China can trace its civilization back to 3,000 B.C. The Great Wall of China, the country’s most renowned wonder, was constructed over the course of almost 2,000 years. Silk, tea, paper and ice cream were also invented in China. Chinese is the oldest written language still in use.

Today, with 1.4 billion people calling China home, it is the largest country on Earth. One in five people are Chinese. Officially, China considers itself an atheist nation, but a plurality of the people holds to Buddhism or a folk religion. Just 5% of the people are Christian.

In China, citizens live under communist party rule. For several decades, citizens were required to abide by a one-child policy. The intention was to slow population growth. The result, though, was a population skewed in favor of male children. The Chinese government has more recently eased their one-child policy to allow for families to have two children. All broadcast media is owned by, or affiliated with, the government.

The Chinese people treasure their ancient culture, which emphasizes Confucianism and family. Red symbolizes happiness, hence its abundance in China. The bicycle is a popular way of getting around.

Ministry Response

There is tremendous opportunity to share God’s love and reach out with the Gospel in China—and it’s on the rise! The constitution of the People’s Republic of China makes it possible for congregations to proclaim the Gospel legally, worship formally, train church workers, and produce and distribute Christian materials. Government restrictions prevent Lutheran Hour Ministries from operating a ministry center in China. However, we partner with the national China Christian Council (CCC) and Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) of the national Protestant church.
PUBLICATIONS. We work in cooperation with YILIN, a secular press, and the China Christian Council’s Ai Ji Press to publish books and booklets in the Chinese language. Through our partnership with the Ai Ji Press, we have also published daily devotions and Chinese translations of other resources for individuals and congregations. Through these strategic partnerships, millions of copies of Christian spiritual books, magazines, hymns, booklets and tracts have been printed and distributed throughout China.

AUDIO PRODUCTION. A variety of Christian audio resources originally distributed on cassette tapes in China have been converted into digital format and are available for listening online. LHM also supports the production and distribution of MP3 Bible players.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS. We partner with churches in China to provide evangelistic training and help the church to expand through interpersonal relationships. Equipping the Saints (ETS) workshops equip a new generation of Christians with practical ways to carry the Gospel into their communities. After attending these sessions, believers feel more confident sharing the Good News with their neighbors.

Impact

GOOD NEWS FOR ANY AGE: How One Book Traveled Across the Globe to Reach Children in China

The world has watched in amazement as the Gospel flourishes in China. Though officially atheist, China is on pace to become the most Christian nation in the world as the Gospel spreads among the people. This powerful growth is occurring not only among adults, but among children, too. Christian workers need resources to share the Gospel in a way that connects with kids—and Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) helps meet the need. In one storybook, we introduced children to an angel with an unusual feature.

Dottie Basye wrote The Angel with Big Feet. When her story sold widely around Boise, Idaho, LHM’s Regional Director for Asia believed it was the kind of story that would resonate with children on the other side of the globe. With Dottie’s permission, we showed the book to Ai Ji Press, one of our publishing partners in China. They agreed on its potential.

The project began.

First, LHM translated The Angel with Big Feet into Chinese. The next hurdle was bigger. All books distributed in China must be approved by the central government, a process that can take months. Once approved, Ai Ji printed copies and distributed them to 80 centers of the Chinese Christian Council, who sold the book, at cost, to registered and non-registered churches, bookstores and local evangelists. Soon, children across China were able to enjoy the fictional story of The Angel with Big Feet!

Working hand in hand with Christian partners who have existing government approval, LHM and its family of supporters carry the Gospel to the Chinese people, who grow more eager to hear it!