

Asia Harvest



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

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A lady from the Padaung tribe of Myanmar and Thailand. They are commonly called the 'Long Neck' tribe for obvious reasons.



Annual Report

2004-05

From the Front Lines

It was the day after Christmas and we were looking forward to a break when news came through that an earthquake off the coast of Indonesia had triggered a tsunami. Only in the following days and weeks did the true scale of the disaster become apparent. Many Christians around the world have tried to understand this occurrence in light of their faith. The one article which struck a cord with us was entitled "Tsunami and Repentance," by John Piper in World Magazine, 5 January 2005....

From pulpits to news programs, from the New York Times to the Wall Street Journal, the message of the tsunami was missed. It is a double grief when lives are lost and lessons are not learned. Every deadly calamity is a merciful call from God for the living to repent. "Weep with those who weep," the Bible says. Yes, but let us also weep for our own rebellion against the living God. Lesson one: weep for the dead. Lesson two: weep for yourselves.

Every deadly calamity is a merciful call from God for the living to repent. That was Jesus' stunning statement to those who brought him news of calamity. The tower of Siloam had fallen, and 18 people were crushed. What about this, Jesus? they asked. He answered, "Do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:4-5).

The point of every deadly calamity is this: Repent. Let our hearts be broken that God means so little to us. Grieve that he is a whipping boy to be blamed for pain, but not praised for pleasure. Lament that he makes headlines only when man mocks his power, but no headlines for ten thousand days of wrath withheld. Let us rend our hearts that we love life more than we love Jesus Christ. Let us cast ourselves on the mercy of our Maker. He offers it through the death and resurrection of his Son.

This is the point of all pleasure and all pain. Pleasure says: "God is like this, only better; don't make an idol out of me. I only point." Pain says: "What sin deserves is like this, only worse; don't take offense at me. I am a merciful warning."

But the topless sunbathers amid the tsunami aftermath in Phuket, Thailand did not get the message. Neither did the man who barely escaped the mighty wave with the help of a jungle gym and palm-leaf roof. He concluded, "I am left with an immense respect for the power of nature." He missed it. The point is: reverence for the Creator, not respect for creation.

Jesus said that the minutest event in nature is under the control of God. "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father" (Matthew 10:29). He said this to give hope to those who would be killed for his name. He himself stood on the sea and stopped the waves with a single word (Mark 4:39). Even if Nature or Satan unleashed the deadly tidal wave, one word from Jesus would have stopped it. He did not speak it. This means there is design in this suffering. And all his designs are wise and just and good.

One of his designs is my repentance. Therefore I will not put God on trial. I am on trial. Only because of Christ will the waves that one day carry me away bring me safely to his side. Come. Repentance is a good place to be.

Tsunami Relief



After the full scale of the tsunami's destruction became apparent, we immediately got in contact with our friends and coworkers across Asia to see how we could best respond to the tremendous needs. The Asia Harvest Malaysian representatives were ideally placed to coordinate the relief efforts, as they were already involved with the work of the kingdom of God in most of the places where the tsunami struck.

We sent emails to everyone on our email list, explaining our plans to help. The response was quick and generous, and at the time of writing this newsletter we have already been able to pass on al-

most \$200,000 to help relief work in Aceh, Indonesia; Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. We realize that many people who receive this newsletter do not have email, so we are repeating some details here for those who want to pray or give.

In the weeks after the tsunami it was a great blessing to see the Body of Christ in action as we helped coordinate a response. Not only was money sent, but many people volunteered to come, while others offered everything from one million syringes, to food and toys, three thousand fishing reels, and even a forklift!

The greatest area of help has been given to Aceh in Indonesia. Working with Christians who have many years experience in Indonesia, workers were on the ground in Aceh within 72 hours of the disaster and have been involved with two main phases. The initial phase was search and rescue and emergency aid. A medical team soon ran out of medicine and supplies because of the great need, and more have been sent. Realizing there were still large tracts of coastline that had not even been visited since the tsunami because all the roads were destroyed, our coworkers decided to purchase a boat, which gifts from Asia Harvest supporters helped to buy (\$60,000). This boat enables a medical team to go to numerous places no-

body has visited, and will be a tremendous asset in the long-term goal of reconstruction and rebuilding people's lives.

The second phase of relief help has been to provide temporary shelter (tents), food, medical care, and emotional help to many thousands. This is where workers with the love of Jesus Christ in their hearts have been so valuable. One of our close coworkers put it best, *"The need is more than just containers of supplies. It is a 'human factor' need. Only the Body of Christ is empowered to minister healing and peace and comfort. It is more than throwing mineral bottle water from moving trucks and feeling like they have done their part, it is about sitting down with a mother who has lost her husband and children, and praying with her, and helping her to put the bottle of water on her lips and nourish her... ONLY THE CHURCH CAN!"*



The third phase of the relief efforts is the most difficult, but also the most crucial. It is the rehabilitation stage. Just a few weeks after the tsunami, the world media had already gone looking for new stories and the world's attention shifted with them. Yet the rebuilding of shattered lives and communities will take many years.

Please pray that what John Piper wrote about will take place in the areas affected by the tsunami - that people will repent of their sins and place their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

If you would like to give to our Tsunami Relief Fund, please send a check or money order to one of our offices. Information can be found on the yellow Response Form in this newsletter. We guarantee that 100% of money given to the Tsunami Relief Fund will go directly to the need in Asia. Not a cent will be spent on any other expense or administration etc. All donations will be receipted, and all U.S. contributions are tax-deductible.

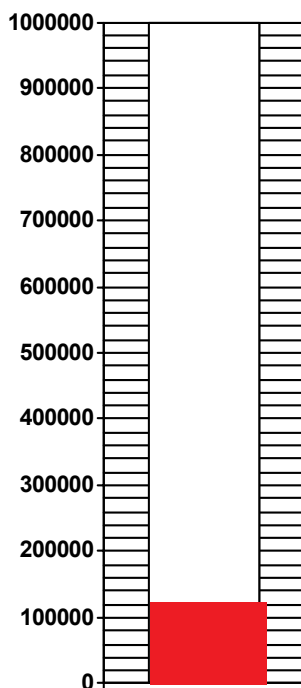
Asia Harvest Report 2004

We want to thank all of you who participated in any way to the advance of the kingdom of God throughout Asia in the past year, whether through Asia Harvest or another organization. This help comes in many ways that matter: not only in financial giving but in letters of encouragement, prayer and intercession, and hands-on involvement. In 2004 we thank God that the finances we received for projects increased 37.5% from 2003. Thank you and God bless you.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word

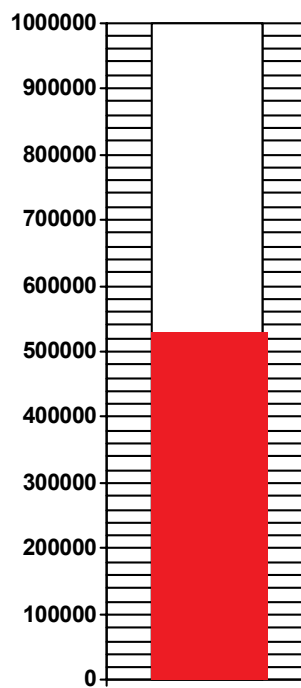
2004 Bibles
Printed: 114,179



Although a limited number of Bibles are now allowed to be printed inside China, there remains a serious lack of Bibles because of the tremendous growth rate of the church in China. 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 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.

Each Bible costs just U.S. \$2.25 to print and deliver.

Total Bibles since
2000: 508,985



CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

Supporting pastors Crippled by Persecution and Torture

Because of your prayers and support we were able to support 676 living martyrs every month throughout 2004. This has been a tremendous blessing to the Church in China.



In China today Christians are regularly beaten, tortured and some have even died 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. The support is given through house church leaders of various groups in China.

You can support one or more of these living martyrs with a gift of **US \$25 per month each**. A prayer card will be sent to every regular supporter of this project, with infor-

mation about a living martyr to remind you to pray.

ASIAN WORKERS FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

Because of your prayers and partnership we were able to support 204 Asian church-planting missionaries every month throughout 2004.

Out of the various Asian evangelists we support in countries like China, India, Nepal, Myanmar (Burma) and Bhutan, perhaps the group that is doing the most strategic ministry are those from Nagaland, a state in northeast India where the majority of inhabitants are Christians. These evangelists, most of them young, are reaching into other less fortunate states in India and surrounding nations, and are seeing God's kingdom established among tribes and people groups that previously had no knowledge of the Gospel.

Through your prayers and generous gifts, we were able to support approximately 30 Naga missionaries in 2004, but recently a new batch of 25 Naga missionaries went through training and are being sent out to form different evangelistic teams in the Himalayas.

These 25 new workers have made long-term commitments to preach the Gospel, and are willing to leave their homes and families for years in order to see the Name of Jesus Christ glorified among all people. Unfortunately, however, these workers do not have enough support to sustain them on the mission field, and they are seeking God for His provision.

Asia Harvest would like to be able to support these 25 new missionaries, but we have no funds available to do so. 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**. A prayer card will be sent to every supporter of this project, with information about the worker to remind you to pray.



PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 893 children in Vietnam in 2004 (2,396 since 1999).

Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with cleft palate or harelip disabilities. The average cost to help a child is just \$ 60. We received the following testimony from our coworkers in Vietnam, about a 33 year-old woman named Hanh:



Hanh was sadly born with a harelip, and so was an outcast in her village. She had never really known a single day of happiness. Her facial deformity meant no man would marry her, and she would have to watch from afar as other young women from her village got married. Hanh dreamed that one day someone would love her, but that was an impossible dream.

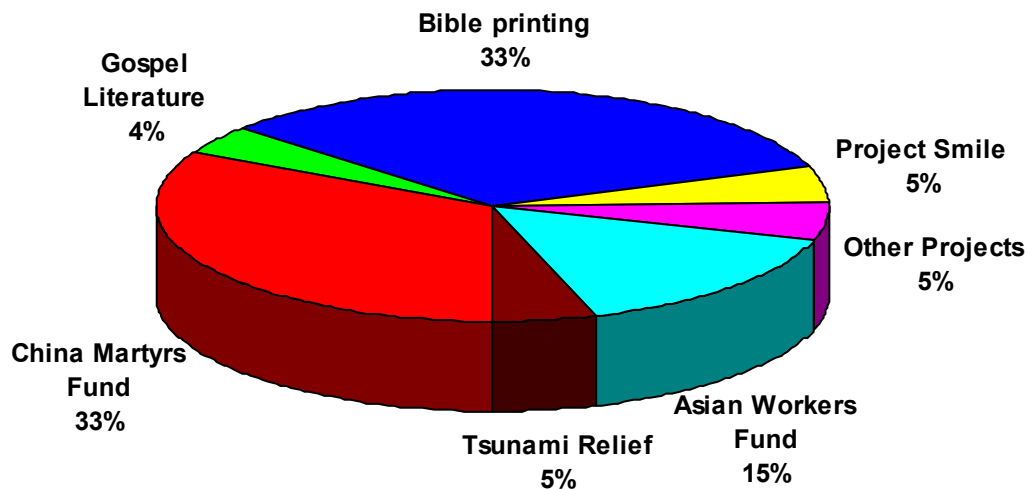
Many nights Hanh cried herself to sleep, wondering just what her life would have been like if she had not been born the way she had. When Hanh heard of the Christian group promising free surgery for children she was sad, for she was not a child, so it was not meant for her. Yet something deep within her prompted her to make her way to the city. It was her only hope, and if she was to be disappointed, well at least she would have tried

her best.

When the nurses brought Hanh to us she was so nervous, for this was the most important day of her life. She hoped with everything within her that despite her age we would include her. When we nodded "yes" to the nurses, Hanh was overcome with joy, and three days later when the bandages were removed Hanh's new life started.

Her excitement and joy was contagious, for the surgery had transformed her, indeed she was now outwardly quite a beautiful woman. She giggled and smiled, and as she looked into the mirror again and again her confidence grew in leaps and bounds. Hanh's life changed the day we stepped in and did something to help her. There are now thousands of testimonies of lives changed through Project Smile, just like Hanh's was.

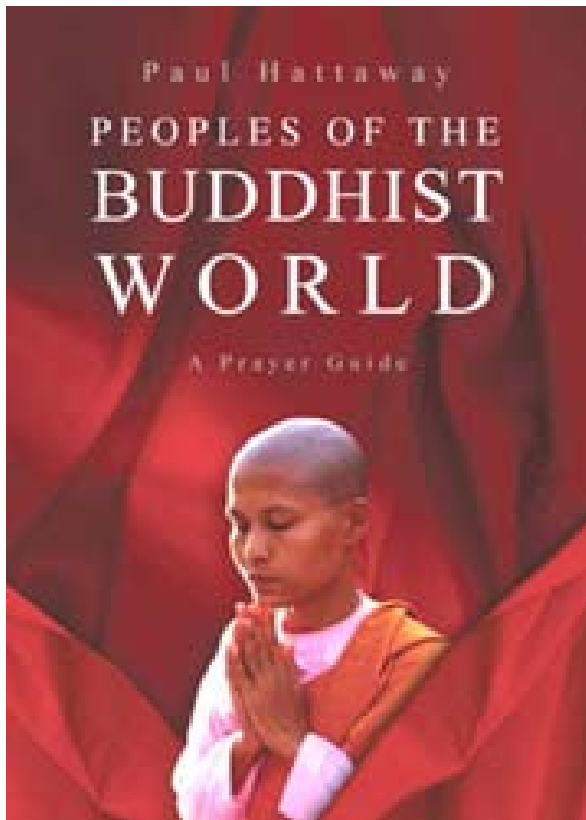
Summary of Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2004



2004 Financial Statement

At Asia Harvest we desire to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2004 is now available upon request. Please write and ask if you would like to receive it.

A New Book by Paul Hattaway



PEOPLES OF THE BUDDHIST WORLD - A Christian Prayer Guide

Published by Piquant, 2004,
480 pages, all in color.

In the past 20 years Christians around the world have launched initiatives to reach Muslims, Communists, Hindus, and other major unreached people blocks, but the Buddhist world has largely been overlooked. Hundreds of millions of Buddhists continue to live and die without any exposure to the Gospel. In *Peoples of the Buddhist World*, Asia Harvest director and author Paul Hattaway profiles almost 250 Buddhist people groups throughout the

world, illustrated with 467 superb full-color photographs. It is the first ever such book, Christian or secular. In addition, various experts have contributed 13 articles on various aspects of Buddhism to help readers pray more effectively. It is a unique and beautiful book, written in a simple yet impactful way. It reveals the heart of God for the lost.

Peoples of the Buddhist World can be purchased either by sending a check for US\$ 26 (\$21 + \$5 postage) to Asia Harvest (United States or New Zealand addresses only) or by using your credit card over our secure website: www.asiaharvest.org. Please note there are significant discounts available for bulk orders of this and all of our books. Please contact us to find out more, or see our website.

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Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with cleft palate or hare-lip disabilities. The average cost to help a child is just \$ 60. This will help one child to have a better life, and an opportunity for his or her family to hear about Jesus Christ for the first time.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 508,985 Bibles printed and delivered.

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. **Each Bible costs just US \$2.25 to print and deliver.**

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ASIAN WORKERS FUND



We are currently able to support 204 Asian missionaries.

We are in contact with the leaders of 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**. A prayer card will be sent to every supporter of this project.