

Beleaguered Chinese Church Offers Members Legal Aid

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In a press statement issued Tuesday, the unregistered church described the forced relocation of one church member to Shandong province as “a flagrant violation of the law.”

Leaders charged the committee, composed of legal experts within the church and officially formed last week, with collecting evidence of “citizens of faith being forced to leave their jobs or being evicted because of their religious belief.” The church would hold officials legally responsible for these violations, as outlined in an earlier press statement on May 12.

For the past three months, Shouwang church members have committed to meet in a public square in Zhongguancun, northwestern Beijing, in response to repeated attempts by the government to deny them access to a permanent worship venue.

Shouwang represents the “third church” phenomenon in China—consisting of large Protestant or Catholic churches functioning openly rather than underground, but refusing to register with government approved bodies such as the Three-Self Patriotic Movement or the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association.

China is also currently embroiled in a tense debate with Vatican leaders over the unauthorized ordination of Catholic bishops within the CCPA, according to a Union of Catholic Asian News report on Tuesday.

Pressure Mounts

On Sunday, police arrested 15 people who showed up at Shouwang's designated outdoor worship venue, including several from other house churches. Many church leaders remained under permanent house arrest, while scores of church members were detained in homes or hotel rooms, according to a China Aid Association report.

One of those detained on Sunday had traveled all the way from Henan province to express her support, the CAA said.

Two other women from Shuangshu house church in Beijing had planned on traveling to the venue, but police prevented them from leaving home. Within 24 hours their landlord also asked them to move out of their rented apartment, according to CAA.

CAA also claimed that officials pressured the management of the Beijing office of World Vision to dismiss employee and church member Xia Xiao, a claim that World Vision refutes.

"World Vision has fired no one and has come under no pressure to fire anyone," World Vision spokesperson Cynthia Colin said in a press statement. "The staff member in question has in fact been working as normal out of her office this week."

For the second week in a row, pastors from TSPM were called in to "counsel" Sunday's de-tainees, according to the CAA.

In mid-May the director of the State Administration for Religious Affairs convened a meeting of Three-Self leaders from 15 provinces and municipalities, asking them "not to heed Shouwang church's statement of faith," and repeatedly slandering Shouwang church, according to Bob Fu, president of the CAA.

The national daily *Xinhua* published an article on Monday extolling the freedom of TSPM churches. As evidence, the article listed several TSPM churches around the country with congregations of over 4,000 people; the construction of 11 new

churches in Nanjing, including one with seating for 5,000 people; the “abundant” provision of Bibles through China’s Amity Printing Press, and the training of over 2,000 TSPM clergymen through the government approved Nanjing Union Theological Seminary.

“I feel that the most pressing issue for Chinese churches is to figure out how they can be helpful to society, and how they can become integrated with traditional Chinese culture,” Pastor Kan Renping of St. Paul’s Church in Nanjing province told *Xinhua*.

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Anti-Porn Group Turns Up Heat on NBC

Are you listening NBC? Because the Coalition for the War on Illegal Pornography isn’t going to let the matter rest.

The group just launched the second phase of its [nationwide effort](#) to make it unprofitable for NBC to air its planned fall series *The Playboy Club*.

“Today, we begin an effort to contact every NBC affiliate across the country, as well as the top NBC executives, with a message about NBC’s fall series, *The Playboy Club*, says

Patrick Trueman, director of the Coalition for the War on Illegal Pornography and president of Morality in Media. “That message is this, ‘Sexual exploitation is to be condemned, not programmed on network TV.’”

Kimberly Daniels Installed as Jax City Councilwoman

☒ Many call her apostle. But many more will call her city councilwoman.

After [winning a tight race](#) in a run-off election, Kimberly Daniels, founder of Spoken Word Ministries, an inner-city, multiracial church, was installed as the city councilwoman for the At-Large Group One seat on Jacksonville’s City Council on Thursday.

Jim Lafferty, director of The Policy Communications Group, a public affairs firm in Washington, D.C., who served both the Reagan and George H.W. Bush Administrations, was on hand at the ceremony to support Daniels. At Lafferty’s request, Daniels spoke before Congress as a conservative African-American voice. He credits Daniels with helping three conservative Supreme Court Justices find a seat on the bench.

Marilyn Hickey Celebrates

80th Birthday

Marilyn Hickey has turned 80—and she's looking for a new beginning.

Hickey is the founder of Marilyn Hickey Ministries. In 1976, God gave her a verse of Scripture that defined her mission: "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9, ESV). God called her to "cover the earth with is Word" and that's just what she's been faithfully doing for the past 35 years.

"I feel like in my 80th year my best years are ahead. And I am not retiring ... What would I do? I don't play golf, I don't like television, shopping is not that big a deal," Hickey said on [her daily broadcast](#). "I'm telling you, people, souls, healings, miracles, nations are a big deal ... In my 70s I had my biggest meetings, so I am saying, what's going to happen at 80? We have so many people to reach, so much to do. God is so good to me. I just want to reach people with His Word. And again, living the Word will unlock the miraculous all around the world."

Shouwang Church Member Faces Job Dismissal

In a disturbing new development in the 12-week long Shouwang Church clash with Chinese authorities, a church member who is employed by U.S.-based Christian humanitarian group World Vision is facing dismissal for her participation in Shouwang's outdoor worship attempts, ChinaAid reports.

In the 12 weeks since Shouwang Church lost its meeting site and decided to hold its Sunday worship services outdoors, Chinese authorities have tried many different ways to try to get the church members to desist. These have included police detention, house arrest, eviction, loss of jobs, and being escorted out of Beijing and returned to one's hometown.

The World Vision action was just one of at least four new cases in the past week of persecution against a Shouwang Church member.

Police handed over detained Shouwang Church member Chuan Liang to the Shandong Provincial Government, which has escorted him from Beijing to his hometown in coastal Shandong province.

We Report, You Comment

As Charisma News expands its reporting of what the Holy Spirit is doing around the world, your feedback is more important now than ever. We're excited about offering you 24/7, up-to-the-minute coverage from a Spirit-filled perspective that you can trust. But we still need to hear from you so we can know which ways of delivering that news best suit you.

Send

us your thoughts and comments on our new daily format of the **Charisma News e-newsletter**—we're listening!{jcomments on}

God's Word Reigns Despite Religious Persecution

When our Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, they considered religious freedom one of Americans' most fundamental rights.

Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, also wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. He considered these two of his most important accomplishments, along with founding the University of Virginia, and left instructions for them to be inscribed on his tombstone.

Today, our commitment to religious freedom has gone global, and it has become part of the fabric of our diplomacy. In 1998, Congress passed the International Religious Freedom Act, and now the State Department issues an annual report on religious freedom.

The U.S. even has an Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom—Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook.

This commitment reflects the scope of the problem. At Bible League International, we have found that religious persecution has left its mark on many areas of the world:

- In Albania, where communist purges “destroyed the human soul,” according to a government official, leaving the Church with many years of work to restore it
- In China, where the government raids underground churches, arrests their leaders and destroys their property
- In India, where Hindu Nationalists force Christians to convert to Hinduism and burn churches to the ground

- In Laos, where Christian women have been raped and murdered in front of their families
- In Nigeria, where an Islamic sect that believes Western ways are evil has killed pastors and church members and destroyed churches
- In Pakistan, where Muslim radicals murdered a Christian government official for opposing the government's blasphemy law.

Religious persecution is most common against Christians. A Vatican spokesman indicated this spring that 75 out of every 100 people killed because of religious hatred are Christian. Open Doors, a ministry that serves persecuted Christians, says that there are more than 100 million of them around the world.

News of extremists persecuting Christians floods our inbox at Bible League. In general, the Middle East is the least evangelized area of the world because of religious persecution. In the Muslim world, Christian worship takes place behind a veil of secrecy and fear.

But even where persecution takes place, God's Word has a way of getting through. It would be easy for persecuted Christians in these nations to lose heart. But at Bible League, we have found that no heart is beyond God's reach.

Witness a miracle that has taken place in Vietnam this year. In one of communism's last strongholds, all activities are tightly controlled by the government, including religious practices. Most Christians choose to worship in underground house churches due to mandatory church registration.

Late last year, a Bible school in Ho Chi Minh City was bulldozed. Five hundred police, soldiers and firemen showed up at 7 a.m. and began demolishing the property. The pastor was beaten unconscious, and several members of his congregation were detained.

But 2011 has brought new hope—this year marks the 100th anniversary of the first Protestant church in Vietnam. To commemorate the occasion, the Vietnamese government, which tightly controls the printing and distribution of Bibles, has authorized the publication and distribution of up to 100,000 Bibles in 2011 by groups such as Bible League and the World Bible Translation Center.

This spring, as part of the anniversary, evangelist Luis Palau preached in a soccer stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, and thousands accepted Christ. The government later forced the cancellation of Easter events scheduled in Hanoi, but church leaders said they were encouraged by Palau's visit.

Stories like this one are echoed everyday around the globe. Despite trials and persecution, millions of people have found that God's Word brings peace and promotes freedom. This Fourth of July, that's a good thing to remember.

Robert T. Frank is the CEO of Bible League International, a non-profit evangelical Christian ministry dedicated to making disciples and training Bible study leaders and church planters using the Word of God.

Eddie Long Accuser Arrested on Dope Dealing, Gun Charges

One of the four men who accused Bishop Eddie Long of sexual misconduct was arrested this week in Florida on suspicion of being a drug dealer.

Jamal Parris, 24, was driving a white 2011 BMW in Miami Beach Tuesday evening, when a Florida Highway Patrol officer noticed

that it had no tags.

Sgt. Seth Dubinsky stopped the car. When he approached it, he smelled marijuana, he told *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* on Thursday.

Disturbing 911 Call Dramatically Confirms Abortion Dangers

✘ There's nothing like the sound of a person's voice to tell a deeper story. That's why a newly obtained [recording of a 911 call](#) is such a striking example of the dangers of abortion.

Operaton Rescue just released the call, which was placed from the UNM Center for Reproductive Health. The recording offers dramatic audio of a 35-year old woman "crashing" after being given "conscious sedation" during an abortion procedure on Feb. 15. In the audio, you can hear voices calling the patient's name and urging her to breathe as she groans and gasps for air.

"We have a patient who is crashing right now," the caller told the dispatcher. At the dispatcher's request, the call was transferred to the abortion room where another clinic worker described the patient as "grayish" in color. Once the call was transferred, the disturbing sounds of the patient's suffering and struggling for life became

clearly
evident.

The fate of the woman is unknown.

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