

Vision Beyond Borders
Prayer and Praise - December 1, 2017

“Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all the people.”
Psalm 96:3

Greetings!

For the past 31 years, I have been carrying Bibles into China to help the persecuted church. Years ago, I spoke with a pastor from Beijing who spent 22 years in a Chinese prison for his faith in Jesus Christ. He was in prison from the time he was 44 until he was 66. I met him when he was 89 years old. Meeting Pastor Allen was one of the most humbling experiences I've ever had. When I asked how we in the West could help China, he said, "First of all, pray for us. Secondly, bring us Bibles. We are desperate for Bibles." Immediately, I felt that we needed to help the Chinese Church.

In my life, I've made hundreds of trips into China, carrying Bibles to those desperately in need of God's Word. I've seen God's favor to bring us through customs for many years and, even when I've been stopped by the authorities, I've been blessed to still get Bibles through the border. Last Saturday, I was crossing into China like I have done so many times before. I was carrying 22 Pastor Study Bibles. These Bibles would cost a pastor 6-12 months of his salary to purchase one. I approached the immigration counter and the young woman behind it looked at me suspiciously. She asked why I've made so many trips to her country. She became very angry when she saw my suitcase and called the head guards over.

They escorted me to an interrogation room where I was held for 2 ½ hours. Immediately, they searched my bags and found the Bibles. They brought video cameras in and I was asked why I brought Bibles to China. When I asked questions back, I was told to be quiet. Guards watched me continuously as I waited, and many immigration and customs officials scanned me and the stack of Bibles closely with their eyes. The way they looked at me, you would have thought I had brought a suitcase full of drugs or automatic weapons into their country. At one point, eight military police stood around me -- all for bringing Bibles to donate to the persecuted church. Finally, the leader showed up and asked if I had brought Bibles to China over the years to which I answered yes. He told me, "We are cancelling your visa and confiscating your Bibles." Before he could, I asked why Bibles were illegal, and all he said was the paper quality was not good enough for their government. My visa was then cancelled and I was sent back to Hong Kong.

In the past year, we have heard of over 20 Bible couriers being kicked out of China. For some, it was their very first trip. Others were carrying only four Bibles. The Chinese government is clamping down on the Christian Church. They are trying to stop all Bibles carried in from the outside, and persecution is increasing on the inside. Christian meetings with more than ten people in attendance need permission from the government. Our contacts are being told not to

receive Bibles or teaching books from outside of China. We have heard stories that Christians are forced to take down crosses in their homes and replace them with pictures of the Chinese President, Xi Jinping. I am reminded of the days of Mao Zedong and the terror in North Korea today. Please pray for the Christians in China. Pray they will be strong in spite of opposition and oppression, and they will continue to preach the Gospel. Please also prayerfully consider making a trip to China to bring Bibles to the persecuted church. We need your support to keep helping the Chinese Church grow.

God Bless you!
Patrick

Prayer Requests

- A conference concerning Christian persecution in the Middle East will be taking place in Washington D.C. from Dec. 4 to 6. Christian leaders will be meeting to discuss possible solutions. Please pray for God gives them wisdom and guides them to his solution that will end Christian persecution not only in the Middle East but around the world.
- Please continue praying for our pastor in a closed Himalayan country in need of sponsorship. Due to the nature of his ministry in some of the most remote villages in the area, it is required that he travels long distances - most often on foot - to share the Gospel. For more information on sponsoring this pastor, please contact us at pastors@visionbeyondborders.org!
- Please pray for the provision of sewing machines! A pastor in a closed Central American country told us he needed 2,000 sewing machines for his congregation and the surrounding community. If you or someone you know has a sewing machine they'd like to give, they can be sent to USPS to PO Box 2635 Casper, WY 82602 or dropped off at 3355 Plateau St., Casper, WY 82601.

Praise Reports

- This past week was #GivingTuesday and we had a goal to raise \$3,500 to deliver 2,000 Bibles to Burmese children this December. YOU are the reason this goal was reached in just 24 hours! We are so blessed to have the opportunity to partner with you and serve the persecuted church. Thank you for choosing to be a part of the Vision Beyond Borders family!
- Last week, a Thanksgiving service was held at a rescue home for children that were at risk of becoming child soldiers. Our partner spoke at the service, saying, "May the Lord use this building as His instrument to bless thousands. May people find Jesus and complete healing in this place..." We are still in the process of purchasing the land completing construction for this home. Please email maureen@visionbeyondborders.org if you would like details on how to get involved.
- A team recently brought more than 2,000 Bibles into closed Southeast Asian countries! We are so excited that thousands of individuals and families will be touched by the

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Word of God thanks to your support. Praise the Lord for opening the borders to help His truth spread in these spiritually barren lands!

Current Needs
Pakistan Bibles

Thanks to God's provision, 2017 has been full of blessings. Faithful partners like you are the reason so many Bibles and other supplies have been brought to believers all around the world. You have given hope and encouragement to the persecuted Church. In the last stretch of this year, our goal is to raise \$60,000 to deliver 10,000 Bibles to believers in Pakistan. This is the most religiously oppressive country VBB works in, just behind North Korea, Somalia, and Afghanistan. To help bring Bibles to Christians in Pakistan, please visit visionbeyondborders.org and donate today!