



At a Bible Distribution in a Yunnan mountain village, many people received a Bible in their own language.

BIBLES FOR CHINA

神就是爱

Translation: “God is Love”

“We stand before an open door,” said Bishop Eivind Berggrav, from Norway. He was one of a group of delegates attending a conference representing 13 Bible Societies which met in Elfinsward, Haywards Heath, England, in 1946.

Out of the global devastation of WWII, the delegates were convinced more than ever of “the need of the world for the Word of God.” Their aim was to establish a truly global Bible fellowship – the United Bible Societies. Seventy five years on, that fellowship now encompasses more than 200 countries and territories, including China.

But the same year as the conference was taking place, civil war broke out in China. In 1949, the People’s Republic of China was established. In 1952, all foreign missionaries were expelled.

Between 1966 – 1976, during the Cultural Revolution the Bible was banned, confiscated, and burned in China! Churches were closed, church leaders imprisoned, and Christians persecuted. However, throughout this time, Christians continued to meet in secret. They memorised parts of the Bible or passed handwritten snippets of Scripture secretly from hand-to-hand.

Then, between 1978 – 1979, churches began to reopen, church leaders were released from prison and house churches began to appear. **As the door began to open in China, the United Bible Societies, and faithful supporters like you, were there!**

In 1985, representatives from the United Bible Societies met with the President of the China Christian Council in Nanjing, and the idea of establishing a Bible printing press in China was born. In 1986, a global fundraising drive began and on 5th December 1987 the Amity Printing Press was opened!

Today, the Bible is the best-selling book in China! The Amity Printing Press has

printed over 200 million Bibles, with more than 86 million Bibles distributed in China.

The number of Christians in China is officially 46 million but, unofficially, it is 100 million with an average of more than one million coming to faith every year!

This fantastic growth has been fuelled in part by the provision of Bibles printed at the Amity Printing Press.

With millions coming to faith, Bibles are urgently needed to nurture, teach, and equip believers. This is even more true in the light of the recent challenges the mission has been experiencing. That is why we continue to help fund the paper which is used to print Bibles. These Bibles are given away either for free or at subsidised prices to poor Christians, especially in rural areas where around half of Christians do not own a Bible.



Song Cuiting (30) (left) with the Bible she received during a distribution trip by the Norwegian Bible Society in 2018. She is married and has two children. She is the leader of two Bible study groups who both have a meeting every day. One group is meeting in her home after the children have gone to bed. They usually spend two hours worshipping, praying and reading the Bible together. The other group uses social media. They speak together on the mobile phone, on the WeChat app, for half an hour in the lunch break every day.



WORN OUT BIBLES REPLACED

Married couple Zhang Rong Ying and Liu Chaun Zhong are rural farmers who received two Bibles at a Bible distribution at their church recently. In 1995, Liu was living a life which featured drinking, violence, and financial troubles. By chance he heard about a church in his neighbourhood where others had been helped. One Sunday he decided to sneak into the back of the church.

For the first time in his life, Liu heard about Jesus Christ, salvation and about having a new life in Christ. He began to go to church regularly. One day during a church service, he made the decision to give his life to Christ.

“I was filled with an inexplicable peace.”

“Throughout the whole of my life, I had been struggling with anxiety. Now, Jesus had taken that anxiety away,” said Liu. He told his wife, Zhang, about what had happened, and she quickly followed suit, joining the church, and becoming a Christian. Then their parents, siblings, children and grandchildren all became Christians as well!

For Liu, the Bible is central to his faith. He often reads it for hours at a time.

In fact, over the past 20 years Liu has worn out ten Bibles, he reads the Bible so often!

However, these Bibles are not wasted as he passes them onto someone else, such as a neighbour. “I know that there are many who need to know Jesus,” says Liu.

Liu’s love of the Bible is typical of a Christian in China! They love the Bible! When they learn that a Bible distribution is going to take place, they may travel miles to receive one.

Liu Chaun Zhong is happy to have received Bibles at a distribution.



Background: Photos of recipients of large-print Bibles with their thank you notes.

Inset: Elderly believers with large-print Bibles they have received.

LARGE-PRINT BIBLES BRING HOPE

Such was the case recently at a distribution of large-print Bibles in Yichuan County, Shaanxi Province. The majority of believers in rural areas are poor, middle-aged, or elderly people. Most are subsistence farmers. They are grateful to receive a free Bible.

Many of them are transitioning into a new season of their lives as their children have left home. They are also beginning to experience the physical problems of old age, such as poor eyesight and reduced strength. When they receive a Bible, it helps them to navigate these challenges as it provides them with the spiritual food, strength, and hope they need.

“My eyes are dim, and I can’t see the small words. I really need a Bible with big words to guide me through my life,” says 59-year-old Xie Jinhua, who came to faith 28 years ago.

“No matter what my circumstances are, God’s Word is the light on my path and the strength in my heart. It gives me hope and joy,” says Zhang Fengzhen, 54-years-old.

Wu Zaihong, 53, says the Bible is her spiritual food and her guide in life. “I was touched when I received the Bible. It is a treasure in my heart. God’s Word has helped me in my faith and life. It has greatly changed my outlook and my values. Thank you, UBS, for your love!” says Wu, her heart full of gratitude.

“The Bible changed my life’s direction. God’s Word is the strength of my heart. Thank you, UBS for this gift,” says Zhang Huanxiang, who has been a believer for 26 years.



Across China, Christians like Zhang Rong Ying, Liu Chaun Zhong, Xie Jinhua, Zhang Fengzhen, Wu Zaihong and Zhang Huanxiang are crying out for the Bible. Will you partner with us today to help bring the Bible to poor, rural believers in China? Your gift would help to place the life-changing message of the Bible into the hands of a Chinese Christian in rural China.

Thank you and God bless you.

Yours sincerely,



Neels Janse van Rensburg
CEO



P.S. To watch a video entitled, ‘The Bible for everyone in China’ scan this QR code.



Scan here to watch the Hano New Testament launch.



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Bible House • 144 Tory Street • Private Bag 27 901, Marion Square, Wellington 6141
Freephone: 0800 424 253 • Tel: 64 4 384 4119 • CC22121 • www.biblesociety.org.nz

NEW ZEALAND
BIBLESOCIETY
Ngā Ringa Hāpai i te Paipera Tapu ki Aotearoa