

# Asia Harvest



Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe! (Joel 3:13)

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Waiting to hear: A man from the tiny unreached Sauke tribe in Nepal carrying his firewood.

## Getting to Know Asia Harvest

# Getting to Know Asia Harvest

In the past few years we've become aware that as our ministry has expanded, there has been an on-going need to explain our vision, aims and ministry methods to people. Many who receive our newsletters know us and our work quite well. Hundreds of people came on short-term mission teams in past years and participated in the work throughout Asia. Other people reading this newsletter may not know us personally, but enjoy hearing about what God is doing in this part of the world. Others probably have no clue what Asia Harvest is, or what we are called to do. We thought it may be a good idea to do something in this newsletter that we've never done before - to answer some of the questions that we most frequently get asked. We hope this will be helpful and allow you to get a better understanding of our ministry. If you have any questions you'd like to ask about us and what we do, please send them by letter or email.

## **What is the background of Asia Harvest?**

In 1988 the director of Asia Harvest, Paul Hattaway, entered full-time Christian work in Hong Kong, carrying Bibles to Christians in China and working with other missionaries with a similar calling. Many short-term teams came to help. By the early 1990s the Lord had directed our attention to the unreached tribes and people groups in China and neighboring countries. We started getting involved in various forms of outreach to them. A lot of research was done in the hope of bring the existence and spiritual needs of these groups to the awareness of the Body of Christ around the world.

Various people who came on short-term teams received a call from God to participate in the work on a longer term basis. Among them was Dwayne (now married to Tamara), who remains a vital part of Asia Harvest to the present time. After Paul married Joy in 1994, they

relocated the ministry (then known as Asian Minorities Outreach) from Hong Kong to Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. We continued to publish many prayer profiles and newsletters, and spent a lot of time developing strong relationships with church leaders in countries such as China, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar (Burma), and northern India. We started to publish books profiling unreached peoples, in a bid to raise prayer and outreach to the most needy groups. The first book in 1996 was entitled *The 50 Most Unreached People Groups of China in Tibet*, followed by *The Peoples of Vietnam* (1998), *Faces of the Unreached in Laos* (1999), *China's Unreached Cities, Volume One* (1999), and *Operation China* (2000). It has been a great blessing to see how various Christian organizations have used this information to mobilize dozens of new workers and implement strategies to reach them. God

willing, we hope to continue producing more books in the future (two or three new books are in the pipeline at the moment).

In 2000 we changed our ministry name from Asian Minorities Outreach to Asia Harvest, believing this change reflected the new focus we had, to serve the Church in Asia and help them be more effective reaching the hundreds of unevangelized tribes and groups in their nations.

***What denomination are you part of?***

One of the greatest joys we've had over the years is to gain a deeper appreciation of the different parts of the Body of Christ. Each church and denomination brings certain strengths (and weaknesses) to God's work. We have never been connected to any particular denomination. Our staff members originate from several different nations and church backgrounds. This enables us to be more effective in working with different parts of God's Church in Asia. In countries like China, where the Church lost its denominational tags during 50 years of persecution, it is foolish and ridiculous for outsiders to come in and try to enforce one particular church group's creed. Those who try to do this, in essence, start rebuilding barriers within the Body of Christ that God has spent half a century breaking down!

Here is one example of how denominationalism started to ruin the Chinese house churches. We have adapted it from a biography of the life of Chinese Christian Brother Yun. The book, entitled *The Heavenly Man* is due to be published in November by Monarch Books.

Brother Yun says,

"Throughout the 1970s there had been just one house church movement in China. There were no networks or organizations, just groups of simple believers who came together to worship and study God's Word. The leaders all knew each other. God had brought them together during times of hardship. They learned to fellowship and trust one another while shackled together in prison. After being released, they worked together for the advancement of the Gospel. In those early days we were truly unified. Suffering had broken down all denominational walls in the Chinese Church.

When China's borders started to open up in the early 1980s, many foreign Christians smuggled Bibles to us from Hong Kong. These gifts were greatly appreciated and so desperately needed! Once I took a train with various house church leaders to the southern city of Guangzhou, to receive Bibles from our Western friends. After a day or two of fellowship we boarded the train again and headed home with our precious gifts. We were all so happy and full of love for one another. However, after a few years these same mission organizations started putting other books on the top of the bags of Bibles. These were books about one particular denomination's theology, or teaching that focused on certain aspects of God's Word.

This, I believe, was the start of disunity among China's house churches. We read all these booklets and soon we were confused! Our churches started to split into groups that believed one thing against groups that believed another. Instead of only speaking for Jesus, we also started speaking against other believers who didn't conform to our views.

I clearly remember how this caused division among the leaders. The fighting began even before we got off the train! It was a real mess. Within a year or two, the house churches in China split into ten or twelve fragments. The leaders could no longer walk together in



## FACES OF THE UNREACHED IN ASIA

These pictures represent just a few of the hundreds of unreached people groups in Asia that we long to see know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

*Left:* a tribesman from Arunachal Pradesh, northeast India

*Bottom left:* Buddhist monks in a procession, Vientiane, Laos

*Top Right:* a Tawang mother and daughter in the mountains of Nepal

*Bottom Right:* two Boyu Tibetan women, China







unity before the Lord. We felt that to do so would be to compromise our new beliefs! This situation gradually worsened for more than 15 years, until some house church networks believed they were the only ones who held the truth, and despised other groups as cults that should be avoided at all costs. The leaders no longer spoke to or loved one another.

I'm not saying it was purely the fault of our foreign brothers! Our own hearts were in error and we easily succumbed to temptation. I'm also not saying that we don't need or want help from Christians around the world. We do! We have tremendous needs and we pray God will provide however He chooses, including through foreign Christians. But the motive in giving and receiving must be pure, and these gifts should only be given through the existing church leadership, so that younger leaders are not tempted to use these gifts to usurp the authority of the leaders above them."

I think Asia Harvest might qualify to be called a truly "inter-denominational" ministry. This, however, doesn't mean we believe in anything or work with anyone! We are Bible-based Christians who believe the 66 Books of the Bible to be inerrant and inspired by God. We only work with churches and individuals who believe the same foundational, non-negotiable beliefs that we have, those who live their lives in the fear of God, have the Cross and Blood of Jesus Christ at the center of everything they do, and possess a strong witness of moral and ethical integrity, humility, and a God-given zeal to take the Gospel to all corners of the earth. (Note: on our website we have a doctrinal statement about what we believe and practice.)

### ***Is Asia Harvest a mission agency?***

No. At least not if a mission agency is defined as an organization that facilitates and places missionaries on the field. Every year we receive many enquiries from people wanting to become full-time missionaries and we do our best to refer them to one of the many good mission agencies that suit their interests. Whenever we have taken on the role of facilitating missionaries it seems to end up in failure, because it simply isn't what God wants us to do, nor has He gifted us to do it. Our call is to be a link between Christians in Asia and around the world, assisting efforts wherever we can that spread the Gospel. We have made lots of mistakes over the years and have learned mostly by trial and error, but by the grace of God He has allowed us to develop strong trusting relationships with quite a few key Church leaders throughout Asia. It is a privilege to be able to serve God by serving His people in need.

### ***How do you Serve the Church?***

Many people are surprised to find out that we are numerically a very small ministry. If you walk into our office in Thailand you won't find more than five or six staff at any given time, in addition to our Asia Harvest representatives around the world. In fact, we are not really looking for many more workers to join us in the foreseeable future, as we don't want to become bogged down with a large staff and overhead expenses. Last year we felt like we needed three new staff members, so we started praying for an accountant, a computer/website worker, and a publishing/layout designer. God responded by sending us Harley, who is

skilled in all three areas! Harley is a tremendous blessing to us and has things working much more efficiently in the office, as well as going on ministry trips into different countries from time to time.

To fulfill what we believe God has called us to do, we feel we need to be as streamlined as possible, and flexible enough to be able to adjust our strategy when needed. Some people who are used to more traditional methods may struggle to understand this principle, but we really have no desire to build a big new organization. We'd rather focus on building up the Body of Christ that already exists.

As our friend Gary Russell of China Harvest recently stated, *"Should we make our ministry bigger, so we can do it all? NO! As Jesus did not do it alone, neither can we, nor can any one human organization. To get more apples, does an apple farmer plant one tree, and try to make it bigger and bigger? That would be ridiculous. No, he takes the fruit away from that tree, and uses the seeds inside to multiply more and more apple trees! Farmers mobilize the resources, which would otherwise sit inertly in the ground, by planting seeds that will transform those resources into fruit!! People are impressed by big trees; but God seeks much fruit."*

Although Asia Harvest is small, we are blessed to work with church leaders who are responsible for thousands, and in a few cases even millions, of believers. Once when Joy and I were in the United States we were asked to speak in a church. The pastor introduced us by saying, "Let's welcome Paul and Joy. They are going to share about all the people they have been leading to the Lord in Asia." I had to get

up and explain that even though we try to reach out to people we have contact with, the fact is that we personally don't lead too many souls to Christ. But we serve and work with churches who lead multitudes to the Lord! If we can help them in any way to be more fruitful in their ministries, this is a great privilege.

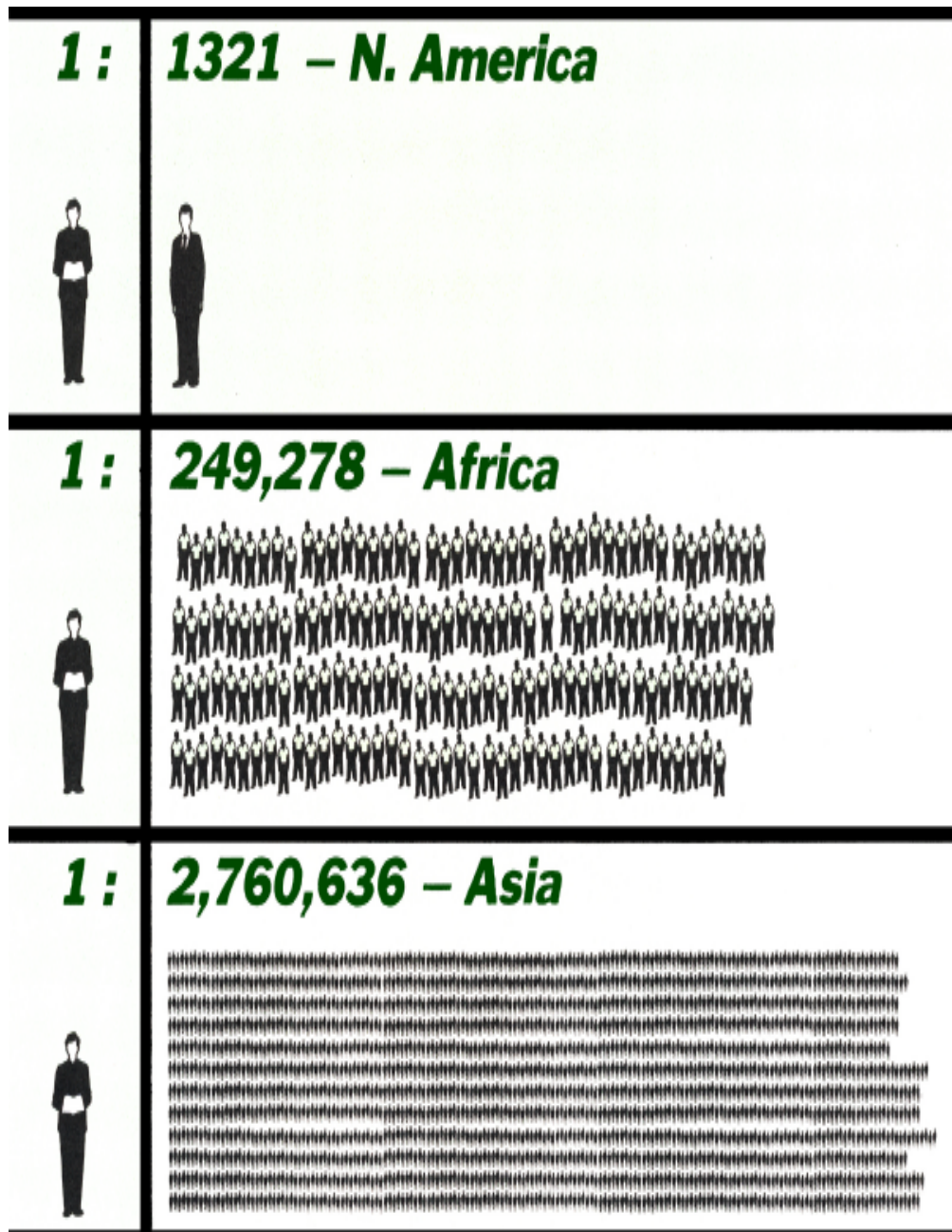
***Do you believe Western missionaries should still be sent around the world?***

Of course! As long as the Bible says, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," any Christian who reads that command has an obligation to go anywhere the Lord leads them to share their faith and reach out to the lost. Missions is no longer "The West to the Rest." We have to rid ourselves of this thinking. Westerners are coming to Asia, Asian Christians are going to the West, African evangelists are working in Europe and tribal believers are crossing mountain ranges by foot to share the Gospel with neighboring tribes. This is all how God intended it to be in his great plan.

What we do need to be careful of is our motive. What or whom are we REALLY serving? Are we serving God and His church, careful that God only gets the credit and the glory? Or are we serving our own agenda, to see our own hopes, dreams desires fulfilled?

For example, I was in a meeting with house church leaders from China a few years ago and they expressed deep frustration at much of the missionary activity being done by foreigners inside China. By foreigners they didn't only mean Westerners, but also Koreans, Singaporeans, etc. The Chinese leaders





**WHY WE WORK IN ASIA....** This graphic, although now about 10 years old and a bit outdated, shows the number of fulltime Christian workers to the population in three continents. While North America has one fulltime Christian worker for every 1,321 people, Asia remains clearly the world's most needy continent with the most people, smallest percentage of Christians, and most unreached people groups. Our aim at Asia Harvest is to help the Church grow in the most strategic, ethnically-diverse and neglected areas.



didn't understand why practically no one coming to work in China ever asked the Chinese Church how they could serve the vision God has given them, or how they could be a part of the work already flourishing. One leader, Brother Wang of the Little Flock, said *"We long to partner with foreign believers to get the work of God's Kingdom done in China, but everyone comes in with their own vision, their own plans and their own doctrines. They never even bother to consult us, and their work often ends up damaging what we are trying to do, instead of helping it. Their good intentions actually slow down the Gospel in China instead of helping it grow."*

Western mission organizations have to be very careful not to have a parental kind of attitude, thinking that we know God and His Word so deeply that the poor and ignorant Asian Christians just can't wait to learn from our great pearls of wisdom! I have found the opposite to be true actually, that the Church in Asia is often more advanced and mature than in the West. While we strive to know God's Word by knowledge, they have learned it by living it out through persecution and testings. But that doesn't mean we have to just sit there and learn from them either. Surely what the Lord desires is that we would all learn from each other!

More than 100 years ago the great China missionary Hudson Taylor wrote the following words, which we agree with today, "I look upon foreign missionaries as the scaffolding around a rising building. The sooner it can be dispensed with, the better; or rather, the sooner it can be transferred to other places, to serve the same temporary use, the better."

Years ago we started to learn some of these principles and have tried to put them into practice in everything we do at Asia Harvest. We don't want to be out in the front of any church or mission in Asia. We want to be alongside the leaders, helping them be more effective without controlling them in any way. We want to have strong trusting relationships with key leaders based around the Cross of Christ. When we help a project we do so with no strings attached, apart from requiring Biblical integrity and accountability.

In any war there are frontline combatants and there are supply lines. In many ways our ministry is a part of the supply line, mobilizing prayer support, Bibles, training, refreshment and financial resources for soldiers of the Gospel throughout Asia. We noticed that when the U.S. planes started bombing Afghanistan last year, the first place they targeted was the support structures for the soldiers. They knew if they concentrated on destroying the supply lines, the frontline soldiers would soon be ineffective. I believe the same principle applies in the spiritual realm, which is why we greatly appreciate any prayer support we receive here at Asia Harvest.

***Your newsletters state 100% of designated gifts go to the project in question. How is this possible?***

***Our aim is to get the maximum amount of help to those who need it. We strongly believe that first and foremost we must seek God's kingdom and His righteousness, and all we need will be added to us. Time and time again we have seen that this is true. No one working at Asia Harvest***

receives a salary. We are all volunteer workers who receive personal finances from churches and individuals whom God prompts to give. We are also blessed to have been given a rent-free office in Chiang Mai, thus reducing our expenses and allowing us to pass on more resources to where they are sorely needed. We do have ministry expenses such as for travel, accommodation, utilities, computers, postage, etc., but all of these are paid from donations designated to our general ministry fund and not from donations designated for ministry projects.

#### ***How does Asia Harvest raise finances?***

If you are reading this newsletter, you have in your hands practically the sole means we have to notify Christians around the world how they can give if they feel led to do so. We don't have any fundraising programs or techniques. When we are privileged to share in churches around the world, it is our conviction not to mention any financial needs, unless someone specifically asks. We don't send out appeal letters as such, and we want to avoid begging or emotional manipulation to elicit donations. All we do is list projects in the back of each newsletter and give people a chance to give if they want to. We've found it's a lot easier letting God raise finances His way than it is to try to do it with human methods and persuasion!

*"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*  
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

The burden and responsibility for raising finances is therefore the Lord's, and not ours. It is His work, and not ours. When the responsibility rests with God and not us then we can relax a lot more and that takes the pressure off us. If God provides, then we bless Him, if He doesn't, then we still bless Him and we reconsider whether He wanted us to do that particular project or not!

People who receive our newsletters continue to do so whether they give or not, or even whether we hear from them or not. In fact, the majority of people who receive these newsletters never write or contact us, but we are happy to continue sending them because we know many people are praying for us and the ministry. Last year we heard for the first time from a church leader in an Asian country who had been receiving our newsletters for 7 or 8 years. In that whole time we hadn't received a single communication from him. He wrote to say how glad he was that we'd never taken his name off our list, as he has been translating our newsletters into his language, and sending them to a vast network of 600 prayer groups throughout the country!

We don't know many rich people, but we have found over the years that God has brought ordinary folk along who don't have a lot of money, but who want to be involved in helping spread the Gospel in Asia. The majority of donations we receive are in the \$20 to \$30 range. Those who give include farmers, housewives, office workers, unemployed people, doctors, mechanics, plumbers, school children, widows, and retired missionaries. We always strive to handle each donation with the fear of God, knowing that for many

people, their gift represents a great personal sacrifice. Recently we were told an underground church in Laos (one of the world's poorest nations) wants to financially support a Chinese house church evangelist, and they want us to provide details of the worker they will support and pass on the finances on their behalf. We think such sacrifice really touches the heart of God. We've come to understand that one of the reasons the Lord has built this ministry the way He has is because He doesn't just want people's money. He wants people's hearts, minds and participation.

There is strength in numbers. Instead of having a lot of finances come from a few sources, He has chosen to bring in smaller amounts from a larger number of people. That allows for the participation of many people instead of a few. Many dozens of believers around the world are praying daily for a believer on the other side of the world after receiving a prayer card for a project such as the Asia Worker's Fund, or the China Living Martyr's Fund. We have Moravian believers in the Czech Republic supporting Chinese evangelists working among a Tibetan people group, school children in Brazil raising money for Bible printing in China, and Christians in Africa praying for and supporting a Naga missionary in Nepal. Although the giver and the receiver may never have a chance to meet in this world, each is blessed by the other and hopefully each is enriched by the experience. This is the way God's kingdom grows all around the world, not by big man-made schemes and programs, but by simple-hearted believers obeying the Lord's leading in their lives. *"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners*

*and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."* (Ephesians 2:19-22)

We consider it a tremendous privilege to be a link in this whole process, connecting believers in different parts of the world.

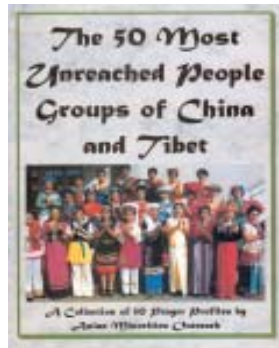
## Ministry News

You may remember our newsletter about the 33 Chinese Church leaders who were kidnapped by the Eastern Lightning Cult. Miraculously they were all released and we are glad to report they are recovering well from their ordeal. You can read more about their experiences at the website: [www.chinaforjesus.com](http://www.chinaforjesus.com)

Thank you for your prayers and for the generous finances that were sent in to help us print the book for the Chinese Church, which exposes the teachings and evil practices of the Eastern Lightning. We hope they will help many people from falling into the same trap. At the time of writing this newsletter, we had received enough finances to print **25,380** books. This project is still active so if you would like to help please feel free to fill out the yellow response form in this newsletter. Each book costs just 60 cents (U.S.) to print.



## Books by Asia Harvest



### The 50 Most Unreached People Groups of China and Tibet

Thousands of people around the world have used this book to pray and intercede for the needy peoples of China and Tibet, and new workers have been mobilized for this harvest field.

110 pages. ISBN 974-85307-0-1

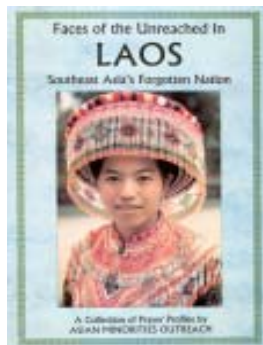
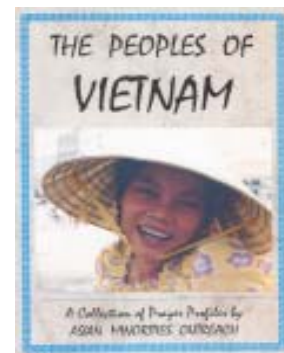
COST: \$ 10 including postage

### The Peoples of Vietnam

The Peoples of Vietnam examines the unique and varied cultures of Vietnam. It encourages caring Christians around the world to pray in an informed way for salvation of all the peoples of Vietnam.

114 pages. ISBN 974-85301-6-7

COST: \$ 12 including postage



### Faces of the Unreached in Laos: Southeast Asia's Forgotten Nation

For centuries landlocked Laos has been forgotten by politicians, explorers and missionaries alike. This is the first known book to attempt to profile all 138 people groups of this fascinating, needy country.

158 pages. ISBN 974-85302-7-2

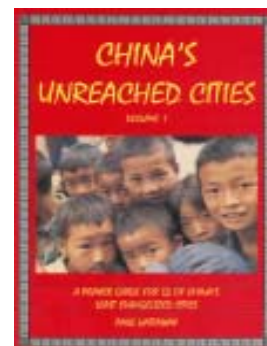
COST: \$ 15 including postage

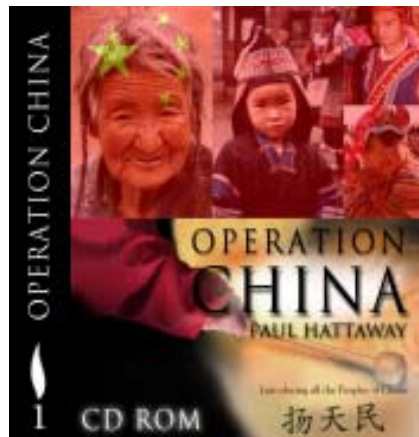
### China's Unreached Cities, Vol.1

By the year 2010 it is estimated half of China's population will live in urban areas - up from 28% in 1994. The cities of China are largely unevangelized. Reaching them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a daunting task, but it must be done. 124 pages.

ISBN 974-85302-8-8 COST: \$ 13 including postage

**A set of all four of the above books can be ordered for US \$39, including postage. To order, please send a check to Asia Harvest, or order by credit card over our website.**





## OPERATION CHINA CD

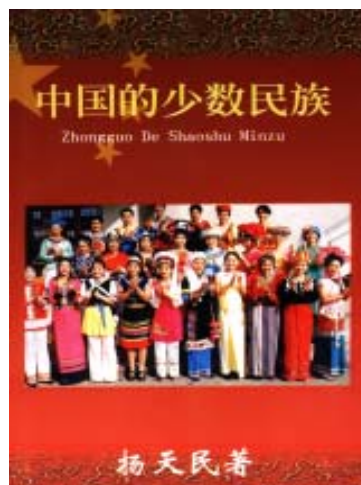
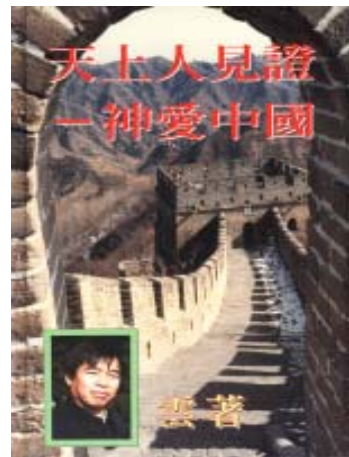
Our book *Operation China* is available from distributors all around the world (see our website for details), but we are now selling the Operation China CD-ROM, which contains more than 750 pages of profiles and information, and more than 700 color photographs. The CD has a search engine, is printable, and works on both PCs and Macs.

The cost is US\$ 17, including post and packing. If you are interested, please fill out the enclosed Book Order Form and send in remittance. Alternatively, you can order this CD or any of our books by credit card over our website: [www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)

## Books in Chinese

### THE TESTIMONY OF THE HEAVENLY MAN

A powerful autobiography written by Brother Yun, a house church leader from China who has been imprisoned four times and arrested more than 30 times for his faith in Christ. A precious glimpse into the life of a Chinese Christian leader. NOTE: This book is only available in traditional Chinese script (not simplified script). 323 pages, hardcover, ISBN 974-85311-07-1  
COST: \$ 15 including postage



### THE MINORITIES OF CHINA

We now have a limited number of this book available outside China. It is the slimmed-down version of the English Operation China, containing profiles of approximately 450 people groups in China. The entire book is in color, on high-quality glossy paper. Available only in Simplified Chinese script. 466 pages.

COST: \$ 20 including postage

## PROJECT SMILE

### Helping Children in Vietnam

*Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of **678** children in Vietnam.*

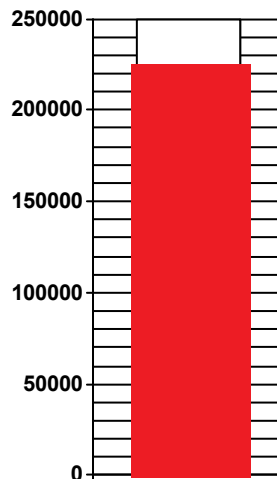
Project Smile helps children from poor families in northern Vietnam who were born with cleft palates or hair-lip disabilities. The average cost to help a child is just \$ 60. This pays for the cost of the operation, the travel expenses for the child and his/her parents to come to the city where the operation takes place, and the cost of an overnight stay in the hospital. ***A gift of \$ 60 will enable one child to have a better life, and an opportunity for his or her family to hear about Jesus Christ for the first time. A gift of \$ 240 will bless four children.***

Each gift of \$ 60 or more will receive a picture of the child before and after their life-changing operation, so you can continue to pray for them.



## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

### Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word



**Current Total: 224,592**  
**Chinese Bibles Printed**  
**Cost: US\$2.00 per Bible**

Although a limited number of Bibles are now permitted to be printed inside China, they are not enough to meet the need. Because of the tremendous growth rate of the church in China (some say 30,000 new believers each day), there is a serious lack of Bibles. Millions of Christians are still without God's Word. We are partnering with six large house church networks in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for the church. These Bibles are distributed 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. **100% of your gifts go directly to printing Bibles. Each Bible costs just US \$2.00 to print and deliver.**



## ASIAN WORKERS FUND

### *Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

*Because of your prayers and partnership we are currently able to support 143 Asian evangelists for a 12-month period.*

Asian churches give their tithes and offerings, but the economy of many places like China or Nepal is so poor that there is little or nothing left for “big” expenses such as sending an evangelist or a missionary to an unreached area. In other cases the church may have enough just to send the worker to the field, but is unable to support them once they are there. We are in contact with thousands of workers who need support. These servants of the Lord have given their whole lives to the Gospel.

The **Asian Workers Fund** assists workers who are doing strategic ministry in Asia. Please pray about whether you, your family, or church could help support one or more of these workers with a gift of **US \$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to the workers in need.** A prayer card will be sent to every supporter of this project, with information about a worker to remind you to pray.

## CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

### *Supporting pastors Crippled by Persecution and Torture*

*Because of your prayers and support we are currently able to support 609 living martyrs every month.*

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.” (Voice of the Martyrs)

In China today Christians are regularly beaten, tortured and even killed because they love Jesus. House church leaders have given us details of more than 1,000 Christian leaders who have been crippled as a result of torture received at the hands of the authorities. The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of their injuries. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. You can support one or more of these living martyrs with a gift of **US \$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to this project.** A prayer card will be sent to every regular supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to help remind you to pray.

