

BURGUNDY BIBLES

Japan Mission has been working with *New Life Ministries* in Japan for many decades. This association has helped us supply Bibles that are printed very cheaply.

New Life Ministries purchased a top-of-the-line printing press for the express purpose of printing Chinese Bibles. This Mistubishi web offset press prints a full 1,000-page Bible every 2.2 seconds, and often runs 24 hours a day. That is 27 Bibles per minute! The cost of printing one full Chinese Bible with a **burgundy** cover is about US\$2.50 or UK£2.

A Bible courier contacted a minister in rural China for the first time. This minister was a unique person with an extensive ministry. He told of how he always gave a Bible to new converts whenever they had any, but they normally experienced a severe shortage.

When asked where they received their Bibles, he said that he had some contacts who sent them to him. These contacts received them from someone else, so he really didn't know where they came from.

After talking for a while, the Bible courier brought out two suitcases full of Bibles and proceeded to give them to him. As he opened the first suitcase and saw the **burgundy** covers, he cried out, "These are the same Bibles we have been receiving for many years! Where did you get them?"

The Bible courier then told him that the Bibles were printed in Japan. Someone had given money so they could be printed, and others had carried them across the border.

The minister's face beamed like the sun as tears came to his eyes. "Oh, to think", he said, "that we have brothers and sisters whom we don't even know, who give and work in order to provide us with Bibles!" He immediately started to praise God and thank Him for all the Bibles they had received over the years.

We praise the Lord for the resources He has provided to enable us to meet this critical need. The regular financial contributions of many have helped us provide this priceless gift to countless people who could not obtain a Bible by themselves.

Pray for wisdom and safety for those involved in the printing, transport and distribution of these Bibles.



JAPAN MISSION

CALLED TO SERVE

Nov / Dec 2019

THE POWER OF ONE BIBLE

One Chinese man shared of how he had received a book from a stranger. He started to read this book and had a hard time understanding it, but when he was about two-thirds of the way through, it became more interesting. The main character in that part of the book was amazing and caught his attention. His name was Jesus.

He said that he read the four Gospels several times because they were so interesting, and then went on to read Acts. The man had never heard of Jesus before. He had never met a believer, never heard a Christian song or a sermon. Yet, the Word of God touched his heart!

After a few weeks of reading, this man prayed a simple prayer to Jesus and was filled with an overwhelming sense of peace and joy. He said that he felt as though Jesus had literally moved into his heart.

This man was a judge with a high position in a district court and was influential in his community. The joy and peace he experienced was so fantastic that he couldn't keep quiet. He shared the Gospel with his co-workers and friends. He even told defendants in his court about his experience with Jesus and read portions of the Bible to them.

It wasn't long before he was arrested and interrogated for several days. He was told that he could not talk about God in the courtroom and it was forbidden for him to share his religious experiences with others. His interrogators threatened him repeatedly and tried to convince him to renounce his faith, but the judge refused. After being held in detention for four weeks, he was released and stripped of his position as a judge.

Today, this former judge is a private lawyer and a member of a house church in Beijing. He is an eager disciple, who often shares the Gospel with the people he encounters.

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One Bible from an anonymous person can transform hearts and accomplish much for God's Kingdom!

The following is the story of Chen, a young minister who is responsible for seven churches in one of China's largest cities.

Chen is living proof of the power of God's Word. He grew up in rural China and his family was very poor. His father had to go far away for work, so Chen, his brother and younger sister only saw their dad a couple of times a year. When Chen lost his mother, he was eight years old, and the three children had to live alone and take care of each other most of the time.

After the death of his mother, Chen grew bitter and was filled with anger. On the street, he was ridiculed and harshly mistreated. After 7th grade, Chen quit school and started living on the streets. He became a bully and got into countless fights.

His older brother, on the other hand, went on to higher education. Once in university, someone gave him a New Testament, and years later this became an instrument that would change Chen's life.

His brother had gone on to study in the USA, and there he was given a similar New Testament. He thought that this could also help his younger brother, so he urged him to find the one he had received years earlier.

Chen dug it out of a box containing old schoolbooks, and thought it could not hurt to read this book his

brother talked so much about. He started reading, but understood very little. One night, when his anger was about to boil over and cause him to engage in another street fight, the words he had read came to mind. It was as if he heard a voice saying to him, "**Do not judge, or you too will be judged. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?**" (Matthew 7:1, 3, NIV).

There was no fight that night. Instead, Chen went back to the humble and dirty place he called home, and started reading the New Testament with renewed eagerness.

The anger and bitterness left him and peace flooded his heart. He read of Jesus who died on the cross and accepted Him as his Savior.

Those who knew him soon noticed the transformation in his life. He started telling them about his new faith and they also believed in Jesus. They started to gather to read from the New Testament and pray together. They soon met other believers and learned that the same thing was happening all over China.

Chen has led thousands to Christ. The seven churches he ministers at now have about 100 members each. Many whom he has shared the Good News with also accepted Christ, and they shared with others, who again shared with others — all because of a single New Testament, which was given to his brother years before. The Word of God is indeed powerful!

Some years ago, a group of believers were evangelizing an area of Jiangsu province in China. They were bold servants and people started to accept Christ.

One person who was not happy about this was the gang leader in town. One evening, when the evangelists were out on the street, the gang leader and his men showed up in their car. He took his gun, held it to one of their heads and said, "If you don't stop, we'll kill you all!"

The evangelists were frightened and wondered what to do. After some discussion and prayer, they decided to continue their ministry. They were afraid, but agreed to trust the Lord to protect them.

At the end of the week, they gathered in a home to teach the new believers. They challenged them to come back the next day and bring a friend.

Some were able to do just that, and that evening several people received Christ. One of them was a lady, who turned out to be none other than the wife of the gang leader!

When the evangelists heard this, they began to worry. They prayed more than ever for the Lord's protection. Days went by and nothing happened — until one night, there came a knock on the door where the evangelists were staying.

When they opened the door, they saw the gang leader standing outside. "What have you done to my wife?" he said. The evangelist was not sure what he meant.

"She's totally changed!" he continued. "She used to yell and always gave me a hard time. Now she is kind, loving and wonderful, and she always talks about a man named Jesus. Please tell me more about him."

The evangelists were shocked! They expected threats and violence, but certainly not this! They invited him in and started to tell him about Jesus.

The gang leader came by their house several evenings to hear more, and after a couple of weeks he accepted Jesus as his Savior.

This happened some years back. Today, this former gang leader is an evangelist and pastor! He has planted 160 churches and his wife, sons and daughters-in-law are all actively involved in preaching the Gospel and planting churches.

A Bible courier visited one of these churches, which was in the countryside and had over 200 people in attendance. He brought some Bibles, but learned that every single believer was in possession of a **burgundy** Bible that was printed by **New Life Ministries!**

"It works!" the Bible courier later reported. "Your distribution system works!" He was so thrilled to see that the Bibles were distributed through different channels to the believers in China — even to this church in such a remote area.

So, the Bibles he brought were taken to another place where they were in short supply. □