

Asia Harvest



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

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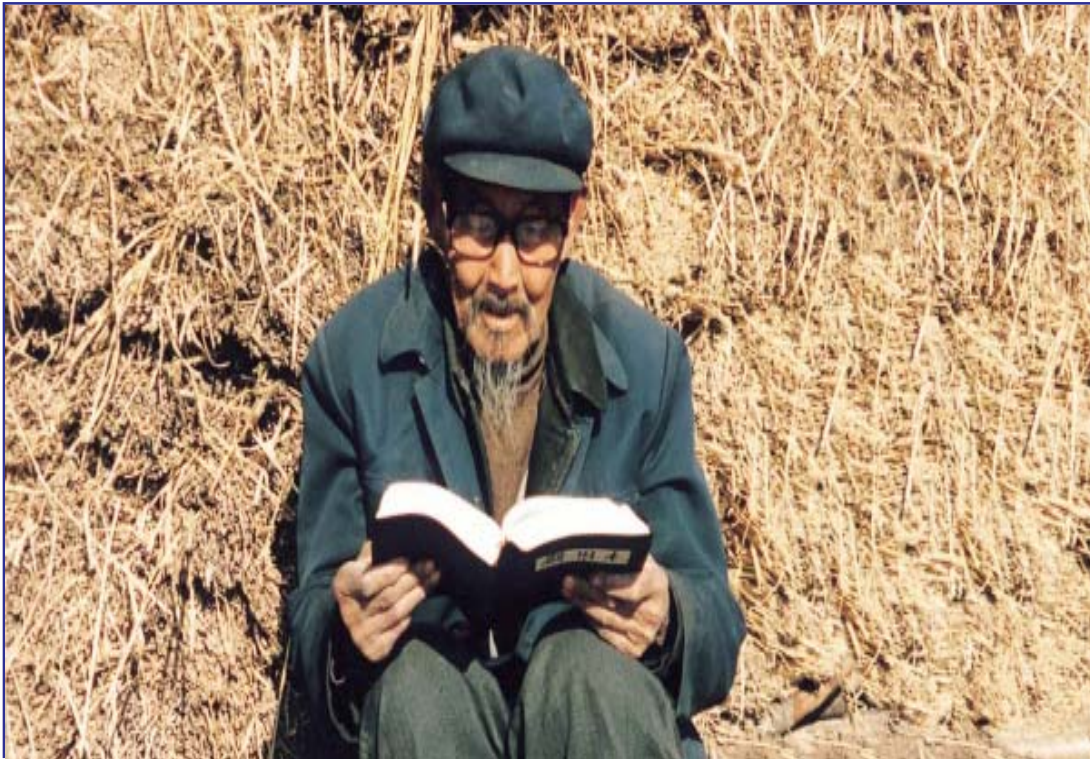
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February 2007 - Newsletter #88



2007 Annual Report

Serving the Lord with Gladness

Asia Harvest Report 2006/07

by Paul Hattaway

“Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.”
(Psalm 100:1-3)

We pray you and your family enjoyed a blessed and peaceful start to 2007. In this issue we would like to present a brief summary report of the various projects Asia Harvest was privileged to be involved with throughout Asia in 2006.

One thing the Lord Jesus Christ constantly impresses upon us is that we are to “serve the Lord with gladness,” as the Bible says. This doesn’t mean we should try to conjure up some kind of hype-based emotion, but rather we should rest and be content in Christ’s peace and joy as we serve Him. When we serve the Lord with gladness we tap into His strength, for ***“The joy of the Lord is your strength”*** (Nehemiah 8:10). When we lose touch with the joy of the Lord we tend to get discouraged and life becomes more of a struggle.

A number of people have written and said they would like to know something about how and when Asia Harvest began. Not many people know how the Lord first called me into ministry in Asia. This occurred in the 1980s when I was 19-years-old, just after coming to faith in Christ. At the time I didn’t know what to do with my life, and having no career or worldly qualifications, but God had a plan for my life and sent me to China in a clear and precise manner. I had no money or income of any kind, and all my possessions fit into one backpack. After calling me to China, the Lord Jesus miraculously provided just enough finances to purchase an airline ticket to Hong Kong, which at the time was the most expensive city in the world. Because I was a new Christian of just six months, my home church didn’t think it was a great idea that I should go to Asia, but I was so sure that God had called me to go that I knew it would be a serious offence to Him if I stayed in my home country of New Zealand. Despite having no support of any kind, the Lord took care of me in a wonderful way and by His grace I was able to join up with a ministry and carry Bibles into China more than 50 times in the first six months. I am so thankful for those experiences, and I was able to see God’s miraculous provision on many occasions.

My initial plan was to go to Asia for six weeks, but that time frame was soon discarded. Jesus continued to lead and provide, and opened new doors of opportunity. Over time Asia Harvest came into existence, and we have been so blessed to stand back and see the Lord move and extend His kingdom in Asia. He has stretched the initial six weeks out now to twenty years! We have had many good people come and help us as the work grew over the years. In 1991 I met a beautiful young lady from the US state of Idaho. Joy was also working in a ministry carrying Bibles into China, and we were united in marriage. We have two precious sons, Dalen (now 10) and Taine (5).

God has been so good to us, and it is in this context that we look back with gladness at what the Lord has done, and we look forward to the future with joy and confidence. The work of Asia Harvest has grown, but it has all been the Lord's doing. In keeping with what we believe the Lord told us, we do not do any fund-raising at all (apart from mentioning different projects in our newsletter which people can give to if they feel the Holy Spirit leading them to). Our desire is to leave it up to God to supply our needs. We don't want anyone to feel manipulated or under compulsion in any way, for the Bible says, ***"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).

Our desire has always been to get God's resources to the front lines in Asia, where they are needed the most. We operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, which means that we don't have any flash offices, and we operate with a skeleton staff of just a few administrative workers who work hard for God's kingdom. The real frontline work of God's kingdom is done by hundreds of Asian Christians whom we feel privileged to assist.

We want to thank all of you who participated in the advance of the kingdom of God throughout Asia in the past year, whether through Asia Harvest or another organization. Our vision since we started working in Asia has been simply to serve as a link between the Asian Church and Christians around the world, so that the Gospel may spread, changing lives throughout Asia where two-thirds of the world's population lives. In 2006 we are so thankful for each individual, family, and fellowship of believers who prayed for the work in Asia, or encouraged us, or helped through giving. On behalf of the believers in China, Vietnam, Laos, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, or wherever else in Asia your help reached to, we thank you for your wonderful participation!

We are acutely aware that without God's guiding hand, and the Spirit-led participation of His people, nothing of eternal value would be accomplished. Our prayer is that God would be glorified, for He alone is worthy! **Thank you and God bless you**, and in 2007 let's remember to serve the Lord with gladness!

Tsunami Relief Continues

Although the world's attention has moved on since the terrible tsunami struck the coastlines of Asia at the end of 2004, much work helping communities get back on their feet continues to the present time, and will do so well into 2007.

The current Tsunami relief work is a long-term goal to rebuild lives and communities in the affected areas, especially in Indonesia, Thailand, India and Sri Lanka. Hundreds of simple houses have been constructed for those who lost everything, such as the ones pictured below.



In 2006 we were able to send on a total of **US\$722,148** to help in the rebuilding. This makes a total of **\$1,795,076** since the tsunami struck. Every cent of this has been sent on to the neediest areas. We did not use any part of it for administration or any other purposes.

All of the tsunami relief we have been involved with is done through Christian organizations. This has resulted in some wonderful advances for the kingdom of God. In Thailand, one small tribe which was decimated by the disaster now has more than 100 new Christians in their midst because the help they received opened their hearts to the message of those bringing it.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word

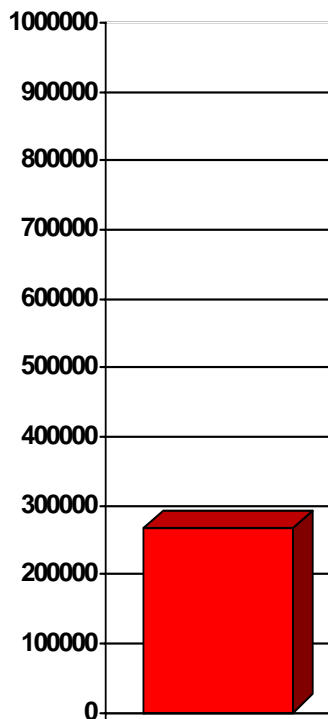
We are thankful to the many people who pray and give so that Christians in China might have their own Bible. Although there have been many changes in China in recent years, and the method of getting Bibles to house church believers has changed, the one thing that remains the same is the tremendous need for the Word of God among the Chinese churches. Recently we have received many letters from China like these:

We have planted 20 churches, but the police came and took all our Bibles. We urgently need 5,200 more Bibles.

In Heilongjiang Province we preached to policemen and to farmers and 500 received baptism! We also sent workers to Shandong Province, and hundreds of workers there are waiting for Bibles and teaching materials.

We held revival meetings in Gansu Province, and each believer shared the Gospel with 10 people. Now we need 2,400 Bibles.

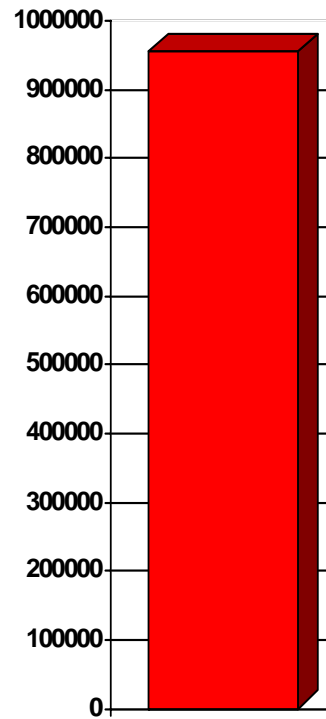
**2006 Bibles
printed: 266,357**



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 US \$2.25 to print and deliver.

**Total Bibles since
2000: 954,833**



PROJECT SMILE

Helping Children in Vietnam

Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 1,212 children in Vietnam in 2006 (4,660 since 1999).



You are probably aware that Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with cleft palate or harelip disabilities. What you may not know is that we are now also helping children with various forms of cancer, burns, club-feet, and other conditions. We received the following testimony from our co-workers in Vietnam:

There was excitement among the hundreds of people who had crowded into the government meeting hall, for they were there to see the children receive their wheelchairs. As each name was called their parents carried them forward to claim the dream that had come true.

As one name, Xuan, was called out, our eyes fixed on the brave young 16-year-old girl as she walked slowly towards us, for Xuan had been born without legs, and she was walking on her hands. When she reached the wheelchair her eyes were wide with excitement. She sat down and ran her hands over every part, caressing it as if to ensure this was no mirage.



Thuy, one of the 200 children on the list for wheelchairs simply said, "I have been waiting my turn so I don't have to walk on my knees anymore." Even at her young age her knees were worn flat and calloused. On behalf of the hundreds of precious children whose lives have been touched and changed through your gifts, we thank you!

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

Supporting Christians disabled by Persecution

Because of your prayers and support we were able to support 1,140 living martyrs throughout 2006. 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 disabled or are faced with long-term illness or injury as a result of torture. The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. A house church leader recently said, "The Martyr's 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 **\$25 per month each**. A prayer card is sent to every regular supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to remind you to pray.



Brother Hu, a house church Christian, shows the deep wounds in his legs after being tortured by the Chinese police.

CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Equipping the Church to Reach China's Children

In 2006 sufficient funds were received for the Chinese house churches to train and equip 1,319 Sunday School teachers (2,320 in the last two years). Each teacher is expected to train an average of 100 children.

Thank you for the generous response to this strategic project to reach China's children for Christ. Each teacher, on average, is expected to teach 100 children and establish them in the Word of God. Teachers attending the training have their travel costs covered, and a set of materials given to them for free. These materials include a children's Bible, teacher's manual, teaching books with visual aids, and VCD (video cassette disc) teaching. **The total cost of \$47 per set** includes printing and production, and training expenses.



ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists

Because of your prayers and partnership we were able to support an average of 293 Asian church-planting missionaries every month throughout 2006.

The Asian workers' fund provides financial support to evangelists in Asia who are involved with strategic and ground-breaking work in areas that have never had a Gospel witness before. We work alongside Asian Christian leaders, helping to strengthen their ministries and giving in a non-controlling manner to those who are serving Christ wholeheartedly.

The fruit of their labors can be clearly seen as hundreds of people have found faith in Jesus Christ each year, with dozens of church fellowships established in some of the darkest parts of Asia. One such place is the small country of Bhutan, a Buddhist kingdom hidden in the Himalayas bordering Tibet and India. Others work in areas of northern India, reaching out to a number of needy tribes.

In China we are privileged to support many Chinese evangelists who are taking the Gospel to the ethnic minority groups throughout the country, including in Tibet and the Muslim-dominated Xinjiang Region. They have encountered many hardships and persecutions for the Gospel, but they have persevered and have begun to see dozens of Muslims come to faith in Jesus.

An 80-year-old Chinese house church leader recently told us, "Supporting evangelists is vital as it supplements the house churches' support for its workers involved in full time evangelism. With this help, evangelists are able to travel throughout the countryside as well as ministering in the cities. We have sent many evangelists to the big cities, as we feel these are the most needy mission fields in China today. We sent some evangelists to Shanghai and in four years they planted 137 house churches in that city."

Through your prayers and generous gifts, we were able to support many new evangelists in 2006. This work is constantly expanding and new workers are being recruited. You can support one or more of these workers with a gift of **US\$25 per month each**. A laminated prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.



SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

Current Total: 35,674 Bibles printed in 17 different languages



The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam contain more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. In some cases, missionaries labored for years translating the Word of God for a tribe, only to have their work cut short by the change of government. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities.

Recently, our main contact in charge of this project told us about a tremendous opportunity to get the Word of God printed in Communist Vietnam. He wrote,

“A window of opportunity has opened for us to print Bibles legally inside Vietnam, in many different languages. This is amazing because for all these years Bible printing has been illegal. This opening seems to have come about because Vietnam is seeking membership in the World Trade Organization, and they don't want to appear to be carrying out religious persecution. We don't know how long this window will remain open. China went through these same motions when they applied to be a member of the WTO. Once they were successful, they recommenced their attacks on the Church. In the meantime we have the opportunity to print tens of thousands of Bibles for the tribal believers. Right now there are 6 projects ready for printing:

New Testaments in the Stieng, Jeh, Koho and Mnong Ralam languages

New Testament and Psalms in the Bahnar and Bru languages

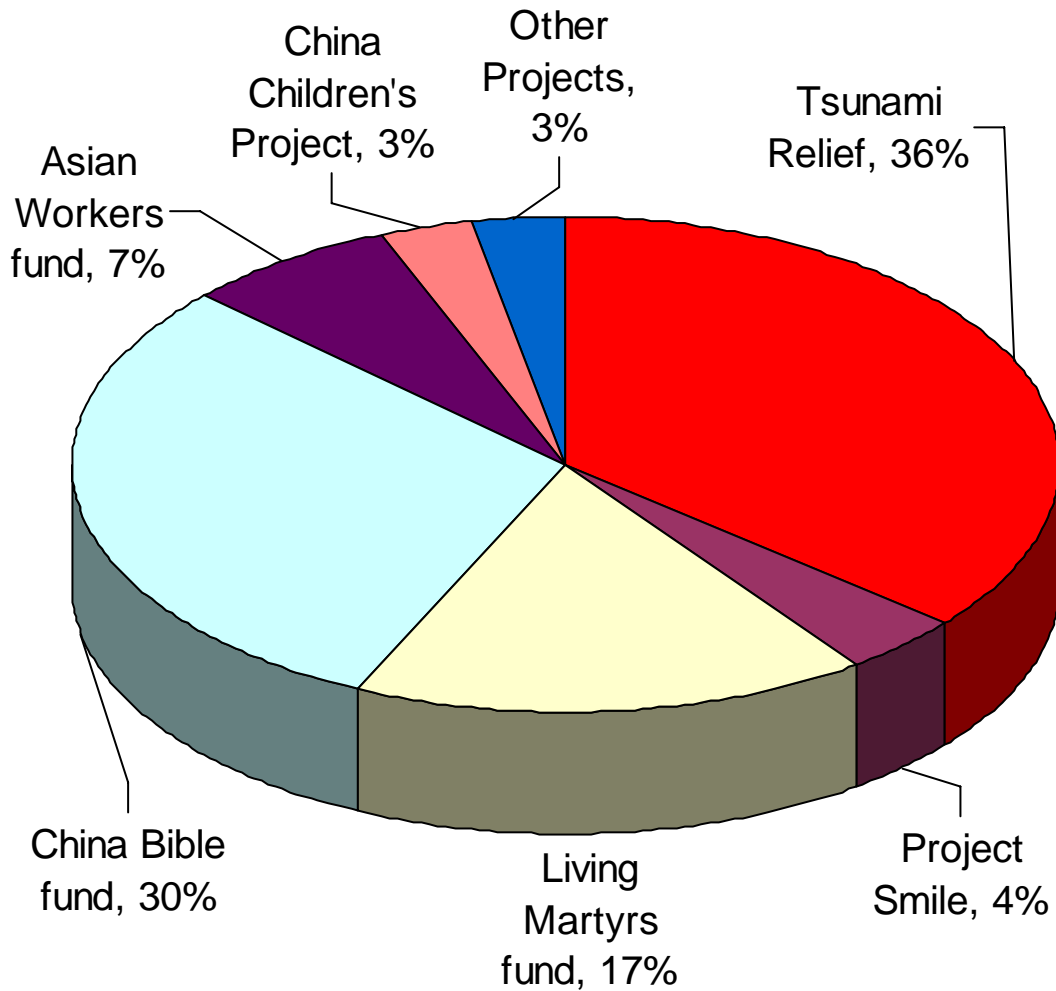
We also have 3 projects that will be ready to print by the Spring of 2007:

New Testaments in the Hre, Churu, and Mnong Gar languages

We urgently need to print 5,000 copies in each language. In many cases, Christians among these tribes in Vietnam have been deprived of God's Word since the Communists took power in 1975.”

Because of your gifts, Asia Harvest has already provided over \$7,000 for this need, but much more is required if we are to seize this window of opportunity and bless our brothers and sisters in Vietnam with God's Word. On average, each Bible costs \$2.70 to print and deliver. If you would like to participate, please fill out the enclosed yellow Response Form and send it to us with your gift.

Summary of Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2006



2007 Financial Statement

At Asia Harvest we desire to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2006 is now available upon request. Please write and ask if you would like to receive it.