

Mission Outreach



Monthly Report

March 2019

Letter from an Imprisoned Pastor

In October last year, house church pastor Wang Yi sat down and wrote a Letter of "Declaration of Faithful Disobedience," as he saw the storm clouds of persecution about to close in on him and his church.

He instructed his fellow elders to hold the letter and only release it after he had been arrested more than 48 hours.

That moment came on the morning of Sunday December 9th, when officers from China's Public Security Bureau raided Wang's Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu. The church leaders were among 100 believers arrested and taken away that morning. Many have not been heard from since. Just before Christmas, a further 60 church members were detained, with some taken into China's notorious "black jail" system, where people are tortured mercilessly without anyone knowing their whereabouts. Here is Wang Yi's declaration:

"On the basis of the teachings of the Bible and the mission of the gospel, I respect the authorities God has established in China. For God deposes kings and raises up kings. This is why I submit to the historical and institutional arrangements of God in China.

As a pastor of a Christian church, I have my own understanding and views, based on the Bible, about what righteous order and good government is. At the same time, I am filled with anger and disgust at the persecution of the church by this Communist regime, at the wickedness of their depriving people of the freedoms of religion and of

conscience. But changing social and political institutions is not the mission I have been called to, and it is not the goal for which God has given his people the gospel.

For all hideous realities, unrighteous politics, and arbitrary laws manifest the cross of Jesus Christ, the only means by which every Chinese person must be saved. They also manifest the fact that true hope and a perfect society will never be found in the transformation of any earthly institution or culture but only in our sins being freely forgiven by Christ and in the hope of eternal life.



As a pastor, my firm belief in the gospel, my teaching, and my rebuking of all evil proceeds from Christ's command in the gospel and from the unfathomable love of that glorious King. Every man's life is extremely short, and God fervently commands the church to lead and call any man to repentance who is willing to repent. Christ is eager and willing to forgive all who turn from their sins. This is the

goal of all the efforts of the church in China—to testify to the world about our Christ, to testify to the Middle Kingdom about the Kingdom of Heaven, to testify to earthly, momentary lives about heavenly, eternal life. This is also the pastoral calling that I have received.

For this reason, I accept and respect the fact that this Communist regime has been allowed by God to rule temporarily. As the Lord's servant John Calvin said, wicked rulers are the judgment of God on a wicked people, the goal being to urge God's people to repent and turn again toward Him. For this reason, I am joyfully willing to submit myself to their enforcement of the law as though submitting to the discipline and training of the Lord.

In this issue

- Page 1: Letter from an Imprisoned Pastor
- Page 2: Letter from imprisoned Pastor (continued)
- Page 3: Projects in Focus
- Page 4: 100 Years of Christianity Update on Eddie & Betty
- Page 5: Prayer Focus
- Page 6: Prayer Calendar

Letter from an Imprisoned Pastor ...

At the same time, I believe that this Communist regime's persecution against the church is a greatly wicked, unlawful action. As a pastor of a Christian church, I must denounce this wickedness openly and severely.

The calling that I have received requires me to use non-violent methods to disobey those human laws that disobey the Bible and God. My Saviour Christ also requires me to joyfully bear all costs for disobeying wicked laws.

But this does not mean that my personal disobedience and the disobedience of the church is in any sense "fighting for rights" or political activism in the form of civil disobedience, because I do not have the intention of changing any institutions or laws of China. As a pastor, the only thing I care about is the disruption of man's sinful nature by this faithful disobedience and the testimony it bears for the cross of Christ.

As a pastor, my disobedience is one part of the gospel commission. Christ's great commission requires of us great disobedience. The goal of disobedience is not to change the world but to testify about another world.

The mission of the Church is...not to become a part of any secular institution. It must separate itself from the world and keep itself from being institutionalized by the world. ...All acts of the church are attempts to prove to the world the real existence of another world.

The Bible teaches us that, in all matters relating to the gospel and human conscience, we must obey God and not men. For this reason, spiritual disobedience and bodily suffering are both ways we testify to another eternal world and to another glorious King.



This is why I am not interested in changing any political or legal institutions in China. I'm not even interested in the question of when the Communist regime's policies persecuting the church will change. Regardless of which regime I live under now or in the future, as long as the secular government continues to persecute the church, violating human consciences that belong to God alone, I will continue my faithful disobedience. For the entire commission God has given me is to let more Chinese people know through my actions that the hope of humanity and society is only in the redemption of Christ, in the supernatural, gracious sovereignty of God.

If God decides to use the persecution of this Communist regime against the church to help more Chinese people to despair of their futures, to lead them through a wilderness of spiritual disillusionment and through this to make them know Jesus, if through this he continues disciplining and building up his church, then I am joyfully willing to submit to God's plans, for His plans are always benevolent and good.

I have no fear of any social or political power, for the Bible teaches us that God establishes governmental authorities in order to terrorize evildoers, not to terrorize doers of good. If believers in Jesus do no wrong then they should not be afraid of dark powers. Even though I am often weak, I firmly believe this is the promise of the gospel. It is what I've devoted all of my energy to and it is the good news that I am spreading throughout Chinese society. I also understand that this happens to be the very reason why the Communist regime is filled with fear - because the church is no longer afraid of it.

If I am imprisoned for a long or short period of time, if I can help reduce the authorities' fear of my faith and of my Saviour, I am very joyfully willing to help them in this way. I hope God uses me, by means of first losing my personal freedom, to tell those who have deprived me of my personal freedom that there is an authority higher than their authority, and that there is a freedom that they cannot restrain, a freedom that fills the church of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ.

Regardless of what crime the government charges me with, whatever filth they fling at me, as long as this charge is related to my faith, my writings, my comments, and my teachings, it is merely a lie and temptation of demons. I categorically deny it. I will serve my sentence, but I will not serve the law. I will be executed, but I will not plead guilty.

Moreover, I must point out that persecution against the Lord's church and against all Chinese people who believe in Jesus Christ is the most wicked and the most horrendous evil of Chinese society. This is not only a sin against Christians. It is also a sin against all non-Christians. For the government is brutally and ruthlessly threatening them and hindering them from coming to Jesus. There is no greater wickedness in the world than this.

If this regime is one day overthrown by God, it will be for no other reason than God's righteous punishment and revenge for this evil. For on earth, there has only ever been a thousand-year church. There has never been a thousand-year government. There is only eternal faith. There is no eternal power.

Those who lock me up will one day be locked up by angels. Those who interrogate me will finally be questioned and judged by Christ. When I think of this, the Lord fills me with a natural compassion and grief toward those who are attempting to and actively imprisoning me. Pray that the Lord would use me, that he would grant me patience and wisdom, that I might take the gospel to them.

Jesus is the Christ, son of the eternal, living God. He died for sinners and rose to life for us. He is my King and the King of the whole earth - yesterday, today, and forever. I am His servant, and I am imprisoned because of this. I will resist in meekness those who resist God, and I will joyfully violate all laws that violate God's laws."

The Lord's servant,

Wang Yi

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BAWM Bible Translation, Bangladesh

The Bawm people are one of 11 ethnic groups in Bangladesh with a population of about 16,000-20,000. It claims to be 100% Christian.

Rev. L. Dolian laboured to develop the Bawm alphabet and had it first printed in 1952. In 1989, he led the team to complete the translation of the BAWM bible and printing. However, as society develops and Bawm youth also change, there is a need for the Bible to be translated into a form that the young generation can easily understand. Rev. L. Dolian started working on a new translation in 2012, but passed away in 2016, leaving two books to be translated. We invite you to help with the final push to complete the new translation this year so it is ready for printing in 2020.

Total Project: \$7000 Balance Needed: \$5325

MALE SOW Training

School of Workers (SOW) Training is a very effective discipleship training programme used extensively by our contacts in Asia and beyond. Wherever it is used, there are always converts, which helps grow and establish the church in this case among the Maldavians.

Total Commitment: \$7500 Balance needed: \$4423

CMTC Bible College - Monthly commitment \$1600

Nepal Radio Programme - Monthly commitment \$700

ETHNIC Tibetan SOW Training

Thank you for your generous support for this very worthwhile project. Phurpu will now be able to conduct the training he has been desiring to do for sometime now. May our mighty God bless you abundantly.

MYANMAR New Testaments

Events of the last decade have increased worldly influences on the youth of Myanmar, who make up 20% of Myanmar's population. This has sparked a vision for one million Myanmar-English New Testaments to be distributed to youth across the country. MO is committed to purchasing 1000 New Testaments towards this vision.

Total Commitment: \$8000

Balance Needed: \$3409

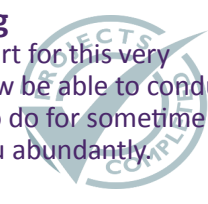
NEPAL 1000 Equipping Centres

This is a project of multiplication - we train and equip 1000, who in turn equip up to 20 leaders each, which equals up to 20,000 church leaders equipped in one year. The second two equipping conferences of six, is to be held early this month in West Nepal.

To complete this project successfully, 80,000 copies of books & teaching materials need to be printed.

Total Commitment: \$127,000

Balance needed: \$59,510



RESPONSE COUPON

MARCH 2019

Name:

Address:

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..... Post Code:

Email:

Phone or Mobile:

Bangladesh

BAWM Bible new translation (EABAWM) \$.....

China

China support (CHPSTR) \$.....

Disaster Relief Fund: (DRF) \$.....

Myanmar

Myanmar-English NT (EAMYNT) \$.....

Maldives

Male SOW Training (EAMALSOW) \$.....

Nepal

Radio Programme (NEPRAD) \$.....

CMTC Bible College (NPBC) \$.....

1000 Equipping Centres (NPEQ1000) \$.....

Thailand

Tribal Training Centre, Chiang Mai (TTC) \$.....

Where Most Needed: (WMN) \$.....

N.B. We will be able to send our monthly reports via email in early 2019. If you wish to receive our monthly report via Email, please enter your email address above and tick the appropriate box below, Thank you.

Tick to Receive future reports via email Tick for a receipt for this month's giving Tick to unsubscribe

Please make payments to Mission Outreach Inc BNZ Account #: 02 0466 0034018 00 and specify project.

N.B. If no project is specified, funds will be allocated to 'Where Most Needed'

100 Years of Christianity

On December 12, 1918, the Bawm tribe was visited by a Welsh missionary from North East India named Edwin Rowlands.

This missionary shared the gospel with the Bawm people for the first time. The gospel was welcomed by the tribe, whose descendants have continued to trust and follow God to this day.



Before 1918, the Bawm tribe had never heard the gospel. Living in the relatively untouched and remote hills of Bangladesh, the community practiced animism, believing that all things were living and spiritual, but not following one God.

Now, 100 years later, the Bawm people have celebrated a century of knowing God. In January this year, the Bawm community gathered together, with other guests, in the small town of Ruma not only to commemorate the exciting occasion, but also to reunite with members of the Bawm community from around the world, and share the love of Christ with neighbouring communities in Bangladesh.



While the gospel has reached a significant number of people in Bangladesh, Christianity is still a minority religion. Pray that the Bawm people will continue to reach out to the other tribal groups in Bangladesh. More than 6,000 people joined in the

100 years celebration of Christianity among the Bawm people in Bandarban Hill Tracts, Bangladesh. This occasion was an opportunity for the Bawm community to know each other better and to strengthen their faith in God and their commitment with one another.

During the celebration, we also remembered and honoured Rev Dolian, a well-loved Bawm, and Founder/Director of CAF (Community Advancement Forum), who passed away in February 2017. He was a man with a vision to improve the lives of disadvantaged people giving priority to women, children and the elderly.



Sonny, with Rev Dolian's widow and one of their daughters

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Mission Outreach



Ministering to Access
Restricted Nations
since 1975

Update on Eddie & Betty



Although always strong in spirit, we ask that you continue to pray for our beloved founders, Eddie and Betty Cairns. As they age, their health is tending to deteriorate.

Recently Betty suffered a Stroke that required her to be hospitalised for a time until she recovered sufficiently to return home. She is now back with Eddie and Glennie, their daughter who faithfully cares for them both.

They are, at the time of writing this message, in the process of an assessment to be accepted for placement in a home where they will receive the care they both need and give Glennie the much needed rest she also so desperately needs.

We ask that you lift this family up before our Mighty Saviour.

As always, Eddie and Betty release to you their abundant blessings and thank you for your faithful support of Mission Outreach.

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