



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, June 25, 2020

*"Give ear to my words, O Lord;
consider my groaning. Give attention
to the sound of my cry, my King and
my God, for to you do I pray."*

~ Psalm 5:1-2 ESV

VIDEO INTERVIEW FOLLOW-UP

Last week, we asked for prayer on behalf of the members of the Xingguang Church who suffered attacks and destruction of property at the hands of security officers. (To read the previously posted written report, check www.vomcanada.com/cn-2020-06-18.htm.) Greg Musselman recently interviewed ChinaAid's Bob Fu about the attacks, as well as the increase of persecution in China. Go to www.vomcanada.com/china-videos/video/cn-xingguang1.html to view a two-minute video excerpt.

Please continue to pray for the members and leaders of the Xingguang Church, and those of other churches throughout China, who have been facing incessant aggressive pressure from authorities. May they find opportunities to encourage one another in their faith. Also intercede for each of the officers involved, along with the country's governmental leaders, that they would come to understand the reverential fear of God and realize their need to turn to Him in faith.

INDIA: Church Set on Fire

Sources: International Christian Association, Barnabas Fund

During the night of June 12th, the Real Peace Church in Vaylur, Tamil Nadu, was set on fire by suspected Hindu nationalists. The fire destroyed the roof, which was made of coconut leaves and bamboo. By the time Pastor Ramesh noticed the flames and smoke, all the building's contents

were burned and considerable structural damage had taken place. The pastor sees this as part of the ongoing persecution endured by the church which consists of approximately 100 members.

A police report has been filed, since the possibility of an electrical fire was ruled out because the building is not connected to any source of power. Despite the destruction and significant loss, Pastor Ramesh is able to say the following statement: "We don't suspect anyone in particular. People of all faiths come here to pray. Someone may have done it out of jealousy, but we forgive...." For more information on the persecution of Christians in India, go to www.vomcanada.com/india.htm.

Remember Pastor Ramesh and the members of Real Peace Church in your prayers. May they have the wisdom required to determine the best course of action moving forward, as well as the strength needed to endure. Praise God for the forgiveness He does offer; may those responsible for this attack readily receive it and experience the resulting peace that comes with acknowledging the need for Christ's atoning provision for their sin.

PAKISTAN: Family Discord and Blasphemy

Sources: UCA News, The Irish Catholic

A Christian man has been accused by two close family members of committing blasphemy in what appears to be the first case of its kind in Pakistan. Anwar Masih was arrested on June 2nd and charged under Pakistan's blasphemy law 295-C. Both his wife and daughter are the ones accusing him of speaking against Islam.

Anwar's wife, Kausar Parveen, and their daughter, Samreen, operated a beauty parlour in Lahore. According to reports, Samreen began an affair with a Muslim man and became pregnant. She has since converted to Islam and married the man. All of this happened without the knowledge of Anwar. Once this father found out, he was understandably shocked and upset that the information had been withheld from him. In anger, he allegedly made comments about Islam, which Samreen recorded with her cell phone. That recording was turned over to police.

The situation has many unknowns as it relates to family dynamics. But it is clearly another case where the country's blasphemy laws are being misused. Nasir Saeed, Director for Centre of Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement refers to this situation as "shocking news." He states, "This is another example of the misuse of the blasphemy laws where a daughter gets rid of her father -- and a wife, her husband -- simply because he cannot accept what they have done." For more on the difficulties facing Christians in Pakistan, go to www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm.

Firstly, we ask that you please intercede for this broken family. May God work in miraculous ways to restore these shattered relationships and minister His love and unity among them. Pray that those in authority will realize the numerous ways that Pakistan's blasphemy laws are being abused and, as a result, make the necessary amendments to rescind this legislation. May mercy be extended towards Anwar in the midst of this troubling family situation, as the case works its way through the court system and the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of all involved.

REPORT UPDATE

CHINA: Imprisoned Elder's Wife Begs for Prayer

Sources: ChinaAid, Church in Chains

In December 2018, raids on the Early Rain Covenant Church resulted in the detention of more than 100 Christians. All have since been released except for Pastor Wang Yi, who is serving a nine-year sentence, and Elder Qin Defu, who was sentenced to four years in prison for "illegal business operations." For previous written reports on Qin's case and the difficulties faced by other members of Early Rain Covenant Church, go to www.vomcanada.com/cn-2019-12-23.htm.

Qin's wife, Xiao Hongliu, has written a letter, pleading for fellow Christians to remember her family in their prayers. Below is that letter:

Dear brothers and sisters,

My name is Xiao Hongliu, I am Qin Defu's wife. I am begging for intercessory prayers for my family and me.

Defu has been in jail for more than six months. I had received his phone calls from the jail at the beginning of his sentence. Although the calls were only two or three minutes long, as long as I could hear his voice, I knew he was safe and alive.

Although I could not see him personally, I knew he was alive somewhere, where God could see him. However, since the end of March, I have not received his calls anymore. I have lost contact with him for more than 70 days, which makes my heart worry.

My reasoning makes me believe he is still alive, and that God is with him. However, not hearing from him is like an enemy. It hurts me so much that I suffer every day.

Normally, my husband would be managing the church, busy before and after, and I would merely hope for him to return home a bit earlier each night. Now my hope is causing me pain. Every day, I just want to receive one three-minute call from him, but this apparently has become an extravagant hope.

Dear God, please let me follow behind You, pulling on the hem of Your clothes, because I am no better off than the woman who suffered from a blood issue for 12 years.

I know my weakness, so I am begging for my brothers and sisters to pray for me and Qin Defu.

God, please, out of charity, give us mercy. We are so lowly we cannot bear it!

Qin's wife

According to Bob Fu, founder of ChinaAid, the Chinese church is facing a level of persecution not seen since the Cultural Revolution when under the leadership of Chairman Mao. Greg Musselman spoke with Bob Fu about the reasons behind the increase of persecution. To view the full-length version of this informative video interview, go to www.vomcanada.com/china-videos/video/cn-interview-bobfu.html.

As we ponder the heart-wrenching pleas of Xiao Hongliu, may our hearts be stirred to lift up our voices of prayerful petition together with hers. May the Lord touch the many Christians who are imprisoned for their faith, as well as their loved ones who miss them terribly and fear for their safety. Pray that Qin will experience God's protection and be granted permission from prison officials to contact his concerned family soon. Remember the millions of Christians throughout China who are facing uncertainties and danger because of the policies posed by President Xi's harsh regime.

If you would like to post a prayer of praise or petition on behalf of our persecuted family around the globe, visit VOMC's prayer wall at www.vomcanada.com/prayerwall.htm.

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If you would like to encourage someone to read or receive this weekly prayer alert, please use our online form at www.vomcanada.com/pnpforward.htm and help spread the message of the persecuted church around the world.

For information on additional ways to support members of the persecuted church overseas, review the list of options at www.vomcanada.com/take-action.htm.