



Touching Asia for Christ for Over 100 Years!

The Monthly Newsletter for our Co-laborers and Friends of the Voice of China and Asia DECEMBER 2017

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. —Matthew 1:21

Dear Missions Friend,

How blessed we are to see another Christmas... to be reminded of the greatest love mankind has ever known. God has come down to us through the birth of His Son Jesus Christ, brought salvation and given us the enduring hope of eternal life. This is the truth we embrace and the story we joyfully share.

You have touched many for Christ through your prayers and finances this year. In this Christmas letter to you, I will be introducing you to two precious friends. You have a part in their victory. And you will share in their future success.

“My Most Precious Possession”

My name is Zhang Xiao Yang. I am 58 years-old and live in dry and dusty Gansu Province in western China. My wife and I have two children. Providing for them is very difficult. Due to the barren landscape, working underground in the coal mines is our only means of support.

Eight years ago when I went to town, I was intrigued by the number of people eagerly crowding

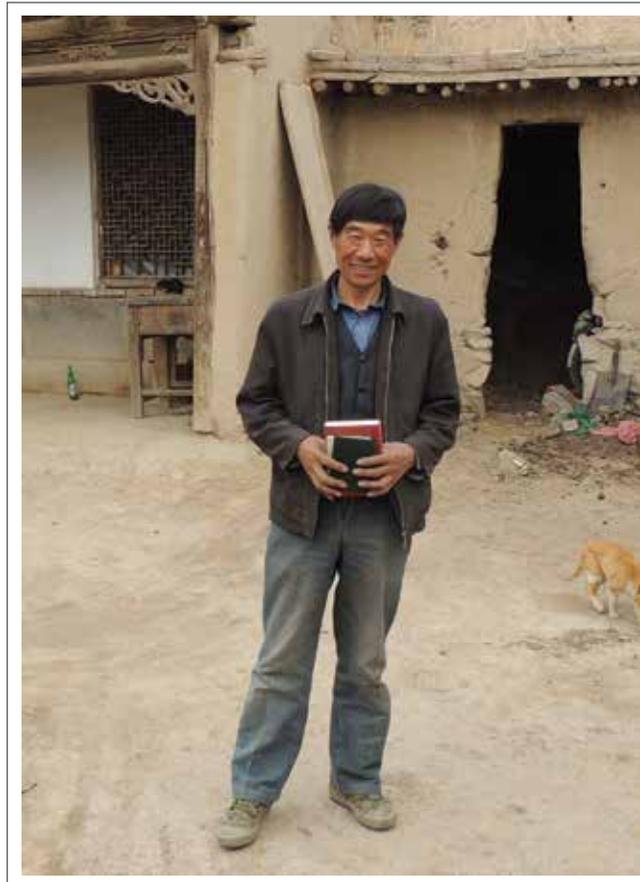
into a small building. I stopped someone and asked, “What is inside?” They told me it was a church. “How much does it cost to get in?” I asked. They said it was free and that I should go.

I did, and was amazed by the sermon, the stories from the Bible and the songs. I went back the next week, then brought my wife and started attending regularly.

In the services, sometimes different ones would tell stories of how their lives had been changed. I wondered, “Could I ever have such a story?” Eventually I understood this change came through believing in Jesus Christ. So, I made a decision to trust in Him.

In the beginning, my only exposure to the Bible was on Sunday at church. When we heard someone had an audio Bible, my wife and I started attending their listening group.

It was there someone told me if I wanted a Bible of my own, I could buy one in Lanzhou, the capital. But that was six hours away! The expense of such a trip was more than I could afford. Just the bus ride alone cost much more than a Bible.



Preacher Zhang at his home in western China.

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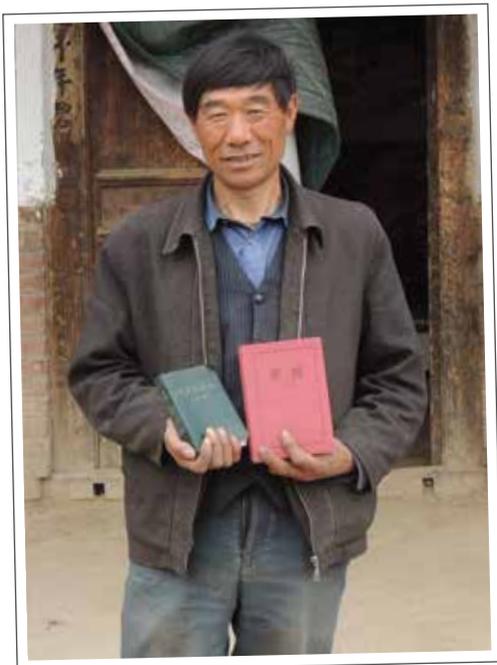
Then, one Sunday a group of foreigners from America visited our small congregation. They brought Bibles, enough for everyone. That was my first copy of God's Word. Since then, I have read it every day. It has changed my life. Now, I too have a story to tell!

Because I had more education than anyone else, the believers asked me to read, study and teach them. Eventually they asked me to become their preacher! I could not do this if I did not have a Bible here in my home.

It is not safe in the coal mines, but it is the only work available. One day the mine caved in. For 12 hours I was pinned-down under mounds of dirt and clay. It was completely dark. I began to pray and encouraged others to join me. I asked God to let me live because my children still needed me. We were found, but it took several months to recover from my injuries. Several co-workers died that day.

I realize in the future it may be my time to die in the mine. But for me, each day is an experience of faith and not fear. The good news is I know where I am going if that happens!

As a result of my rescue, both our children became believers. Perhaps, someday in the future they will take my place teaching others about Jesus' love and sacrifice. Receiving this Bible has helped me keep my faith strong.



Preacher Zhang with his Bible and hymnal.

YOUR GIFT TODAY!



Your gift of \$100.00

Will purchase, transport, and deliver 20 Chinese Bibles. Each one will be shared by up to four believers who will in turn lead two new believers to faith in Jesus Christ!



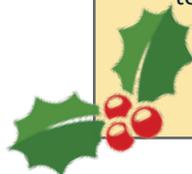
Your gift of \$250.00

Will purchase 25 Chinese Pastor's Study Bibles and provide training seminars to rural Chinese preachers. They in turn will disciple up to 100 believers each week with new-found depths of God's Word.



Your gift of \$1,200.00

Will purchase a motorbike for a circuit-walking rural Chinese preacher/evangelist, who will travel on-time to distant villages, disciple isolated believers and establish new congregations.



Our Greatest Need

Just days ago we were in south central China. In spite of a dramatic dialect difference from traditional Chinese Mandarin, our ministry time there was powerful. The churches in the area are overseen by vibrant Pastor Mrs. Wu (name changed). She shared the following story:

It is not very often foreign guests come to our county, so don't be surprised if people stare at you. The only foreigners many have ever seen were on TV.

Several years ago, a visiting group asked me about our greatest need. I told them, "transportation," but never heard from them again.

Our county is mountainous and many of our churches are hard to reach. For example, one of our teachers had an assignment to go to a mountain church. On the first day she took a bus. Since it arrived late, she had to stay overnight. Her assigned service was the next night.

After she conducted the service, the bus was long gone. So she had to stay another night and take the following evening's once-a-day bus home. In all it took three full days to conduct one service. With reliable transportation it could have been completed in one day.

She begged me for money to buy a motorcycle. I knew she needed one, but there were no funds available to give her. We oversee 60 churches in these mountains. Most of them are led by untrained lay leaders who have limited knowledge of God's Word. In order to make disciples, we must spend time with them and their people.

This teacher pressured me asking, "What shall I do? These assignments

are impossible, and there are so many congregations pleading for help!"

That was two years ago. I told her, "Learn to ride a motorcycle."



Preparing to distribute 3,500 Bibles with Rev. Mrs. Wu.

She replied, "What for? What chance do I have of ever receiving a motorcycle?"

I responded, "Just learn how."

I had heard other counties were receiving motorcycles from your ministry. Every time this happened I would call the leaders and beg, "You have received so many motorcycles, and we have

none! Please give me two or three of yours!" They always replied, "NO!" All we could do was continue to trust God and believe He heard our prayers.

A few weeks ago, when I heard you were coming to a nearby county, I called the supervising pastor and begged him for some of the motorcycles you would be providing. He also said, "no!"



Faith becomes reality as this rural preacher is awarded her miracle motorcycle.

Unfortunately for him, he had done something that caused the authorities to scrutinize his every move. It turned out this was not a good time for him to receive foreign guests. All the thousands of Bibles and Study Bibles you provided for him were transferred to us, including all twelve of their motorcycles!

Please thank the people in your country who have provided these for us. To be certain they are used only for the Lord's work, we have chosen elders in each church to provide oversight of those who have received a motorcycle. This is such a special day!

Placing a Demand

By Jonathan Brooks

As we boarded our flight home from the mission field, a parting comment from our coordinator stayed with me. He kindly said, "I want to thank the team members and partners of the Voice of China and Asia for placing a market demand for Bible printing in China."

When we leave the foreign field, my thoughts are usually centered on the people our teams have touched. By the time we leave, we have looked into thousands of eyes full of anticipation, we have returned thousands of smiles and touched thousands of soil-chaffed hands. These encounters so dominate our hearts there is little room for anything else. But, I had never left China thinking about the impact we were having on the Chinese Bible market.

Here is how it works. Early each calendar year, government representatives sit down with the only authorized Bible printer in China. With church representatives present, they compare the current number of Christians along with the previous year's Bible sales. It

may take months of red-tape and negotiations, but when all factors are considered they will authorize the number of Chinese Bibles to be printed during the coming year.

Though far away from the negotiating table, you and I will have a voice in these final numbers. The tens of thousands of Bibles we legally purchased and distributed this year among the rural poor testify to a growing demand. When negotiations are over, the charts and spreadsheets will reveal, China needs more legally printed Bibles!

This Christmas season we are reminded that Jesus Christ gave us His best. With this in mind, I ask, will you give Him your best by spreading His story-His Word with a generous year-end gift to the Voice of China and Asia? Let's place a demand on the market and turn our Christmas joy into a lifelong dream-come-true for millions of rural Chinese who all so deeply long for the same gift, a Bible.

Merry Christmas!

Jonathan and Susan Brooks
Jonathan and Susan Brooks



The joy of receiving a Bible.



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Enter amount. Follow prompts.
Receipt will be emailed to you!



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Join us for our spring or fall
2018 trips to China. Please call
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