



*Dear Friends,*

A couple months ago I had a very humbling experience. I had the opportunity to hold in my hand several hand-copied Chinese New Testaments. It's incredible to me to think that someone would treasure God's Word so much that they would write out chapter after chapter of God's precious truth!

I wonder how many hours were spent copying those New Testaments? Did they have to copy it late at night by candlelight? All the hours of hard work, diligently copying the Holy Scriptures, so that the person would have their very own copy of the Word of God.

At the time these New Testaments were hand-copied, there was intense persecution against Christians in China. I think it's different for us in the West these days with computers, cell phones, and iPads. With an abundance of Bibles at our fingertips, it's hard to imagine a time and place where Bibles are scarce. Christians are persecuted for their faith and meet under the cover of darkness, because of religious and/or government officials that hate the truth of God's Word.

These places of intense persecution still exist all over the world. For years we have travelled to these countries, carrying Bibles to help our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our teams risk their own personal safety to deliver God's Holy Word to those who hunger and thirst for truth. As I have walked with the Lord for almost 40 years, I see that everything is constantly changing, but the Bible never changes. God never changes; He can be trusted, as He is tried and proven. His Word never fails!

I'm thankful for the anchor of God's Word. I'm thankful for Bible translators who gave their lives so that you and I could hold in our hands the Words of life. I'm very grateful that people, whom God has saved and changed, treasured the Word of God enough to pass it on to others.

I'm still convinced that the greatest gift we can give someone is the Word of God in their own language. Salvation is a miracle, whether it happens in a red-light district, a remote village in a mountainous country, or in our neighbors across the street. A truly changed life can only happen through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

It brings tremendous joy to my heart to deliver a load of Bibles to a tribal pastor in a remote moun-

tainous village or to send Bibles to Venezuela. For years our teams have carried tens of thousands of Bibles on their backs across Communist and Muslim borders, because we are convinced that the Word of God is truth.

*Psalm 119:105*

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

*Psalm 119: 103-104*

*How sweet are your words to my taste! Yes sweeter than honey to my mouth! From your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.*

*Hebrews 4:12-13*

*For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

One day, we in America may treasure the hard copy Bible, as the Chinese have done in the past. May we be doing so even now as the government continues to remove the Scriptures from public places. I pray that you also treasure God's Holy Word enough to use it and share it.

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver God's Word around the world. The joy of seeing someone kiss his or her very first Bible is beyond words! I hope you will come join us in the adventure. "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7).

*God bless you!*

*Patrick*

