

OTAN

OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS



O Lord, how manifold are thy works!
In wisdom hast thou made them all:
the earth is full of thy riches.

Psalm 104:24



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Inroads in Indonesia
- Next Steps for MBC Grads
- Mobilizing into Myanmar
- Teaching Tribal Women
- Why We Give to OTAN
- Doomy Newsletter (Insert)

Fishing with cormorants
Guangxi Province, China

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



Busy marketplace in Bandung, Indonesia

INROADS IN INDONESIA

Micro-Businesses and Unreached People

CW has been OTAN's Indonesia Ministry Manager for more than 11 years. A flourishing part of his work in Indonesia has been helping church planters establish micro-businesses. These businesses not only provide income for the church planters but also for new believers.

"Most new believers are forced out of their homes because of persecution. The business would be something that the church planters would have some familiarity with, such as a laundry business, or a fish farm, or a small food stand called a *warung*," CW says.

In March, CW met with another mission organization as they conducted a church planting and discipleship seminar in the country. "Currently, we are working in partnership with an organization from Manila to develop a national team to send throughout Indonesia," he reports. "We are also working to strategically identify unreached people groups within the country."

In a country of 270 million people, only about ten percent identify as Christians. Pray that the nationals who attended this seminar will spark the blaze of a church planting movement in Indonesia.

NEXT STEPS FOR MBC GRADS

OTAN Expands Training for Pastors

Over 90% of Asian pastors have no biblical education, and most have no access to instructional materials. Asian pastors tell us, "We need people to come and teach us. We will put our lives on the line, but we need training."

In February, OTAN's Vietnam Mobile Bible College presented certifications to 25 graduates! Over the last two and a half years, these national students met together online and in person for training in biblical studies, pastoral care, evangelism, counseling, church administration, and more. Their level of accomplishment is the equivalent of an associate degree.

Beginning in 2023, Mobile Bible College will be expanding into Nepal. And there's more good news!



2023 Vietnam Mobile Bible College Graduates

We are excited to announce the formation of OTAN Bible Institute. As our national pastors continue to ask for and to seek advanced training, OTAN has created a more in-depth program of studies that will take pastors to the next level in their education.

OTAN Bible Institute will provide advanced education and training to pastors who have completed MBC or have other previous biblical instruction. Executive Director Al Doomy explains, "OBI will impact the pastors we've been training, challenging them in their spiritual walk, helping them go deeper into the Word of God, and giving them a finished educational certification."

Al says, "OTAN's mission reminds me of the position of quartermaster in the military. The quartermaster finds out what the troops need and then resupplies them. The Asian pastors that we work with are definitely 'in the trenches.' They risk their lives not only for the people that they pastor but they risk their lives trying to get the training that they need to lead their people skillfully and biblically. And OTAN...we're the quartermaster for these pastors. We find out what they need, and we resupply them."

OTAN Bible Institute's first session will begin in Vietnam this August. OBI will consist of 10 courses including Christian ethics, biblical counseling, and spiritual formation. Graduates of OBI will receive a certification from New England Bible College and Seminary.

In memory of our beloved Chinese sister and ministry partner

Dan Dan

Home with the Lord
April 2, 2023

Her beautiful spirit,
her shining faith,
and her important contacts
opened many doors
for the gospel in China.
She was a gift from God to OTAN.



MOBILIZING INTO MYANMAR

Opening Doors through Education

Surrounded geographically by Bangladesh, India, China, Laos, and Thailand, the country of Myanmar (formerly Burma) is home to eight nationalities with 135 people groups and languages. Buddhism is the religion of 88% of the population, while about four percent of people are Muslims and another two percent practice various tribal religions.

Most Christians, who make up about six percent of the country's nearly 54 million people, come from the Chin, Kachin, and Karen (Kayin) ethnic nationalities. Dr. Thuam Khai, OTAN's Assistant Ministry Manager to Myanmar, was born in Chin State and raised in a Christian family. He became a believer as a teenager in 1993 and followed the call of God to bring the gospel to the Burmese people.

After coming to the United States in 2008, Dr. Khai founded Judson Education Center, an organization dedicated to biblical education for Myanmar nationals living in the US and for those who seek refuge in Malaysia. Still maintaining ties to churches in three Myanmar



Bagan, Myanmar



Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Myanmar

states, his partnership with OTAN will allow us to begin a much-needed outreach into this country.

As OTAN identifies the needs of the Burmese people, it's clear that basic education is a necessity for many tribal people. The Bible has been translated into many of Myanmar's languages, but how can a pastor grow in the knowledge of God's Word if he can't read it?

A primary phase of OTAN's outreach in Myanmar will be to facilitate the education of tribal pastors. While the highest benefit of this is to give pastors the ability to read the Word of God, another important benefit follows: respect. A man who can read gains the respect and attention of his fellow villagers. And a pastor who is able to read can not only find personal strength and encouragement from God's Word but can teach the Word more accurately and more confidently to his village.

In the future, our work in Myanmar will also include the secondary education and training of deacons and Sunday school workers, which will help strengthen local churches and support our national pastors.

TEACHING TRIBAL WOMEN

By Joy Doomy, Director of Women's Ministry

"Why does OTAN have a women's ministry? I thought they were training pastors."

Great question! OTAN exists to train and resource persecuted Asian pastors to reach their own people. An integral part of helping these pastors is helping their wives. These men are faced with overwhelming obstacles and need all the support they can get. Often, they have very little education and their wives have even less.

In many places in Asia, we fight the often-held view that women are "less than." We've seen that training pastors' wives strengthens the ministry and gives greater accountability. Also, as the men see that we value the contribution of their wives, their own esteem for their wives will grow, affecting whole communities.

The daily challenges for these women are great. Many times, they work even harder and longer than the men to

meet the needs of their families. The tribal women who come for training are often exhausted and literally must move around to stay awake, but they desperately want to know the Word of God. They challenge our hearts and humble us as we see their willingness through many difficult obstacles.

The amount of doctrinal instruction that women receive at OTAN trainings is more than the average tribal pastor will ever have the privilege to obtain. We praise the Lord that He is still growing His church in the face of persecution, poverty, low education, and lack of training. We want to do all we can to help equip our brothers and sisters to do the work of God well. Imagine how impactful a trained pastor and pastor's wife can be in a small community, working together as salt and light and reflecting the image of Christ and His church!

Please take a moment today to pray for these women and to thank God for their desire to know Him and His Word.



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Want to use the text-to-give option? Text "OTANtraining" and your gift amount to 540-274-5524 (example: OTANtraining 75).



Partner By Praying

If you feel challenged or inspired by this update, would you consider praying for this ministry? We're so grateful for the prayers of our fellow believers.

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



Partner By Going

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.

WHY WE GIVE TO OTAN

Plainville Baptist Church has been a supporter of OTAN since Otis and Roxann Goodwin founded it in 1986, and we have increased our support over the decades. As a strongly missions-minded church, we share their vision for missions.

There is a world of unreached peoples who largely reside in what is called the "majority world" within the 10/40 Window (between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator) in which lives some 60% of the world's more than 8 billion people. These 4.8 billion souls, most having never heard the name of Jesus, live in Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.

It also happens to be where God is presently doing His greatest work, as the world's fastest growing churches are said to be in this very part of the world today.

Since that is where the greatest need is and the greatest work is taking place, we want to be like fuel poured out upon that fire—that history's greatest harvest might take place, and that we might be a part of Christ's reward! Go OTAN!

~Harold Crowell World Mission Support Team Director, Plainville Baptist Church