

Asia Harvest



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

www.asiaharvest.org

office@asiaharvest.org

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The Sqaw Karen

A Tribe desperate for God's Word

From the Frontlines

“Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ‘Make level paths for your feet,’ so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed” (Hebrews 12:13).

“Study to show yourself approved by God, a workman who needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Recently, many believers around the world have contacted us to express their fear. With events like the Coronavirus lockdowns followed by the violence on the streets of America, and economic uncertainties, people are confused and scared. Satan is the author of confusion, and as the world system stumbles deeper into decay because of people’s sin, many are bewildered, not knowing who they can trust, or if anyone can be trusted at all.

Having served Jesus Christ under the noses of hostile governments for decades, we know something about fear. It is a deadly toxin, which can distort our minds and hearts and drag us away from life-giving, daily fellowship with God.

If we allow it, fear can make us easy prey for Satan, who loves to get our hearts off Jesus and onto the news, social media, and all kinds of worries. The Lord warned us of this danger when He said: ***“The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful”*** (Matthew 13:22).

World events are only going to get progressively worse as the world spirals toward anarchy, before the great and glorious return of Jesus. He will come to bring judgment and to clean up the mess we have made: ***“Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short”*** (Revelation 12:12).

How can a Christian strengthen their heart and mind to survive the dark times ahead? Our answer is one that you have probably never heard from a Christian organization before: do NOT ‘read’ God’s Word! People read newspapers, novels and webpages, but the Bible instructs us not to merely read the Word but to **“study** to show yourself approved by God.”

It is not enough just to have a few favorite Bible verses, or to pick and choose bits of Scripture that make us feel good. To be healthy, a person needs to enjoy the full banquet of God's Word, and not just grab a few snacks here and there. Throughout the Scriptures, we find the people God used greatly were those who diligently studied His Word, for example: ***"Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel"*** (Ezra 7:10).

To survive the end times, we must study whole books of the Bible, and invest time each day in getting to know the Lord through His Word and in prayer. It's time to get serious, or our faith will not survive the storms ahead. God's Word will give us discernment and wisdom, enabling us to navigate through this life.

We not only need wisdom as we live in this world, but we also must discern truth from error in today's Church. Each day, thousands of pulpits and the airwaves are spewing out a false gospel that has stripped the Christian message of key words like repentance and holiness, and crucial teachings of the Lord Jesus, such as: ***"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me"*** (Luke 9:23).

Friends, the gospel has become distorted because many preachers are cowardly and do not want to 'offend' listeners. If a believer gives in to this delusion, they often end up ensnared by myths and conspiracies, as Paul wrote to Timothy: ***"For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths"*** (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

The only way to be able to wade through the quicksand of deception that has engulfed many churches and whole denominations today is by cultivating a deep knowledge and love for the Word of God, and then in faith and by the power of the Holy Spirit, living out the gospel and sharing it with others.

Many people over the years have told us they simply don't have time to study God's Word. Usually that is untrue, as they never seem to lack the time to watch television, surf the internet, or gaze at their phone for hour after hour.

Friends, it's time for all believers to get serious and to make wise decisions. **We have never seen anyone fall away from the Lord who was strong in His Word, nor have we seen anyone strong in Christ Jesus who was neglecting His Word.**

The Sqaw Karen

A tribe desperate for God's Word

In the remainder of this newsletter, we would like to encourage you with brief testimonies from some of your Christian brothers and sisters whose existence you probably aren't aware of.

The Sqaw (or S'gaw) Karen tribe inhabits the mountains and jungle valleys of eastern Myanmar (formerly known as Burma). They have lived there for thousands of years and are thought to be the original inhabitants of the region. They are the largest of the Karen tribes, numbering over two million people.

The Lord has pursued the Karen people for a long time, and the first Christians among them came to faith in the 1800s. Today, there are many Sqaw Karen believers, but they have been isolated from the rest of the world, and decimated for the past 50 years by the brutal, evil Burmese military junta, who have killed hundreds of thousands of Karen people in one of the worst genocides in modern history. Often the Buddhist Burmese have attacked the Karen people for no other reason than the fact that many are Christians.

Over the years, Asia Harvest has helped provide **more than 76,000 Bibles in the Sqaw Karen language through our Asian Bible Fund**. These spiritually-hungry believers are greatly appreciative, and the Word of God had made a massive difference in the lives of many families decimated by war and hardship.

We would like to share testimonies and photos from several Sqaw Karen believers who have recently received the Word of God for the first time. As we share their stories, we invite you to pray for them, and please consider giving so that more Christians like will have free access to God's Word. We have more Bible printings in the pipeline right now, in 8 different languages. **In Myanmar and other Asian countries the average cost per Bible is \$2.70.**

“My name is Samuel, and I have served as a pastor among my people since 1993. Long ago, when I went to Bible school, I had my own Bible, but during the war, Burmese soldiers came to our village and we had to run for our lives, leaving our possessions behind. Since that time, I have served the Lord without a Bible.

I later moved, but there wasn't a single Bible in the whole village. Three years later, the church was able to obtain one Bible, but it fell apart from overuse. The Word of God was so rare and precious that the believers decided no one could touch the Bible except me. It had to remain in the church and I could not take it home, for fear that I might lose it and they would again be without God's precious Word.



On January 1, 1999, we started asking the Lord to provide us with our own Bibles. **For the past 21 years since that day, we have kept faith and trusted God.** Once I went to our nation's capital and visited the Bible Society. I wept bitterly when I found they had just one Sqaw Karen Bible, but they wanted much more money for it than what we could afford.

Now, after your workers visited, our hearts are overwhelmed with joy and gratitude! Not only did you provide one Bible for every family in our village, but they were completely free! Hallelujah!

Just one month after your visit, our church members were studying their Bibles every day, and great changes came to our village. People are now full of the joy of the Lord, they have stopped smoking and drinking, and they love one another. When I walk through the village, I hear people reading God's Word aloud and singing praises. Our meetings have overflowed, and our church building cannot hold everyone. We have been so blessed by God that I feel like we now live in a heavenly village!

Thank you so much for the great and precious gifts you brought to us. You have put smiles on our faces, and we can now experience heavenly life. God bless you all abundantly!”



“My name is Naw and I am 67-years-old. When I was just two, my parents died in the jungle from snake bites. I was raised by my uncle and aunt, and seven times we had to abandon our village and flee into the jungle to avoid being bombed by the Burmese army.

Life was horrible because we were always running for our lives. I started primary school when I was 8, but because of all the commotion it took me 11 years before I finished. I might have set a world record for the longest time in primary school!

After I finished school, the army came again and burned every house in our village to the ground. We again had to run for our lives. My uncle died in this attack and I was very sad.

When I was 12 I had a Bible, but I lost it during that attack, and there was no way for me to get another copy. I had no income at all, and just staying alive was a struggle. Furthermore, I lived in a very remote village that seemed to be forgotten by not only the outside world, but even by other Karen people.

However, I hoped the Lord had not forgotten me, so I always prayed that He would let me own a Bible again before I died. Each time I prayed, I felt confident that He had heard my cry for help.

Then, after praying for 55 years and 6 months, God answered my prayers through your ministry! I asked God for a Bible, and you provided not only a Bible but it also has a hymnbook in the back, which is a great blessing. I have never been so happy and satisfied in all my life!

Every day I read His Word, and the love of God fills my heart. I am so thankful, but I also want to ask if you are aware that there are many thousands of Sqaw Karen people in the remote jungle areas who have no access to Bibles at all, and who are desperate to know the true and Living God.

Please remember them and do your best to take Bibles to them. God bless you more and more as you seek to quench the thirst of our poor Christian brothers and sisters.”

“My name is Ti and I am 53-years-old. I have lived in this village since 1992. Before I came here, most of the time we were living in the jungle and running for our lives. We often had to move, and each time we lost all our possessions. We lost land, houses, relatives, friends, animals, and more.

My father once owned a Bible, but it was destroyed in the fighting. I desperately wanted to have a Bible again, but there was no way to get a copy. Even in my dreams I never imagined I would actually have a Bible again, even though I have been praying since 1992 for the Lord to give me one.

Now, after 28 years of prayer, God has given me my own Bible! It is the first time in my life I held my own copy of God’s precious Word. Jesus is so good and worthy to be trusted and praised.



Over the years, other people who said they had Bible distribution ministries visited our village and took pictures, promising to return and give us free Bibles. Our hopes always went up, but they never returned. So, when we informed people in a nearby village that Bibles would be distributed for free, one per family, they didn’t believe us, because something so amazing had never happened before.

Our heart-felt thanks to all of you for all your hard work, and for keeping your promise and giving us free Bibles. Thank you!

Please remember the hundreds of other Sqaw Karen villages in the mountains and valleys where Christians have never had a Bible in their entire lives. I would say that 97 percent of all Christians in the remote areas have never even seen a Bible. They have no money and there is nowhere to obtain a Bible anyway, even if they could afford one.

God bless you and your supporters. We will never forget what you have done for us.”



“My name is Kar. I am 78-year-old. I was married and had nine children, but I am alone now, because all of my children died in the jungle in 1992 when we were forced to run for our lives from the Burmese military. My wife was killed by a bomb in 1993.

I don't have any living relatives, and I don't even know where the other people are from my village, as we all fled in different directions. My life is horrible, and I have lost everything. I feel my life is even worse than what Job experienced in the Bible.

I have always wanted to read the Bible in my language, but I have never been able to find one. Throughout my life I've frequently asked pastors and evangelists where I could get a Bible, but they always told me it was impossible. I decided to trust God, as I realized only He has the power to meet my need.

I started praying for a Bible in 1966 when I was 24-years-old. **After praying for 54 years, God has answered my petitions!** I have received your free Bible and hymnal, and I am so happy! Even though I only live in a simple thatch hut and am all alone, Jesus Christ has not forgotten me and He has encouraged me with His love! The Bible has become the most precious thing in my life. It is truly the living Word of God. Thanks to you all!”



The Christians highlighted in this newsletter are representative of countless thousands of others who have received life-changing Bibles through our two Bible projects. The **China Bible Fund** continues to strengthen and equip house church believers in China. Although the cost of printing a Bible changes monthly depending on the latest price of paper, exchange rate fluctuations, etc., we have set our price at just **\$1.80 each for a full Chinese Bible**, and we cover the transportation and any other costs from non-project funds. This way, we guarantee that for every \$1.80 sent to us for the project will result in a Bible being printed and delivered to the Chinese house churches.

The **Asian Bible Fund** continues to provide the Scriptures in languages like Sqaw Karen for an average of **\$2.70 per Bible**. If you would like to provide God's Word to hungry believers like those in this newsletter, we invite you to fill out the enclosed yellow response form and send it back along with your gift. Alternatively, one-time or monthly donations to the project can be made via our website: **www.asiaharvest.org**

CHINA BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **12,855,442**
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 WORKERS' FUND



*We currently support **1,429** Asian evangelists
among **1,113** 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 reportedly led **514,319 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.

ASIAN BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **1,073,603** Bibles printed in 119 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 **1,201** 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 Christian widows and church leaders and their families throughout Asia 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 **\$25 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs.

THE CHILDREN'S FUND



*Your generous support has so far reached **162,884** children throughout Asia.*

The **Bless the Children Fund** introduces children to Jesus in India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and a host of other Asian countries. Activities include printing and distributing Gospel literature designed for children, funding Sunday school training classes, providing free surgeries for those with special needs, and generally lifting children out of spiritual and physical poverty. It costs an average of just **\$10 to reach a child for Christ**.

PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



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

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided assistance to the victims of natural disasters that have struck Asia. 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 many people have come to know Jesus Christ. This project also provides physical and spiritual relief to Christian communities and families throughout Asia who 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
Bank details: CBA 06-4410-10255537 (Asia Harvest)

NEW ZEALAND: PO Box 1757, Queenstown 9348
Bank details: ASB 12-3154-0092327-00 (Asia Harvest)

EUROPE: Stiftung SALZ, Moehringer Landstr. 98, 70563 Stuttgart, Germany
BAN: DE93 6426 1853 0060 0080 08 / **BIC:** GENODES1PGW

MALAYSIA: Strategic Missions Program, P.O.Box 8036, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya, 46780 Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Bank details: CIMB 8008242805 (Strategic Missions Program)

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND:
AsiaLink, P.O. Box 891, Preston PR4 9AB, England
Bank details: NatWest Bank 01-07-65, Account No. 07018797