

OTAN

OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS

But when He saw the multitudes,
He was moved with compassion for them,
Because they were weary and scattered,
like sheep having no shepherd.

Matthew 9:36

Devotees bring offerings to Murugan
Batu Caves, Malaysia

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TRAINING AND EQUIPPING
PERSECUTED ASIAN PASTORS
TO REACH THEIR PEOPLE

CELEBRATING
40 OTAN
YEARS OF REACHING ASIA

TRAINING PASTORS IN LAOS

Twenty pastors represented 100+ churches

How do we choose topics for pastor trainings? “We ask the leaders what they want to learn about, and we do our best to teach on those subjects,” says Arthur, OTAN’s Laos Ministry Manager. In a country where 66% of the population is Buddhist, 30% ascribe to animism, and less than 3% are evangelical Christians, the core group of pastors that OTAN works with is making an impact. “We had 20 pastors at the April training in the northern part of the country, and those leaders are connected to more than 100 churches, most of them house churches.”

The recent training sessions focused on several key principles in biblical leadership. “For example we talked about knowing our limits and maintaining balance in our lives,” Arthur explains. “The limits were broken down into three different areas: our spiritual life, our relational life, and our work life.”

For many of these men, the strain of shepherding a church, leading and serving their families, and working long days at menial jobs can be completely exhausting. They are constantly pulled in many directions. At a previous training, Arthur recalls talking with one pastor who was struggling. He says, “The pastor’s wife was upset with him because he was always gone. Everybody wanted the pastor to come see them for their needs. They didn’t want another church leader to come. They wouldn’t listen to someone else. They only wanted the pastor to come. That was important for us to talk about because if you’re not available for your wife or kids, you’re going to get out of balance and have problems. These are issues that we face here in the West too.”

When asked how to pray for these leaders, Arthur doesn’t hesitate. “Pray for their safety. Even though most of these men are part of a registered group of churches that is sanctioned by the government, terrible things still happen. Some have been kicked out of their homes and villages because of a village chief who had the final say. Some have lost jobs, and there have been some Lao pastors who have even lost their lives.”

We’re so grateful for your prayers for our Laos ministry and for your gifts that make these trainings possible. Give securely online today at otan.org. Click the “Give” tab and choose “Laos Ministry” from the giving menu.



Laos Pastor training, April 2026

TEACHING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

OTAN partner church educates refugee children



Our director with Burmese refugees at Malaysia school

A 2026 report from a United Nations refugee agency noted that there are more than 190,000 displaced Myanmar nationals (known as Burmese) living in Malaysia. Most are Muslims from the Rohingya people group. Last year OTAN added Malaysia to the 13 countries where we serve because our Burmese church leaders in Malaysia shared their most critical need: education for the children of these displaced people.

This spring, OTAN’s Executive Director Al traveled to Malaysia. He says, “In Malaysia, anti-conversion laws are in place. But if you’re not Malaysian you can be a Christian, and you can share the gospel with other non-Malaysians. This opens the door for ministry.”

“There are tens of thousands of people without residential status in the country, and their children are not permitted to attend public school,” Al says. “Our partner church in Malaysia—a group of about 100 Burmese nationals—has opened a school for these children. The school is openly Christian, and they’re educating over 700 refugee children from all religious backgrounds... Hindu, Muslim, and Christian.”

The difficulties of being a refugee in a foreign country take their toll on children as well as on their parents. “When I asked them what they wanted to be when they grew up, I saw a lot of blank stares. These kids can’t think about the future. They can only focus on the needs of today.”

Our partner church leaders tell us that this school is the only chance for these children to have an education. It’s also the first time that most of them have heard about Jesus’ love for them. Al says, “English is a benefit to these kids, and their parents are so glad to have a school for them. But along with their education, our Burmese partner church wants to introduce these children to Jesus. When a child comes to Christ and has a changed heart, the parents see it and want to know more. We want to help this church be able to keep this school running.”

Pray for the church leaders who run this school, for the displaced children who attend, and for the hope of the gospel to change many hearts. At otan.org, choose the “Give” tab, then choose “Malaysia/Burmese Refugee School” from the giving menu to support this outreach.

IN THE HIGHLANDS OF VIETNAM

Two levels of training for new & seasoned pastors

“One of the things they want to know is how to live their lives as pastors while at the same time being full-time farmers growing coffee, cashews, and other crops” says Matt, one of OTAN’s Vietnam teaching team.

During the most recent training in the central highlands of the country, about 85 pastors and leaders attended two different levels of instruction. Newer students attended Old Testament survey classes as part of OTAN’s Mobile Bible College (MBC). More seasoned leaders joined us for advanced studies including sessions on Christian counseling in our OTAN Bible Institute (OBI).

Jim, OTAN’s Vietnam Ministry Manager, says, “Courses like these provide a good overall understanding of the Bible. We had the opportunity to talk to some former MBC graduates who expressed deep appreciation for the curriculum and told us how much it has helped them in their ministry.” Pastor D, a key Vietnamese contact, also shared his gratitude for the courses and has requested a Zoom call to discuss future trainings.

Jim and Matt were able to visit several churches during the spring trip. Matt says, “We heard about a young pastor who had experienced a critical health issue and had passed away. His widow was living in a tent that was set up behind the church. Other pastors and believers who were close by really rallied to help this woman and to come alongside the church. It was a deeply touching thing to see.”



Harvesting coffee in Vietnam

“We also met a man who had spent 13 years in a Vietnamese prison for speaking out against the government,” says Jim. “In jail, he met a pastor who had been persecuted and arrested for his faith. The man heard the gospel from this pastor and eventually put his faith in Christ. After being released, he became a pastor and now serves as a church planter. That connection had to be by Divine appointment!”

Matt says, “In Vietnam, every alley, roadway, and street is just full of people. People everywhere! Seeing them gives me a renewed vigor for ministry and evangelism. It makes me think of Jesus’ heart for people...of Him saying to go into the highways and the byways and bring them to His table.”

The gifts and prayers of our OTAN partners make it possible for us to train pastors in restricted countries like Vietnam. Today, please pray for these churches and for the dedicated pastors who lead them.

GOODWIN ASIA TRAINING CENTER FUNDING UPDATE

Your gift today will help us reach our \$50,000 goal

The stories coming out of China are concerning, and our leaders in China have been impacted. Our pastors are reporting increased surveillance and harassment. Some of them have wrestled with the idea of stepping down because their recognition by government authorities is threatening the safety of their people.

Our OTAN Ministry Managers have often noted, “As China goes, so goes Asia.” We believe God is opening a door that will lead to a solution for this rising issue: *a training center in an open Asian country.*

The center will not replace our in-country trainings, but it will allow our pastors in China and other restricted countries to join us for training, for prayer, and for the much-needed opportunity to fellowship with other leaders. Our plan is for the center to also serve as a future TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) school and to provide international opportunities for mission-minded young adults from the US to interact with and experience other cultures.

Every year, OTAN’s “Labor of Love” project addresses a need that directly connects to our brothers and

sisters in China. This year, our focus is on raising start-up funds for this training center. In honor of our founders Otis and Roxann Goodwin and our 40th year of serving Asia, we are naming the new training location the *Goodwin Asia Training Center*.

To date, we’ve raised just over \$20,000 toward our goal of \$50,000 in start-up funds for the center. Your gift today will enable us to purchase a social organization license, provide a down payment to either rent or purchase a property, and begin any needed renovations.

Would you consider being a part of the “ground floor” group of partners who will help us launch this center? Use the address on the back of this newsletter to mail your check made out to OTAN (memo line: Goodwin Asia Training Center). Or go to otan.org and choose the “**Labor of Love**” tab. You’ll learn more about the center, and you will be able to give your gift online easily and securely.

The Goodwin Asia Training Center will serve our Asian pastors and strengthen OTAN’s future in Asia for countless years. Partners like you will make the first phase of this center possible. Thank you!



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Partner By Giving

Give online at **otan.org** or by check to **PO 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.



Partner By Praying

If you feel challenged or inspired by this update, would you consider praying for this ministry? We're so grateful for your prayers!

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



Partner By Going

Not everyone can go to foreign fields, but every believer can ask themselves a very important 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

Years ago, our founders Otis and Roxann Goodwin spoke at a church in Maine where Levi Pratt was pastoring. Recently, he and his wife Bette gave a gift for the Goodwin Asia Training Center, and they included this lovely note:

"When Otis and Roxann were first called, we were one of the first ones to support them. It is an absolute honor to give towards this project!"

As we celebrate our **1986** founding and **40** years of *reaching nations by equipping nationals*, would you consider becoming an OTAN **World Impact Partner** with a **monthly gift of \$19.86**, of **\$40.00**, or of any monthly amount? Scan the QR code to give securely online, or mail a check to **OTAN, PO Box 2440, Winchester, VA 22604**. We're so grateful for your gifts and your prayers for OTAN.

