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VOICE OF CHINA AND ASIA 100TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

TOUCHING
Asia for Christ
MAGAZINE



Touching Rural China One Bible At A Time



Above: Jonathan Brooks handing a case of Bibles to an enthusiastic congregation member.

Cover: VOCA has the extraordinary privilege of distributing Bibles in China openly through registered churches. By this means we are touching rural China one Bible at a time. Our cover exemplifies the joy on the faces of these precious Chinese people as they received their personal copy of the Bible through our most recent distribution in March.



We are now in our one hundredth year of ministry in Asia! Through two World Wars, the Great Depression, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and plenty of recessions, the Word of God has never failed to go forth from our VOCA churches, missionaries, evangelists, orphanages, and schools throughout Asia since our humble beginnings in Hong Kong so long ago.

Our work is firmly established in Korea, the Philippines, and in Taiwan. In fact once our loosely associated VOCA churches in Korea formed a united body, they became the 30th largest association of churches in the country. Because of their commitment to non-denominational evangelical ministry, over sixty denominations in Korea have looked to our Seminary there to train over 1,000 ministers of the Gospel who serve throughout Asia and beyond since its inception in 1990.

Now a second generation of missionaries is arising from our established works. They are wisely moving into parts of Asia such as Japan, Pakistan, and other closed nations which would never accept a traditional western missionary. And our work continues.

Having found success by following our purpose statement: to proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, and establish self-sustaining churches, we now have the freedom to jointly move into newer fields of service. Now our hearts are once again focused on China.

Throughout 2009, as a result of much heart searching and “on-the-ground” searching, we have found the best way for us to touch China for Christ is to do so openly. A change in the law in the early 1980’s brought new freedoms for the Chinese to worship. While religious activities are generally restricted to church properties, there has been such a flood of interest in Christianity, most churches are full.

It is within this context the Voice of China and Asia has found an opportunity to assist the emerging Chinese church with Bibles. Yes, Bibles can be legally purchased in China—if you know where to buy them. To find such places, and to have the funds to get there, are beyond the means of millions of rural Christians. And that is where our ministry begins. I trust as you read through the stories and testimonies in the pages that follow you will rejoice with us in this unprecedented opportunity. By legally and openly providing Bibles for distribution in China, we are off to a great start as we enter our second century of ministry in Asia!

Yours for souls,

Jonathan Brooks
Jonathan Brooks
President

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MISSION STATEMENT: “To Touch Asia for Christ”

OUR PURPOSE:

1. To proclaim the Gospel throughout Asia and beyond.
2. To make disciples throughout Asia and beyond.
3. To establish self-sustaining churches throughout Asia and beyond.

Touching Asia for Christ Formerly: *Flashlight*

What Can VOCA Do Today In China?

So many restrictions on the church in China today arise from the inability of national and local leaders to differentiate between the true Christian faith and quasi-Christian cults. Therefore, any group that uses the Name of Jesus in their statement of faith is often considered Christian, even if it is not.

In China's recent history, personality cults which claim their leaders are either Christ incarnate, or who claim they have an received a perceived mandate from God, have caused revolts and great instability which included loss of life, in one instance totaling in the millions. As a precaution, in order to preserve peace and unity, a common reaction is to place restrictions on all things "Christian."

Therefore, churches in China are required to register with the authorities.

This ensures their activities can be open, as long as they are confined to church property. In the past, registration drives were used for political purposes, namely to identify Christian leaders and thereby expose and persecute them. This created tremendous distrust which has led nearly two thirds of China's Christian Churches to refuse registration.

In spite of these historical events, today there are two movements that are bringing great favor to Christians in China. First, Christians have taken a stand with the proper authorities by declaring their differences between themselves and cults. They simply do not fit into the same category. Secondly, Christians are increasingly looked upon favorably. They love their country, they have no political aspirations, they take care of each other, and in general are good citizens.

In fact, a recent Chinese television sitcom even had a Christian member of the cast. In every scene they were portrayed as thoughtful, honest, level-headed and productive—a far cry from how Christians are portrayed in our western media. As Christianity in China increasingly emerges as a positive influence on the national scene, we anticipate

the gradual development of more freedoms to worship openly, whether a church is registered or not.

Until that time, VOCA will continue to operate openly in accordance with the law and through properly authorized channels. By following these guidelines, VOCA has been treated as a welcomed guest and has been permitted to openly distribute complete copies of God's uncompromised Holy Word to believers in rural China.



Congregation members filled with joy as they receive their new Bibles

On the horizon, we look forward to the day when our ministry can touch all churches in rural China with Bibles. But until that time comes, we are driven by the fact that by operating legally we already have access to millions of believers who are asking for the living Word of God. Our ministry is continually propelled forward by the prayers of millions of Chinese believers whose heart's desire is to own a legally printed Bible. Meeting this need by bringing them Bibles is the focus of our ministry in China. With this, we are continually reassured that the Lord is well pleased.



Children reading a new Bible



Receiving Bibles – A first time event for this village





House of Joy!

In 1960, when Communism had penetrated the deepest reaches of China, a band of Christians built a small Church in rural Henan Province. This was a bold move at the time, yet they persisted.

In 1966 the Cultural Revolution shook the land and many churches were closed and confiscated. Their church became a warehouse and their worship was confined to secrecy.

In 1996, through the assistance of the local Christian Council, the congregation petitioned for and gained the return of their property. Faith was renewed and

even though their building would only comfortably seat about 70 people, their numbers grew to 400.

Tragically, because they did not have Bibles, they were ill equipped to counteract a secret infiltration of their group by the members of the Eastern Lightning¹ cult. Friends became enemies and the once vibrant church was divided in confusion.

Through it all a remnant of faithful believers remained who had weathered many spiritual “storms” under the guidance of a young laywoman’s faithful leadership.

Early this spring, when the Voice of China and Asia Team arrived, we found their dimly lit church to be a house of joy. They were rejoicing because someone had brought the Word of God to them at last. We watched as each one present was given a complete copy of their very own Bible. The atmosphere was so festive. They were now equipped

with God’s Word and knew they would never have to falter under the weight of false doctrine again!

How we rejoiced together that day! As we entered their outdoor courtyard to take a picture, everyone began to sing. They were happy to let their village know that Christ had come in the form of His Word to dwell among them.

¹The Eastern Lightning Cult believes that although Jesus bore the sins of mankind, He did not complete all the earthly duties God had planned for Him. To resolve this, they believe Jesus has recently returned in the form of a Chinese woman. By following her teachings, they believe Jesus, through her, will eliminate corruption in the world. The cult has ravaged China’s Protestant and Catholic churches with kidnappings, beatings, blackmail, and according to some, even murder in order to gain converts. (*Jesus in Beijing*, pp. 238-239.)





He Prayed Three Years for a Bible

As we hand out thousands of Bibles in China each day, sometimes it is refreshing when we are able to slow down and get to know the believers in the churches we are visiting. Such was the case recently at an outdoor Church in central China.

As Bibles were being distributed each believer smiled and graciously thanked us. But as I placed a Bible into one man's hands, he openly wept. Instantly we knew he had something to say.

Later, while our lunch was being cooked on an open fire, we sat and listened to his story. Through his tears he explained,

"For three years I have been asking the Lord, if there was any possible way to receive my very own Bible, I would be so happy!" This was his day!

As he told the rest of his story our eyes also filled with tears of joy. It was another holy moment made possible by a combination of Divine planning and years of earnest prayer.

Our Bibles, like most of modern Chinese literature, use western

numbers for all references. So, after finding the largest number in the Bible, it was easy to find Psalms 23. I quoted it in English. He then started reading, then singing it to me in Chinese. When he reached verse 6, *"I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever,"* he sang it over and over.

I then turned to Psalms 145 and with hand signals showed him it was my favorite Bible passage. As he read it he was overcome with emotion. By the time he reached the end of the chapter, the Holy Spirit once again touched our hearts and the tears flowed.

It was hard to leave our new friend that day because he couldn't stop hugging us. But we had a tight schedule and three more churches to visit before sundown.

It is impossible to know whose donation paid for our new friend's Bible. But whoever it was can rest assured he is still praying and thanking God for you.

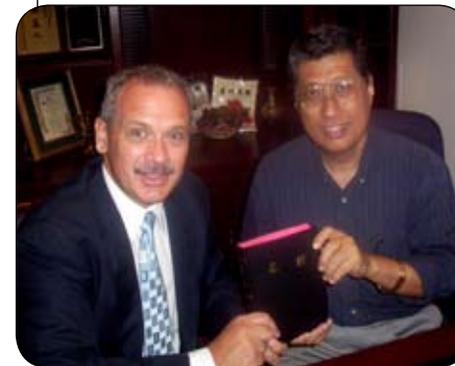


Q&A from our VOCA Partners

Q. "What version of the Bible are you distributing in China?"

A. China's first modern missionary, Robert Morrison, translated the Bible into Chinese in 1813. He admitted his work was not perfect. However his version was the most widely used for almost 100 years. In 1919 a panel of many different Protestant denominations produced the Chinese *"Union Version"* translation. Often referred to as the *"Missionary Bible,"* this has become the most widely distributed version among Chinese believers worldwide.

Q. "Are the scriptures VOCA is passing out true to the original, or are they watered down?"



A. To gain this answer from an independent source, VOCA contacted Dr. Timothy Siswanto, of the Tulsa Chinese Christian Church, in Oklahoma. He kindly assisted us by reviewing the text and answering the following questions: "Does **Isaiah 7:14** speak of a virgin, or a young woman?" He confirmed, the Chinese word is properly written as "virgin."

He also confirmed from **John 1:1** that "the Word was God," and from **John 1:14**

the Union Version states, "The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us."

Dr. Siswanto reviewed the following scriptures which in Chinese also state that Christians must confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh **1 John 4:2-4**, eternal life can only come through Jesus Christ **Jude 21**, and that Jesus is coming back soon, **Revelation 22:7-21**.

We completed our interview with Dr. Siswanto by asking, "What does the Union Version of the Bible say about how a person can be eternally saved?" We began with **Romans 10:10** which in Chinese explains with the heart man believes unto righteousness and with his mouth a confession of Jesus Christ is made. **Ephesians 2:8** explains that it is by God's grace we are saved, and not by our works. And in **1 John 1:7** it was verified, "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sins."

We trust that you too have come to realize these same truths we are sharing throughout rural China! Thank you Dr. Siswanto, and a special thanks to the members of Tulsa Chinese Christian Church who faithfully pray for our work among the precious believers in rural China.

“I Wish I Could Become a Christian...”

On a recent trip to China we passed a beautiful historic church. I wondered what it looked like inside. Little did I know I would be attending a service there that night.

English speakers were there from all over the world. A lady from Italy led the music, and another gave an English Bible lesson. About 90% of the attendees were young students who came to enjoy the fellowship and practice their English. One Chinese student shared how he had been led to the Lord while attending a university overseas. This was his first time to worship with fellow Chinese believers in his home country. He was so happy.

At the end of the service the audience broke into small groups. Questions about the Bible were discussed. Many were searching for answers about Christianity that would enable them to embrace Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

One young lady had so many questions about God, the Trinity, and so much more, it would have taken a lifetime to answer them all. I did my best to be a quiet guest, but saw the group was not satisfying her.

I explained to her these questions are best answered through a relationship with Jesus. Then I asked her to read John 3:16 out loud in an English Bible.

I just wanted her to read the one verse, but she kept on going. When she got to “he who does not believe is condemned already,” she stopped and proclaimed, “That’s me!” We explained knowing God was not a matter of gathering good information, but having a relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

We finished our discussion with Romans 10:9, 10, which explains that if we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart God raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved.

Jesus truly is the “door.” Once we enter, and rest in the fact that He knows all of the answers, the way through life seems so much easier. Would you pray for our Chinese friend? God will know who you are praying for. The Holy Spirit is clearly drawing her. I am certain she is soon to be born again and God’s wonderful plan for her life will begin to unfold.

Eric Bruce Hammond Home for Handicapped Orphans

Current construction on the new kitchen and dining hall projects at VOCA’s Eric Bruce Hammond Home for Handicapped Orphans near Busan, Korea have been recently stopped due to financial

In the dining hall area next to the kitchen, we have reached our maximum capacity. This room also serves as the venue for all group activities, which become quite lively especially during the cold winter months.



Lunch time at the Eric Bruce Hammond Home

constraints. We are happy to announce our Korean VOCA brethren have raised over \$200,000 for this combined project. Now we are believing with them that the Lord will provide the additional \$250,000 needed to move this project toward completion.

In the Home’s small outdated kitchen over 400 meals are prepared each day for 90 residents and all on-duty staff members. Now, due to several years of seepage from the kitchen above, many residents had to be moved to other quarters and the large area below the kitchen had to be gutted. Space for additional residents will become available once the newly relocated kitchen and dining hall are complete.

Due to their handicaps, children at the “Home” are considered non-adoptable and remain under our care their entire lives. Each child is given the opportunity to develop to their maximum mental, spiritual, and physical capacity. The “Eric Home” is a happy place where our loving caregivers have created an atmosphere of joy and peace.

Please pray with us, that funds will soon be provided to complete this construction project. To participate, please use the enclosed envelope and mark “EBH” on the designated line. From Korea our kids at the Home say a big, “KAMSAHAMNIDA!” (Thank you!)



EBH basement and soon to be newly renovated cafeteria





VOCA Ministries in Pakistan

It is with great pleasure we are announcing VOCA is now fulfilling the Great Commission in

Pakistan. The works there are overseen by a missionary sent to Pakistan by the VOCA Korean Peniel Churches. He received his theological education in Korea and he is fluent in the Urdu language. As is the nature of our Korean pastors and missionaries, Rev. Moon works tirelessly for the sake of God's Kingdom. Under his direction, the work has quickly expanded. We can only commend him for his vision and leadership in a culture that fosters an anti-Christian sentiment.

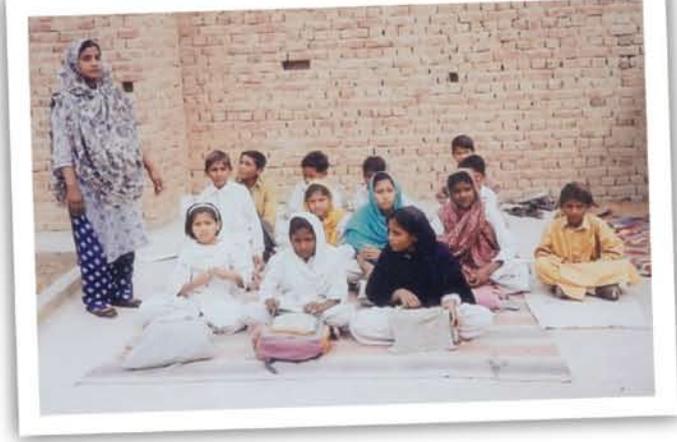
Pakistan is a Muslim country. Christian activity is generally banned, but if an organization runs its own school and the children attend of their own accord, there is freedom to include the Bible in the curriculum. It is simply beyond our

imagination that we would enjoy such an opportunity to educate and to also influence so many hundreds of children for Christ.

VOCA has now opened six elementary schools, four girls' middle schools, and three boys' high schools. The total number of students is approximately 3,000. They are taught by a staff of 72 teachers.

Twelve churches have also been opened under Rev. Moon's direction which are now pastored by eight Pakistani pastors. A photo of one of the congregations may be seen below. As is their culture, the men sit on one side and the women on the other. But, notice how many men are present!

There is much to oversee in this wonderful work, so please keep Rev. Moon and all of these workers in your prayers.



We are so grateful for the able teachers in our Pakistani schools. Some of the schools are held in primitive conditions, even in the open air; however the work goes forward. Our students are enjoying the fact that they can gain an education and learn about Christ outside the confines of the radical teachings of the Islamic world.



Both boys and girls are welcome in our schools. After seeing so much in the news about young boys being grilled in the teachings of Islam, isn't it refreshing to see them taught the true message of peace?



OUR READERS WRITE

WE REJOICE WITH YOU

We rejoice with you that God has opened such a wide door and bid you to go through it! What joy the Chinese who receive their very own Bible must feel! And great joy is theirs in leading others to the Savior! The Lord's blessing in giving you a Prayer Team Coordinator is wonderful! How good He is!

Mr & Mrs R. S. – Kansas

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Thank you so much for letting us know about the March distribution of Bibles again in China. We would like to be a part of this with you, and are enclosing an offering for that. We praise the Lord for all of you and for the new Christians in China. May God bless you as you serve Him. He is faithful.

Mr. & Mrs. S. –Michigan

PASSION FOR CHINESE SOULS

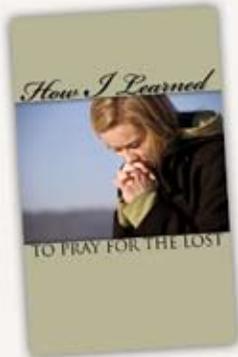
The Chinese people are most indebted to dear brothers and sisters from the West like you who have a passion for precious Chinese souls.

Dr. Y. W. –Malaysia

PRAYER

Sometime ago I had written to you about my son whom I was so burdened for. You sent me the pamphlet "How I Learned To Pray For The Lost." Since then he has come to know the Lord and now has a lovely Christian girlfriend. Thank you for caring and sending me the way I should pray for him, Praise God, He has answered my prayers. God bless you in your work.

Mrs. J. F. – Pennsylvania



Editor's Note: To obtain a copy of the pamphlet, "How I Learned To Pray For The For The Lost," please write to us or call toll-free 877-392-0560.



we remember honor

We would like to thank those who have remembered or honored friends or family members with special offerings sent to VOCA.

We Honor:

Dr. Larry Schmitt by Joel Gerber

We Remember:

Norma Cervone by Patrick Cervone

Ted Rintala by Jonathan & Susan Brooks

Bob & Helen Hammond by Mrs. Ellen Allen

Mrs. Margaret White by Mr. Richard White

Eleanor Reardon Dinkfelt by Dr. Eleanor Tolson

Clarence Carl Mueller by C.L. and Cynthia Brooks

David & Kathy Clattenburg by David & Sharon Pullman

Daniel & Martha Ziegler and **William & Anna Schoder** by William Ziegler

Gregory Earnest Buller by Patricia Banks, Steve and Stephanie Bredesen, Charley Bright, Frank and Chic Buller, Marlene Dunaway, Bill Graif, Carolyn Johnson, Dana Dru Jordan, Beverly Knutson, Debbie Y. Lacroix, Gina Lassiter, Stanley and Dorothy MacArthur, Cathy McCormack, Nathan Meleen, Keith and Karen Shatto, Celia and Tim Smith, Dorothy Swan, Linda Thompson

Nina Vay Ryder by Eugene and Sue Duke, Robert and Julene Gentry, Lois LaFrenz, Danny and Jo Ann Maynard, Betty Mueller, Larry and Lynn Mueller, Frances Tom, Clyde and Lola Van Dalsem, Donna Van Dalsem, Duane and Alvah Winkel

Grace Cowles Story was born of missionary parents in Canton, China in 1912. She went to heaven Easter Sunday of 2009 and I could think of no gift that I could give that would honor her life more than giving toward Bibles for China. By Carolyn Fowler

Myrtle B. Walton I deeply appreciate your ministry as you faithfully proclaim the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ to the world. This gift is given in loving memory of my mother, who was blessed by the VOCA Ministry for a long time. By Douglas Walton

If you wish to participate in the VOCA Memorials and Honorariums program fill out the slip below and mail it together with your gift to VOCA, PO Box 702015, Tulsa, OK 74170 USA, or VOCA, Blundell Centre Post Office, Box 26572, Richmond, BC V7C 5M9, Canada.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov. _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

My enclosed gift is given in memory of: _____

The enclosed gift is given in honor of: _____