

SINCE 1975

# Mission Outreach



MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2020

## TIBET - The Roof of the World - Part 1

Tibet, is vast— three times the size of Texas or the United Kingdom, but with only a fraction of the population. The following is the epic story of how the Tibetan Bible came into existence. This remarkable account gives an insight into the intense demonic opposition faced by all Christians who seek to penetrate the Roof of the World with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**The story of how the Tibetan Bible finally emerged after a long struggle deserves to be widely shared. It highlights the level of spiritual opposition that Christian work in this dark part of the world invariably attracts.**

German Moravian missionaries in North India gave themselves fully to the task of translating the Scriptures into Tibetan in 1856. Incredibly, it was to take nearly a century to complete, with the first full Tibetan Bible finally being printed in 1948. God used a Tibetan family—the Gergans—who helped with the translation work and themselves came to Christ as a result.

Although Tempu Gergan died after falling ill, his 12-year-old son Sonam had listened attentively to all the discussions between his father and the missionaries, and he boldly decided to confess Jesus as Lord and Master. Sonam's decision angered the local Buddhist monks, and great pressure was applied in a bid to make him abandon his new faith. He rebuffed their threats, and when he was publicly baptized headadopted the new name of Yoseb (Joseph).



### Help from Above

The first Scripture translated into Tibetan was the Gospel of John, published in 1862. Although a portion of the Bible was now available, it was not well received by Tibetans, who struggled to understand the words and concepts it contained, causing many readers to give up in frustration. Years of discouragement ensued as the Tibetan Christians and missionaries tried to share God's Word with Buddhists, only to encounter uniform apathy and disinterest.

From the start, the translators had struggled with what terms to use to accurately portray Christian concepts and names to a completely non-Christian culture. Long discussions and prayer meetings were held to discuss what Tibetan words should be used for God, Savior, and sin, among many others. Each word that was tried had Buddhist connotations, and it seemed impossible to find terms that communicated the beauty of God's Word to a people steeped in superstition and a completely different worldview.

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[nzmo.org](http://nzmo.org)

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# Tibet...

After the Lord helped the translators find a way to communicate His Word, the New Testament was finally completed in 1903, and Yoseb Gergan immediately began to translate the Old Testament.

Although the Tibetan New Testament did not cause revival to break out, it greatly strengthened the small number of Tibetan believers, and the profile of Christianity was enhanced among the Buddhist hierarchy now that God's Word was available for them to read. The abbot of one monastery said: "I have read all the New Testament. Is it true that there is an Old Testament? If so, will you kindly send me all the books? I am very much interested in Christianity."

## **Wrestling with the Devil**

Many more years passed until finally, in 1935, Yoseb Gergan laid down his pen. He had on his desk the first draft of the complete Tibetan Bible! He let out a deep sigh. Now, the Holy Bible would be available to reach the millions of Tibetans living on the vast plateau beyond the mountain passes.

Incredibly, although the translation has been completed, a further 13 years of intense struggle elapsed before the full Tibetan Bible was finally printed, as a succession of extraordinary events threatened to totally destroy the decades of work. It seemed as if every demon in hell had gathered to prevent the Word of God being available in Tibetan.

First, the workers at the Bible Society in India were unable to print the manuscript because they did not possess the technology to do so. At a time long before computers or photocopy machines, the precious manuscript was carefully placed inside a crate and shipped to the headquarters of the Bible Society in Britain.

The Tibetan Bible arrived in London, but as Hitler's forces swept across Europe, the Bible Society was concerned that the valuable manuscripts in their vaults might be destroyed by a Nazi bomb, so they transported the documents to safer rural locations. The Tibetan manuscript was placed in the ancient cathedral at Ripon, 200 miles north of London. As the Battle of Britain raged, one 2,000-pound missile from the sky landed on a roadway beside Ripon Cathedral and came to rest against the wall of the church without exploding. Four feet away, inside the church's wall, lay the Tibetan manuscript. Gingerly, a bomb demolition crew



defused the bomb. The firing device seemed faultless, and they could not understand why it had failed to explode.

By the time the Second World War ended, Yoseb Gergan was 60-years-old. For a decade he had patiently waited for news that his Tibetan Bible had been printed. With Europe in disarray and no sign of progress, he asked for the manuscript to be sent back to India, hoping that new technology would allow it to be printed closer to home.

Alas, the printers in India shook their heads, saying the manuscripts had been written on cheap Tibetan paper and would need to be rewritten on special white paper. Gergan asked God to give him the strength to complete the massive undertaking.

Two more years passed, and Yoseb felt his strength beginning to ebb as he continued working on his life's task. Then disaster struck. After days of feeling dizzy as he worked from sunrise to late at night, he fell to the ground, gasping for breath. Yoseb Gergan (pictured left) had suffered a heart attack.

The members of the small Tibetan church cried out to the Living God, asking Him to have mercy. They had never imagined that their beloved pastor would die before the Bible was in circulation. God heard their prayers, and Yoseb experienced a surge of strength. A special table was constructed so he could continue the work from bed, and two

Tibetan scribes were employed to do most of the writing, with Yoseb overseeing their work and making corrections.

Finally, on August 11, 1946, Yoseb Gergan wrote down the Tibetan words for the final verses in the Bible: "Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." (Revelation 22:20-21).

Five days later, Yoseb Gergan closed his eyes one last time, and went to his eternal reward.

*(Continued next month...)*

*An excerpt from the new book "Tibet-The Roof of the World" by Paul Hattaway, available to order online from Asia Harvest, <https://asiaharvest.org/bookstore/>*

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***"The Lord foils the plans of the nations; He thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for his inheritance." Psalm 33:10-12 (NIV)***

## CURRENT PROJECTS

### Audio Bibles for North Korea

We have a unique opportunity through VOM to help with the provision of Audio Bibles to our brothers and sisters in Christ in North Korea. Here is a recent testimony, "I received hope of living while I was praying, the virus situation in Pyongyang and Sinuiju is more serious than the border area. I think we will all die from starvation or being infected. Both are deadly and cause despair, but after knowing Him, my fear has vanished. We truly thank you again."

**Total commitment: \$10,000**

**Balance owing: \$3,284**

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### Urdu Bibles for Pakistan

The Word of God is foundational to the Christian faith and we are thankful for the opportunity to help VOM with the supply of Urdu Bibles to believers in Pakistan. The cost of these is \$12 each, which includes distribution. MO's goal is 500 Urdu Bibles.

**Total commitment: \$6,000**

**Balance owing: \$2,565**

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### CMTC Bible College

Monthly commitment \$1600

### Nepal Radio Ministry

Monthly commitment \$850



## NEW PROJECTS

### DISASTER RELIEF - Feed the Hungry

While our core purpose is to feed our brethren with spiritual food - bibles, we also need to help meet their most basic physical need - food, and to let them know Jesus loves them by fulfilling this most critical need.

As a result of the impact of Covid19 many people are starving as they cannot leave their homes or villages to work due to forced lockdowns. Many others have experienced severe floods and plagues of locusts destroying their crops. In addition to this, political unrest and persecution is on the increase. In fact, all aspects of society have been affected and many nations are living in turmoil and fear.

Poverty and starvation have increased exponentially and many have lost all hope and courage to face the future. Crime and suicides have increased, economies are close to collapse and the governments are unable to help their people.

We need to do something to help alleviate the suffering of our brethren and those they love.

Our plan is to support our front line workers as they activate their people to take food to the hungry. Our goal is to feed at least another 1,000 families by the end of September.

We invite you to join us and pray for those in such tremendous need, and let them know Jesus loves them.

## RESPONSE COUPON

## OCTOBER 2020

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Email: .....

Phone or Mobile: .....

### Pakistan

Urdu Bibles (URDBBL) \$.....

### North Korea

Audio Bibles (NKAUDBBL) \$.....

### China

China Pastors (CHPSTR) \$.....

### Nepal

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

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

### Disaster Relief

Feed the Hungry \$.....

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

## TIBET

**1** Praise God for faithful saints such as Yoseb Gergan who committed their life to bringing the Word of God to those without it. May we also be found faithful to bring the Word to the lost.

**2** Pray that the Word of God be available to every language and dialect of Tibet, of which there are approximately 220, that hungry hearts would be fed and healed and come home to their Heavenly Father.

## NEPAL

**3 & 4** In Nepal, poverty, political struggles, geography and the caste system still leave many people struggling and oppressed – among them, child labourers, children trafficked into the sex trade, children dying of easily-prevented diseases. Pray that Christian groups can continue to demonstrate the love of Christ in practical and spiritual ways. Pray that the Church will continue to grow and mature, despite threats and opposition. Pray for godly leaders for the Church.

**5** Samuel reports that many are coming to Christ. For example in one area, 80 families have come to Christ. Pray that new believers would get the Word of God planted in them deeply, and that the Word of life would multiply as they lead others to Christ.

## CHINA

**6** Pray for believers in prison that God would strengthen them, give them Holy Spirit boldness, that they be encouraged with the Word, that no good thing be withheld and that they overflow with hope. Pray that they would be strengthened and not deny Jesus. Pray that Pastors would have courage to speak the Word of God.

**7** Pray that the officials eyes would be blinded on Christian gatherings. Pray confusion to the enemy and authorities, that every work of the enemy be brought down, and that the church would be protected and grow.

**8** Pray that amidst lockdown, people suffering with critical illnesses would be able to access healthcare.

**9** Pray against forced abortions due to the One Child policy. Ask for mercy on these women and children, that women would find safe places to have their babies in secret, so they are not destroyed.

**10 & 11** Pray that the Communism foundation that “there is no God” be brought down. Ask a release of God’s destiny for China.

## INDIA

**12** Pray for India which is still seeing huge numbers of COVID-19 infections and deaths.

**INDIA 12....** Pray for the more than 20 million people who have lost work, and many who are struggling to provide for their families.

**13** Pray for God to enable the teams to be a light in the darkness, to support and restore hope in the midst of increased domestic violence, alcoholism, fear of starvation, loss of work, loss of hope. Pray for Community Health Workers and those working in clinics for safety, health, wisdom and courage as they reach out to those suffering under Covid-19 lockdown.

**14** Pray that God would speak to the men, the heads of households with dreams and visions, that whole households would come to Jesus and forsake the idolatrous things.

**15** A radical Hindu nationalist group has been targeting Christian gatherings, with violent attacks. Pray for healing for the injured and courage for the church in India to keep standing together in prayer.

## CAMBODIA

**16** For the 1000s of new believers, pray that the seed of the Word would go deep and grow, that they would be firmly established and rooted in Christ, and be baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire. Thanks to God for the destiny and calling for Cambodia. Also praise God for religious freedom, and pray this continues and expands.

## LAOS

**17 & 18** Pray for Jai, who after coming to faith in Christ in 2019, was disqualified from his family inheritance, and threatened by a village leader. Pray with Jai for the salvation of his family members, and that the threats will come to nothing.

## PHILIPPINES

**19** Pray for those affected by 2 bombs set off by ISIS allies in the Philippines on 24th August. At least 14 people were killed and 78 others were injured after the two bombs exploded in Jolo, Sulu which is primarily a Muslim province in the southern Philippines.

**20** Pray for those in the various villages of Mindanao who have been victimized by rebel groups. May they not pursue any form of retaliation, but be granted His grace and strength to forgive and intercede for the perpetrators.

## NORTH KOREA

**21** Pray that as Kim Jong Un alluded to the reality of the dire situation of North Korea’s economy and poor living standards, God would soften the heart

of North Korea’s leader, towards his people and that they would institute policy for critical changes.

## UGANDA

**22** Uganda is a majority Christian country, yet persecution comes from Islamists within communities, especially along the borders. Pray for Uganda’s stability so it can remain a haven for persecuted Christians.

**23** Pray for Christian women who are abandoned by their husbands because of their faith.

## PAKISTAN

**24 & 25** Pray for Huma Younus who was taken from her home in October 2019, at the age of 14, and later forcibly married to a radical Muslim man named Abdul Jabbar, and is now pregnant. This marriage was legal under Sharia law, but violates the Child Marriage Restraint Act.

**26** Pray for Huma’s physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing and for her devastated family. Pray for justice and mercy and for the protection of vulnerable girls and women throughout Pakistan.

## AFGHANISTAN

**27** Pray for the protection of Afghan believers, that they be insulated from spiritual oppression and consistent in their witness. May these dedicated followers of Christ mature spiritually and grow in both faith and number.

## NEW ZEALAND

**28** For the Election, pray for favour to those with a heart after God, to be a beacon of righteousness. Let righteousness exalt this nation, aligned with God’s words and God’s ways.

**29** Pray that NZ would get back on the path of following Jesus, that the Light would come to this nation, bringing divine guidance. Pray for a return to godly foundations, truths and prophetic words, that the nation’s destiny in God would not be robbed. Pray for mercy and grace and an awakening of who God is in this nation, and opportunities for repentance. We claim today that the blood of Jesus is enough.

**30** Pray for education to not be twisted to change history, that there would be repentance of evolution and godless agendas and that twisted textbooks would be removed.

**31** Pray that the Church comes into divine order, that we stand with the full armour of God in this day of evil. Pray for faithfulness in prayer and intercession. Pray for a clarity of hearing the Word of God.



## WEEKLY PRAYER MEETINGS

We continue to meet every Monday night at 7:30pm for global prayer. These are a powerful time of prayer and supplication to the Lord on behalf of our suffering brethren, NZ and other nations. If you wish to join us please email or ring for venue details or send us your email address for an invite to join us via Zoom.

