



Today's Challenges to Growing Faith in Restricted-Access Countries

Cost, Inefficiency, and Danger of Printed Materials

Merely printing a biblical education curriculum in a new language is expensive. To print five thousand copies of our sixteen-course curriculum in Chinese costs about \$300,000. Establishing and maintaining in-country warehouses and distribution networks adds additional cost and exposes many to danger, not to mention risking wholesale confiscation.

However, technology has brought new possibilities to this generation. Millions of computers are available to Christians worldwide, both in homes and public places. CDROMs, DVDs, and web-based classrooms now provide opportunities to dramatically reduce costs and danger while providing opportunities for biblical training that is more engaging and effective than traditional paper.

The Spread of Aberrant Teachings

When pastors lack biblical training, heresies inevitably develop. Whether it is a Chinese "prophet" leading a village into a river to await the coming of Christ, causing many to drown, or a Korean "messiah" who thinks he is Christ incarnate, cults cause terrible damage to the Christian movement. The combination of a rapidly expanding church and the lack of solid, well-trained leadership allows cults and heresies to proliferate at an alarming rate.

The silver lining in all this is that mature leaders, more than ever before, are now aware of the need for solid biblical training. This hunger must be met.