

Mission Outreach

SINCE 1975



Monthly Report

January 2019

The Crisis in China

It became clear in 2018 that God's people in China are not merely going through a regular season of hardship, but a major effort is underway to completely control the Church, backed by new technology that creates challenges to the Body of Christ that have never been encountered before.

The following is an excerpt from an article published by Asia Harvest which aims to accurately update us on the massive and brutal persecution of Christians underway in China today.

In recent months the government has markedly increased the pressure on Christians throughout the country. We received an unconfirmed report from a long-term China missionary stating that **314 house church Christians have been killed** in recent months, and hundreds more are missing. Most house church leaders have gone into hiding and have disconnected their phones and other devices because of the incredible surveillance capabilities of the state.

Thousands of house churches (which are considered illegal in China) have been closed. **Reflecting the actions of Mao's Red Guards in the 1960s**, religious symbols such as crosses and Scripture posters have been torn down and replaced by flags of China or portraits of President Xi

Jinping. The most high-profile church to be punished this way was the large Zion Church in Beijing.

The head pastor of the Zion Church summed up the feeling of countless millions of Christians throughout China when he stated: **"Yes we are scared, but we have Jesus!"**

Landlords who rent buildings to Christians are being heavily fined by the government, with new laws allowing fines of between 20,000 to 200,000 Yuan (almost USD30,000). This has created a climate of fear and suspicion, and **thousands of fellowships have been forced out** of the premises they were renting.

On the streets, the police have the power to stop and search anyone they wish and to check their phones and other devices for content they deem a threat to society. These threats may include the presence of a Bible app or visits to Christian websites, or any communication considered unpatriotic.

The most severe persecution is occurring in the vast Xinjiang region in northwest China. In recent years a promising church movement had emerged among the Uyghur, Kazakh and Kirghiz people groups, but most of the church leaders have been arrested and taken to concentration camps in the desert. Reputable news organizations estimate at least one million people are being detained and tortured in those camps right now.

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Crisis in China

Many suburbs in cities like Urumqi, Hami and Kashgar are now depopulated and countless buildings have been boarded up. Although this initiative was designed to target Muslims in border areas, almost all Uyghur and Kazakh church leaders have also been taken away.

The government doesn't care whether someone is a Muslim or Christian. They are all the same to them. Please pray for them.

The most concerning aspect of the current crisis is the use of technology to identify and persecute believers, including "predictive" artificial intelligence where computers process information and images from millions of cameras and then predict when they think a crime may take place, such as an illegal gathering of people for worship or Bible study. This is part of the **Communist Party's long-term "social credit" system**, which is already being rolled out and will be fully functioning by 2020.



This system will rank each Chinese citizen according to their behaviour and connections, and privileges such as education, jobs, travel and even the ability to buy food can be curtailed by the atheist government. Already some house church leaders have found they are unable to buy plane, bus or train tickets to travel anywhere because they are considered a threat.

Church and ministry leaders have cried out to the Lord for heavenly strategies and plans, and many meetings have been held as they implement what God has revealed to them to do.

Hallelujah! Our God reigns. The Lord Jesus Christ remains in complete control and no attack can come upon His children unless He permits it. Our loving Saviour has promised us, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). *(With permission from Asia Harvest - www.asiaharvest.org)*

Synergy of East & West

One of my favourite scriptures is Matthew 9:37-38, "(37) Then He said to His disciples the Harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. (38) Therefore pray the Lord of the Harvest to send out labours into His harvest."

We have just been through Christmas when we remember the birth of our Saviour Jesus and spend time with family and friends. When we all come together there is a Harvest field right there - what a time to share the love of Jesus among our family!

Sometimes we can be so pre-occupied with the food and gifts that we can easily forget the greatest Gift ever given to man - Jesus. It is a great opportunity to share with others about Him and all He has done for us. As Jesus said, the Harvest is truly plentiful but sometimes we can be in the middle of the Harvest field and not realise it. The Lord wants more labourers here in New Zealand among our beautiful people and also in the Nations.

Isaiah 6:8 says, "I heard the voice of the Lord saying 'Whom shall I send and who will go? Then I said, 'Here am, I Send me'. And the Lord said 'Go tell this people...'"

It is this call that has created a beautiful synergy between us in the West and our brethren in the East. MO heard the Lord say 'go' and for over 40 years has been going to many countries throughout Asia where the Harvest is truly plentiful. Many of these places are in the midst of an awakening and revival where God is moving in power. They may not have material resources but are very hungry to learn more of Jesus and be trained and equipped to reach the lost of their nation. The need for Bibles and teaching material is enormous.

Recently, I broke down in tears of joy and frustration. The joy was about seeing what the Lord is doing and the plentiful harvest, and the frustration was that we are not able to help more with the need for Bibles and teaching materials.

The synergy is so special and empowering to those on the frontline. It is there only because of our mighty God and Saviour, Jesus Christ to whom we are eternally grateful.

I thank every one of you for praying, giving and going and for your faithfulness to the call of Mission Outreach.

Blessings

Neil

PROJECTS IN FOCUS

New Project: BAWM Bible Translation

The Bawm people is one of the 11 ethnic groups of Bangladesh and numbers about 16 000-20000. It claims to be 100% Christian. Rev. L. Dolian laboured to develop the Bawm alphabet and get it first printed in 1952. In 1989, he led the translation team to complete the translation and it was printed. As society develops and Bawm youth get more exposed to various changes, the need grows for this Bible to be translated into a form that the young generation can easily understand. Rev. L. Dolian started working on a new translation in 2012. In 2016, Rev. Dolian passed away leaving two books to be translated. We invite you to help with the final push to complete the new translation in 2019 so it is ready for printing in 2020. **Total Project: \$7000**

MALE SOW Training

School of Workers (SOW) Training is a very effective discipleship training programme used extensively by our contacts in Asia and beyond. Wherever it is used, there are always converts, which helps grow and establish the church in this case among the Maldavians.

Total Commitment: \$7500 Balance needed: \$5300

ETHNIC Tibetan SOW Training

Phurpu is planning to conduct a SOW training among the groups he met on his trek to Everest last year as well as with contacts living in other regions. MO would like sponsor 4 of these at a cost of \$1600 each.

Total Commitment: \$3200 Balance needed: \$2600

CMTC Bible College - Monthly commitment \$1600

Nepal Radio Programme - Monthly commitment \$700

MYANMAR New Testaments

Events of the last decade have increased worldly influences on the youth of Myanmar, who make up 20% of Myanmar's population. This has sparked a vision for one million Myanmar-English New Testaments to be distributed to youth across the country. MO is committed to purchasing 1000 New Testaments towards this vision. **Total Commitment: \$8000 Balance Needed: \$7838**

NEPAL 1000 Equipping Centres

This is a project of multiplication - we train 1000, who in turn equip up to 20 leaders each which equals up to 20,000 church leaders equipped in one year. The first two of six equipping conferences was held in October, where the first of the printed materials was given to the trained pastors who have now begun imparting the teaching to their people. To complete this project successfully, 80,000 copies of books & teaching materials need to be printed. **Total Commitment of \$127,000 Balance needed: \$64450**

RESPONSE COUPON

JANUARY 2019

Name:

Address:

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..... Post Code:

Email:

Phone or Mobile:

Bangladesh (NEW)

BAWM Bible new translation (EABAWM) \$.....

China

China support (CHPSTR) \$.....

Myanmar

Myanmar-English NT (EAMYNT) \$.....

Maldives

Male SOW Training (EAMALSOW) \$.....

Nepal

Radio Programme (NEPRAD) \$.....

CMTC Bible College (NPBC) \$.....

1000 Equipping Centres (NPEQ1000) \$.....

Ethnic Tibetan SOW (PHTIBSOW) \$.....

Thailand

Chiang Mai Training Centre (CMTC) \$.....

Disaster Relief Fund: (DRF) \$.....

Where Most Needed: (WMN) \$.....

N.B. We will be able to send our monthly reports via email in early 2019. If you wish to receive our monthly report via Email, please enter your email address above and tick the appropriate box below, Thank you.

Tick to Receive future reports via email Tick for a receipt for this month's giving Tick to unsubscribe

Please make payments to Mission Outreach Inc BNZ Account #: 02 0466 0034018 00 and specify project.

N.B. If no project is specified, funds will be allocated to 'Where Most Needed'

'Catch the Wind'

MISSIONS CONFERENCE, BANGKOK

Ethnos Asia is hosting their bi-annual Mission's Conference "Catch the Wind" from 26th to 28th February 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. This is an opportunity to hear reports from those who work on the frontline of battle in many Access Restricted Nations of Asia (ARNA).

For the 3 day conference this fee includes morning and afternoon tea and lunch each day, 2 dinners, and conference materials. Registration fee is \$475 per person.

You will need to arrange your own accommodation by booking online. The conference venue is Tawana Bangkok. Other Hotels nearby are: Siam Heritage, Rose Hotel, Le Meridien Hotel, Tarntawan Place, Montien Hotel, De Arni Hotel, Bangkok Christian Guesthouse.

If you have a query, please contact Wendy by email: wendy@mossops.co.nz or phone her at work (Tauranga): 07 543 0971

'Catch the Wind' Missions Conference, Bangkok

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ POST CODE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CHURCH: _____

REGISTRATION FEE: \$475

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Online Payment to account no: **020466 0034018 00** Reference: EA 2019 Conf (This is our preferred payment option) or pay by Cheque to: Mission Outreach at the address below.

Email the above details to: wendy@mossops.co.nz

Or post your completed registration form to: Mission Outreach, P.O. Box 506, Tauranga 3144

From Cows to Bibles



Some memories are never lost and the call of God that marked the beginning of Mission Outreach is a special one for me.

In the mid-1970's, Eddie and I, two simple farmers based in Te Puke received the call from the Lord to help the suffering, underground church in Eastern Europe and take "Jesus to the communist world".

At that time, Rudy Lack, a passionate, young leader from YWAM, encouraged us to seek the Lord about starting our own mission.

We began by showing YWAM mission films in churches and prayer groups. Our main purpose and call was to pray for our brethren, and give. We would get funds by butchering cows so our catch phrase was: **"Jesus turned water into wine, Eddie and Sam turn cows into Bibles!"**

We were soon joined by Leo, a Dutch farmer who donated a near new car for the mission's work; and Frank, a concrete worker with a deep zeal for the work of God.

Often our prayer meetings went on 'til the early hours of the morning, quite difficult for a farmer who had to start milking at 5am. During these meetings, it became clear God wanted us to sell up and go fulltime, travelling the country and sharing the vision. Although both Eddie and I proceeded with that plan, it all became too much for me, with 4 young children who needed their Dad at home.

After much prayer and soul searching, the Word of the Lord for me was to, "Go and place your share of the mantle on Eddie and pray a blessing and anointing over him!"

Not until this happened did Mission Outreach take off and the rest is His-story!

They were days of great faith, passion, endurance, determination and contending with the enemy to get our precious cargo through and to reach brethren who so needed our encouragement.

It delights us that Mission Outreach is still a strong, vibrant mission providing the church with the Word of God and equipping it to fulfil its destiny.

Sam Abplanalp

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