

# Asia Harvest



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

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## 2010 Annual Report

Trusting in the Strength of the Lord

# Asia Harvest Annual Report

by Paul & Joy Hattaway

*“For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength. Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.” (1 Corinthians 1:25-29)*

Recently I visited a Christian bookstore. After looking around for a few minutes I was unable to find any books worth reading amid the rows of shallow and worthless “self-help” books with covers adorned by smiling, well-dressed preachers telling me how I can “maximize my potential.” As I went to leave, something in the corner of the store caught my eye. It was a set of “Samson muscles” that children can strap on to their arms to look just like Samson!

On the surface this toy is just a bit of harmless fun, but later I got to thinking how as Christians we often think God’s work can be accomplished by human strength, and in so doing we rob God of the glory due His Name.

The Book of Judges tells us that among Samson’s exploits, he tore a lion apart with his bare hands (14:6), struck down 30 Philistine men (14:20), caught 300 foxes and tied their tails together (15:4), slaughtered 1,000 men with a donkey’s jawbone (15:15), tore off the city gate of Gaza and carried it to the top of a hill (16:3), and finally, he pushed down the pillar holding up the Philistine temple, killing 3,000 people (16:30). Despite Samson’s moral failures, the New Testament lists him as one of the great heroes of the faith (Hebrews 11:32).

Did Samson indeed have huge bulging muscles like all the drawings of him in children’s Bible story books? Did he perform those mighty acts because of huge muscles, or because of God’s mighty power? Some Bible scholars believe the city gate and posts of Gaza, which Samson tore down and carried off on his shoulders, weighed about four tons. Could the strongest man in the world today lift four tons? Of course not! He would immediately be crushed like an ant. If Samson was a huge, strongly built man, would the Philistines have been so confused that they got Delilah to continually beg Samson to tell her the source of his strength?

No, Samson's superhuman strength wasn't the result of bulging muscles. The source of his strength was the Holy Spirit. Several times the Bible tells us that "The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power." I wonder if God made a point, and one day we will discover Samson was actually a small, scrawny man!

In Christian ministry we have also learned there are two ways to operate—in our own strength (which achieves nothing except burnout and frustration), or in God's strength (which achieves things of eternal value). As Christians we don't need "Samson muscles." Rather, we need to serve in humility and seek God's grace and strength. One day we will all be required to stand before God and give an account of our lives and work. May it be found that we didn't attempt to do God's work in our own strength, for such efforts will be shown to consist merely of "wood, hay and stubble." It will be ***"burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames."*** (1 Corinthians 3:15). May we rely on His divine power to motivate and complete the tasks He has called us to!

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We are glad to present our Annual Report to you in this newsletter. It is a great joy to serve the Lord Jesus for another year, and we have been privileged to witness many people come to know Him for the first time through the witness of our Asian coworkers. Hundreds of thousands of believers have been strengthened in their faith after receiving Bibles, hundreds of Asian evangelists we support have led thousands of people to faith in Jesus Christ, among dozens of remote unreached people groups. More than 750 injured and ill Chinese church leaders have been supported through the Living Martyr's fund, and almost 1,200 children in Vietnam received free surgeries through Project Smile.

Our strategy has always been to operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, so that more resources get to the hands of the real frontline work of God's kingdom, done by thousands of Asian Christians whom we are privileged to assist and serve.

We are thankful for each person who prayed for the work in Asia, or encouraged us, or helped through giving last year. On behalf of the believers in China, Vietnam, Laos, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and everywhere else in Asia your support has reached, we thank you for your wonderful participation!

On the following pages we present summaries of Asia Harvest projects in 2009. We are acutely aware that without God's guiding hand, and the Spirit-led participation of His people, nothing of eternal value would be accomplished. Please pray we would not try to operate with "Samson muscles," but by the grace of God and His strength. Our prayer is that God would be glorified, for He alone is worthy!

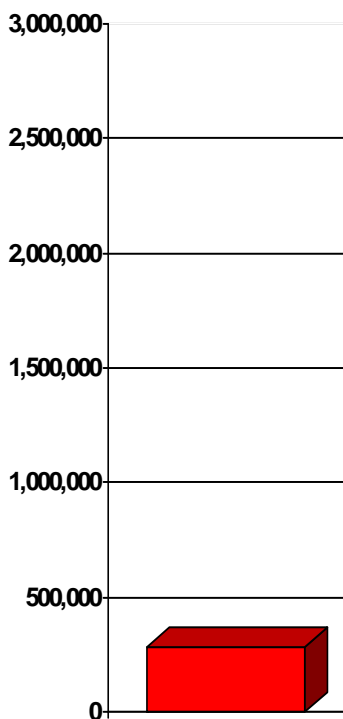
# CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

## *Equipping China's Christians with God's Word*

We are thankful to the many people who pray and give so that Christians in China will have their own Bible. We began printing Bibles inside China in partnership with the house churches in 2000, and it took seven years before we passed the one-million milestone in 2007. Amazingly, by the end of 2009 the grand total has reached almost 2.8 million Chinese Bibles, with 284,559 distributed in 2009 alone. The need for God's Word remains great, especially in rural areas where the revival fires are burning most brightly. We continue to receive many requests for Bibles from house church leaders throughout the country. One recent letter said:

"This year has been a great struggle for us because of the lack of Bibles available. The quota allowed by the government for official Bibles to be printed has been slashed, so not only are there no Bibles available for our new believers, but also many mature believers have had their Bibles confiscated by the authorities in the past year. We desperately need 40,000 more Bibles before the end of the year to help us feed the flock with God's Word. Can you help?"

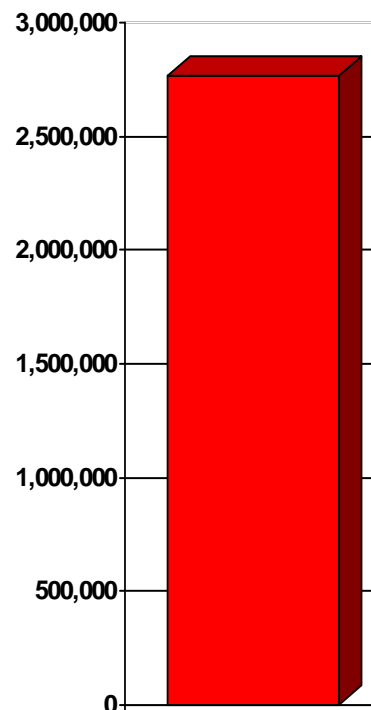
2009 Bibles  
printed: 284,559



Although a limited number of Bibles are now allowed to be printed inside China, there remains a serious lack because of the tremendous growth of the church in rural areas. Millions of Christians are still without God's Word. We are partnering with house church networks in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for the church. These Bibles are distributed for free 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 \$1.80 to print and deliver.

Total Bibles since  
2000: 2,767,757



## A Letter from a Chinese House Church Leader to You



One of the biggest obstacles we face is a deficit of Bibles. In order to meet the new needs that have come up in the last few months in northern Sichuan – we need an additional 96,000 Bibles immediately. As our evangelists continue to minister we expect this number to increase rapidly. We also need 362,000 Bibles to meet the current need of our evangelists covering the rest of the province and

surrounding regions. We also realize that there are other church networks working in this area and although we do not know the specifics of their needs for Bibles; we know it is great and we wish for their needs to be provided for as well.

Let us express our gratitude to Asia Harvest and your supporters for your generosity in providing these Bibles for the people of China. We cannot find the words to express our thankfulness for the unselfish giving of those that have provided the Word of Life to us. We are especially surprised and grateful that in spite of these difficult financial times Christians from the West are still willing to sacrifice their hard-earned money to help us.

We are concerned about the direction of the West as many people seem to be rejecting the Way of the Cross and embracing secularism. We promise you that we will not forget your generous help during our difficult times – and if we are in a position to help you in future years we will do it in any way we can. For now – we do not have finances to help you; but we will pray for you; especially those of you that have made financial sacrifices so that we can have Bibles.

Our friends at Asia Harvest have told us stories of children who have given their savings so we can have Bibles instead of spending it on things they want, as well as many adults who work very hard and can barely make the payments on their houses; but still give so that the people of China can have Bibles. Our hearts are truly touched and we thank God for each of you and the selfless love you have shown to us! God bless you for all you have done for the people of China!

— From a brother in the Lord



# SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

*Current Total: 157,555 Bibles printed in 28 different languages.  
Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.*



Southeast and South Asian countries like Vietnam, Laos, India and Myanmar (Burma) contain hundreds of different tribes, many of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages in the past. In some cases, these tribal believers have been deprived access to the Scriptures for decades and their situation is dire.

Last year we continued getting God's Word into the hands of as many believers as possible through the Southeast Asia Bible fund. The most recent projects we have helped with are printing 25,000 Bibles in the Kachin language of Myanmar (Burma), 13,500 Sgaw Karen Bibles for believers and refugees along the Myanmar-Thailand border, 5,000 New Testaments for the Jarai tribe in Cambodia and Vietnam, and 200,000 Gospel of Mark booklets in four South Asian languages, namely Bengali, Kannada, Urdu and Telegu.

Recently our colleagues told us what happened when he delivered a carload of Bibles to Christians from the Kachin tribe in Myanmar (Burma)....

*When I arrived with 800 Kachin Bibles I had no idea what was awaiting me. We stacked the boxes on the church altar (see above picture) and the believers prayed for them. The pastor said they had been praying and waiting about 20 years to get Bibles. They said they were occasionally able to obtain a Bible or two, but they need 2,000 copies.*

*The local believers didn't believe the Kachin lady I worked with when she told them so many Bibles were coming. They thought she was joking, but they waited two hours in the church for our coming. I shared a bit, and they were hungry to get their copy. They wanted me to present each one with their Bible. Even children came, saying they were determined to learn to read so they can read their Bibles. They have friends in a neighboring area who urgently need 2,000 copies.*

# ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

## *Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

*Because of your prayers and partnership, in 2009 we were able to support 447 Asian church-planting missionaries—working among 107 different unreached tribes and people groups.*

The Asian Workers' fund provides support to evangelists in Asia who are involved with strategic and ground-breaking work in areas that have never had a Gospel witness before. We work alongside Asian Christian leaders, helping strengthen their ministries and providing support in a non-controlling manner to those who are serving God wholeheartedly.

The fruit of their work can be clearly seen as thousands of people found faith in Jesus Christ last year, with dozens of churches established in some of the darkest parts of Asia. In China we are privileged to support many Chinese house church evangelists who are taking the Gospel to the ethnic minority groups in the country, including in Tibet and the Muslim-dominated Xinjiang Region. They have encountered many hardships and persecutions, but have persevered and are now seeing dozens of people come to faith in Jesus.

This work is constantly expanding and new workers are being recruited. You can support one or more of these workers with a gift of **\$25 per month each**. A laminated prayer card of a worker is sent to every supporter of this project.



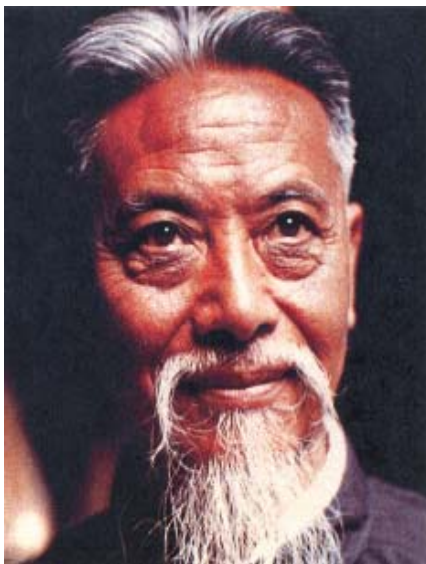
*Some of the new believers from various tribes and ethnic groups who have come to faith in Jesus Christ because of the work of evangelists we support through the Asian Workers' fund.*

# CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

## *Supporting Christians disabled by Persecution*

*Because of your prayers and support we were able to help 760 living martyrs throughout 2009. This has been a tremendous blessing to the Church in China.*

*"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)



In China today, many house church Christians are still beaten and persecuted because of their faith. House church leaders have provided us with details of more than 1,000 Christian leaders who have been disabled or are faced with long-term illness or injury as a result of persecution and imprisonment.

The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. The families of imprisoned Christians are also

supported. A house church leader recently said, "The Martyrs' fund is very important. It helps many who are not able to support their families because they are in prison or disabled and unable to work. It also helps the Church provide for the families of martyrs. Many of them have no other means of income."

You can support one or more of these living martyrs with a gift of **\$35 per month each**. A prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to help you pray.





# PROJECT SMILE

## Helping Children in Vietnam

*Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 1,190 children in Vietnam in 2009 (7,989 since 1999).*

*Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with cleft palate or cleft lip disabilities. Our coworkers also help children with various forms of cancer, burns, club-feet, and other disabilities. Many lives continue to be dramatically changed by this project. We received the following testimony from our colleagues in Vietnam:*



When Doan was born with a cleft-lip, the other villagers said that his mother must be cursed, that she must have done great evil to have a son whose face was so deformed. Some in the village said that if you allowed her shadow to touch you, then your children would also be born with such a deformity.

As he grew up, Doan spent most of his time hiding inside the family hut. Whenever he ventured outside the other children would call him the “ugly boy.” Such was the level of his rejection that Doan always held his hands over his face. His impoverished parents could never afford the surgery to help their son, but one day they heard that a Christian group was providing free surgeries for children with cleft-lips.



When Doan arrived at the hospital he would not show his face. The painful memories of all the ridicule this little boy had endured was just too deep. He underwent the simple procedure, and just four days later the bandages were removed. From that moment, Doan's life took on a whole new meaning. He returned to his village and his life was transformed. Doan and his mother are no longer outcasts, and the wounds of rejection they carried for so long have started to heal. Doan can now smile, and he now starts each day with hope and expectancy.

*It costs just \$60 to help put a smile on the face of a child in Vietnam through Project Smile. Please help children like Doan have a fresh start in Jesus Christ.*

# ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND

*Transforming Lives and Communities with God's Love*

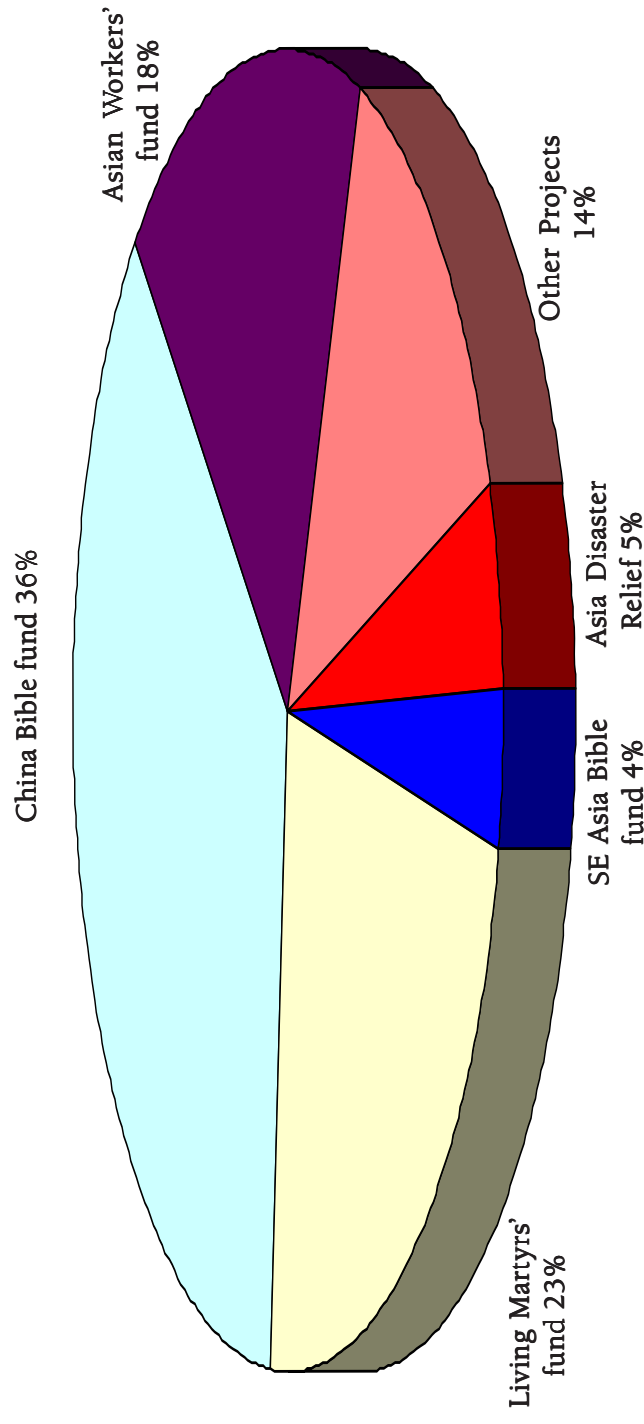


*After the two terrible natural disasters that struck Asia in May 2008 we established the Asia Disaster Relief fund, to provide help to the victims of those tragedies, and to allow us to respond immediately whenever a disaster occurs somewhere in Asia. The devastating impact of the earthquake in China continued well into 2009, and we were involved with these needs extensively. The following letter was received from a Chinese house church leader, thanking Asia Harvest (and all those who prayed and gave to this great need)....*

“Our province was hit by the massive earthquake, causing damage that is hard to describe unless you see it yourself. Since we know that God has control over all things; we believe He allowed this to happen to accomplish His ultimate purposes. In the hours following the earthquake we spent much time on our knees asking God what He was doing and what he wanted us to do. Within 5 hours we all sensed that God was telling us that He was opening doors in these areas that have been resistant to the Gospel. For many years we have been sending evangelists to the areas that were hardest hit by the earthquake and the people were not as receptive to the Gospel as many other areas. Little did we know that it might be such a huge event that would be the catalyst for opening up these areas and making the people receptive to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Our evangelists were warmly received by most communities as they brought relief supplies and helped rebuild the villages. As our evangelists worked as humanitarian aid workers, they also shared the Gospel and many souls have been saved. It is hard to know how many people have come to faith in Jesus Christ through this crisis since there are many other groups working here as well – but just with our evangelists we have witnessed over 17,000 people in the earthquake area who have entered into relationship with Jesus Christ. We also have more than 90,000 people that have expressed interest in knowing more about Christianity. We are following up with these people. We are working to disciple those who have become Christians and we believe they will become evangelists who will carry on spreading of the Gospel in these regions.”

# Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2009



## 2009 Financial Statement

Asia Harvest desires to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2009 will soon be available to those who request it. Please write and ask if you would like to receive a copy.



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