



THE CEDAR OF LEBANON - Part 1

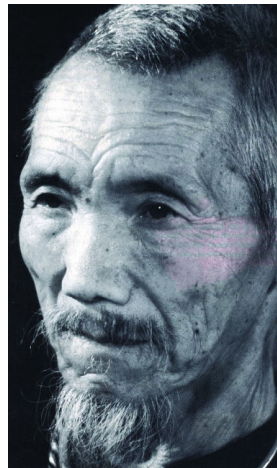
On the night of October 17, 1989, more than 1,000 tearful Christians gathered outside a small village in Wencheng County, a mountainous area near the city of Wenzhou. As the brothers and sisters respectfully sang 'Waiting for the Lord's Return to Meet Again', the body of Miao Zizhong was lowered into a grave. This man, who had gone to be with his Lord at the age of 73, was so highly respected that he had earned the nickname 'The Cedar of Lebanon' from his fellow believers.

When he was 32 he contracted a serious disease, was declared incurable and advised to go home and prepare for death.

From the moment Miao received God's salvation, his physical condition improved, and became completely healed. Overcome with gratitude Miao surrendered his future to God's service, and immediately travelled to another district to preach the gospel.

For the next six years Miao continued to proclaim good news to the spiritually hungry people of Zhejiang, until the authorities caught up with him in the winter of 1954. He was lectured and commanded to sign a statement renouncing his faith. With a calm demeanour, Miao looked his persecutors in the eyes and declared:

"Jesus is the Saviour of my life. I would be ungrateful to deny Him and as such I would go to hell. I cannot do this."



Upon hearing that, the cadres began to gnash their teeth and with their fists they started beating Miao viciously. He prayed fervently, asking the Lord for help. The evil

men used every method, but in the end were unable to coerce him into submission.

Miao was declared a 'counter-revolutionary,' and a few months later he was falsely charged with the crime of 'collaborating with overseas counter-revolutionary organizations,' and was sentenced to five years reform through labour near the Russia border.

Miao struggled with the bleak conditions and the incessant back-breaking work at the prison camp. He had no hope in this world, and reasoned that if he was destined to die in

that place then he should die sharing the gospel with his fellow inmates. When the prison authorities discovered he was still propagating his faith they flew into a rage and added ten years to his sentence.

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...Cedar of Lebanon

Despite intense beatings, loneliness and deprivation, Miao experienced his most difficult moment when he received a letter from his wife requesting a divorce. She had been his best friend and faithful companion but had given up all hope of seeing him alive again and decided it was better to make a fresh start as a single woman.

Miao was in a state of shock after reading his wife's letter, and after her words sank in, he became so angry that he fainted. He had reached his lowest point!

He considered his miserable situation and felt he had nothing to lose. He ran to a grove and fell on his knees and with loud sobs he wept before the Lord. He was unable to suppress his grief and tears flowed like a fountain. Suddenly he heard a very clear, personal and tender small voice from heaven saying, 'You must be patient that you may fulfil God's will and obtain the promise.'

Miao received comfort and strength from the Holy Spirit as he emptied his soul before God, and he realized that Christ alone would never leave or forsake him.

He returned to his cell and replied to his wife's letter, telling her to proceed with the divorce if she wished.

The overcrowded prison camp was home to 1,300 men from across China, including many church leaders. During one especially cold winter, when the temperature plummeted to minus 45 degrees, hundreds of men came down with a severe fever within hours, resulting in many going into convulsions and then death. Within days 1,050 of the 1,300 men had perished.

Miao was also infected by the horrible plague and was taken to see a doctor, who shook his head and said, "Here is another one." He was put in a room where corpses were stored before being taken for burial. As Miao lay among many dead bodies he prayed, "Lord, I ask you to save me. Please don't allow me to die here where your Name will be reproached. If you heal me and allow me to return home in peace, I will serve you all the days of my life and will do the work of an evangelist."

(Part 2 in next month's report)

THE SEASON FOR HARVEST

For 44 years MO has had their hands on the plow. We are doing the Lord's work, turning over new soil in the Spirit, being obedient to the call of God, labouring long and hard, being steadfast, and looking straight ahead to what the Lord has called us to do.

This will not change, but we believe that the Harvest time is here, so the focus for us and many others has changed.

When MO was founded in 1975 by Eddie and Betty Cairns and Sam and Evi Abplanalp the lead scripture the Lord gave them was Luke 9:62,

"But Jesus said to him No one having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom."

We have not looked back, we have not turned back from our original assignment the Lord has given to us of sharing the gospel here in New Zealand and to so many countries of Asia.

So many countries that we minister into are ripe for the harvest of souls. We need to work in the harvest field that none be lost, as the number of souls coming into the Kingdom depends on the number who are working in the harvest field.

MO has always been involved in praying, giving and going. We have prayed and sent out hundreds upon hundreds of New Zealand believers into the harvest field. The MO leadership believe it is time to change the missions lead scripture from Luke 6:62 to Luke 10:2,

"The Harvest truly is Plentiful but the labourers are few therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."

The Lord has commissioned us to go, so our mission is to make disciples for the Lord and to be a part of helping to build His Kingdom so that we are all co-labourers in His harvest field. Whether that be amongst family or friends and people we meet here in New Zealand or in the Nations.

I pray the the richest blessings of God over you all!
In His Service,
Neil
MO Director

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free." Luke 4:18

Farsi & Pashto Bibles, Afghanistan

Farsi is a language spoken mostly in Iran and Afghanistan and used by 110 million people worldwide and Pashto is the second most commonly used language in these countries.

As part of our call to reach Afghanistan with the Gospel, we strongly believe the provision of bibles is essential. Our goal is to help provide 250 bibles in each language, a total of 500 bibles. At a cost of \$15 each, our total commitment is \$7,500. We invite you to partner with us to reach this nation for Jesus.

Total Project: \$7500 Balance Needed: \$2667

Bibles for Uganda, Africa

"Pastor, give us Bibles!" This is the cry of many Pastors in Uganda. It is such an honour and blessing to be able to meet the huge need and put God's Word in the hands of hungry Believers. The provision of bibles is so important for the growth of the church in Uganda and will bring comfort and encouragement, give instruction and direction for individuals, couples, families and communities.

Our initial commitment for Bibles for Uganda is for 100 English Bibles at \$7.50 each and 285 Lugandan bibles at approx. \$15 each.



**Total Project: \$5,025
Balance needed: \$690**

CMTC Bible College

Monthly commitment \$1600

Nepal Radio Ministry

Monthly commitment \$700

China Full Bibles

Due to your amazing response to this project we have completed the initial 2000 Chinese Bibles and more. Hence, we have decided to increase the project for an additional 4000 bibles at \$2.80. We appreciate your continued support of our Chinese Brethren.

Total Initial Commitment \$11,200

Balance needed: \$6120



Nepal 1000 Equipping Centres

We are very close to completing the huge and Holy Spirit inspired project, with one more seminar to do at the end of February / early March this year. We have so appreciated your patience, prayer and support for this project. Please help us with this final push to complete this very worthwhile project.



Total Commitment: \$127,000

Balance needed: \$15,800

Disaster Relief Fund

A big thank you to all of those who have responded in prayer and giving towards this project. We have completed our goal to help those who were effected by the tragic flooding last year.

RESPONSE COUPON

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Email:

Phone or Mobile:

Afghanistan
Farsi/Pashto Bibles (AFGBBL) \$.....

Africa
Bibles for Uganda (AFRBBL) \$.....

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2020

China

China Pastors (CHPSTR) \$.....
China Full Bibles (CHBBL) \$.....

Nepal

Radio Programme (NEPRAD) \$.....
CMTC Bible College (NPBC) \$.....
1000 Equipping Centres (NPEQ1000) \$.....

Thailand

Tribal Training Centre, Chiang Mai (TTC) \$.....

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

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'

Tick for a receipt for this month's giving

Tick to unsubscribe

A Call to the Young ...

The call to missions started through my father, Neil when I was 11 years old. I still remember feeling stunned by the contrast of cultures and amazed at the way other people live, with so little and often in difficult circumstances, yet only a couple of flights away.

I ponder the wave of emotions and questions when I returned home to what felt like a lack of zeal from a people so blessed. The questions stirring in my heart were, "Why don't people back home get it?" and, "Where's our hunger?"

I've come to realise, what I witnessed as a child and what I continue to witness each time I return to the mission field, is that this is "their normal." They do not wake up shocked at the lack of clean water, or food because it's their normal, and they take each day in their stride. They face many of the same challenges as us, and are tempted by many of the same things as we are. However, they also have a hunger for God that is truly confronting and truly tested, quite unlike what many of us experience in the West.

That first trip as an 11 year old with my Dad and subsequent trips have enriched and marked my life, changing me forever and blessing me with fresh and new perspectives on life each time I visit. They have also given me the chance to enrich and encourage others. Each time I go I am reminded of the many challenges faced by our brothers and sisters in lands that are, well, not so far away after all.

- Josh

...And Young at Heart

I responded to an altar call for salvation by an African missionary when I was 12 years old, and he prayed that God would take me to the nations. God built in me a heart for missions for the next 62 years and has continued to send me to nations to this day.

When Jesus prayed the priestly prayer for the disciples in John 17:15-21, He prayed His final blessing and He also for us by extension. In verse 16 He said we, "*are not of the world,*" which gives greater meaning to the call of Matthew 28:18-20 to go, "*...Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word.*"

Every one of us who has come to believe "*through their word*" was prayed for that day. Just as the disciples were entrusted with His words, so are we. It was part of the oneness described in verse 21 which would result in His greater goal, "*That the world may believe that you sent me.*"

We do not need to ask God if we should 'GO' as it is very clear we are all called - both young and old. Whether it be to our neighbour or to a foreign country, the call is to us all. There is a need for the older generation to pass on their knowledge and wisdom to the younger generation and the Call to 'GO' in word and in deed .

As one who has embraced this call in my mature years, I have found God is faithful to grace me with everything I need and opened the door for me to witness to our next door neighbours, and to nations far from home, that the world may believe and know Him.

-Warren

Mission Outreach



**Ministering to Access
Restricted Nations
since 1975**

2020 TEAMS & EVENTS

NEPAL:

(1) When: February/March

Team Leader: Neil

Purpose: Equipping Training Seminar

(2) When: Early November

Team Leaders: Neil & Warren

Purpose: GTN's 25th Anniversary

NEW ZEALAND:

When: July or August

Organiser: Neil

Purpose: International Visitor to NZ (More details to come)

UGANDA:

When: August or September

Team Leaders: Bruce & Margaret

Purpose: Prayer, Teaching, Ministry

VANUATU:

Purpose: Ministry, Prayer, Teaching

Team Leader: Matthew

(1) When: February/March

Where: Santo, Malakula, Ambrym

(2) When: July

Where: Erromango, Tanna

(3) When: November Where:

Santo, northern Islands

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

Mondays 7:30pm Prayer for the nations. Contact us for venue details

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Chairman: Warren

Secretary: Josh

Treasurer: Wendy

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