

Asia Harvest

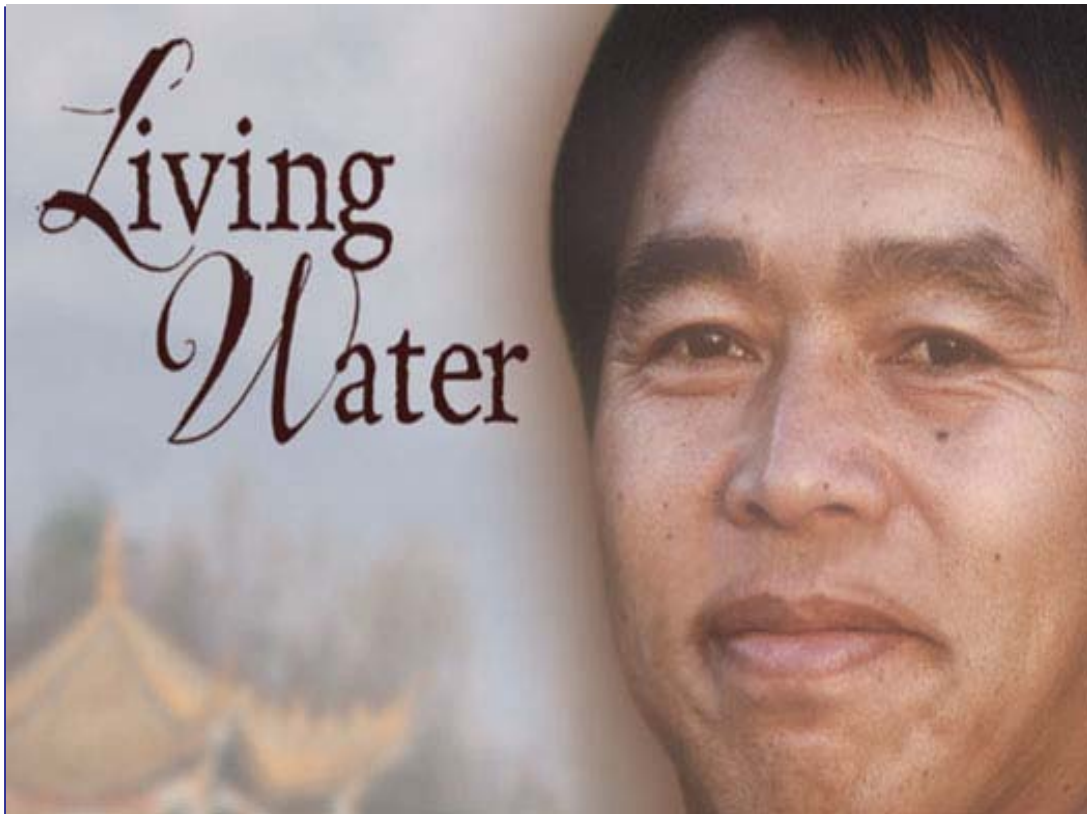


Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe! (Joel 3:13)

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Living Water

A Powerful New Book from Brother Yun

From the Front Lines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.” (John 7:37-39)

Brother Yun’s testimony, recorded in *The Heavenly Man*, has deeply impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people around the world since its publication in 2002. Indeed, you may have first heard about us and the work of Asia Harvest after reading *The Heavenly Man*. It was a joy for us to be invited to play a small part in bringing to you a new companion volume, *Living Water*.

In 1997 Brother Yun left China and began ministering to people all over the world. Since that time he has shared in more than 1,000 meetings in nations throughout Africa, Asia, North America, the Middle East, the South Pacific, as well as almost every country in Europe. He speaks of Christ’s love and His call for wholehearted commitment in a compelling way, and many people have been blessed and transformed through Yun’s message.

When we reflect on our friendship with Brother Yun, we think of his living model of what it means to remain truly humble. He is always willing to serve any person he encounters without the slightest hesitancy or reserve. Yun shares the Word of God just as passionately in large meetings with thousands of people as he does in small Bible studies with a few individuals. He consistently shies away from any desire for celebrity or the public praise of men, and can often be found staying for hours to pray with those who come forward after he speaks. He does not merely say a few words and move on. He takes a genuine interest in each person and gives them his full attention, just as Jesus did. On many occasions we’ve seen Yun kneel down and ask the people in the prayer line to pray for him.

This new book, *Living Water*, is arranged in three parts. Part One, “Freedom in Christ,” contains messages relating to the spiritual life of the believer, particularly about the need to remove all that can potentially block our relationship with God. These foundational principles lay the essential groundwork for the later chapters.

Part Two, “Streams of Living Water,” is about equipping believers for service in God’s kingdom. Brother Yun teaches God’s requirements for surrender, obedience and



Living Water

The powerful companion to the
international bestseller *The Heavenly Man*

BROTHER YUN



EDITED BY PAUL HATTAWAY

sacrifice, and that His kingdom advances through weakness rather than human strength. Yun takes the reader graciously by the hand and shows them how living water can flow from within every Christian, bringing refreshing to many thirsty souls.

Part Three, "Soldiers for Christ," explains the obstacles and storms that disciples are likely to encounter in their lives. However, Brother Yun shows that such hardships actually aid the Christian in their spiritual journey. These insights are drawn from Yun's personal experience enduring torture and pain for the sake of the Gospel. Despite his harsh experiences, Yun's life and ministry is marked by infectious joy, zeal for God, and love for his fellow man. How this can be the case in spite of all he has undergone will provide tender but practical encouragement.

Within these messages, *Living Water* includes many accounts from Yun's personal life. He openly shares his struggles, and he's frank about the long process of refining and shaping through which God has led him. Yun's teaching, therefore, carries the ring of authenticity. Brother Yun spent decades in China in the midst of the revival fires. He has seen God move in ways that many of us can only imagine. Yet, he often grieves to see among God's people a lack of obedience and a loss of true zeal for God. From a spirit of love and humility, Yun shares principles the Lord has taught him.

We pray that *Living Water* will bring relief to millions of Christians whose walk with God has become dry and barren. The source of living water is singly and undeniably found in Jesus Christ alone.

Repentance is a topic many Christians today don't like to hear about. The 19th-century British preacher Joseph Parker said, "The man whose little sermon is 'Repent' sets himself against his age, and will for the time being be battered mercilessly by the age whose moral tone he challenges. There is but one end for such a man - 'off with his head!' You had better not try to preach repentance until you have pledged your head to heaven."

In the next few Asia Harvest newsletters, we plan to bring you some selected chapters from *Living Water*. In this issue we are reprinting the first chapter of the book, on Repentance. Today the message of repentance is as unpopular as ever. Not only do we as Christians need to repent for salvation, but we need to walk in daily repentance and humility before the Lord.

We believe this book will bless and inspire people so much that we want to get it into the hands of as many as possible. If you send a donation of any amount to any Asia Harvest project, please note that you would like a copy of Living Water and we will send you one. If you can not afford to send a gift, please let us know and we will send you a complimentary copy anyway. Otherwise, information on how to order Living Water can be found in this newsletter. Living Water is also available in audio form.

LIVING WATER

by Brother Yun

“Brother Yun is fervent and fiery for Jesus. I’m sure that he will be among the Lord’s anointed of the next generation, who build the kingdom of God in the toughest places on earth. I appreciate and honor this servant of God.” – Reinhard Bonnke: German evangelist and founder of Christ for All Nations.

“Brother Yun’s life is one so totally captured by Jesus that no imaginable hardship or persecution can stop him from being more than a conqueror.” – Rolland & Heidi Baker: Missionaries to Africa and directors of Iris Ministries.

“Living Water will brace you and invigorate you as few other Christian books have. It will change your life.” – David Aikman: Journalist and author of “Jesus in Beijing”

Chapter One: Repentance

“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent” (Rev. 3:19).

One of the greatest missionaries to China in the twentieth century was a single Norwegian lady named Marie Monsen. Although I was not even born when she ministered throughout my home province of Henan, I heard many stories from elderly brothers and sisters who knew her and were blessed by her ministry.

Marie Monsen was a Lutheran missionary, but her fervency and uncompromising message frequently put her at odds with her missionary society. Church leaders told me how much Monsen loved the Chinese people, especially the family of God, and how she was willing to do whatever was necessary to serve Jesus. In those days (the 1920s and 30s), life was extremely difficult for foreign missionaries in China. They had to contend with terrible opposition everywhere they went, mobs of bandits roaming the countryside and a devastating civil war.

Monsen had one main message that she preached everywhere she went. She taught that to be a follower of Christ, a person has to first thoroughly repent of their sins. By that she didn’t simply mean that people must confess their sins and ask forgiveness. That was only the first step. She meant that their whole lives, desires, motives and plans must

be surrendered to God. Each Christian must die to self and completely hand their past, present and future over to the Lord Jesus Christ. One of her favorite Bible passages was Romans 12:1-2: *“Urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

On occasions the holy anger of God came upon Marie Monsen, and she often convicted her fellow missionaries and the Chinese church leaders of their lukewarm commitment and secret sins. Many were told they were hypocrites, and Monsen was never afraid to set forth the standard of God’s holiness. Monsen frequently asked



missionaries if they had ever really experienced a rebirth in Christ, and if they had completely surrendered their lives to Him. This must have come as a shock to many missionaries who, it was supposed, had forsaken all to serve Christ on the other side of the world. More than a few of them, however, were convicted by the searching light of the Holy Spirit and could not confidently say that they had ever been converted. Monsen led a number of her fellow missionaries into a personal relationship with Jesus.

Because most of the Henan Christians in the pre-Communism era had been so strongly challenged to thoroughly repent and be in right relationship with God, they were able to better withstand the storms of persecution that buffeted the Chinese Church throughout the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. I have heard countless stories of men and women who sacrificed their lives as martyrs for Jesus during this time. One pastor had a noose placed around his neck and was made to stand atop three tables stacked on top of each other. The pastor’s wife, children and extended family were all called to the police station to witness the scene. The officers gruffly declared, “You have two options! Either you choose to continue believing in Jesus, or you deny Jesus. Make your choice now!”

The aged pastor looked down into the eyes of his beloved family, but he knew what he must do. He calmly announced, “Even if you cut off my head and my blood covers the ground, I will never deny Jesus.”

Immediately the officers kicked the legs of the bottom table, causing the structure to collapse. In an instant the noose tightened and the pastor went to be with Jesus Christ forever.

Due to the example of many God-fearing people like this, the church in my province, which had numbered only in the tens of thousands of believers prior to 1949, today numbers in the millions. Disciples from Henan have been sent out all over China as ambassadors of the Good News.

As I have traveled around the world I have come to realize that the kind of message Marie Monsen and other missionaries preached in China is much needed today. Repentance is a foundational key to the Christian life, but in many places it has been a neglected doctrine. In countless churches today, preachers have watered down their message so that it does not bear much resemblance to the gospel as outlined in the Scriptures.

Instead of people hearing that God’s kingdom is available to all those who are willing to forsake the world and wholeheartedly follow Jesus, thousands of sermons are preached every Sunday where Jesus is presented as a Savior only, but not as Lord and Master. People are told “Jesus will help you, bless you, forgive you and empower you.” But very little is said about repentance, humility and sacrifice.

You see, we are all called to run a race for Jesus, and repentance is the start line of that race. It’s futile to try to run the race if you never made it to the start line to begin with! This is the problem with many believers today. They are trying to follow the Lord, but they have never truly repented and surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ. The result of the false gospel so prevalent today can be seen in churches full of half-hearted Christians whose lives are still centered on selfishness and the principles of the world.

Jesus came to bring the kingdom of God to the earth. He came to completely transform individuals, families and nations from the inside out—a radical revolution that would change the world through obedient, blood-bought servants who are willing to bow their knee and say, “Lord, after all you have done for me, what would you have me do for you?”

Jesus wants us to either be with him or against him. He told the church in Laodicea, “*I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth*” (Revelation 3:15-16). This message from the resurrected Lord must have been

an awful shock to the Laodicean Christians! They were well off, comfortable and self-sufficient. They probably thought that Jesus was proud of their achievements, and appreciative of their pious acts. Instead of patting them on the back, however, Jesus exposed the reality of their spiritually diseased condition: “*You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see*” (Revelation 3:17-18).

Why did Jesus say these harsh words? Did He hate the Laodicean believers? Certainly not! In fact, His motivation—as always—was one of love, tough love. He loved the Laodiceans so much that he could not sit idly and let them perish in their sin and selfishness. “*Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent*” (Revelation 3:19).

Repentance is both the first step to walking in the kingdom of God, and the key to continuing in a place of obedience and submission to the Lord. The very first message Jesus proclaimed in his ministry was, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near*” (Matthew 4:17). Without a deep experience of repentance in our lives we will continually struggle with basic sin and never mature as believers.

The devil doesn’t care if you have served the Lord in the past. What makes him frightened is if you are living for Jesus Christ *today*, relying and trusting Him right *now*, and being

willing to obey the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We may look like we belong in the kingdom of God, and we may be successful in tricking other people, but the all-knowing God cannot be fooled. We have to submit to Jesus as



Brother Yun praying with people at a Chinese church.

Lord and King if we want to dwell in His kingdom. We cannot trick God, whose “*solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: ‘The Lord knows those who are his,’ and, ‘Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness’*” (2 Timothy 2:19).

Jesus longs to have us all at His wedding banquet, but we cannot enter if we continue to live according to the principles of the world. The parable of the wedding banquet says: “*When the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are invited, but few are chosen’*” (Matthew 22:11-14).

God knows who is a citizen of His kingdom and who is an impostor. If we have received an invitation to the wedding feast of the kingdom of God, we must wear the clothes that He tells us to, and not our own. We must accept His Word and live by it, aligning our lifestyle and choices to match the commands of the King. This is repentance.

Repentance is such an integral part of Christian life. In fact, without repentance it is impossible to live in the kingdom of God. Living with one foot in God’s kingdom and one foot in the world is no different than an unfaithful spouse with two lovers. James put it quite bluntly, “*You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?*” (James 4:4-5).

John similarly wrote, “*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the carvings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever*” (1 John 2:15-17).

One day we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and be required to account for our lives. Now is the time to repent, before it is too late! “*In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead*” (Acts 17:30-31).

Dear friend, if you sense the conviction of the Holy Spirit tugging at your conscience, then fall on your knees and cry out to God from a repentant heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to take full control of your life and to help you daily walk in humility and dependence on Him.

CHINA BIBLE PRINTING



Current Total: 1,443,720 Bibles printed and delivered.

We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests from house church leaders throughout the country, requesting God's Word for their flocks. These Bibles are distributed free of charge to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning brightly. **Each full Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

Thanks to your gifts we are currently able to support 388 Asian evangelists working among 107 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.



The **Asian Workers Fund** assists church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry in Asia. These servants of the Lord have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. We only support evangelists/missionaries and not pastors, as we believe pastors should be supported by the flocks they shepherd. Please pray about whether you or your church could help in the support of these dedicated workers, at **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card will be sent to all regular donors.

SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND



Current Total: 130,399 Bibles Printed in 21 Languages

The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam contain more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. In some cases, missionaries labored for years translating the Word of God for a tribe, only to have their work cut short by the change of government. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities. **Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.**

CHINA LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

Because of your partnership we are supporting 1,129 living martyrs.



"A martyr is a Christian who chooses to suffer death rather than deny Christ or His work... One who sacrifices something very important to further the Kingdom of God and endures great suffering for Christian witness."

(The Voice of the Martyrs)

The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists who are unable to work because of their injuries or illness. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through an occasional or monthly gift of \$25 you can help support one or more of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every regular supporter.

PROJECT SMILE



Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 6,204 children in Vietnam.

Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with disabilities such as cleft palates, cleft lips and club feet, as well as others who need operations for burns, cancerous growths and other conditions. The cost of helping a child varies depending on the kind of surgery required, but each gift received of **\$60 will help a child have a better life**. A laminated prayer card of a child helped through Project Smile is sent to all donors.

ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND



Transforming lives from ashes to beauty with God's love.

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided relief assistance to the victims of natural disasters such as the 2008 earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the 2004 Tsunami, and a host of other disasters in India, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. At the same time as providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.