

Asia Harvest



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

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2009 Annual Report

From Ashes to Beauty

Asia Harvest Annual Report

by Paul & Joy Hattaway

*Something beautiful,
Something good;
All my confusion
He understood;
All I had to offer Him was
Brokenness and strife,
But He made something beautiful
Of my life.*

— Chorus of “Something Beautiful.”

One of our favorite songs is “Something Beautiful”. The words of the chorus reflect what Isaiah prophesied of the coming Messiah thousands of years ago: *“He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair”* (Isaiah 61:1-3).

As we reflected on 2008 in this Annual Report, it became clear that our work last year was largely overshadowed and dominated by two catastrophic events in the month of May. Early in the month a powerful cyclone lashed areas of southern Myanmar (Burma), killing over 100,000 people and leaving millions homeless. We were still planning our response to this when a massive earthquake struck China’s Sichuan Province on May 12, leaving 80,000 dead, five million homeless, and multitudes traumatized.

In the midst of these horrendous tragedies and overwhelming confusion, Jesus began to touch lives, through His followers. He did what He always does, offering hope and peace to shattered lives, taking their strife and pain and making something beautiful out of it. Although it is difficult to estimate, it is clear that many thousands of people caught up in these disasters have found salvation in Jesus Christ because of the loving witness they received from Christians who responded to their needs.

During 2008 the ministry of Asia Harvest grew and expanded in many ways, as the Lord refined us and the way we function so that we could be more effective and fruitful for the kingdom of God. This has resulted in fresh opportunities and new strategic partnerships with members of the Body of Christ.

Despite the grim economic conditions around the world, in 2008 we received substantially more funds than any previous year since we began serving in Asia more than 20 years ago. Indeed, giving in 2008 more than doubled from the previous year (an increase of 125%). This meant we were able to print more Bibles, support more evangelists, provide more free surgeries for children in Vietnam, etc than ever before. The vast majority of donations we receive are in the \$25 to \$50 range, from normal people who count it a blessing to be able to help the Gospel flourish among the unreached in Asia, one life at a time.

Our strategy has always been to send the resources that come into our hands to the places they are needed the most on the front lines in Asia. We operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, which means that in the West we have just a few hard-working administrative workers. The real frontline work of God's kingdom is done by thousands of Asian Christians whom we feel privileged to assist and serve.

Our vision is simply to serve as a link between the Asian Church and Christians around the world, so that the Gospel may spread, changing lives and ethnic groups throughout Asia where two-thirds of the world's population lives. We are 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, Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and everywhere else in Asia your support reached to, we thank you for your wonderful participation! We pray you have received the spiritual grace of God through giving that Paul spoke about in 1 Corinthians 8:7: *"But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving."*

On the following pages we present summaries of Asia Harvest projects in 2008. 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!

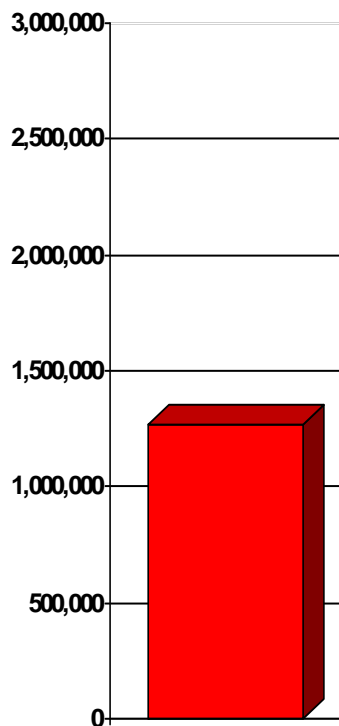
Front cover: The most striking image for our work in 2008. Piles of rubble remain where a school once stood before the devastating earthquake in Sichuan Province, China, which killed 80,000 people and left 5-million homeless. Only the basketball court remains clear of rubble.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

We are thankful to the many people who pray and give so that Christians in China will have their own Bible. We began printing Bibles inside China in 2000, and it took seven years before we passed the one-million Bible milestone in 2007. Amazingly, by the end of 2008 the grand total has reached almost 2.5 million Bibles, with funds received to print and distribute 1,270,321 Chinese Bibles in 2008 alone! The need for God's Word remains great, especially in rural areas where the revival fires are burning most brightly. We continue to receive many requests for Bibles from house church leaders throughout the country. One recent letter said:

"We received 4,100 Bibles from you. Praise the Lord! In the past 12 months the Lord has enabled us to reach more than 60,000 souls for Christ, and we are now praying and striving to nourish these newborn babes in Christ. Without God's Word this is impossible. The Scriptures you sent us were received like hungry children longing for good and lasting food. Please pray that we will be able to receive at least 50,000 more Bibles from the hand of the Lord, so that none of our new believers would be without a copy of God's holy Word."

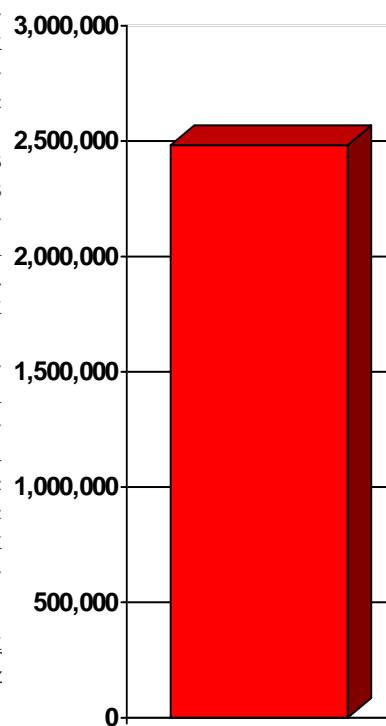
2008 Bibles
printed: 1,270,321



Although a limited number of Bibles are now allowed to be printed inside China, there remains a serious lack because of the tremendous growth of the church in rural areas. 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 for free 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 \$1.80 to print and deliver.

Total Bibles since
2000: 2,483,198



SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

Current Total: 136,471 Bibles printed in 21 different languages

The Southeast Asian countries of Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar (Burma) contain more than 400 different tribes, many of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. In some cases, missionaries worked for years translating the Word of God for a tribe, only to have their work cut short when they were expelled by the new Communist government. Since then, these believers have been deprived of the Scriptures.

Last year we continued our help of getting God's Word into the hands of as many believers as possible. The most recent projects we helped with were printing 5,000 Bibles each in the Koho and Bru languages of Vietnam and Laos. We also provided funds for 50,000 Gospels of Mark in the Shan language of Myanmar and Thailand.



Several more projects are currently in progress now, with translations being double checked before printing commences. This strategic project is an ongoing one, as there are many other tribal groups in desperate need of God's Word in their own language.

Because of your gifts, in 2008 Asia Harvest provided funds to produce and distribute 43,834 Bibles in tribal languages of Southeast Asia. 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.

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Because of your prayers and partnership, in 2008 we were able to support 394 Asian church-planting missionaries—working among 96 different unreached tribes and people groups.

The Asian Workers' fund provides 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 strengthen their ministries and providing support in a non-controlling manner to those who are serving God wholeheartedly.

The fruit of their work can be clearly seen as thousands of people found faith in Jesus Christ last year, with dozens of church fellowships established in some of the darkest parts of Asia. In China we are privileged to support many Chinese house church evangelists who are taking the Gospel to the ethnic minority groups in the country, including in Tibet and the Muslim-dominated Xinjiang Region. They have encountered many hardships and persecutions, but have persevered and are now seeing dozens of people come to faith in Jesus.

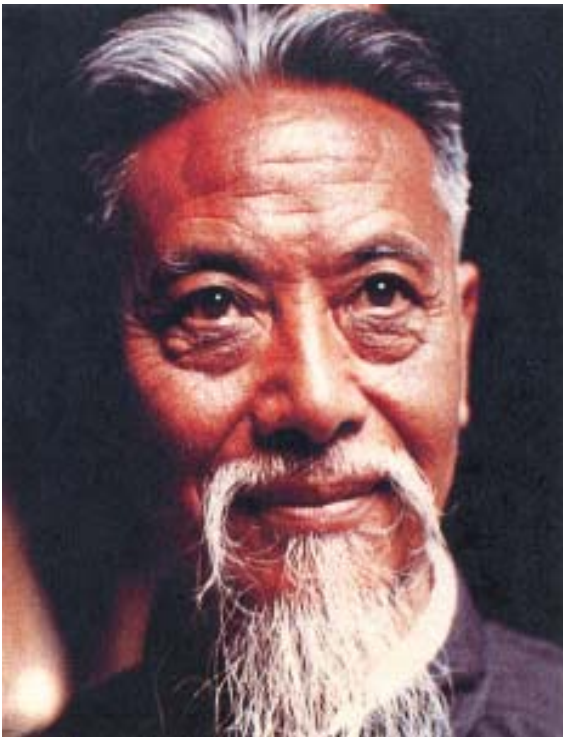
This work is constantly expanding and new workers are being recruited. You can support one or more of these workers with a gift of **\$25 per month each**. A laminated prayer card of a worker is sent to every supporter of this project.



A group of new believers in the Himalayas, near the India-Tibet border. These and many other new believers are led to faith in Christ every year by evangelists supported through the Asian Workers' fund.

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

Because of your prayers and support we were able to help 1,215 living martyrs throughout 2008. This has been a tremendous blessing to the Church in China.



"A martyr is 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 Voice of the Martyrs)

In China today, many house church Christians are still beaten and persecuted because of their faith. Bob Fu of the China Aid Association recently reported that despite the Olympics and a huge propaganda campaign by China to show a nice face to the world, "Persecution of Christians in China took a dramatic upswing in 2008."

House church leaders have provided us with 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 persecution and imprisonment.

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. The families of imprisoned Christians are also supported. A house church leader recently said, "The Martyrs' 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 supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to remind you to pray.

PROJECT SMILE

Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 1,176 children in Vietnam in 2008 (6,799 since 1999).

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

In all we do, the saddest thing we encounter are the children who have been deformed through the Agent Orange chemicals that were sprayed during the Vietnam War. Forty years later those poisons remain in both the ground water and food chain of the areas sprayed, and will remain for hundreds of years to come. These children's gross deformities are so severe that they often cannot be corrected by surgery.

Mr. Tam's son was one such case. This boy's twisted limbs mean he will never walk. Yet as we sat in that tiny home, we saw a tenderness and such loving care from a couple saddled with



both poverty and a severely handicapped child. Mr. and Mrs. Tam knew their plight was tough, but the love they had for their son touched our hearts. When we encounter families like the Tam's we make a grant to them, to help the family cope with the crushing weight of their circumstances. The grant helps their immediate needs, and also allows them to invest in some small enterprise such as raising chickens or pigs, which will generate a vital family income.

Many families just like the Tams have had their burdens eased by such grants, it is another facet of what we do. Thank you for your partnership which means we can help the poor, while sharing the source of that help, the Lord Jesus Christ.

ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND

In 2008, Asia Harvest was able to help tens of thousands of people afflicted by natural disasters in Asia. Many found Jesus Christ as a result.

After the two terrible natural disasters that struck Asia in May 2008, we established the Asia Disaster Relief fund, not only to provide help to the victims of those tragedies, but also to allow us to respond immediately whenever a disaster occurs somewhere in Asia. Since the launch of this fund we provided \$437,527 to help transform the lives of people affected by the devastating cyclone and earthquake.

In Myanmar (formerly Burma), we worked closely with our Malaysian representatives, who had many years' experience working in relief situations. Within days, they had distributed four container loads of food, water, medical supplies, plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, blankets, and other necessities.

In Sichuan Province, China, the size of the need was so great that we realized the need to work with four different Christian ministries in order to be most effective and to reach as many people as possible. One of our contacts launched a program to provide "Emergency Aid kits" to families in the worst-affected areas. The kits included a 9 sq. meter (97 sq. feet) tent



(pictured), flashlights, cooking utensils, blankets, first aid supplies, and other essentials.

In total, we were able to provide 2,363 tents and emergency kits in China.

As winter approached, the need focused on helping the people survive the harsh winters in Sichuan. We provided thousands of blankets, coats and clothing. Even now, ten months after the earthquake struck, our coworkers are still busy helping people. By demonstrating the love of God in such a practical way, and by boldly sharing their faith, **thousands of people have put their trust in Jesus Christ.**

Important News



AN URGENT NEED IN INDIA — If you have been following the News reports on our website in recent months, you will be aware that a massive persecution of Christians commenced in the Indian state of Orissa last year, leading to the deaths of more than 500 believers, with thousands more left homeless and destitute.

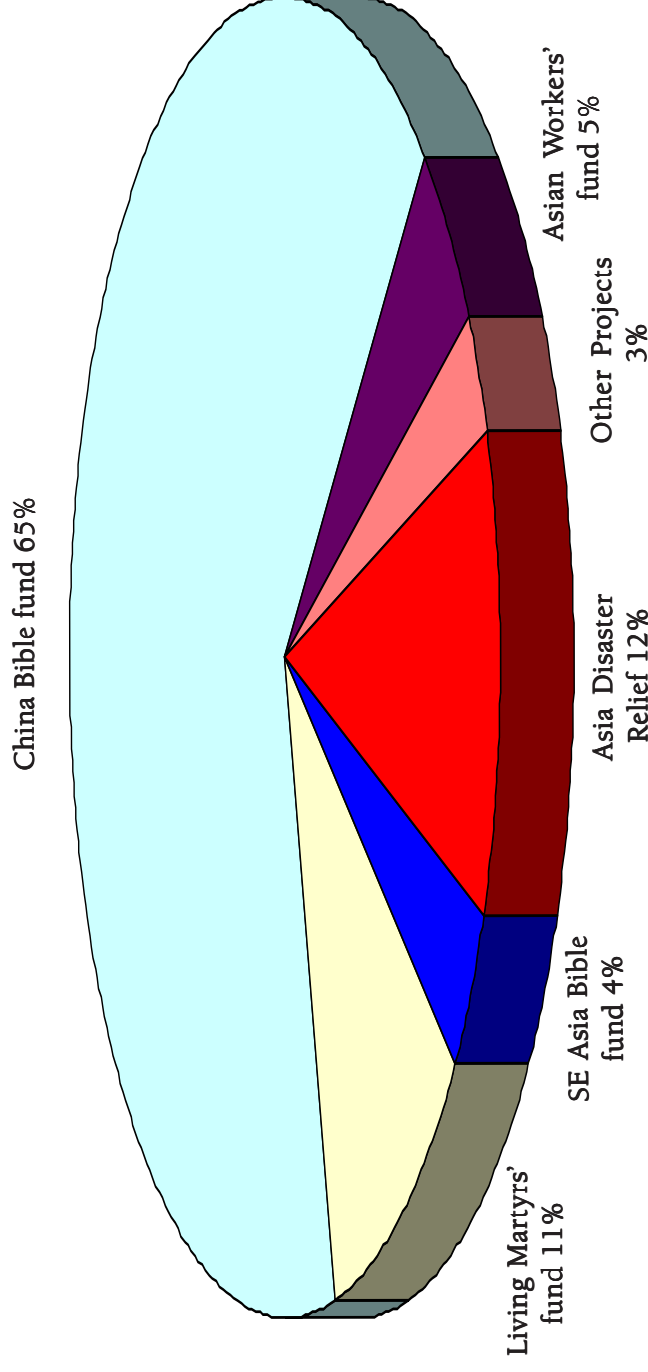
One of the families Asia Harvest supports through the Asian Workers' fund has an effective ministry in Orissa. They recently reported that more than 35 Christians from 9 families are now living in their home, having come in from outlying areas where persecution had devastated their lives. Three widows are among the 35 refugees. These women's husbands were buried alive late last year by fanatical Hindus. Other Christian women had been raped, while most of the men had barely escaped with their lives, and were badly beaten and injured.

We have an urgent need for people to pray and financially help these followers of Christ. The immediate need is to provide \$100 for each family per month so that they will have basic necessities such as food, clothing, and blankets. Longer term, plans are to construct simple bamboo homes for these families, and a piece of land has been obtained for this purpose. Each home will cost \$1,300 to build.

Please pray for the physical, spiritual and emotional well-being of these precious brothers and sisters. If you would like to contribute financially to their needs, please make a donation by credit card on our secure website, to the **Asia Disaster Relief fund**. Alternatively, please send a check to one of our Asia Harvest offices, along with a note, "For the believers in Orissa." 100% of donations received for this purpose will be sent directly to Orissa. Nothing will be taken out for any expense. Thank you.

CHINA CHILDREN'S PROJECT — In 2008 Asia Harvest concluded our help of this project, having met the objectives we sent out to achieve at the start. By God's grace our coworkers in China were able to train and equip 3,792 Chinese house church Sunday school teachers. As a result, many thousands of children have come to know the Lord. Thank you for all who have prayed for and supported this project.

Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2008



2008 Financial Statement

At Asia Harvest we desire to be open and accountable in the area of finances. Our financial statement for 2008 is now available upon request. Please write and ask if you would like to receive it.



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