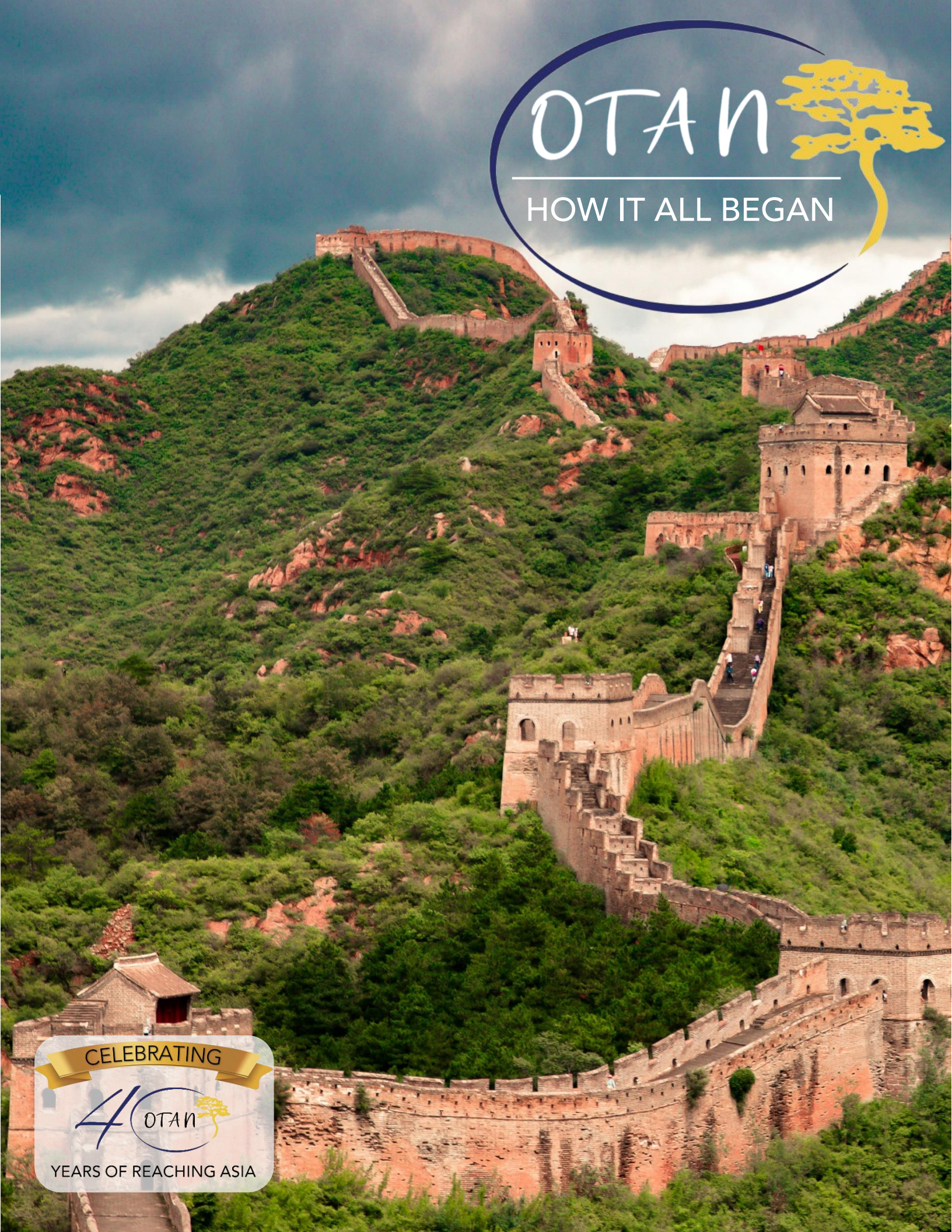




OTAN

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

CELEBRATING

40 OTAN

YEARS OF REACHING ASIA

“I want to serve you. I want to come alongside you and give you the tools to enable you to reach China for the Lord’s kingdom. What can I do?”

When Otis Goodwin asked a small group of Chinese pastors that question in June of 1984, he had no idea how the pastors—or the Lord—would answer.

Otis and Roxann Goodwin were in their late 30s when Otis believed the Lord was calling him to full-time Christian ministry. He and Roxann packed up their belongings and their three children and moved to Lynchburg, Virginia, so Otis could attend Liberty College (later Liberty University).

While there, Otis heard one of the college’s leaders in the missions department share a message focusing on the need to take the gospel into “all the world.” The Goodwins had always assumed they would return to the security and familiarity of their home state of Maine where Otis would pastor a small church not unlike the ones they had both grown up in.

But that day when Otis returned home, he said to Roxann, **“I think the Lord is calling us into missions.”**

He also began to sense an unexplainable burden for China and the Chinese people. As Roxann says, **“That was the beginning of our incredible journey of going into ‘all the world.’”**



After Otis’ graduation from Liberty, the couple began the lengthy and complex process of applying with an internationally-known mission board. After many meetings, questions, discussions, and testing, they were declined. The main reason? Now at 42 years of age, they were considered too old to make the many adjustments that would be necessary.

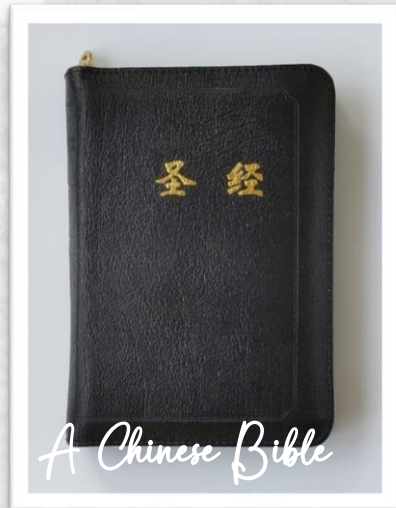
It wasn’t long before the Goodwins were accepted by another mission board, and Otis found himself on a survey trip to China alongside one of his former Liberty College professors. The Liberty professor had several contacts in China among the underground house church pastors, and a meeting was set up.

Late one night, Otis and the professor left their lodgings, walking through dark alleys and constantly looking behind them to make sure they weren’t being followed. They arrived at the home of one of the Chinese underground church pastors where they met another pastor. Not long after arriving, there was a knock at the door.

Fearing that they had been followed by police, the host pastors quickly hid the two Americans in a small room. When they cautiously opened the front door, they were relieved to see a fellow

Chinese pastor there. Though the meeting had been kept a secret, the man stepped inside and said timidly, **“The Lord told me to come to this home tonight because there were people here that I needed to meet.”**

As Otis talked with the men, he was overwhelmed by their love for the Lord and their dedication to their small, secret churches. And something else overwhelmed Otis—the many needs of the Chinese church.



Otis would later tell Roxann, **“They told what it was like being in prison for 20-25 years during China’s Cultural Revolution. The Christians had no Bibles. All the Bibles had been burned and seminaries were closed during this terrible time in China. One pastor said that when he was set free, he went home to see his wife for the first time in 20 years. They hardly recognized each other.”**

As the meeting concluded, Otis said to the pastors, **“I want to serve you. I want to come alongside you and give you the tools to enable you to reach China for the Lord’s kingdom. What can I do?”**

When Otis returned home, he and Roxann began preparing to serve China through the reach of their mission board. But, as Roxann says, **“The rug was pulled out from under us.”** Their mission board had decided that the ministry that Otis and Roxann were beginning to pursue in China did not fit the organization’s vision. They told the Goodwins to find a different organization.

By this time, Otis and Roxann were sure that God was calling them to impact China by training and equipping Chinese house church pastors who desperately needed help. Roxann says, **“I was devastated, crushed, and perplexed, all at the same time.”**

One of Otis’s favorite verses was Proverbs 11:14: **“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”** The Goodwins met with their pastor and their church’s deacons for prayer and guidance. Their advice was clear: **“If God has called you to this, start your own organization.”**

In September of 1986—just weeks after being released from their mission board—Otis and Roxann founded Outreach To Asia Nationals. **“We prepared our little spare bedroom to become an office,”** Roxann says. **“We took the bed apart and leaned it against the wall. Otis’s first office chair was a lawn chair!”** With two donations from friends and family, the new organization’s bank account totaled \$750.



In the last 40 years, Outreach To Asia Nationals (OTAN) has grown to train and equip pastors in 13 Asian countries...reaching nations by training nationals. Otis passed away in July of 2007, and Roxann is now retired and lives in New England with her daughter Jana. Both Otis and Roxann left behind examples of lives dedicated to bringing the gospel to the nations and trusting Christ in all things.

OTAN's current Executive Director Al Doomy says, **"The Goodwins sowed deep seeds into our lives, and we seek to follow that pattern as we move forward. The shoes are not to be filled, but the footprints they've left are always before me. I praise God for such a passionate and faithful man as Otis Goodwin and for such a Spirit-filled and surrendered woman as his dear wife, Roxann. It has been one of the greatest blessings of my life to know them."**



Joy Doomy, OTAN's Women's Ministries Director, says, **"God calls us to live a big life, a life bigger than we can manage on our own. He calls us to a life dependent on His divine intervention. We, the body of Christ, live it together... serving and sur-rendering to the One who makes it possible. Thank you for partnering with OTAN in this big work."**



"We have to serve God; we cannot serve fear." ~ Otis Goodwin