

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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Thank You!... I'm Here Because of You.

Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

***May God richly
bless you!***

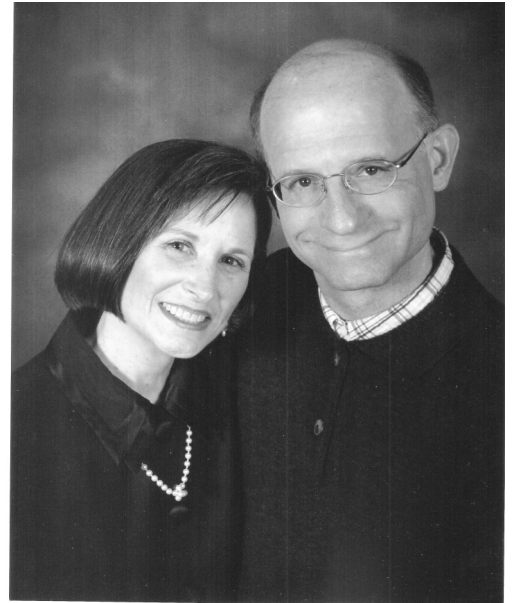
Tom & Debbie

Thanksgiving should be every day so, 'thank you, Lord' for a safe trip to Hong Kong and back and thanks to all of you who prayed for us and everyone who helped financially. Your prayer and support are always so helpful and encouraging; without you, we couldn't do what we do, whether Bibles into China or the radio ministry... thank you!

'Thank you, Lord' for providing Rich Hiebert to teach Sunday School for me so I could get away for three Sundays and thanks to Mickey and Beryl (my brother and sister-in-law) and their willingness to come up and stay with Mom so we could leave for two weeks without worrying about her care.

Thank you for exit row seats on the plane so we could endure the flight with a little less exhaustion and thank you for the rotten, horrid, tiny little hovel of a hotel room we had to stay in the first night. It was so bad that we gave up our second night's paid reservation in order to find another hotel the very next day... as soon as we woke up!

We only unpacked our toothbrushes there but because that original room was so awful... literally **everything after that**, of the entire trip... hotel, subways, restaurants... all people, places and things were *wonderful by comparison*. Never before have we had such a 'smooth' trip. Sure, there were problems and trials, but everything seemed small, trivial and insignificant after that hotel. I'm thinking maybe we should make a reservation at the same place for the first night of every future mission trip... maybe...



*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.
Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.
2 Corinthians 5:19,20*

I wasn't just thankful to leave that terrible little room but I found myself actually thankful for the room itself... for having had to stay there. I had prepared myself for the long hard flight by reminding myself of my commitment to remember the *'bigger picture,'* that every detail of what we were doing, from start to finish, was part of a deeper question and commitment, that is: ***'What are you willing to do, to be a part of God's plan to place His Word into the hands of those in China whom He had chosen before the foundation of the World? What are you willing to do... what are you willing to endure... what are you willing to put up with? Will you be willing and faithful to see His hand in everything and to thank and praise Him in everything... will you, like Paul, determine, 'I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.'?'***

I will admit though, I might not have been so willing to seem so brilliant and 'right on' in my attitude if there hadn't been about 10,000 other hotels to choose from the next day. However, after praying for wisdom, it was the very first one we went to the next

morning that we eventually decided to move to after visiting several others during the day. (That first day was a Saturday, so we didn't have a crossing... we were free to find another hotel and buy backpacks to use for carrying Bibles.) The hotel we chose even had a pool on the roof... now that was really cause for thanks after each day's hot, humid, sweaty trip into China! (Thankfully, the really nice hotel ended up being about the same price as the really awful one... most travelers simply don't have the opportunity to shop around after they arrive in Hong Kong, though; they've already been locked into a long term reservation by the time they get there.)

However... as bad as that wretched little room was... we do know that it was like a palace by comparison to how so many must live... what so many believers have to endure in so many parts of the world... we are just spoiled rich Americans... we see that... we have been blessed by God... it's difficult to always remember and remind ourselves of that fact.

God commands us to be grateful, to give thanks in everything. We all will be eternally grateful to Him for all He has done for us but we will also thank each other for the things we've done. Think about it... we will forever be real people with real personalities and real relationships. He is even now forming us into the people we will be. The only real difference between who we are now and who we will be then is the fact that we will be without sin and without any sin nature. We will know each other and even eventually meet everybody else who is in Heaven or on the newly recreated Earth.

For example... every time I visit my grandfather then... I will thank him for having been a Christian and leading my father or mother to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and he will say, 'Well you know, Tom... the one you really ought to be thanking is John so and so, the old man who lived next door to us in Tennessee before I moved to Portland. He led me to Christ back in 1904.'... and I'll go and meet John and say, 'Thank you!,' and he'll say, 'pleased to meet you, Tom... I've heard a lot about you... aren't you the one who, with your wife, took all those thousands of Bibles into China a century after I lived on Earth? We watched you over the years. I've met an awful lot of Chinese friends here who eventually obtained those Bibles and came to Christ before it was too late but you know, the one you really ought to be thanking is Tallulah the old black lady who nursed me back to health during the Civil War. She led me to Christ when I almost died from being gunshot at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862.'

I'll go find Tallulah and thank her and she'll say, 'Why Tom, the one you really ought to be thanking is...'

Well, anyway... you get the idea... we will be thanking God for His love, grace and mercy, but we'll be also thanking each other because we will have hearts overflowing with thankfulness... forever!

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When Debbie and I get there, there will be thousands of Chinese friends who will want to thank us for helping to get Bibles to them and we will, of course, like everyone else, deflect that thanks and give the glory to Jesus Christ, but we'll also want to see others thanked. We'll tell them the names of all the ones who we know had a part in our ministry on Earth, those who prayed and those who gave.

In Hong Kong and China we also handed out small Gospel booklets to carefully selected individuals. Two years ago we passed, in the subway, a crippled beggar who played a guitar everyday. This time, we handed him the Gospel along with a little money. Prayerfully, he'll come up to us in Heaven and say, 'Thank you, I'm here because of you.' And we'll say, the one you should really thank is Phoebe Lou... she's the one who supplied us with those tracts.'

Then there was the young couple who own the small fruit stand across the street from the hotel we stayed at in China last trip. We gave her a Bible this time. Hopefully, we'll see her in Heaven and she'll say, 'Thank you for not forgetting us, for coming back and bringing us a Bible.' And there is the big Israeli guy we met in the Hong Kong

customs line. We only spoke for a moment, but in parting I said, 'Read Ezekiel chapter 38... it's about to happen now!' Hopefully, we'll see that guy in the Kingdom and he'll say, thanks for that parting shot.'

While in Hong Kong we began to realize that the Bibles we were smuggling into China were even more important, more valuable than we had ever before realized. God has plans for each one... none of them will return void, but each one will accomplish its intended purposes. Every Bible will be in the hands of someone or a family that God draws to Himself. Then, one day soon, at the Rapture, those same Bibles will be left behind in the empty houses and apartments from which God will have taken all those believers. That same day, millions more unsaved Chinese will pour into all those empty homes and they will all find those Bibles waiting for them.

The same is true of our homes now. Every one of us who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will be taken at the Rapture, leaving behind everything we've collected in our lives here on Earth. Among all that meaningless stuff will be our Bibles. I'm thinking it would be a good idea

to have every Bible in the house put in places that will be clearly visible and, I think each one should have some kind of letter in it explaining why we disappeared, where we went and how that person could eventually come to the same place.

Our homes will suddenly be empty unless we have family members who are not born again. Armed marauders will be roaming neighborhoods, breaking into empty houses looking for food, water and valuables. What could be more valuable than the Word of God which can lead them to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and eternal life?

We hope to one day meet several of those who will also say, 'Thank you for leaving that Bible and that note of explanation... I'm here because of that.' And, of course we'll turn the glory to God, and then we'll say, 'Well, you know, the one you really ought to be thanking is...' and on and on forever and ever.

We will have **forever** to meet and know every believer from all time and we will never forget any names or faces.

But If people don't come to faith in Christ, they will be in Hell forever. **God's Word is their only hope.**

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The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few. Matt 9:38

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