

Voice of China and Asia

MISSIONARY SOCIETY, INC.



Touching Asia for Christ for Over 100 Years!

The Monthly Newsletter for our Co-laborers and Friends of the Voice of China and Asia

JULY 2017

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? – Romans 10:14

Dear Missions Friend,

My heart is so full. As annual motorcycle recipient reports cross my desk from rural Chinese preachers, it is obvious their ministries are being transformed through your generosity.

Our intention in granting motorcycles to rural preachers was to help them reach their people. So much of their assigned areas remained untouched because they had inadequate transportation.

But the by-product of what we have started has birthed a revived spirit in their congregations. It is transforming the spread of the Gospel. Now when believers walk miles to church, they know for sure their preacher is going to be there. With this assurance they will come to church on a regular basis. They will invite friends and together grow in the knowledge of the Word of God.

Empty churches are filling up. And because preachers can travel on their own in the dark (using the light on their motorcycles), evening services are becoming more popular with farmers who must spend their days in the field.

Isolated believers, who were branded as “back luck” in their distant villages, are gaining favor with their neighbors.

“Who came to visit you today,” they ask.

“My pastor.”

“Why would a pastor come so far to visit you, no one here even likes you?”

“Because He wants me to know God loves me.”

“Do you think God could love me?”

“He loves us all. I’ll ask him to talk to you about it the next time he comes.”

This is a very real conversation taking place every day now, because you provided transportation for a pastor to visit a forgotten believer. Curiosity drives neighbors to inquire. In time, that humble believer’s home will become China’s next rural preaching point, and eventually a church.

Here at the Voice of China and Asia, it was never our intention to have a motorcycle ministry in China. But the need was so obvious, we could not turn away. Since our first motorcycle was awarded on June 6, 2014, over 200 more have followed. Statistics received this year from our motorcycle recipients reveal they are touching over 100,000 believers!



A portion of the 46 motor scooters and motorcycles awarded rural preachers in March 2017.



Team member Lola Moore presents motorcycle keys to Pastor Bin.

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I would like to introduce some of the preachers you are empowering to touch rural China. (All names changed.)

Pastor Wu reports, "In addition to my responsibilities at the Good News Church, I am responsible for five more churches that serve 1,000 believers as far as 27 miles away.

A public bus provides little help in reaching some of these inaccessible village churches. Before I had my motorcycle, much valuable time was wasted as I begged around town for someone to drive me part-way in the right direction. The believers could not rely upon me to show up for scheduled services. But having a motorcycle has resolved this problem. Now I use the time saved to visit believers and strengthen them in the Lord."

"My name is preacher Li. I am a volunteer responsible for five churches in the River Village area. I support myself as a farmer. In all we have a total of 200 believers in churches spread over a 35 mile distance. I am honored to lead the congregations in fellowship and visit believers. Our economic conditions are difficult. The ministry work load would be impossible to bear were it not for the motorbike believers from the outside have provided me."



Farmer Pastor Li receives keys to his motorbike from VOCA Board Members Peder and Mary Hansen.

"My name is Preacher Cai. I am a 48 years-old. I shepherd the North Bridge Church and two others. I preach at one location in the morning, then travel to another in the afternoon. Our average attendance at all the churches is 600, but it swells to 1,000 during special celebrations when distant believers will walk many miles to attend.

"Before, with so many needs among the people, who were scattered over a 40 mile range, it was impossible for me to hitchhike to distant villages in time to offer any assistance. But thanks be to God, through your dedication and love, you have increased my capacity for ministry. My motorcycle

works wonderfully on the hills and mountainous terrain. I join with the whole Body of Christ in China saying, 'May God bless you!'"



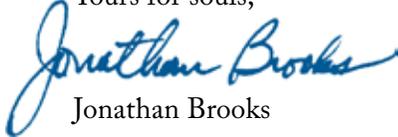
Pastor Cai receives a motor scooter from VOCA team members, Geof Jackson, Mark Tedford, and Jonathan Brooks.

How could rural China hear the Gospel, if we did not empower their preachers to go? Because the Chinese can say anything they want to each other, I am convinced we have found God's answer.

If you are able to share a part, or even purchase an entire motorcycle, it would be our honor to award it on your behalf. The cost is \$1,200.

Please know that your gift of any size – \$50, \$75, \$100 or more – will be added to other gifts to empower China's rural preachers to touch their hidden valleys and distant villages for Christ.

Yours for souls,


Jonathan Brooks
President

P.S. China's rural preachers long to share the Gospel and establish new churches in areas beyond their reach. Your offering today will empower them to go. Lives will be changed, churches established, and a new generation of rural Chinese will come to know Christ as their Savior.

The Rest of the Story

By Pastor Bin

My wife and I care for all the needs of ten children. I became a believer one summer several years ago when my youngest daughter was continually very sick. There was a couple from the nearby church who heard of this, so they came over and prayed for her. She was healed. (Now she plays the piano in church and leads worship!).

Not long afterward, my children asked me to begin reading the Bible to them. As I read, my heart heard the message, and I believed.

Soon I realized the Lord was calling me into the ministry. I started attending training class at the church once a week and was assigned a congregation.



Pastor Bin sharing his testimony and call into the ministry.

I live a long way from the city where my training continues, so I will use my motorcycle to travel there. It will also allow me to visit my church members who are spread out over a 10 mile radius.

Our people are so faithful to attend service, even when it is raining and storming. They come to worship with strength and faith even if it means they have to walk a long distance.

The unity of believers from all over the world is producing precious fruit in China. I bless you for your part in it. Let us pray our relationship will continue so we might share in the Lord's work together.



Team members from L. to R. Front row: Carrie Hawks, Barb Weems, Jonathan and Susan Brooks, Vivian Stanley, Susan Waite. **Middle row:** Mattie Bearpaw, Melinda Bearpaw, Mark and Martha Williams, Linda Owens, Gwen Barreiro, Doreen Pollard. **Back row:** Robert Pryor LuAnn and Roger Nimmo, Jim and Sherry Williams, David Owens, George Wiland, Bob Weems. **Not pictured:** Harold Adam, Evan Barreiro, Bodan Brooks, Mike and Donna Callaghan, Christian Coulter, Michelle Coulter, Lee and Carol McAllister, Bob and Dee Mongrain, Rebecca and Louis Olson, Phyllis Perdue, Carol Smith, Kay Tedford, Lee and Kathy Thomas.

Over \$10,000 Raised for Chinese Bibles!

Our newly organized missions volunteer team recently gathered to celebrate the end of the first season. Since last October, they have faithfully donated their weekends and evenings to work concessions booths at a nearby university. In exchange for time served the Voice of China and Asia received funds to purchase Bibles for rural China. This dedicated team served a total of 1,057 hours which raised \$10,056.40 to purchase Bibles for rural China. Their work will supply over 2,000 rural Chinese families with Bibles and in time bring over 4,000 new believers to faith in Jesus Christ! To our delight—everyone signed up to do it again!

Congratulations team!

Epaphrus – The Man Who Wrestled in Prayer (Part 3)

By Rev. Geof Jackson

The following excerpts are from a sermon delivered to students and faculty at the Voice of China and Asia Peniel Seminary Chapel Service in Busan, Korea on March 27, 2017.

Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. – Colossians 4:12, 13

Epaphras didn't just offer tiny little prayers for his congregation. He learned to be fervent in prayer from his mentor, the Apostle Paul. Paul's model of pastoral ministry and prayer was so transparent his fellow laborers adopted the same pattern.

Paul prayed what he preached. He continually detailed what Christ's death and resurrection does for us, what it means to us, and how we must live in response to His work in us. This theme is present in all his Letters.

As Paul taught, many times he used the words, "so that. . ." It reflected a confidence, that along with the teaching of the Word of God and the believer's devotion to seek the Holy Spirit's help, a supernatural power for living would be released by God in the ones for whom he prayed.

If Paul believed this was an important, necessary, and effective way to pray . . . so should we!

In Romans 15:5-6, Paul prayed believers would live in harmony, that with one voice they would glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Romans 15:13, he prayed they would be filled with all joy and peace, so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit they would abound in hope.

In Ephesians 3:14-19, he prayed they would be strengthened with the power of the Holy Spirit in their inner being, so that, Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith . . . and they would be filled with the fullness of God.

In Philippians 1:9-11, Paul prayed their love would abound with knowledge and all discernment, so that, they would approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

In Colossians 1:9-12, he prayed they would be filled with all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as, to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

These are powerful examples through which Paul taught Epaphras and all his students to pray. They are the prayers upon which the Church of Jesus Christ is built. It made them spiritually effective and will do the same for us, when we pray.

Editor's Note: For more "so that," prayers of Paul see Romans 15:30-32, Ephesians 1:15-20, Philippians 1:4-6 and 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.



Rev. Geof Jackson delivering a sermon to students and faculty at Voice of China and Asia Peniel Seminary.



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To give online click, "Donate" at VoiceofChinaandAsia.com



SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIP

Join us this year in China!
October 29 – November 8, 2017
Trip closes July 24, 2017
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