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“Manuscript of Scripture Portion in Chinese”
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“Hope Found Through a Book”: A Bible During Communist China

condense them into one central church run by the government. Christians were able to practice their faith based on the three principles of “self-governance, self-support, and self-propagation.” The principles of “Self” stood for rejection of foreign influence on the church leadership, and “Patriotic” stood for the church’s loyalty to China.² The Chinese feared any form of foreign influence, including missionaries from the West, in fear they would manipulate society and shorten their power. Before the start of the Communist party, hundreds of Christian missionaries were killed during the Boxer Rebellion in 1899, also known as the “China Martyrs of 1900.”³ Because the Chinese government had complete control of Christianity, they imposed harsh laws limiting the church, stating that importing and printing Bibles were illegal, even if given away for free. They feared the Bibles, imported from the West, would serve as a tool to impose their outlook upon their citizens. As a result, many Chinese believers began forming their own illegal underground churches to practice their faith through reading Scripture themselves. This hand-written Bible is a testament to the struggle

revolutionary spirit that created the Chinese Republic in 1911. During that time, several thousand Christians were sent to prison, and

the message of Jesus. The painstaking job of delivering Bibles to these places still continue with millions of people unaware of salvation.

This small book, only a couple inches long, has impacted the lives of many Christians living in China during the Cultural Revow12 0 6wons orWh(0 uvows6wo5m TJETa4c)5e46 st)3(1)3(continue w3

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