

General Topics :: China Soul For Christ

China Soul For Christ - posted by Agent001 (), on: 2004/1/22 5:13

I don't know if this is the most appropriate place to post this. So help me out, Greg. :)

There are reportedly 70 million Christians in China, many of whom had suffered great persecutions. The China Soul for Christ foundation had released a documentary (DVD with both Chinese and English), "The Cross - Jesus in China," which is probably the first indepth documentary on the testimonies and witnesses of these Christians.

Check out this site:

(<http://www.chinasoul.com/e/cs-e.htm>)
<http://www.chinasoul.com/e/cs-e.htm>

Re: China Soul For Christ - posted by crsschk (), on: 2004/1/22 6:46

Have had a interest in this for quite awhile.

This looks like an outstanding resource.

It is just incredible what the Lord is doing there despite the attempts to stop it.

The power of the Gospel!

Thanks for bringing this to our attention, this could be used in so many ways...

I am ordering it.

By the way, have you seen it yet?

Re: - posted by Agent001 (), on: 2004/1/23 4:53

I have seen two out of four parts. The first one talks about how Christianity had transformed the lives of Chinese Christians, both schooled and unschooled, rural and urban.

The other one I saw was the fourth part. It talks about how a teenaged sister in the countryside, who did not even graduate from junior high, received no musical training, came to be filled with the Spirit to compose 900+ original hymns. Many of these hymns are sung by the underground church. The lyrics often described a yearning to have intimacy with God and a willingness to be persecuted. Great lyrics!

Great work God is doing there -- purportedly 70 million Christians!

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/1/23 6:40

Quote:

-----Great work God is doing there -- purportedly 70 million Christians!

Praise God, but I am worried about alot of bad Charismatic groups (word faith, prosperity, etc.) that are coming into China and influencing many of these newly converted sheep into the fold. The devil is sowing tares, how I wish God would raise another Godly missionary movement like China Inland Mission. I have read much of Hudson Taylor and especially Jonathan Goforth (he was a missionary that was funded by my church), and they had a genuine power from God to build the church there. I recommend reading Jonathan Goforths biography what a stirring book. Also Watchman Nee and John Sung where some of the first Chinese to take charge and lead the flocks in China.

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2004/1/23 7:36

Have heard some of this as well.

Maybe someone one out there could inform us better as to what extent. Has this infiltrated the underground church? Are they recognized by the TSPM (Three Self Patriotic Movement)?

Agent001, are you familiar with any of this?

Re: Cults in China - posted by Agent001 (), on: 2004/1/26 4:06

The wheats and tares always grow together. Because of the phenomenal spiritual hunger in China, many Christian or non-Christian cults are also thriving at the same time. One of the bigger ones is known as the "Eastern Lightning" where a woman claimed to be Christ's third coming. They are very secretive, and have always sought to infiltrate home churches of pure faith.

Many of the cults are considered very serious threats by the government, however, they still managed to survive because they run pretty much the same way as the home churches.

Sometimes, it's not as much as cultic teachings, but merely because of a lack of proper bible teaching, different people or groups came up with rather peculiar teachings or practices. There are squabbles over the practices of the Lord's Table, baptism, etc. A group came up with this idea that one needs to be repentant to a point one cries for three days by the moving of the Holy Spirit as a mark of salvation. Anyhow, I think they are genuine Christians with aberrational teachings. The greatest need today is not missionaries, but proper leadership and biblical training.

Finally, there are groups that were mistaken (purposedly or by misunderstanding) as cults and the government exerts a lot of effort to crack them down. The groups associated with Witness Lee's Local Church Movement are known in China as "Shouters," and they are quite badly persecuted. The Shouters may be a little extreme in some of their practices and doctrines, nevertheless, I believe they are genuine Christians and do not deserve the kind of cruel persecutions they face.

Crosschk:

I think cults and heresies more often than not operate in the home churches than the so-called "Three-Self" (official) churches.

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2004/1/26 5:09

Thanks Agent001,

Quote:

-----I think they are genuine Christians with aberrational teachings.

Well said.

I guess what triggered my question was in part from hearing Mr.Hinn had been accepted by China (his words) awhile back. Don't know if this came to pass or not, my assumption being that it would have been through the TSPC which sounded awfully suspect.

But it should give us impetus to pray for these believers in their persecution as well as for discernment and as you stated for 'proper leadership and biblical training'.

Re: Mr. Hinn - posted by Agent001 (), on: 2004/1/27 3:34

For any Christian leader in the West to make an official visit to China, definitely approval from Chinese government is required. The churches visited will most likely be the official churches; but I am sure some secret visits with the house churches can be arranged.

By the way, Billy Graham did great good to the house churches in China during his two visits to China. He openly visited two house churches, one in Guangzhou, another in Beijing (there could be more).

Because of his visit, those two churches were thus placed in the international stage and were therefore sheltered from severe persecutions because of the attention they received.

These two churches actually openly meet as unregistered churches with thousands of members in their worship. Quite an anomaly in an otherwise quite repressive regime!

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2004/1/27 4:08

Quote:
-----Because of his visit, those two churches were thus placed in the international stage and were therefore sheltered from severe persecutions because of the attention they received.

Quote:
-----These two churches actually openly meet as unregistered churches with thousands of members in their worship. Quite an anomaly in an otherwise quite repressive regime!

Indeed, yet do they really think they are fooling anybody with this face saving tactic?

Re: - posted by Agent001 (), on: 2004/1/28 4:11

Nevertheless, by God's sovereign hand, the pastors were spared from further arrests (not that they didn't get other trouble).

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/1/28 6:22

I think they are genuine Christians with aberrational teachings.

We have two godly souls in our home church who have just returned from over 20 years in Hong Kong, as missionaries; the husband being in his 70s. The church in Hong Kong, of which they were part, has strong links with the mainland churches. This would be their diagnosis too.

Re: - posted by Agent001 (), on: 2004/1/29 3:33

Is that church in any way associated with Watchman Nee's ministry?

Leaders Interviewed in DVD Arrested - posted by Agent001 (), on: 2004/2/19 8:45

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2004/107/31.0.html>

China Arrests Dozens of Prominent Christians

At least 50 detained in fresh crackdown on house churches, reportedly promoted by new video and book releases.

By Timothy C. Morgan with David Neff in Washington, D.C. | posted 02/18/2004

China's Public Security Bureau has launched a new crackdown on unregistered church leaders, arresting 50 or more people following the release of a new video and book, documenting huge growth among Christians outside the officially permitted church.

In mid-February, the China Aid Association confirmed that in January police arrested three prominent Protestant leaders from Henan province, including Qiao Chunling, 41, in Luoyang; Deborah Xu Yongling, 58, in Nanyang; and Zeng Guangbo, 35, in Deng County. Guangbo escaped two days after he was arrested, and remains in hiding.

The crackdown may last for 30 days and began during China's annual National Religious Working Conference. This meeting brings together top leaders of the state Religious Affairs Bureau and the policy-making United Front Work Department. Both are charged with oversight of religion in China.

During that meeting, communist leaders screened a new, four-hour digital video, *The Cross: Jesus in China*. China Soul for Christ Foundation of Petaluma, California, produced the series and Yuan Zhiming, a pro-democracy leader and a Christian, wrote and directed it.

Communist leaders were also briefed on Jesus in Beijing, a new book by journalist David Aikman, formerly a Time magazine correspondent in Beijing. Both the video and book document the stunning growth and vibrancy of Christianity in China. The video has been classified as "political matter," and Public Security Bureau officers are confiscating CDV copies of the widely distributed series and other Christian literature.

A source based in Hong Kong told CT that the crackdown will focus on "the people mentioned in the video and the book" and may be as brutal as the recent repression of Falun Gong. China's actions against Falun Gong, a traditionalist sect that emphasizes meditation, resulted in many arrests, imprisonments, beatings, and deaths. A New York-based watchdog group reported that 64 Falun Gong practitioners have died after being tortured inside China since November 2003.

"They will especially hunt those in Beijing," the source said. "It took them by surprise that there were so many Christians in China. Every week pastors are arrested and thrown in jail. The communists see Christians as a threat because there are Christians than Party members."

According to experts, estimates of the total number of Christians varies widely from 30 million to 100 million. The government-registered Christian church (Three Self Patriotic Movement) includes about 28 million followers. There may be as many as 80 million Christians in unregistered congregations. According to Operation World, independent Christian congregations, mostly evangelical and charismatic, are growing at a rate of 9 percent annually. That's a huge growth rate since China's overall population (1.3 billion) is growing at about 0.6 percent annually. China's constitution guarantees freedom of religious belief but requires all religious organizations to register with the government. The government brands those groups that do not register as "illegal" or "cults."

Leaders face hardships

According to another source who asked not to be named, Deborah Xu was arrested on Saturday, January 24, in Nanyang, Henan Province. Around 11p.m. Xu was sleeping on the second floor of her niece's home. Two police officers entered the dwelling and locked the niece's mother-in-law in another room. The officers located Xu, handcuffed her, and took her into custody. Police also confiscated photos and documents.

Xu, a leading figure in China's house churches, is the sister of Peter Xu Yongze, founder of the "born-again" movement of house churches in China with millions of followers. In recent years, police have arrested Deborah Xu numerous times. But on this occasion, family members and supporters have been unable to gain any information about where she is being held, according to CT's source. Nanyang police have not disclosed what charges she faces.

Peter Xu left China in 2000 to seek asylum in the West. He is currently based in the Los Angeles area and is a leader in the new Back to Jerusalem movement. This organization aims to use 100,000 Chinese evangelists and missionaries to spread the gospel westward from China back to the city of Jerusalem.

In early February, Christianity Today interviewed Peter Xu and another prominent house church leader, Liu Zhenying (better known as Brother Yun). Both were in Washington during the annual National Prayer Breakfast. Yun currently is based in Germany.

Xu said his family has been Christian for four generations. "I'm extremely thankful that the Lord made my sister as my spiritual partner. She was called by the Lord when she was 17 years old and dedicated her whole life to the Lord." His sister made that commitment along with a decision to remain unmarried.

"She serves as a beautiful example in the front lines. Brothers and sisters honor her as a mother of the church." Her role includes training house church leaders throughout China, especially other women evangelists.

Police in China have arrested both Peter Xu and Brother Yun many times. At age 17 in 1975, Yun was arrested for the first time. Police publicly beat him alongside his mother, also an active Christian. Yun told CT, "The fire of the Holy Spirit in my heart has never ceased in spite of this beating with my mom. Immediately after I was released from the detention center, I started preaching again."

Xu and Yun were in the same prison in 1997. Xu said one day he discovered his cell door unlocked, which he attributes to a miracle. He snuck into the corridor and over to Yun's cell, which could be unlocked from the outside, and he walked inside.

"Our eyes just met each other," Xu recalled. "And I said, 'God wants you to go.' So I ordered him to go and then I closed the door and he left. I started praying, Lord, protect him and let him go." Although he was severely injured from previous beatings and torture, Yun was able to escape.

Within minutes, prison guards had discovered the escape and began searching. But a winter storm started, allowing Yun to flee as guards were searching for their rain gear. "I was completely relieved," Xu said. "I know God used the rain and the snow as Yun's shelter. God has performed a big miracle."

As Yun fled the prison, he thought he was in a dream. He walked up to several iron doors and they opened before him. After he fled, Yun sought asylum in the West. He has told his life story in *The Heavenly Man*, published in 2002.

Controlling Religion in China

Yun told CT that Western Christians should understand better how China's government seeks to suppress Christianity in China. He said China has used its laws and administrative rules to stringently control religious expression, organizations, publishing, and training.

He said, "I won't deny there are true born-again Christians inside the church. But the head of the house church is Jesus Christ alone."

Yun said China uses propaganda to "blur the line between the orthodox belief and those who only obey the Communist Party's command." In addition, Yun said China uses "international propaganda" to mislead Westerners and promote China's policy stance toward religion. He said China also invites top Western Christian leaders to travel inside China to see for themselves how Christians are allowed to run churches openly, but that doesn't provide a full picture.

House-church sources told CT that the South China Church and its leader, Pastor Gong Shengliang, is a powerful example of what happens when church growth happens quickly, resulting in crippling state scrutiny.

In 2001, China convicted Gong and other South China Church leaders for operating a cult. They were sentenced to death. After an international outcry, Gong was tried again, but on charges of raping women members of his church. According to reliable reports, authorities took women in custody and tortured them until they alleged Gong had raped them. "One sister was beaten to death," Xu told CT. China has banned Gong's church and he is in prison.

Xu said China's leaders hope to fracture house church groups any way they can. "They tried to isolate one house-church group, now to single them out. By doing that, they can divide house church unity. This purpose is very obvious, very evil. We really prayed the eyesight, the insight, the discernment of the eagle to really clearly see this trap of Satan."

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Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/2/19 9:38

Re:
by Agent001 on 2004/1/29 8:33:28

Is that church in any way associated with Watchman Nee's ministry?

Sam
My apologies. I have only just spotted this. No the church was not associated with Watchman Nee, although I think they had a few contacts who had been in such churches.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/2/19 11:59

Quote:
-----My apologies. I have only just spotted this. No the church was not associated with Watchman Nee, although I think they had a few contacts who had been in such churches.

It's amazing if you think about it. Watchman Nee really has made a name for himself in Christianity as a servant of God. And it's neat to see that most of what he is remembered for is His books which mostly point and give glory to God. There was no real church denomination, etc. that was tied to his name too strongly. Except for that questionable movement run by Witness Lee (LSM).

Re: - posted by Agent001 (), on: 2004/2/20 4:18

Quote:
-----Except for that questionable movement run by Witness Lee (LSM).

In my opinion, there is still much to commend in Witness Lee's earlier works. I believe there was genuine revival under Lee's leadership in the 70's up till the mid-80's even as elitism and exclusivism gradually crept in.

Re: China Soul For Christ - posted by zhuoyuan (), on: 2004/2/20 6:46

Hi I just stumbled upon this site. Praise God. About this DVD, I was able to receive and view the VCD of this in Mandarin which only contains 2 parts of the DVD. It's a very good tool, a bit low quality on the vcd, but the testimonies are very good and I use them as tools to teach my students english. I am a domestic missionary, but I long to be in China, but alas, the Lord knows more than I. I would recommend this DVD to anyone interested in how Jesus has impacted China.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/2/20 13:20

Quote:
-----Hi I just stumbled upon this site. Praise God.

That's great brother zhuoyuan.. I hope you are blessed by the (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/>) Audio Sermon Downloads also! If you have any questions let me know.

Quote:
-----In my opinion, there is still much to commend in Witness Lee's earlier works. I believe there was genuine revival under Lee's leadership in the 70's up till the mid-80's even as elitism and exclusivism gradually crept in.

Yes, I first had a very offensive attitude against Witness Lee but I am in agreement with you that there is much good.. especially in his older teachings. It would be interesting to get a really old sermon by him.. hmmm

Re: - posted by Delboy (), on: 2004/3/1 19:50

I'll just throw this in the melting pot, A book that was only given to me to read last week is called 'The Heavenly man' by Brother Yun. To be honest I could not put it down. It has provoked me and stirred my spirit to tears and challenged my passion/vision of Jesus in a new way. I'm not up to date on things in China but this has helped me to see things anew looking ahead & Up
Derek

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/3/1 22:48

Quote:
-----I'll just throw this in the melting pot,A book that was only given to me to read last week is called 'The Heavenly man' by Brother Yun. To be honest i could not put it down.It has provoked me and stirred my spirit to tears and challanged my passion/vision of Jesus in a new way.I'm not upto date on things in China but this has helped me to see things anew

Yes, I have heard of this man and this book by him, I heard he even preached in a church near me awhile back! My friend that was there said he felt the Lord was with him in a powerful way. I wonder if anyone can find any audio sermons by him, would be great to hear and I would love to get them up on this site to bless people, including myself. hehe :-D

Re: - posted by Delboy (), on: 2004/3/2 4:31

Hi Greg,
thats a good idea although i do believe he speaks through an english speaker.That hopefully should not be a stumbling block in getting audio of him
Certainly in the book he comes across as a strong man of trust and faith with true humbleness towards the end of the book he gives his thoiughts on the western church and the differences between
He mentions that he's spoken at the times square church in New York.maybe someone has tapes from there?
Looking ahead & Up
Derek

Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/2 5:30

Three audio items and one video by Brother Yun can be found at <http://www.cthree.org/Publisher/Article.aspx?id=4697>

L. W.

Re: - posted by Delboy (), on: 2004/3/2 11:18

Lars,thanks for that
I must ask you, I looked at your profile and your from Sweden,whereabouts?
also you state your occupation as prayer mobiliser!Sorry it made me laugh!What is a prayer mobiliser,is the pay good and what about the holidays...no seriously,is that your fulltime job?
Looking ahead & up
Del :-D

Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/3/2 11:39

An introduction to Intercessors Network

Intercessors Network is a set of freely interacting prayer units in 115+ nations, (Spring, 2004).

Intercessors Network has marked out and taken on intercession for men in power position, for kings and rulers, as its first priority and sole ground for existence. 1 Tim 2.1-4.

Intercessors Network does not hold any special political colour or position. Yet, caring for the downtrodden becomes a habit as an intercessor. The Network is eagerly praying for holiness to be established through recognition of the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Intercession is ability to react and act. Intercession is ability to react the right way to the right things. Intercession is ability to watchfully wait in the presence of the Lord and act according to his revealed will.

Rapid action in prayer is so often needed at many levels of human experience. Computer technology allows us to work closely together and enhances the possibilities of mobilising much prayer in short time.

E-mail communications provides foundation for solid and immediate prayer back up. E-mail communication allows us to

provide precisely defined and focused prayer cover.

Intercessors Network provides an Urgent Prayer Target e-mail list, to be used for instant prayer mobilisation in regards to current issues related to the common goal of the Network.

The major focus of this list is on the prophetic dimension, the cities, the nations, the men in power; the areas of life in your community where any wind of change must begin to blow.

A "Short Notes"-list is also available. Postings are sent somewhat irregularly and contain 5 - 7 prayer items. It also contains an overview of what is sent to the other lists - you can watch what is going on and order the article you are interested in.

A division within the Network covering Jewish issues is to be accessed and subscribed to by referring to "On the Walls of Jerusalem". Issues pertaining to Middle Eastern affairs, Jews in the diaspora and Messianic Jews will be focused under this heading.

Intercessors are indeed welcome to partake in the labour for change.

Intercessors are certainly welcome to send reports on current issues and definitions of prayer targets.

By subscribing to the lists, you are not obliged to respond to everything that is sent out from the Network. You may and must pick and choose according to interest and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Rich blessings,
Lars Widerberg

Give the king knowledge of Your way of judging, O God
and the spirit of your righteousness to the king's son to control his actions.
Psalms 72:1 Amplified version.

PRIORITY NUMBER ONE:
PRAY FOR MEN IN AUTHORITY, 1 TIM 2:1-4

Lars Widerberg
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Re: - posted by Agent001 (), on: 2004/3/2 11:59

Thank you for the info on Brother Yun and the "Back to Jerusalem" movement. I was not too familiar with their ministry before.

Judging from the little mention in mainstream Chinese Christian literature that I have perused, its influence has yet to be strongly felt among all Chinese Christians.

Nevertheless, may God bless all evangelistic efforts.