

Asia Harvest



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

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2013 Annual Report

Learning the Secret to Bearing Fruit

Asia Harvest Annual Report

by Paul & Joy Hattaway

We thank God for the opportunity to share our Annual Report on the help Asia Harvest was able to provide throughout Asia in 2012.

Each year of following and serving the Lord Jesus Christ brings with it a new theme. Looking back at 2012, it seemed as if the Lord challenged us to get back to something fundamental to the Christian faith.

This fundamental teaching is crucial to all Christian life and service, yet many times when we have shared it with believers, both publicly and privately, it is apparent that it has become a highly unpopular teaching.

You see, nothing has changed since Jesus told His disciples, ***“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me”*** (John 12:24-26).

The message of dying to self has always been, and will always be rejected and disdained by the majority of people in our culture. Unfortunately it even seems to be rejected by the majority of Christians these days. From infancy we are taught lies which go directly against the words of Jesus. We are taught to push ourselves forward, to be confident in our own abilities, and we are told “you can be anything you want to be.”

The result is a church with many self-promoting and fleshly members, but the truth of the words of Jesus continue to ring down through the ages: ***“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me”*** (Luke 9:23). What exactly did Jesus mean when He said these powerful words?

Two thousand years ago when Jesus said these words there was no confusion at all about what He meant. The cross was not meant to be a fashion accessory to hang on a necklace. To die on a Roman cross was the most excruciating and barbaric form of punishment known to mankind. And Jesus was telling people that if they want to follow Him, they had to be willing to be tortured and to die on a cross.

We are thankful that Jesus never minced His words; He always told us the truth. The fact is that if we want to truly know and serve God, we have to give everything to Him. He wants to possess our hearts, our time, our dreams and our finances. Jesus wants our lives to become so intertwined with His life that when people look at us, they will see a reflection of Jesus.

This is not an easy teaching, but it is truth. The 6th chapter of the Gospel of John starts with the account of Jesus miraculously feeding the 5,000 men, plus women and children. They loved to hear His stories and see the miracles. Later on in the same chapter, however, after Jesus taught on the cost of following Him, the Bible records, ***“On hearing it, many of his disciples said, ‘This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it? ... From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him”*** (John 6:60, 66).

Dear friends, as we travel to various parts of the world we see that Christians everywhere are under great pressure. Their marriages are under pressure, their finances are struggling, and their churches are facing great difficulties.

God is again asking His people to be prepared to die for Jesus. I have often heard preachers say, “Before you will be ready to die for Jesus you have to be prepared to live for Him.” We think the other way around is more true, ***if we want to truly live for Jesus, we have to first be prepared to die for Him***. Only when we lose our lives will we gain eternal life and be fit for the King’s service.

God is not looking for people with natural abilities and the “gift of the gab” to do His work. He is looking for corpses, people who are dead to themselves and their own fleshly desires and ambitions. When He finds such a person, He infuses His life into them and can use them. This is the secret to bearing good fruit for God.

A dead person doesn’t care about their reputation. A corpse doesn’t argue or set conditions on God. Peter explained that ***“since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God”*** (1 Peter 4:1-2).

This is not a new teaching. Down through the centuries God’s people have faced the same struggle to deny themselves and take up their cross (be willing to die for their faith) and follow Him.

Today there is much dangerous false teaching in the church, which leads to deception and a diluted Christian witness. John ‘Praying’ Hyde, an American missionary to India, once wrote, *“Self must not only be dead, but buried out of sight, for the stench of the unburied self-life will frighten souls away from Jesus.”* We encourage you to avoid any teaching which puffs up your pride and ensures that you do not need to live a holy life in fear and reverence.

In 2012 the Lord again challenged us to get back to the basics, and be willing to die for Him. Not only has God called us to such a life, but those we serve on the frontlines in Asia are also counting the cost of following Jesus every day.

Several months ago one of the believers we serve in India, a 42-year old father of four named Bijaydan Nag, was attacked by Hindus armed with swords and knives. They hacked him to pieces because of his love for Jesus Christ. Few people have ever heard of Bijaydan Nag, but he is safely in heaven, numbered among those who endured faithfully to the end. Please pray for his wife and children.

In the same area a 32-year old mother of three named Rupai heard the Gospel and became a disciple of Jesus. Her husband, a Hindu, was infuriated by her new faith and beat her mercilessly. She was hauled before the whole community and threatened with dire consequences if she would not denounce Christ. She calmly and boldly proclaimed, ***"I will not deny Jesus Christ, even if my husband leaves me and I have no provision for my daily needs. Jesus is the True Lord and Savior, not only for me but for all the people of the world. Jesus came to save mankind, and until my last breath I will continue to follow Him. Even if you kill me, I will continue to believe in Jesus Christ."*** She has been kicked out of her home and we have helped provide some of her daily needs through the ministry we partner with there.

It is a great privilege for us to work with and serve believers like Rupai and many others scattered throughout Asia.

It is with joy and gratitude that we present our Annual Report for 2012. It is a great privilege to have served the Lord Jesus in Asia 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 co-workers. Multitudes of believers have been strengthened in their faith after receiving Bibles through our Bible projects, and hundreds of Asian evangelists we support have led thousands of people to faith in Jesus Christ, among dozens of remote unreached people groups. Seven hundred and forty injured or ill Chinese church leaders have been supported through the Living Martyr's fund, and 1,361 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 frontline workers of God's kingdom—the many Asian Christians whom we are privileged to assist and serve.

We are thankful for each person who prayed for us and our work, who encouraged us, or provided support last year. In 2011 our projects helped advance the Gospel in China, Vietnam, Laos, India, Japan, North Korea, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Pakistan, Iraq, and Bangladesh.

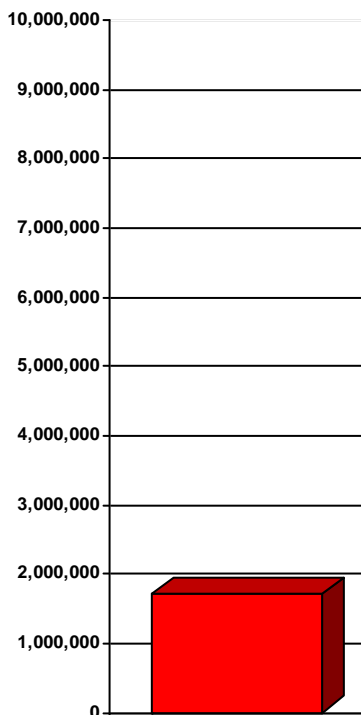
CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

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 access to God's Word. Since 2000, we have supplied 6.6 million Bibles to the rural house churches in China, with **1,711,068** printed and distributed in 2012 alone. This figure represents **4,688 Bibles every day** throughout the year, **196 each hour**, or **one every 18 seconds!** Yet the need for God's Word remains great, especially in rural areas where the revival is burning brightest. One thankful Christian recently wrote from Zhejiang Province:

"Words cannot express the gratitude our family feels for the Bible you provided for us. We treasure it and read it every day. Reading the words of our Lord makes our hearts overflow with joy. For so many years we longed to know the truth, and now we understand more every day and our faith is becoming stronger. God bless you for your sacrificing and giving so that we can know the truth!"

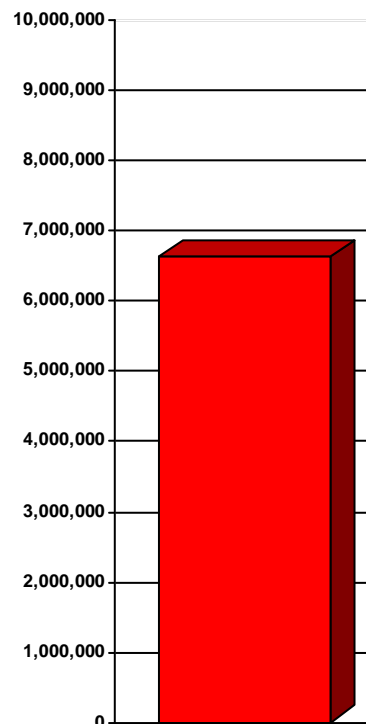
2012 Bibles
printed: 1,711,068



There remains a critical shortage of Bibles in China because of the massive growth of the church in rural areas. Tens of 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 these new believers. They 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: 6,628,488



SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

*Current Total: 318,037 Bibles printed in 46 different languages.
Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.*

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 need for God's Word is great.

Last year we continued putting God's Word into the hands of as many believers as possible through the Southeast Asia Bible fund. Recent completed projects include 5,000 Jarai Bibles for Vietnam; 27,690 Arabic Bibles for Iraq, 2,500 Sqaw Karen Bibles (Myanmar), 5,000 Burmese Bibles, and some very specific projects, such as several hundred Bibles for the Tausug and Sama people of the southern Philippines. The Lord is always bringing new projects to our attention. Please pray for the Southeast Asia Bible fund and all those involved with providing God's Word to these precious tribes.



***Our coworkers do whatever
it takes to deliver God's
Word to the ethnic groups of
Asia, by trains, trucks,
backpacks or private cars.***

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

Because of your prayers and partnership, in 2012 we were able to support 359 Asian church-planting missionaries — working among 172 unreached tribes and people groups.

*Believers
from a tribal
group in
southwest
China who
were led to
Jesus by one
of the
evangelists
we support
through the
Asian
Workers'
fund.*



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 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. They have encountered many hardships and persecutions, but have persevered and are now seeing breakthroughs among certain people groups after years of faithfully planting seed.

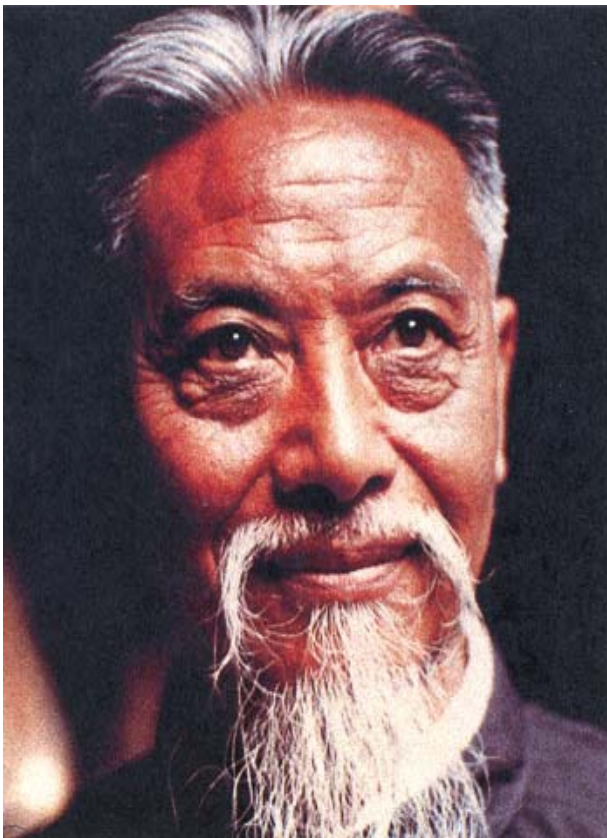
This work is constantly expanding and new workers are being recruited. You can help support one or more of these workers with a gift of **\$25 per month each**. A laminated worker's prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.

We believe God wants to greatly expand this project, and we hope to be supporting workers among more than 500 unreached people groups in the not-too-distant future. Please pray for the Lord to provide the right workers, connections and resources for this to become a reality.

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

Supporting Christians disabled by Persecution

Because of your prayers and support we were able to help 740 living martyrs throughout 2012. This strategic project has been a tremendous blessing to the Church in China.



A martyr has been defined as “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.”

In China today, many house church Christians are still beaten and persecuted because of their faith. House church leaders have provided us with lists of hundreds of Christian leaders who have been disabled or who face 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 wrote, “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 for him and his family.

PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 1,361 children in Vietnam in 2012 (11,787 since 1999).

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

One father who brought his little boy to us for surgery shared how he had heard of the program through a radio broadcast. He could hardly contain his excitement. His dream of one day providing the surgery for his son was now possible.

It was not a simple matter for him to get to the registration point. It took four days walking over mountainous terrain, just to get to the nearest town. There were no motels on his journey, so each evening he fashioned small shelters alongside the dirt track, where they shared their meagre food supply.

Through the night he would hold his small son closely, keeping him as warm as possible in the cool mountain air. Their small fire kept the wild animals at bay. It was an exhausting journey, for once they arrived at the registration area they still had another 24 hours on a rickety old bus to bring them to the hospital.

In the days that followed the surgery, his son's face was transformed, and a smile gradually replaced the sadness.

After a week at the hospital they prepared to leave. This meant another 24 hours north on the old bus, and another four days walking to reach their village.

We can but imagine as he walked those remaining miles, the quickening of his step, and the excitement that would sweep over the village when at last they were home, and a little boy was no longer treated as a reject, but a child beaming with life and hope.

It costs just \$60 to help put a smile on the face of a child in Vietnam through Project Smile. Your prayers and support make a great difference to this boy and many others like him.



BACK TO JERUSALEM

Equipping Chinese Christians to serve as Missionaries

We continue to serve the Chinese Church as they train and send cross-cultural missionaries to unreached people groups in Asia and the Middle East. This God-given vision to preach the Gospel to the unreached world is known in China as “Back to Jerusalem.”

Despite many Western Christians who mistakenly believe the Great Commission is basically completed, the goal of the Back to Jerusalem movement is to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the 4,836 remaining unreached tribes and ethnic groups in Asia. Together these groups number 2.17 billion people, or almost one-third of the entire population of the world.

There are many ways we support this vision. In 2012 these included providing support to Chinese missionaries working in Muslim and Buddhist nations, printing evangelistic literature in various languages, and funding training centers where new workers are taught foreign languages and cross-cultural skills. Depending on their intended field of work, they learn how to effectively reach Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists.

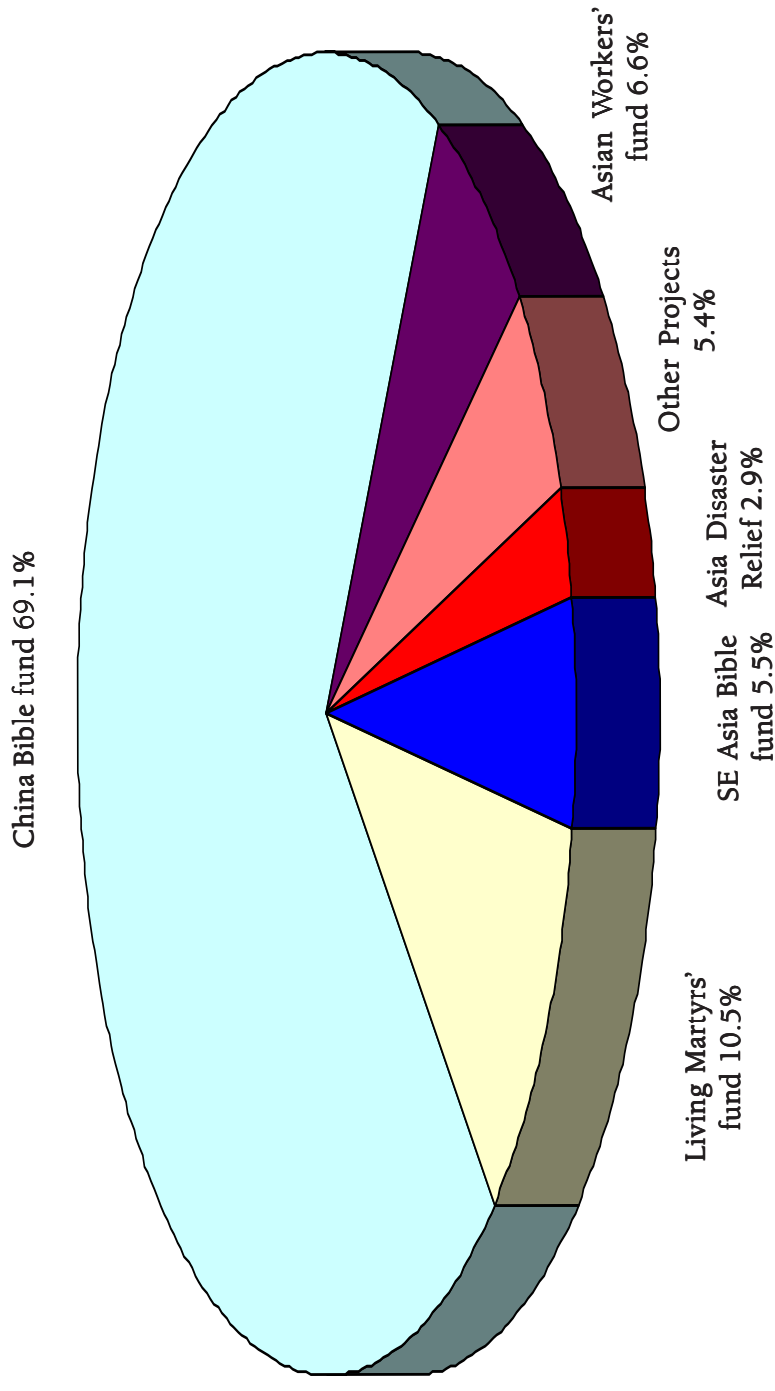
Support for our Back to Jerusalem project assists in other practical ways such as purchasing



motorbikes or bicycles for evangelists who serve in remote areas, funding Bibles to the most persecuted Christians in the world (North Korea), and other strategic initiatives we are not permitted to share publicly. Please pray the Chinese Church will continue to take up the challenge to spread the light of Jesus Christ to the darkest corners of the earth.

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:3-6).

Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2012





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