

OTAN

OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS



For God *so loved* the world...

神 爱 世 人



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

PASTORING IN A TIME OF WAR

Russian pastors share challenges and joys

“From the first day, you could tell they were starving for fellowship.” That’s how OTAN director Al Doomy describes his July meeting with our Russian pastors.

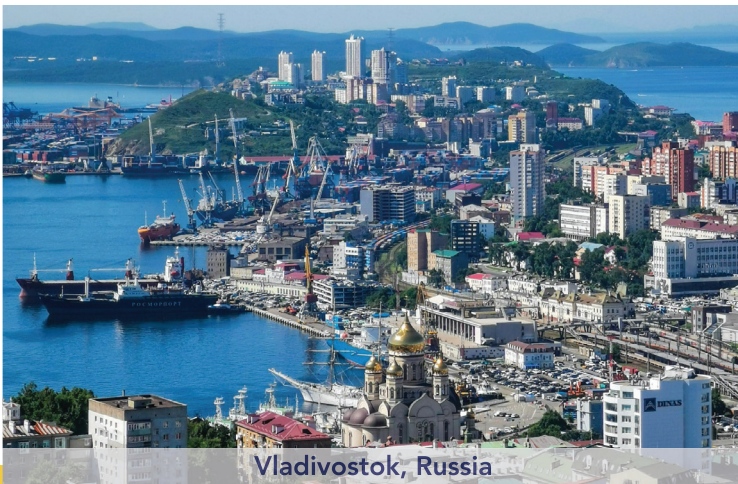
Since the war began two years ago, OTAN has struggled to stay connected to our 10 pastors in Russia’s far east (Asia). One pastor’s home near a military base falls under strict government travel controls due to fear of espionage. Getting much-needed funds to them has been even more difficult. Unable to enter Russia, we arranged a secluded gathering with 6 of these leaders and their wives in a city in Southeast Asia.

Although Russia’s east coast is more than 6,000 miles from the war front in Ukraine, many of our pastors have seen their congregations’ fathers and sons called into military service. Al says, “They told us that people have tried to flee the country to protect their children from being drafted. Many of these families have experienced loss and death from a war that they oppose but don’t have the freedom to speak out against. They were exhausted and worn down, but they were so happy to see us...so grateful for the time of fellowship,” Al says.

Because of the added strain that the war has placed on families and marriages, the pastors requested some marriage training that would build skills to help them counsel husbands and wives and to teach biblical concepts of healthy, Christ-centered marriages.

The pastors also shared some incredible news about their outreach to Russians, not only in eastern Russia but across the country. In the fall of 2023, OTAN’s pastors began a time of prayer, live and online through Facebook. Many local people joined the daily sessions. Then word began to spread, and Russians from surrounding areas joined. Soon the number grew and even included Ukrainians. Now more than 1,000 people join these daily sessions, praying for peace as well as for personal, congregational, and societal needs.

Today, please pray for these pastors, for Russians and Ukrainians who are suffering, for Russian and Ukrainian Christians to find strength in Christ, and for an end to the war.



Vladivostok, Russia

THE GOSPEL: A FIRM FOUNDATION

Help is needed to print Bible lessons for the Lahu



Lahu pastors and wives studying the Bible

Joshua Chan, a Thai national, trains and resources pastors from the tribal Lahu people in northern Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam. His wife, Samollay, is a key ministry helper, translating much of the curriculum used to teach the pastors.

“In many countries, the Lahu people are treated as outcasts. They are often poor and uneducated, and it can be very hard for them to find jobs,” says Joshua.

Life becomes even more difficult for the Lahu who choose to follow Jesus. Joshua says, “They are afraid to become Christians because they will be seen as turning their backs on their family and tribal religions. There is much spirit worship among the tribes, and tribal spiritual leaders will consider them enemies.”

But God has opened doors among the Lahu, and many Lahu pastors have been trained and resourced over the years. Their favorite training topics are the ones that help them learn important skills to run a church. But the most requested trainings are always those that focus on the gospel. “Sometimes new leaders don’t always know how to identify cults. These pastors want a sound foundation. They want to clearly understand the gospel and be able to teach it,” Joshua says.

Joshua has also written and produced a set of 10 lessons to teach basic Bible knowledge to the Lahu people. Lessons include focused studies on who Jesus is, what salvation means, understanding the Holy Spirit, Old and New Testament surveys, and more. Because of issues with the postal system, lessons are often hand-delivered and later collected in person, giving Joshua and his team a chance to connect personally with men and women who have never studied the Scriptures before. One young Lahu woman told us, “Now I know that Jesus is not just for the Jews, but He is for ME, too! Thank you!”

Joshua and his team need help funding the printing of 1000 sets of these foundational lessons. Each set of 10 lessons costs about \$15 to print. Could you give a gift of \$30, \$60, or \$90 to bring these lessons to the Lahu who are hungry to know Jesus and to study the Word of God? Send a check to OTAN with the memo “Thailand” or give securely online at OTAN.org. Click the “Give” tab, then choose “Thailand Ministry” from the menu.

UNITY & LOVE AMONG CHRISTIANS

Ministry managers' hopes and prayers

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before (him); and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem." Luke 9:51-53

We came back to the US for a wedding recently, and as we traveled around, I was shocked by how things have changed in the Christian community and the US as a whole. There seemed to be a lack of love or concern for sharing the gospel with people around the world or even across the street. We need to get back to loving each other and caring for one another!

Living and working internationally makes us see things in a different light. We have a deep love for those we work with and for the unbelievers around us. With the divide in our own country as well as two wars around the globe, so many people seem to have lost the love for others that is indicative of being a Christian. Christ came to save the lost, not to build walls between people.

The week we returned, we were able to travel to meet Al and Joy for a training in Southeast Asia with six Russian pastors and their wives. Since the war began, OTAN has not been able to go into Russia.

However, this was a great time of encouragement—to be able to love other brothers and sisters that have not only been going through the political strains of sanctions but also persecution for being Christians. They



Crowds at the Great Wall in autumn

were so uplifted and strengthened to keep preaching the gospel and doing the good work.

We are in a battle against an enemy that will do anything to destroy and or deceive. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

We will keep our eyes on Jesus and His calling for us and not be distracted by the world and Satan's temptations. Jesus has won the war already! We will "set our faces" to unify the body and work together to bring the gospel to as many people as we can.

I plead for you to help us in prayer as we work in this hostile world. We are not here to build our kingdom—but His.

D, OTAN China Ministry Manager

MOBILE BIBLE COLLEGE IN NEPAL Pastors serve and train at great risk

In Nepal's population of about 31 million people, less than 2% are followers of Jesus. Life has always been difficult for Christians in Nepal, but reports of persecution are on the rise. One Nepali church was recently taken over by authorities and turned into an office building.

Evangelism is only permitted inside a Nepali church and only if someone asks to hear the gospel message. Gospel conversations cannot be initiated by believers. Public baptisms (in a river or lake) have been outlawed. Private baptisms in a church are legal, but notarized documentation must be completed to verify that the person being baptized has not been coerced in any way.

Our Nepali pastors often minister to their people at great personal risk, yet they continue to seek the skills and training to teach the Word of God and to serve their small congregations. Many of these men are full-time farmers, and some traveled more than 10 hours by bus to be part of our recent July training. Nine new pastors joined us this summer, along with 4 women who are studying Scripture and learning how to lead women's ministries in their home churches.



Some of the pastors at the August training in Nepal

At our most recent Nepal Mobile Bible College training, pastors and leaders learned Bible study methods and rules of interpreting Scripture. The MBC curriculum features 10 subjects that also include Old and New Testament surveys, biblical doctrine, discipleship, missions, and evangelism. The MBC program takes 2 1/2 years to complete, and students can earn credit towards a degree from Dallas Theological Seminary.

In the face of hardship and persecution, these Nepali pastors and leaders are dedicated to the biblical study and discipline needed to teach and lead their people.

Support OTAN's work in Nepal by sending a check or by giving securely online at otan.org, then choose "Nepal Mobile Bible College" from the drop-down menu.



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Partner By Giving

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 have known about OTAN for over 25 years when they came to do a presentation at our church. We learned that their goal was to educate Asian people to reach their own countrymen with the gospel.

As we are committed to missions and the spreading of the gospel throughout the world, the purpose of OTAN has become even more important today. The political climate, the difference in cultures, and the expense of sending missionaries to a foreign country can make it difficult—if not impossible—for a church in North America to send missionaries. OTAN remains committed to breaking down these barriers through their outreach and education of national believers.

No one can share the gospel more effectively than a believer who is part of the culture already and committed to the great commission of Jesus Christ themselves."

~ Kent and Linda Burke, OTAN partners