole effort falls upon them like showers upon a sandy desert."*

Today that same place where Griffith John and other missionaries faithfully labored for so many years—Shandong Province—is home to approximately 4.5 million Christians! Jesus said we should pray to "the Lord of the Harvest" to send more laborers into the field. Our God is not only the Lord of the harvesters, He is the Lord of the harvest itself! He knows when it is ripe, and can give effective strategies to show His children how to bring in the crop at just the right time. When Griffith John first went to Shandong Province the harvest was not yet ready to be gathered. In later years it was, and an abundant yield for the kingdom of God has resulted.

You too may live in a place where people's hearts seem as "hard as steel." Don't be discouraged! Continue to seek the Lord, and He will keep your heart soft and clean. Keep walking faithfully and in obedience to His Word, and share the Good News about Jesus whenever you can. And above all, be sure not to forget that God is still in control of everything!

In the marvellous book of Job, God finally interrupts the aimless advice of Job's friends and asks him, **"Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me"** (Job 41:11). Another translation says, "Who could confront me and get by with it? I'm in charge of all this - I run the universe!" Job was rendered speechless by God's glory and power, and humbly concluded: **"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted"** (Job 42:2).

Friends, keep seeking the Lord, and pay much closer attention to His Word than to the daily news, politics, or latest economic woes. These things are real, but Jesus Christ is much more real! Cling to Him and trust Him with all your heart, and He will never abandon you. Placing your focus on the things of this world will only bring depression and despair. Placing your focus on Jesus will bring life and vision to your soul.

THE FATHER'S HEART

Helping Asian Christians Take the Good News to Asia's Unreached Tribes

At the Heart of what we do

We want to thank you for your continued prayers and partnership in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout Asia. Such words are often used lightly, but at Asia Harvest we mean them sincerely. Thank you!

In the past we wrote several large color books such as *Operation China* and *Peoples of the Buddhist World*, which profiled hundreds of unreached people groups in Asia, introducing them to Christians around the world. (By the way, these books are still available. See the bookstore at our website for details, or write and ask). It has been thrilling to hear how God used those books to mobilize new workers for the harvest, and subsequent breakthroughs occurred among groups that were previously untouched by the Gospel.



For example the **Mosuo** people, a Tibetan Buddhist group who live around the remote Lugu Lake in southwest China, were completely unreached in the late 1990s. Today there

is at least one house church in every Mosuo village!

The small **Baima** tribe of China, numbering about 10,000 people, had absolutely no knowledge of the Gospel until the first team of Christians went to reach them several years ago.



Recently we were overjoyed when a missionary told us that 273 Baima people now follow the Lord!

Many of you stand in committed prayer for the evangelists we support. They need that! Let us share a testimony of how your prayers have made a real and vital difference.

In our December 2001 newsletter (#64), we wrote about the desperate needs of the many tribes in the remote state of Arunachal Pradesh, in northeast India. Arunachal Pradesh is sandwiched between Tibet and India in the midst many peaks over 25,000 feet high.

One of the tribes we wrote about in that newsletter was the unreached **Apatani**, a



Jesus Christ."

group numbering about 23,000 people. We included this picture of an Apatani woman with a tattooed face, and concluded by asking readers to *"Please pray the Apatani would soon believe and trust in*

We have the privilege of informing you that God heard your prayers! After we used your gifts to the Asian Workers' fund to support Asian evangelists reaching out to the Apatani for several years, we recently received the below picture of a new and thriving Apatani church packed with vibrant believers, in the same place that was

once trapped in deep spiritual darkness and bondage. Hallelujah!

God's Heart for the Nations

People sometimes ask us what is the most important project we are involved with. That is a difficult question, because we consider all of them important! If they weren't important and strategic for the kingdom of God, we wouldn't get involved in the first place. Having said that, the one project that perhaps encapsulates the very core of what we do is the Asian Workers' fund.

This is because we believe it is at the very center of God's heart too. Jesus said He will not return until ***"this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come"*** (Matthew 24:14).



The Greek word used for “nations” both in the above verse and elsewhere in the New Testament is “*ethne*.” This word means ethnic groups, not political countries. God is not merely looking to have followers in every country. If this was so, then Jesus should have returned already for there are Christians today in every country on earth. Rather, God’s plan is for every ethnic and linguistic representation of mankind to be represented in heaven.

The great news for Christians everywhere is that we know God’s plans *will* be accomplished! In Revelation we read that the four living creatures and 24 elders, “*sang a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation [ethne]. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth’*” (Revelation 5:9-10).

This is why we consider the Asian Workers’ fund as being at the heart of what we do. The brave evangelists who are reaching the lost nations of Asia have encountered remarkable success, as the Holy Spirit frequently empowers and gives them favor with God and men. Last year, one ministry we support saw 901 people come to faith in Jesus, and 73 new church fellowships were established. These new believers come from about 25 different ethnic groups (ethne).

Another ministry we support reported that 516 tribal people in China believed

the Gospel last year, and so far 320 of them have been baptized. These new believers come from 13 different ethnic groups. It is a tremendous blessing to see God’s plan of salvation unfold in front of our eyes, and the Asian Workers’ fund has proved crucial in seeing this happen.

The Asian Workers’ Fund

Having shared some of these wonderful testimonies of what God is doing in Asia, please understand that there are still thousands of ethnic groups that have yet to be reached. The job is still far from being completed. Experts say there are approximately 12,000 ethnic groups in the world today, and about 4,000 could still be considered unreached by the Gospel. Most of these are located in Asia.

Twenty years ago, the Lord began to position Asia Harvest as a link between the Church in Asia and Christians around the world. One of the most critical challenges we have faced, and continue to face, is the need to assist evangelists in unreached areas. We established the Asian Workers’ Fund to help these dedicated believers. Through the years it has grown until Asia Harvest now works with more than 400 evangelists, who serve the Lord among about 100 different unreached tribes and ethnic groups throughout Asia.

We established the Asian Workers’ fund with several guiding principles. For example, we only give through existing Asian church structures or mission groups. We do not try to send any workers out ourselves. This way, the support can be given in a healthier way

that builds up the local Body of Christ. We also only support pioneer evangelists, and not pastors. We believe pastors should receive support from the flocks they shepherd. Our aim is to help frontline evangelists who have left their homes and traveled to unreached areas to proclaim the Gospel. Without this help, they would not be able to go.

Our Asian brothers and sisters are often called to endure much hardship. Their call is not easy. They are often arrested, beaten by villagers, robbed, and abused. They boldly continue marching forward, however, determined not to lose sight of their goal to advance the kingdom of God.

Through them, the living water of Jesus flows to many dry and thirsty communities. Last year alone, approximately 7,000 people found Christ because of these dedicated preachers. More than 200 churches were established in places where there were previously none, bringing light to communities who have been in bondage to Satanic forces for generations.



One of the Chinese ministries we support is called to reach Muslims for the Lord Jesus. Although it is a new ministry, they have already had the privilege of leading many Muslims to salvation. About

15 years a friend and I had to flee the **Dongxiang** area in northwest China while

the police searched for us, after we entered that dark place seeking ways to penetrate it with the light of the Gospel. The Dongxiang are notorious for controlling the drug trade in that part of Asia and for being fanatical Muslims. We often thought if God can reach the Dongxiang then He can reach anyone.

Last year we received a picture showing the first ever Dongxiang Christian fellowship! To see former Muslims—now redeemed by the precious Blood of Jesus Christ—intently studying the Bible together was a great encouragement.

We also support many evangelists in Vietnam. One of them, Brother Benjamin, recently sent the following report which is indicative of what he and many other evangelists are experiencing. He wrote:

“Some of the people who live in a nearby village didn’t like it when I came to visit and were very much against the Gospel. We knew that the best thing we could do was to pray for them. On one of the days we visited, one of them came to us and said, ‘I want to hear about Jesus.’ We saw that he had a genuine desire to learn about the Lord. We talked about Jesus and explained the Gospel to him and he received the Lord!

Now he often comes with us on our mission travels and his whole family is worshipping the Lord. Praise God! In the last three months I have shared the Good News with 37 people and 10 have accepted Christ. This brings our fellowship to a total of 109 precious souls.”

An Urgent Need

At the moment our commitments to these workers has outstripped the funding coming in to help them.



We are currently lacking support for 80 Asian evangelists, most of whom are working among China's ethnic minorities, among tribes in the Himalayas (Tibet, Nepal, India and Bhutan), and in

the mountainous tribal areas of Southeast Asia. They labor in some of the most isolated areas on earth. Some have to walk several days along mountain trails just to reach the nearest road. We are humbled by their courage and dedication. Few people will ever hear their names in this world, but we know they will be richly rewarded for their obedience and sacrifice in heaven.

Would you, your family, or your church please consider supporting one or more of these courageous evangelists?

I know that many of you are struggling financially. It is not an easy time to ask for this, but a monthly donation of \$25 (or \$300 per year) would make a tremendous difference in their lives. It would allow them to carry out the work God has called them to.

Few of us can go where they go, but each of us can partake in the joy of their reward.

Would you also please pray for them as the Lord leads you? If you sense that the Lord is calling you to help the Asian Workers' fund (or any of our projects), please fill in the enclosed Response Form and send it to us. Alternatively, either one-time or recurring monthly donations can be made by credit card at our secure website: www.asiaharvest.org

We will send a prayer card of a worker to each regular donor, and a written update of their progress at least once a year.

We can never express how much we appreciate your involvement in our lives and ministry. We covet your prayers, as we know that without fervent prayer under-girding our efforts, little could be accomplished.

If there is anything we can do for you, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. It is always a privilege to hear from you.



Update from Orissa

A few months ago we sent a prayer request on behalf of persecuted Christians in Orissa, India, who had been driven from their homes by fanatical Hindus. More than 500 Christians have been killed in the turmoil.

Thank you for your prayers and generous help. Because of it, we were able to help the 35 Christians from nine families who had been left destitute by the brutal persecution. Food, blankets, clothing, medicine and other necessities were provided. A series of simple houses was constructed (see picture below) so that the believers could restart their lives.

As the support continued to come in, we were able to expand the help to many other Christian families devastated in Orissa. This help includes repairing 100 houses that had been damaged by the attackers, providing pigs, goats and poultry for families, providing them with a source of ongoing income, and establishing other small business initiatives such as tools to start bicycle repair shops and barber shops. All of these activities have been designed to help our brothers and sisters in Orissa recover from their horrifying ordeal. They have expressed their heart-felt thanks to every person who has prayed for them and helped them get back on their feet. God bless you.



CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 2,520,389 Bibles printed and delivered.

We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests from house church leaders throughout the country, requesting God's Word for their congregations. These Bibles are distributed free of charge to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning brightly. **Each full Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support ____



The **Asian Workers Fund** assists church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry in Asia. These servants of the Lord have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. We only support evangelists/missionaries and not pastors, as we believe pastors should be supported by the flocks they shepherd. Please pray about whether you or your church could help support these dedicated workers, at **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card is sent to all regular donors.

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 144,812 Bibles Printed in 23 languages

The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam are home to more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities. We are also providing God's Word to tribes in Myanmar (Burma) and other Southeast Asian nations as the need arises. **Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.**

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **919** living martyrs.*



"A martyr is 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 Voice of the Martyrs)

The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists who are unable to work because of injuries or illness caused by persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through an occasional or monthly gift of \$25 you can help support one or more of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every regular supporter of this project.

PROJECT SMILE



*Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of **6,964** children in Vietnam.*

Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with disabilities such as cleft palates, cleft lips and club feet, as well as others who need operations for burns, cancerous growths and other conditions. The cost of helping a child varies depending on the kind of surgery required, but each gift received of \$60 helps a child have a better life. A laminated prayer card of a child helped through Project Smile is sent to all donors.

ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND



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

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided relief assistance to the victims of natural disasters such as the 2008 earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the 2004 Tsunami, and a host of other disasters in India, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. 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 thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.



Asia Harvest Addresses

www.asiaharvest.org office@asiaharvest.org

NORTH AMERICA

1903 60th Place, Suite M1204, Bradenton, FL 34203, USA

AUSTRALIA

36 Nelson Street, Stepney, SA 5069, Australia

NEW ZEALAND

P.O.Box 181, Te Anau 9640, New Zealand

EUROPE

SALZ, Postfach 1144, D-72206 Altensteig, Germany

MALAYSIA

STAMP Bhd., P.O.Box 8036, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya,
46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

SINGAPORE

Clementi Central P.O.Box 119, Singapore 911204

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

AsiaLink, Mill Farm, Fleetwood Road, Wesham PR4 3HD, England



RESPONSE FORM

Help Make a Difference in Asia

One-time or recurring monthly credit card donations can also be made to any of our projects at our secure website: www.asiaharvest.org

- ☐ I am praying for Asia Harvest and the work in Asia
☐ I have changed my address. Please use my new address written below
☐ Please remove my name from your mailing list
☐ Please send the Asia Harvest newsletter to my Christian friends (provide details)
☐ Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ to be used as indicated below:
I would like to get receipts ☐ By email ☐ By post ☐ No receipts needed

WHERE NEEDED MOST ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other _____

CHINA: BIBLE PRINTING ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other _____
(\$1.80 per Bible, including delivery)

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other _____
(\$25 per month, supporting Asian missionaries in the most unreached areas of Asia)

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS' FUND ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other _____
(\$25 per month, supporting Christian workers disabled by persecution and illness)

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE PRINTING ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other _____
(\$2.70 per Bible, including delivery)

VIETNAM: PROJECT SMILE ☐ \$60 ☐ \$120 ☐ \$240 ☐ Other _____
(Cleft-palate, cleft-lip, club foot, and other operations for Vietnamese children)

BACK TO JERUSALEM ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other _____
(Helping the Chinese Church to send missionaries to Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus)

ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other _____
(Transforming lives with God's love during natural disasters)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please turn page for more information.....

Asia Harvest Addresses

NORTH AMERICA

1903 60th Place, Suite M1204, Bradenton, FL 34203, USA

AUSTRALIA

36 Nelson Street, Stepney, SA 5069, Australia

NEW ZEALAND

P.O.Box 181, Te Anau 9640, New Zealand

EUROPE

SALZ, Postfach 1144, D-72206 Altensteig, Germany

MALAYSIA

STAMP Bhd., P.O.Box 8036, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya, 46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

SINGAPORE

Clementi Central P.O.Box 119, Singapore 911204

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

AsiaLink, Mill Farm, Fleetwood Road, Wesham PR4 3HD, England

About Asia Harvest

Asia Harvest is an inter-denominational Christian ministry working in Asia to see effective churches planted among unreached people groups. We work alongside local Asian church leaders, helping and equipping them to focus on reaching the lost. Asia Harvest newsletters are sent out free of charge to raise awareness of the Kingdom of God in Asia and opportunities for Christians around the world to be involved. Send your name and address if you would like to receive them. Correspondence should be sent to the Asia Harvest address nearest you. Asia Harvest is a 'faith' ministry supported by God's people as He leads them to give. Asia Harvest is served by a board of respected mission leaders, each with many years of experience in Asia. Asia Harvest is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible organization in the United States, and annual financial statements are available upon request. In the rare case of a project being over-supported, Asia Harvest reserves the right to allocate funds to a similar project that is lacking in support. Personal or bank checks in any major currency can be sent to support projects, our general ministry fund, or the personal needs of Asia Harvest workers. Alternatively, one-time or recurring monthly donations can be safely and easily made to any of our projects via our secure website: www.asiaharvest.org