

Asia Harvest



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

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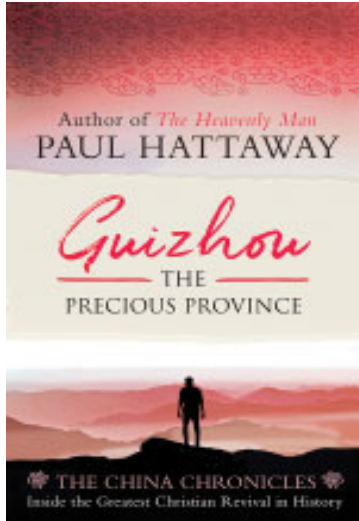
office@asiaharvest.org

March 2019 - Newsletter #156



GUIZHOU

A New Book by Paul Hattaway



GUIZHOU

- The Precious Province -

Book 2 of 'The China Chronicles'

by Paul Hattaway

In this newsletter we are glad to announce the second book in our series on the mighty revival that has swept China during the past 50 years. ***The China Chronicles*** are proving to be a great encouragement to many people, and are enriching the spiritual lives of those who read them.

We have been entrusted, through hundreds of hours of interviews with church leaders throughout China, with many testimonies that have never been shared in public. It has been a great privilege to record the marvelous acts of the Holy Spirit, as God's kingdom has taken root and flourished in the world's most populated country.

The Guizhou book contains many inspirational testimonies. We have selected one story to share with you in this newsletter. It is of a Chinese pastor named Wu Liwen, who spent 23 years in prison for his faith. Years later, God showed His faithfulness to Wu and used him to bring thousands of people from the Nosu tribe to faith in Jesus Christ....



The remainder of this newsletter contains an excerpt from 'GUIZHOU: China's Precious Province'. It tells about a key moment in the history of the Church in Guizhou, which is home to 35 million people and more than 80 tribes and ethnic groups. To order a copy of the book, please see the enclosed form or visit our website (www.asiaharvest.org) for details.

Pastor Wu and the Precious Book

In 1986, a 72-year-old Chinese pastor, Wu Liwen, was invited to a remote area of Guizhou Province by a group of Nosu tribesmen. The only question the men asked when they met Wu was if he knew who Jesus was.

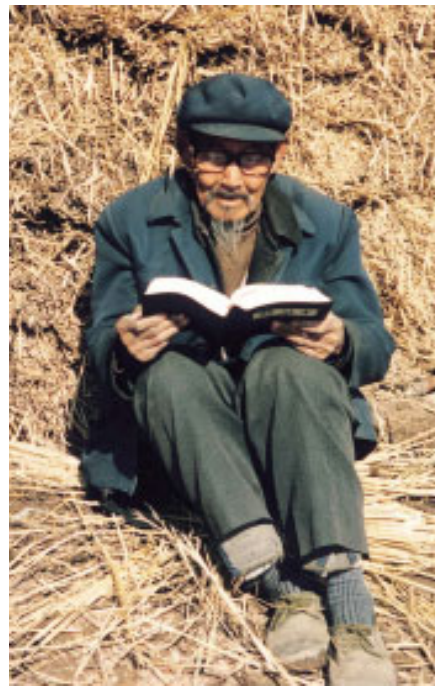
Wu, who had spent 23 years in prison because of his faith in Christ, prayerfully sought God's will and felt it was right for him to make the arduous journey, even though it involved a gruelling uphill trek and a long donkey ride over treacherous mountain trails—challenges that men of his advanced age don't usually undertake.

After walking for many hours, Wu's Nosu guides led him to a run-down shack in an isolated mountain range, which was to be their home for the night before he was taken to speak to their friends and relatives the next day. Wu expected to encounter a small gathering of perhaps 10 to 15 people.

After a rough night's sleep, the new day dawned and Wu was told they must climb over several more steep hills before reaching their destination. After straining for hours, the group finally cleared the last rise and suddenly Wu heard voices... hundreds of them! Sloping away beneath them, the mountainside rippled in a sea of blue and white—the tribal dress of the Nosu people. Like a late blooming of wildflowers, they covered every open space.

Some people had traveled for days. Others had left their home villages long before daylight. Since no one wanted to miss a word, they came early. Pastor Wu learned that they had been assembled, waiting and watching the trail, for over six hours.

Wu scanned the crowd with tears in his eyes. His mind flashed back to the 23 years he spent in a Communist prison camp. During his darkest moments God had spoken to his heart, telling him to hold on, for a time would come when he would be needed to teach the Word again. That promise had seemed so impossible! But here before Wu stretched 1,500 believers who had never heard a Bible teacher before!



The hours rolled by into the night and still the old pastor taught. The Nosu lit torches and gas lanterns, as no one wanted to leave. At last, Pastor Wu's voice gave out and they allowed him to stop and rest.

The exhausted pastor was taken to a nearby hut, where he was given a hot meal and a bed for the night. Before falling asleep, however, Wu insisted on hearing the story behind the multitude of hungry believers he had just ministered to. His hosts laughed and said, "Let Old Lee tell you. He can tell you about the Book."

An aged blind man emerged from the back of the room and gently sat down on a stool before Pastor Wu. Old Lee's battered face radiated an inner joy. In his arms he cradled a wooden box, holding it closely to his chest as if it contained a priceless treasure. He shared his story:

"Thirteen years ago, no one in this village knew about God. My brothers and I spent most of our time drinking and gambling. We did not understand anything else. One day, I went down the mountain with my brother to beg and to steal. In the marketplace someone handed me this book."

Carefully, Old Lee extracted his prized possession. A small sheaf of coarse, brittle pages, long since yellowed and cracked, trembled in his hands. The pages were crudely stitched together, bound between two squares of dirty cardboard. Old Lee gently placed the book in the teacher's hands. Smiling and nodding, the villagers murmured their approval. "It is part of something called Matthew," Old Lee explained. "Of course, we didn't know what it was when we got it. But we decided it must be some kind of special book, so we hid it."

The precious New Testament was concealed for years during the Cultural Revolution, when men could be killed for owning such a book. They placed it in a secret hiding place and wondered if they would ever have an opportunity to learn more about its mysterious message.

The breakthrough they needed came when Old Lee was forced to attend a government propaganda meeting, where a Communist official made a long speech in which he ranted against religion. At one point he said, "The Christians claim that a man named Jesus Christ came to save mankind. This foreign religion was brought here to deceive us."

Old Lee remembered nothing else from the man's ramblings that day, but he was desperate to learn more about this Jesus Christ. He instinctively knew that the old book in his possession was a Book of Truth, and he was determined to find someone who could read Chinese so they could explain its message. Old Lee continued:

"At first, it was just the three of us. We hid the book in an empty shed, concealed inside the wall. Later, we brought a few others to read it, one at a time. Soon, 10 of us

were believers and we met in the forest at night to encourage one another and pray. We became 30, then 50 and 60....

As you can see, our numbers have grown.... There are 1,500 of us now! Previously, we worshipped demons. Now only one family in our valley is not Christian, but they no longer worship demons either. We have heard about baptism. Do you know how to baptize?"

The next morning, news quickly spread throughout the village, and people ran to the hillside to break the news to those working in the fields: "We're going to be baptized!"

That afternoon, a multitude of excited Nosu believers made their way to a stream where Pastor Wu baptized almost 1,000 Nosu people. The next day he baptized hundreds more in a neighboring village. After two more days of teaching from morning till night, it was time for the venerable Bible teacher to return home.

Pastor Wu went to be with the Lord a few years later, but the last phase of his life was spent testifying about the faithfulness of God, and how the Lord had kept the promise He had made during Wu's lowest point in prison many years earlier.

God has continued to do a powerful work among the Nosu in Guizhou. Believers have been called to endure many harsh trials and persecutions over the decades, but God has preserved a faithful remnant, and today many strong churches exist among this blessed tribe, the fruit of a revival which started when someone gave a copy of God's Word to them in the 1970s.



The great need of Christians in Guizhou continues to be Bibles. Believers in rural areas have struggled to access God's Word for many years, and the large number of new Christians has seen the demand far outstrip the supply. **The need for our China Bible Fund is greater than ever,** with an increasing number of believers unable to access Bibles due to government restrictions and persecution.

With your prayers and support, Asia Harvest has provided more than 80,000 Bibles to house church believers in Guizhou over the years, and we will continue to do so as long as the door remains open. Please pray for the Church in Guizhou!



ASIAN WORKERS' FUND



We currently support 1,317 Asian evangelists among 1,008 unreached people groups.

The **Asian Workers' Fund** supports indigenous church-planting evangelists among unreached Asian tribes and ethnic groups. These disciples have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. To date, the evangelists we help have led **328,875 people to faith in Jesus Christ**. You can help support these dedicated workers for **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular donors of this project.

CHINA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 11,608,163 Chinese Bibles printed and distributed.

We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term project 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 Body of Christ and helping add fuel to the revival in China.

Each full Chinese Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 929,093 Bibles printed in 101 languages.

The **Asian Bible Fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in **Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent**, and anywhere in Asia that God's people need His Word.

Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver. We also print millions of Gospel booklets for evangelism through this project.

LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting **343** living martyrs.*



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."

The **Living Martyrs' Fund** supports church leaders and widows in China, Vietnam and elsewhere who are unable to work because of injuries or illness caused by persecution. A gift of **\$35 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.

BLESS THE CHILDREN FUND



*Your generous support has so far impacted **148,650** children for Jesus throughout Asia.*

The **Bless the Children Fund** introduces children to Jesus Christ in India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and a host of other countries. Activities include printing and distributing children's Gospel literature, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. The results of this project have been staggering. It costs an average of just **\$10 to impact a child for Christ**.

PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



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

This project provides assistance to the victims of natural disasters in Asia, by providing medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc. The Asian Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and multitudes of people have come to know the Lord Jesus. This project also provides physical and spiritual relief to Christian communities and families that have been affected by persecution.



Asia Harvest Addresses

www.asiaharvest.org / office@asiaharvest.org

NORTH AMERICA:	353 Jonestown Road #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)
EUROPE:	Stiftung SALZ, Moehringer Landstr. 98, 70563 Stuttgart, Germany <i>IBAN:</i> DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / <i>BIC:</i> GENODES1PGW
MALAYSIA:	Strategic Missions Program, P.O.Box 8036, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya, 46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor <i>Bank details:</i> CIMB 8008242805 (Strategic Missions Program)
UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND:	AsiaLink, P.O. Box 891, Preston PR4 9AB, England <i>Bank details:</i> NatWest Bank 01-07-65, Account No. 07018797