

OTAN

OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS



How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:14

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Hmong child in Vietnam mountain village

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

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS OF ASIA

Encouraging Chinese and Russian leaders

In his first trip to China since the COVID pandemic, OTAN's executive director Al Doomy met with a representative from our 7 Russian pastors and with students in our 2-year discipleship training school.

Al presented the principles of the "Experiencing God" study to the 7 men and 5 women who live in the school's secured location.

"We talked about having a 'plan of our own' versus seeking God's plan. God is always inviting us to join Him in HIS plan. They really grasped that and were excited about the principles. They spent hours after the sessions asking questions and taking notes," Al said.

"I know they'll be taking these principles back to their cities and villages and sharing them with others."



After traveling discreetly to a town near the Russian border, Al was able to meet with one of OTAN's Russian pastors. "He told us about the disconnect that he and the other pastors feel right now—feeling that the world is angry with them because of the war with Ukraine. We spent time with him, praying for him, encouraging him, and asking him to convey our love to the other pastors."

An important trip to Russia is planned for January 2024. Pray for the success and safety of that trip. To donate, choose "Russia Ministry" from the "Give" page at otan.org. Note "Russia 2024 trip" in your online gift or on your gift by check.



Thank you for praying for our September Laos Marriage Conference couples!

"I can see where I have been hard on my wife. I have not appreciated her. We have learned so much. It's been so good! We are going to try to apply these things in our marriage."

Laos pastor/conference attendee

REACHING LEADERS AND REFUGEES

An update from Dr. B. on Middle East ministries



One week before our September trip, I received a phone call from Brother J. who is running a ministry among the Sudanese refugees in Egypt. He was visiting a group of Sudanese leaders who are working among the youth.

For 3 years, they tried to plan a conference for the youth, but they failed due to lack of funds. These young people can barely meet their daily need for food and shelter, and they cannot afford the expense of a conference. I raised my heart to the Lord in prayer.

We praise God that with only 2 weeks' notice they found and booked a conference center that was affordable, and 105 young people were able to gather to pray, worship, and study the Word of God.

During the conference, more than 20 people raised their hands to accept the Lord and move from death to life (John 5:24). Some of them came to pray with us after the meeting, and 17 of them signed up to be part of follow-up discipleship groups. Praise God!

Our second conference was for pastors, church leaders, and their wives. About 180 people attended, and the theme of the conference was "Restore Your Call."

The Lord blessed us beyond expectation. The harmony in the topics and the flow of the teaching showed the power and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We had amazing prayer meetings full of power and repentance, and all the sessions streamed on Facebook. To follow up, we started a Zoom Bible study group with some of the pastors.

Thank you for praying for us as we traveled and taught in Egypt. Please pray for the pastors, leaders, and wives who attended our training conference, that it would be life changing for them.

Pray also for the Sudanese refugees who believed in Jesus as their Savior and for those who want to join our discipleship groups. Pray for our Middle East ministry leadership team and for our plans to return to Egypt next year. We're so grateful for your prayers and for your financial support.

Give securely at otan.org and choose "Middle East" from the list.

TEACHING AMONG THE HMONG

An update from Jim and Sue

Our September trip was stressful, but it has also provided us with tremendous blessings. Just prior to leaving the US, one of our team teachers had to have emergency surgery. The teaching load had to be adjusted and divided between the 2 remaining teachers. It was exhausting, especially considering the heat, but as always, God's grace proved to be sufficient.

The Hmong people traveled as long as 24 hours to get to the sessions. One group was from a heavily persecuted province in the far north near the China border where being a Christian can get you killed. Another woman wept on Sue's shoulder as she told how she and her husband were forced out of their village when they became believers.

The women in the ladies' sessions were from 4 different tribal regions. Though they all understood Vietnamese, they each had their own tribal language as well. At one point each group was singing in their tribal language. With our English added in, we were worshipping together in 5 languages!



Hmong people in marketplace



Hmong village in Vietnam

We taught a course on apologetics from the OTAN Bible Institute curriculum for the first time in Vietnam. That group of men is the most educated of all the ones we train, and they had lively discussions and challenging dialog.

At our second location high in the central highlands, we taught the first course with our second class of students for Mobile Bible College. What a great group of young pastors-in-the-making! They are sharp, determined, disciplined, and so grateful.

One of our primary topics was one that the people requested: marriage and family. The Hmong marry very young and, especially the older generation, lean toward a male dominant culture. We shared love and respect principles, encouraging them to be a united team in serving the Lord.

This country is teeming with people, very few of whom have ever heard the gospel. Pray for the Hmong people, for their safety as they return to their villages, and for the teaching of Scripture to flourish in their lives.

FROM SEEKING TO SERVING

Support is needed for a young Japanese pastor

"Emptiness and despair." Those are the two words Taiga uses to describe his life before he knew about the love of Jesus.

When Taiga was in high school, his parents divorced, leaving him troubled and despondent. At one point, he considered ending his life.

Taiga's walk to work led him past Christ Bible Church in Shimonoseki where Tony, OTAN's Japan Ministry Manager, is the pastor. Seeing the lighted cross on the front of the church, Taiga decided to try one more time to find help.

That Sunday, he visited the church. After the service, Pastor Tony met and talked with Taiga personally. Tony shared the gospel story, and Taiga prayed to receive Christ as his Savior.

During Taiga's college years, he met with Pastor Tony regularly to study the Scripture and to talk about the

Christian faith and the goodness of God. After college, Taiga began to feel the strong call of God on his life. He wanted to become a pastor.

"The deep roots of idol worship and of Japanese traditions have made the Japanese dull in spirit," Taiga says. "I believe God wants me to share Christ with Japanese who are also empty and full of despair so they can find joy and purpose in a life with Christ."

Pastor Tony says, "Taiga has been on our staff as a pastor in training while also taking Bible classes online. He is teaching several small groups as well as one-on-one discipleship. He has become a vital part of our outreach ministry and is growing in his own pastoral experiences and skills."

Nationals reaching nationals is what OTAN is all about. Would you consider helping to meet the needs of Taiga as he steps into his new role as a pastor in Shimonoseki, Japan?

Give securely at otan.org and choose "Japan Pastor Support."



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Give online at otan.org or by check to P.O. Box 2440, Winchester, VA, 22604. Please designate your gift in the memo line.

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

We were introduced to OTAN years ago in Maine by Otis Goodwin, the founder of OTAN. We were moved by the testimonies of how OTAN would preach the Word in countries that you weren't "supposed to."

When we first got married, we gave 10 percent of our income to our local church, and God impressed it upon our hearts to give another 10 percent to missions through faith promise giving. God always provided that money. We were never short.

We always say, "If God has put it upon your heart to give, ask Him how He is going to provide." You can't outgive God. We encourage people who aren't giving to missions to start by giving a little. If we start trusting God with a little, He's going to lead us to bigger things. God supplies for His work.

God is at work in our giving. He's using it toward the ultimate goal of reaching every nation with the Gospel. That's a direct commission from Christ, and that's what OTAN is doing. As believers, we can be part of that, and it's a rich, rich blessing!

~ Mr. and Mrs. B.