

PROJECT NO: 71228

TAX | NON-TAX

China



Bibles for Millions

Overview

The United Bible Society's China Partnership (CP) exists to serve and support the church in China. Through this project, CP aims to ensure that as many Chinese people as possible can own their own Bible. It does so by providing Bible paper to support the printing and distribution of Bibles to the growing number of Christians in China, and to offer free Bibles to those who cannot afford to buy their own.

The Need

Mainland China continues to be a powerhouse of Christian growth in the 21st century. Although the Chinese government is strictly atheist and party members are prohibited from practicing religion, there are officially 40 million Christians (both Protestant and Catholic) and unofficially 100 million Christians in the country. This represents between 3 to 7 per cent of the population, second only to Buddhists (18 per cent). The demand for Bibles increases each year.

In China today, poverty refers mainly to the rural poor, since decades of economic development has reduced urban extreme poverty. The majority of the Christian population live in rural areas.

Chinese Christians need to hear and know the word of God. They acknowledge that the Bible is the basis of faith and the means to draw wisdom for their daily life. In the face of increasing threats from false teachings and heresies, the need is pressing for their faith to be firmly founded and strengthened by the Bible.



46m

Christians (100m unofficially).

93%

of China has no access to Bibles.

60%

of Christians live in rural areas.

Goals

The goal of this project is two-fold. Firstly, to provide Bible paper to support the Church in China in printing and distributing more Bibles to the growing number of Chinese coming to know Jesus, and to support the outreach efforts of the church by sharing the word of God. These Bibles will be more affordable and will help millions of Christians to be able to purchase their own

copy. Secondly, this project aims to provide free Bibles to those who do not have the financial means to buy their own Bibles.

In 2023, the project plans to distribute 70,000 free Bibles and 1,100,000 copies of Bible paper.

This includes:

- 40,000 large-print Bibles and

500,000 copies of Bible paper

- 20,000 standard-sized Bibles and 200,000 copies of Bible paper

- 10,000 Seeker's Bibles and 200,000 copies of Bible paper

- 100,000 pocket-sized Bible papers

Impact

From the establishment of Amity Printing Company in 1987 until the end of 2019, over 86 million Bibles have been printed and distributed in China.

In 2021, this project supported the cost of Bible paper to print 417,981 affordable Bibles. Also, 148,298 copies of the Bible were supported for free distribution.

Millions of Christians in China will be encouraged by receiving their own copy of the Bible. They will have the opportunity to grow in faith and to mature in God's word. Chinese Christians also give Bibles to non-Christian friends or relatives as a form of outreach.

Through this project, at least 1,170,000 Chinese will be able to own a copy of the Bible. Their faith will also be strengthened to resist false teaching and heresy, which is an identified problem in the church in China.

Testimonies

"This is my first Bible. I was a little overwhelmed when I held it in my hands, thinking to myself that this is no ordinary book, it is the word of God!"

Yuan, a 65-year-old woman from Hebei Province.

"The Bible points to me my life's direction and goals, I started to read the Bible daily. Through reading the reading the Bible, I learn how to pray and live my life."

30-year-old farmer in the north-eastern city of Fenyang

Prayer Needs

- Please pray for smooth co-ordination of the free Bible distribution and that the beneficiaries will be encouraged to read God's word and obey it.
- Pray for the millions of poor rural Christians who still do not have their own Bible.
- Pray for China Partnership's continued strengthening of relationships with authorities.
- Pray that each non-believer or seeker who receives a copy of the Bible has their heart opened to the word of God.
- Pray for more Bibles for the growing population of Christians, that the Word of God would help the reader to grow in their understanding and belief in Jesus Christ.

