

Asia Harvest



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

www.asiaharvest.org

office@asiaharvest.org

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2015 Annual Report

Keeping Things Simple

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with Paul & Joy Hattaway

"I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ." (2 Corinthians 11:2-3).

Over the years we have come to understand that the Gospel is a simple, life-giving message that can transform whole communities, turning darkness to light and changing people bound by chains of sin into children of God. Often, however, a Christian's faith can become cluttered the further they go in their walk with the Lord. Layers of human tradition can easily be added to the simple message that once gave us a "sincere and pure devotion to Christ."

We hear from many believers whose lives have become bound up with the cares of this world. They are anxious about the moral direction of their nation, disillusioned and bitter with ungodly politicians, or vexed by all kinds of conspiracy theories and worries. Believers ought to step back and ask themselves some simple questions: Does dwelling on these things help you love Jesus Christ more? **Do they produce a desire in you for holiness and a hunger for God's Word?** Do they give you a zeal to share the Gospel with the lost and a jealous desire for wellbeing of God's people? If not, then those cares will take you away from a simple, abiding and loving faith in Jesus. Such things may be part of the "serpent's cunning" referred to in the above Scripture.

Keeping Things Simple in Asia

When it comes to serving the Lord in missions, things can become complicated too. Over the years the Lord has lead us to write a number of books for His glory. It always amazed us how the same book could be a great encouragement to some believers, while the same words left others almost frothing at the mouth with anger and resentment.

Recently a big Christian "think tank" contacted many mission organizations, including us, because they desired to clearly define what a 'church' is. We saw some of the responses from others. Their answers were so complicated it left us tied up in

knots! Words were used that required a dictionary to find their meaning. When it came time for us to respond, we decided not to waste words. **Instead, we simply sent the picture that appears on the front of this newsletter.**

To us, this picture is a perfect definition of church! These Indonesian believers have gathered together on a few connected boats to worship the Lord. Their faces are full of joy and light, and they clearly enjoy one another's company. They don't seem too anxious about pending economic doom or the moral demise of society. They just love Jesus and are thankful for the opportunity to meet together and to feed on God's Word.

We should never look down on Christians in other parts of the world who may lack the resources our churches do. After all, which setting better resembles a church meeting in the Gospels: the casual gathering of these Indonesian fishermen, or the elaborate and costly buildings that saturate much of the Christian world?

We are determined to keep things simple in the work the Lord has called us to do. We have learned so much over the years from the sincere, child-like faith of countless brothers and sisters in Asia. They have much they could teach us in the 'sophisticated' Church.

As we continue to serve the Lord in Asia, we are constantly reminded that the greatest progress in the kingdom of God is often made through simple servants. In our experience the Gospel advances best and quickest in Asia through simple believers who sit down in teashops and factory dormitories throughout Asia to respectfully tell their friends what a difference Jesus has made in their lives.

This is how more than 100 million people became Christians in China in the past few generations, and tens of millions more are pressing into the kingdom throughout other parts of Asia. It has little to nothing to do with clever church-planting strategies or media evangelism. It has much to do with the power of simple believers sharing their stories with others who have not yet heard. Never underestimate the power of a testimony. It can blow Satan's kingdom to pieces! The church will triumph over the devil ***"by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony"*** (Revelation 12:11).

It is a great joy for us to be allowed to serve the Church in Asia, and to come alongside them (not controlling, leading or manipulating them) as they reach out to the lost. Many of those we serve have few possessions by the world's standards, but they possess Jesus Christ and they desire to make Him known to as many people as possible. God loves such an attitude, and He empowers them to do great works and to bring multitudes into His kingdom.

One example of simple yet powerful faith is seen in a native missionary family we have been privileged to support for more than ten years in the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal.

Here is a recent picture of the outside of their church building, which was constructed with bamboo, sackcloth and sheets of plastic.



Don't focus on their simple building, however, because this is not the Church. The true Church consists of the living stones inside this basic structure, where thirsty believers gather to drink in God's Word.....



Be Encouraged

Dear friends, we would like to encourage you in your own walk with God. By “walk with God” we mean exactly that. Our Heavenly Father desires the same thing from you that He did with Adam and Eve long ago. He longs to walk with you in the cool of the evening, as you share your affections and life with Him. If it has been a while since you opened your heart up to the Lord and just honestly shared your life and struggles with Him, please stop and do so now. Jesus said, ***“All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away”*** (John 6:37).

May we never lose the simplicity of faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus. We recently heard one preacher say that when he is asked why God decided to create people, he replies, ***“He had one Son already and He enjoyed that Son so much that he wanted a bigger family.”***

It’s not too late for anyone to go back to the simplicity of a loving relationship. You may need to cut some things out of your life that are blocking the flow of His presence, such as ungodly influence or some human or church traditions, but our Heavenly Father is waiting to meet with you again and take a stroll with you in the cool of the evening.

In the rest of this newsletter we are thankful for the opportunity to share our Annual Report, detailing the help that Asia Harvest provided the Body of Christ throughout Asia in 2014.

Each year we serve the Lord Jesus brings with it a new emphasis. Looking forward, we believe the Lord wants us to keep things simple, to love Him with all our hearts and to help as many dedicated Asian missionaries as possible to continue sharing the faith with the unreached.

It has been a great privilege to serve the Lord in Asia for another year, and we are blessed to be a link in a chain that has resulted in many people coming to know Him. Last year more than a million believers were strengthened in their faith after receiving God’s Word through our Bible projects, and the hundreds of Asian evangelists we support led thousands of people to faith in Christ among dozens of remote unreached people groups.

For more than 25 years our strategy has always been to operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, so that resources get to the hands of the frontline workers of God’s kingdom—the many Asian Christians we feel honored to assist and serve. We are thankful for each person who prayed for and supported our work last year. Without your vital partnership none of these things would have occurred.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

*Because of your prayers and partnership, by the end of 2014 we were supporting **1,076** Asian missionaries — among **621** unreached people groups. More than **13,700** people experienced God's salvation during the year.*



Tribal believers in Vietnam who met Jesus Christ through the witness of evangelists we support through the Asian Workers' fund.

The Asian Workers' fund provides support to evangelists in Asia who are involved with strategic work among ethnic groups that have never had a Gospel witness. We work alongside Christian leaders to help strengthen their ministries, while supporting those who serve God wholeheartedly.

At the start of 2014 we supported 756 evangelists among 378 different ethnic groups. By the end of the year the project has grown significantly. We are now privileged to support 1,076 workers among 621 unreached groups.

The evangelists encounter many hardships and persecutions, but have persevered and are now seeing breakthroughs among many groups. We receive written updates from each worker we support, and the fruit of their labors can be clearly seen.

In 2014, those we support through the Asian Workers' fund led a total of **13,722 people to salvation in Jesus Christ**. A total of **41,166 conversions** have been reported since the project commenced. Hallelujah! This is even more remarkable considering most work among some of the darkest and most unreached areas of Asia, including numerous Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist people groups.

The Asian Workers' fund is constantly expanding and new workers are being recruited. We invite you to support one or more Asian missionaries with a gift of **\$25 per month each**. A laminated prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.

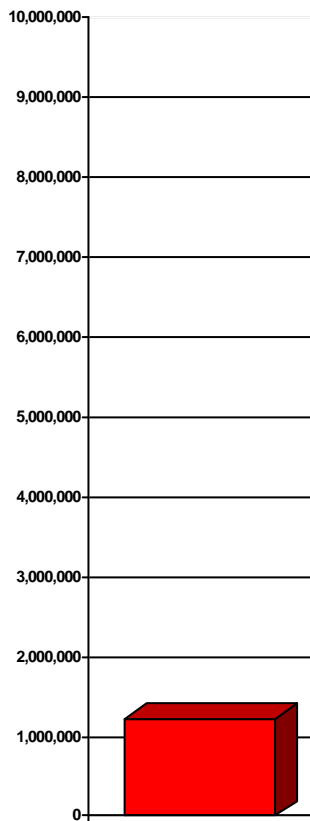
CHINA BIBLE FUND

Equipping China's Christians with God's Word

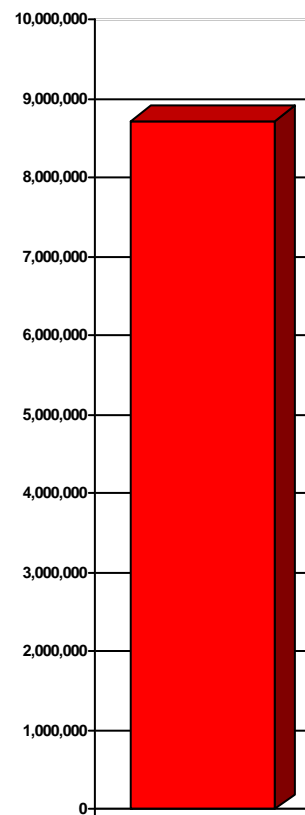
There remains a critical shortage of Bibles in China today because of the massive growth of the church in rural areas. Tens of millions of Christians are still without God's Word. We are partnering with house church networks in a long-term strategy to print Bibles for these new believers. They are distributed to all parts of China, helping establish new believers in the faith and adding fuel to the revival that continues to burn throughout the world's most populous country. **Each Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

Since 2000, we have printed and distributed more than 8.7 million Bibles to house churches in China, with **1,221,418** in 2014 alone. This represents **3,346 Bibles every day** throughout the year, or **140 every hour**. Thank you for praying and giving.

**Bibles printed in
2014: 1,221,418**



**Total Bibles since
2000: 8,724,600**



ASIAN BIBLE FUND

Providing Bibles to Asia's Christians

*Current Total: 557,322 Bibles printed in 51 different languages.
Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.*



Asia is home to many ethnic groups where people have been deprived access to God's Word, sometimes for decades. The **Asian Bible fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages throughout Southeast Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere. **Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver through the Asian Bible fund.**

Please pray for our project and all those involved with providing God's Word to the precious believers of Asia.



LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

Supporting Christians disabled by Persecution

Because of your prayers and support we were able to help 343 living martyrs throughout 2014. This strategic project has been a tremendous blessing to the Church in Asia.



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 parts of Asia today, many Christians are still beaten and persecuted for their faith. Church leaders have provided us with the names 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 Living Martyrs' Fund assists pastors and evangelists in China, North Korea and Vietnam who are unable to work because of persecution. They and their

families face extreme poverty and hardship. The families of imprisoned Christians are also supported. A Chinese church leader wrote to say,

"The Living 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 the person to help you pray for him and his family.

PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous support brought smiles to the faces of 801 children in Vietnam in 2014 (14,176 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 have been dramatically changed by this project. We recently received the following testimony from our co-workers in Vietnam:



Yen was one of 75 children gathered at our ceremony to receive wheelchairs (see the picture on the back cover of this newsletter).

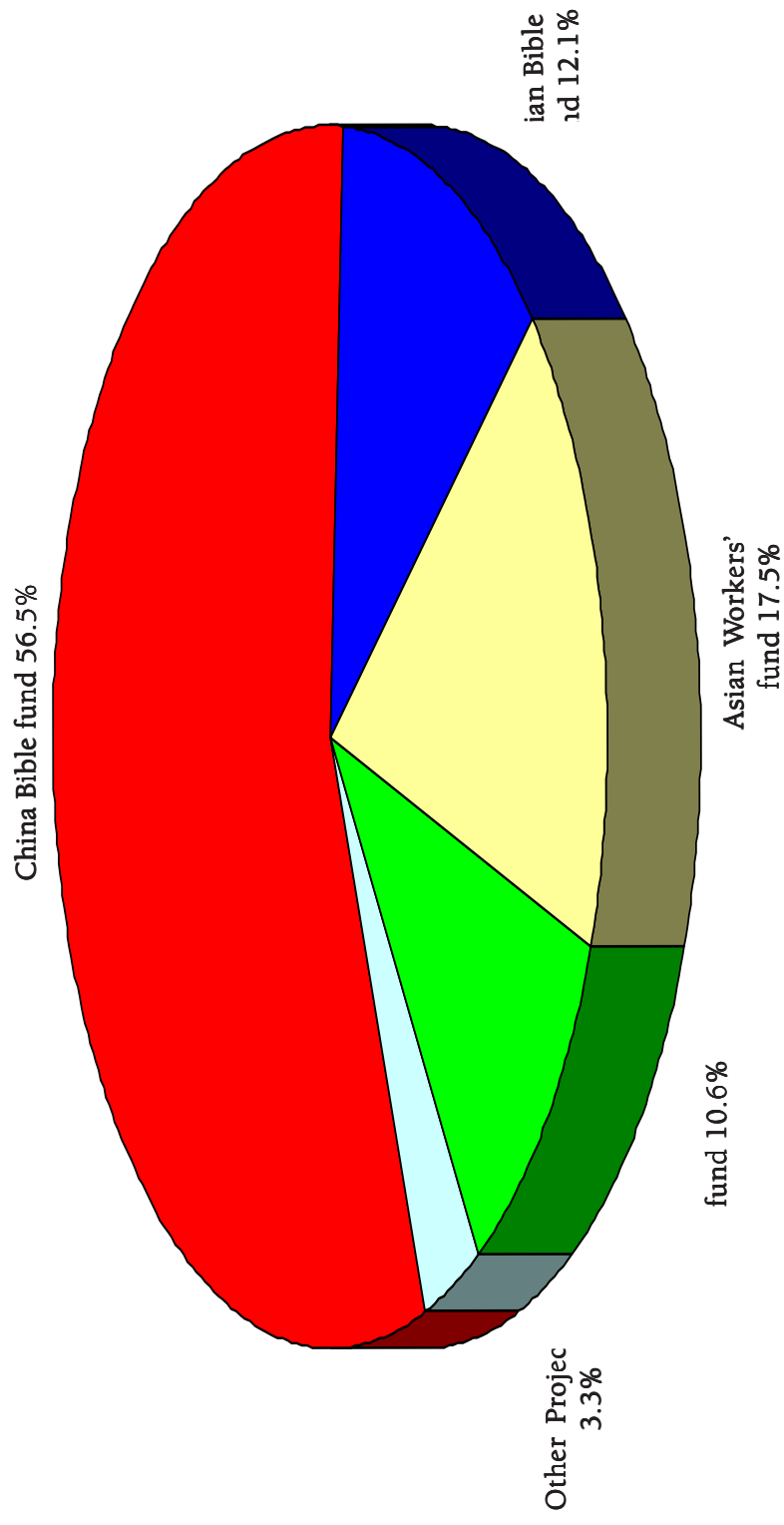
Her excitement was obvious, and every time we looked in Yen's direction we found her smiling back. As the welcome speeches ended we walked over to her. "Do you know you are about to receive one of these wheelchairs today?" we asked. "I know, I know," Yen replied. As we leaned forward she put her little arms around our waists and lovingly hugged us.

Yen has never walked in her life due to cerebral palsy, but that day her life experienced a major transformation.

When her name was called, her mother carried her forward and gently placed her in the gleaming chrome chair. She lovingly caressed every part of it. To many it was just a wheelchair, but for Yen it was a dream come true.

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.

Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2014





Asia Harvest Addresses

www.asiaharvest.org / office@asiaharvest.org

NORTH AMERICA:	353 Jonestown Rd #320, Winston-Salem, NC 27104, USA
AUSTRALIA:	36 Nelson Street, Stepney, South Australia 5069 <i>Bank details:</i> CBA 06-4410-10255537 (Asia Harvest)
NEW ZEALAND:	P.O.Box 1757, Queenstown 9348 <i>Bank details:</i> ASB 12-3154-0092327-00 (Asia Harvest)
MALAYSIA:	STAMP Bhd., P.O.Box 8036, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya, 46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor <i>Bank details:</i> HSBC 352-029615-101 (STAMP Bhd.)
SINGAPORE:	Clementi Central P.O.Box 119, Singapore 911204
UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND:	AsiaLink, Mill Farm, Fleetwood Road, Wesham PR4 3HD, England <i>Bank details:</i> CAF Bank 40-52-40, Account No. 00014929 (AsiaLink)
EUROPE:	Stiftung SALZ, Johannes-Kepler-Str. 6, 71083 Herrenberg, Germany <i>IBAN:</i> DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / <i>BIC:</i> GENODES1PGW