

# Asia Harvest



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

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## Bread for the Hungry

Providing God's Word to Asia's Ethnic Groups

# From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:8-11).*

We remember the impact the above passage had on us when we read it for the first time as new Christians. God declares that His ways and thoughts are far higher than our own, which is a good thing! It humbles us to realize He is in control, and that we can trust His wisdom and guidance in our lives each day. The Lord went on to say that when His Word goes forth it doesn't return to Him void, but it achieves His purposes in the earth. His Word is not like the words of men! ***“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart”*** (Hebrews 4:12).

From the moment Asia Harvest was formed, printing and distributing God's Word has been a priority in everything we do. We achieve this through two major projects, the China Bible fund and the Southeast Asia Bible fund. In this newsletter we report on the progress of the Southeast Asia Bible fund, through which we have now printed the Scriptures in 31 different Asian languages. Most of these are for tribal believers in the southeast Asian countries of Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar (Burma) but occasionally we have also helped with needs in South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc.). In the coming months we will be involved with a project to distribute Arabic New Testaments inside Iraq. The distribution is done by bold and courageous local Christians who are willing to lay down their lives to see the people of that troubled country come to know Jesus Christ.

The Southeast Asia Bible fund is a flexible project. This year we have printed large, one thousand-page Bibles for Christians among tribes who have not had

access to God's Word for decades, and we have also printed hundreds of thousands of Gospel booklets, used for evangelism among unbelievers. The Southeast Asia Bible fund is an extremely necessary and strategic project simply because most Christian activity in Asia takes place among massive segments of the population, whereas the needs of smaller tribes tend to be neglected and left out of the budgets of most mission organizations.

In the early years of this project, the amount of Scriptures we printed was relatively low, but thanks to the prayers and generosity of God's people, it is a great blessing to now see truck and container loads of God's Word being delivered to remote areas of Asia. We can't think of any more effective investment we can make for God's kingdom than to print and distribute His powerful Word to people who are hungry to read it.

The cost effectiveness of investing in this form of ministry of God's Word is also without equal. This year, for example, we helped print 200,000 Gospels of Mark (50,000 each in the Telegu, Urdu, Kannada and Bengali languages of South Asia). The total cost was \$20,000, or just 10 cents per booklet! Only eternity will reveal how many thousands of people found Jesus through His Word. Tremendous testimonies have been coming in, attesting to the impact those booklets have had among people who had never before heard of Jesus. God's Word, once again, is not returning to Him empty.

In this newsletter we present a pictorial summary of several of the printing projects we have been privileged to be involved with this year. The joy and light seen in the faces of Christians receiving Bibles in their own language is precious.

Please pray for the continued success of the Southeast Asia Bible fund, and consider supporting it if God places it on your heart to do so.



### **CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM ASIA HARVEST**

As this is our final newsletter for 2010, we want to thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support throughout the year. We pray the risen Jesus Christ will truly be part of the Christmas and New Year period for you and your family. In 2011 we hope, with God's help, to continue serving the Church in Asia and we invite you to partner with us to see this happen. God bless you!



## THE PWO KAREN

*Eastern Myanmar (Burma) and  
refugee camps in western Thailand.*

*Population: 1.1 million*

*Christians: 15%*

In recent decades, the Pwo Karen are one of many ethnic groups to have experienced brutal genocide at the hands of the Burmese military. Tens of thousands have been slaughtered for no reason, and tens of thousands more have fled into refugee camps inside Thailand.

Last year, Pwo Karen church leaders met one of our coworkers and told him of the desperate shortage of Bibles among their tribe. For more

than a decade they had been searching for ways to obtain God's Word in their own language, but all to no avail. With the Pwo Karen so desperate and eager for spiritual truth, **we recently printed 7,500 Pwo Karen Bibles** which were distributed in both Myanmar and refugee camps inside Thailand.

Pwo Karen Christians wept to have God's Word in their own language again, and many unbelievers have experienced the salvation only found in Jesus Christ.





## THE JARAI

*Vietnam and Cambodia*

*Population: 350,000*

*Christians: 30%*

The Jarai people live in the jungles of southern Vietnam and neighboring areas of Cambodia. Although the New Testament was first translated into their language in 1974, the Jarai Christians have had to endure many years without access to God's Word due to the difficulty of providing the Scriptures in Communist Vietnam.

**We recently printed and provided 5,000 Jarai New Testaments** to believers from this tribe in both Vietnam and Cambodia. They were overwhelmed with thanks to God for this blessing. One female believer wrote, *"I love Jesus Christ, but it has been difficult studying God's Word because there was only one Bible in our whole church. We begged God to provide more Bibles in our own language so we can love and serve Him more. When you came back to our village with so many Jarai Bibles, we were shocked with joy and amazement. We thank the Lord and we thank you for providing us with God's holy Word. May we know Him and serve Him more!"*

Please pray for the Jarai people. The majority of this tribe are spirit-worshippers, praying to the gods of fire and water. Pray the Gospel will spread freely among all Jarai people, overflowing to dozens of surrounding tribes.



## EVANGELISM AMONG FOUR

This year we provided funds to print 200,000 Gospel of Mark booklets, which were distributed by local Christians among four of South Asia's largest language groups: **URDU** (spoken by more than 70 million people); **TELEGU** (more than 80 million); **KANNADA** (45 million); and **BENGALI** (250 million). All of these language groups are among the most unreached in the world, with less than one percent Christian.

*A worker inspects a pallet of Gospel booklets before they are sent out of the print shop.*



*The quantity of paper used to print 200,000 booklets is great. This picture shows the pile of scrap paper just from trimming the edges of the pages.*



## SOUTH ASIAN MEGA-GROUPS

Working with local believers, the Gospel went out to 200,000 families, with most hearing the Gospel for the first time. The Christians are providing further help and follow-up for those interested in learning more about Jesus Christ, and many people have become children of the Living God. On these pages we present pictures from this strategic project....



*Christians pray over boxes of Gospel booklets before boldly going out to share Christ with Muslims in their city.*



*An elderly man hears about the Way, the Truth and the Life for the first time in his life.*



## THE KACHIN

*Myanmar, China and Thailand    Population: 1.2 million    Christians: 60%*

The Gospel first came to the Kachin people of Myanmar (Burma) and China a century ago. They responded in large numbers, and ever since there has been a sizeable Kachin church. Because of the political situation in the countries where they live, the Kachin Christians have struggled to access Bibles in recent decades.

Earlier this year one of our coworkers told us what happened when he delivered a carload of Bibles to Kachin Christians: *“When I arrived with 800 Kachin Bibles I had no idea what was awaiting me. They said they had been praying and waiting about 20 years to receive the Scriptures. They said they were occasionally able to obtain a Bible or two, but they needed 2,000 copies. They wanted me to present each one with their Bible.”*

**Thanks to your generous support, we provided funds for 25,000 Kachin Bibles.** These were distributed by various ministries to appreciative Kachin Christians.



*Recently, thousands of Kachin Christians gathered for a 100 year celebration since the Gospel first came to them (top picture); and a Kachin church leader prays over boxes of Bibles that Asia Harvest was privileged to provide through the Southeast Asia Bible fund.*



*Two teenage girls are given Gospel booklets as a local Christian shares Jesus Christ with them.*



*Hindu women in India gather together to study the Bible for the first time.*



We don't have space in our newsletter to tell you about the many other projects completed through the Southeast Asian Bible fund in recent months. These include 50,000 Gospel booklets in the Shan language of Myanmar; 5,000 New Testaments for the Bru people of Vietnam and Laos; 5,000 Koho Bibles in Vietnam; 20,000 Bibles delivered to the spiritually hungry Sgaw Karen believers in Myanmar; newly-translated Scriptures for the Khmu of Laos, and so on. We have many more printing projects ready to go, including White Hmong Bibles for Vietnam, Kayah and Wa New Testaments for Myanmar, etc. For all those who have prayed for and given to the Southeast Asia Bible fund, thank you!

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



*Current Total: 3,172,335 Bibles printed and delivered.*

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

**Asia Harvest is able to print and distribute 200,000 Chinese Bibles per month depending on incoming funds. So far this year we are operating at 20% capacity.**

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

*Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 470 Asian evangelists working among 108 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*



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: 179,908 Bibles Printed in 31 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), Cambodia, and other Southeast and South Asian nations as the need arises. **Each Bible costs \$2.70 to print and deliver.**

## CHINA LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 685 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 a gift of **\$35 per month** you can help support one 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 8,944 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 earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the 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.





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