

OTAN

OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS



How beautiful upon
the mountains
are the feet of him
that bringeth good
tidings...”

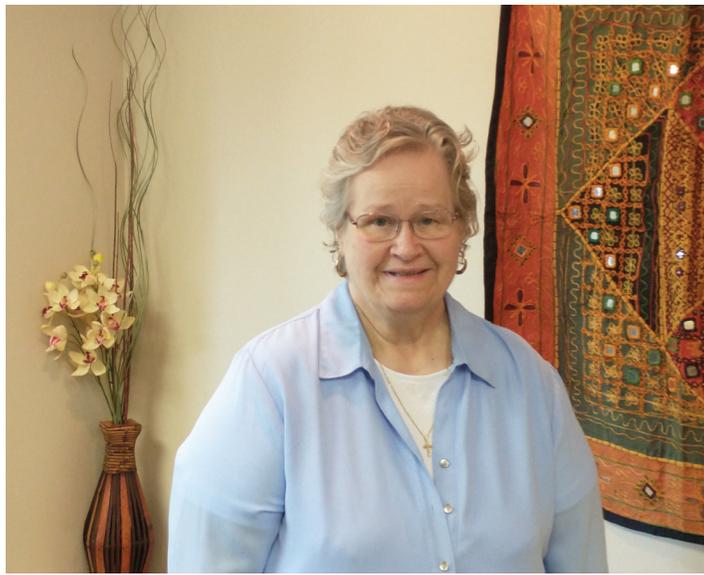
Isaiah 52:7

IN THIS ISSUE:

- A Good Friend Returns to OTAN
- Locked Down in China
- Our Middle East Conference Grows
- Help Launch a Leader in Vietnam
- OTAN Christmas Card (Insert)
- Doomy Newsletter (Insert)



**TRAINING AND RESOURCING
PERSECUTED ASIAN PASTORS
TO REACH THEIR PEOPLE**



WELCOME BACK, MARY!

A Good Friend Returns to the OTAN Team

Mary Knisley has been faithfully serving in ministry and missions for most of her life. She and her husband, Jerry, worked alongside our founders Otis and Roxann Goodwin before OTAN had launched. When Jerry passed at age 44 in 1989, Mary began working in a new ministry but was excited to reunite with the Goodwins six years later when she heard about Outreach To Asia Nationals. Always drawn to the needs of the people there, she says, “I wanted to do anything I could for Southeast Asia.”

Mary became the administrative assistant for OTAN in November of 1995, handling receipting, facilitating meetings and events, and raising funds to support orphaned children. Eventually, she became a sponsor for two young girls, one in Cambodia and one in Nepal. During the 17 years that she served OTAN, Mary witnessed countless blessings and the amazing growth of the ministry.

In 2013, Mary accepted a position with SIM International in North Carolina where she has been until this year. This summer while visiting friends at the OTAN home office, director Al Doomy asked if she would consider rejoining the staff in Virginia. “We’ve been praying for three years that you would come back,” he told her. How could she refuse!

We can’t all live in a foreign mission field or learn a new language. But we are all called to be obedient and use the gifts that we have to serve Him and His kingdom. Thank you, Mary, for being an example of a life of serving the Lord and the nations. Welcome back!

LOCKDOWNS AND WORK-AROUNDS

Life in China During the Pandemic

What has life been like in China during these past two years? Surreal. Unpredictable. Fraught with head-scratching moments.

At the start of the pandemic the response of the government was to impose quarantines on various populations. Later, that transitioned to mass testing and smaller population groups being quarantined. We’ve seen phases of mandatory mask-wearing and using apps on our phones to show that we have a current negative test.

Can you imagine how much food is needed to feed a city of 8.4 million people in just one day? Some food has been scarce at times because of shipping issues, but during the strictest of lockdowns the government provides basic food. There is not a lot of canned, preserved, or ready made food in China, so food distribution is of extreme importance.

Our focus didn’t change during the pandemic, but the way we carried out our plans surely did. We maintained our Bible school, although we had to conduct online classes. We’re still training national pastors, but that has transitioned to social and emotional support carried out indirectly through a national mediator.

Travel plans for training had to be canceled numerous times, either from COVID or the religious bureau’s restriction and persecution. However, local discipleship efforts are continuing enthusiastically.

Local churches broke into many smaller groups to continue to meet, and leaders have felt the need to raise up strong leaders within their own bodies. That emphasizes what we have been teaching all along: discipleship, discipleship, discipleship! —D

China Ministry Manager

Continue to pray with us that the church in China will flourish and be protected and that God will raise up new leaders.



COVID temperature checkpoint

FROM A HANDFUL TO HUNDREDS

Middle East Conference Reaches Egyptians

Three people. That's how many showed up at OTAN's unique Bible study training in the Middle East in 2018. But those three people were so excited and inspired by what they heard that they invited friends and family to the next event. That three-person attendance grew to 22, then 150, and recently at the 2022 training—286 including 112 refugees from the Sudan!

Led by Dr. B., the conference now features sessions that focus on learning Bible study methods, applying the lessons of Scripture, being a servant, counseling from a biblical perspective, and answering questions about the Christian faith.

Dr. B. reports, "Many nominal Christians came with our disciples as the event was partially evangelistic in nature, and many of them prayed to receive salvation. One story in particular stands out for me."

"God put in my heart before our travel to Egypt to phone a specific family from Cairo and invite them to the conference as our guests," he says. "The mother of the family came to know Christ as her personal Savior before she married. Now she has two teenagers and a great husband, but she is not walking with the Lord anymore. Lack of discipleship! They accepted the invitation and joined the conference."

"Amazingly, their two teenagers attended every session. On the third day of the conference, I met with them to chat and pray, and the husband asked, 'What shall we do?' (Just like in Acts 2:37!) They prayed and gave their hearts to Christ. After their return home, the two teenagers joined the youth fellowship of one of the churches that was with us in the conference. Now the whole family joins us every Saturday in a new online discipleship class which started as a follow-up to our conference."

Dr. B. concludes, "Please pray for this family, for three



more couples who prayed with me there, and for several teenagers who gave their lives to Christ at the event."

Feedback from the attendees was positive and inspiring. MJ noted, "I was transported back to the time of Acts 2:4, in one room, gathered together, representing different nations praying and praising God in our own tongue." And M. shared, "This conference allowed me to see how God uses the mature people in His family to guide, edify and bless others—through teaching, prayer and hearing about people's struggles."

Pray for these new disciples and for the online classes that provide continuing training and follow-up for them. We're so grateful for your prayers and for your financial support.

LAUNCH A LEADER IN VIETNAM

What can \$110 a month do?

OTAN's Vietnam Mobile Bible College is celebrating! In January of 2023, we'll be graduating 25 students who have participated in numerous Bible classes on doctrine and evangelism over a two-year period. The time commitment and the intense focus of the trainings provide a level of study equivalent to an associate degree, strengthening our future goal of Vietnamese nationals facilitating every facet of the VMBC.

You can help us launch five of these graduates to serve on our Vietnam

teaching staff. A gift of \$110 a month will supplement the income of one of these new leaders, giving them the time and resources to prepare messages, serve the community, shepherd their congregations, and teach the next class of Mobile Bible College students.

To help support these five pastors, choose any of the donation instructions on the back of this newsletter and be sure to note that your gift is for the Vietnam Mobile Bible College graduates. Thank you!





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Partner By Giving

“Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.” Philipians 4:17

To partner with us financially, visit our website, otan.org/give. Or give by check to P.O. Box 2440 Winchester, VA, 22604. Please designate your gift in the memo line.

An easy and secure way to give is by text-2-give. Text “OTANtraining” and your gift amount to 540-274-5524 (example: OTANtraining 75).



Partner By Praying

“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.” Ephesians 3:1-2

If you feel challenged or inspired by this update, please join us in prayer. Without Him, we can do nothing.

Want to learn to effectively pray for missionaries? Visit otan.org/pray.



Partner By Going

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

This charge was given to all believers. Not everyone is able to go to foreign fields, but every believer can ask themselves the question, “Am I called to go?”

Is God calling you into the mission field? We’d love to talk to you about it! Connect with us at otan.org/serve.

