

# Dr. James Dobson Endorses Convention of States Project

The Convention of States Project announces that Dr. James Dobson, Dr. Tim Clinton and Jenna Ellis, Esq., have issued the following joint statement on behalf of the James Dobson Family Institute:

*Unfortunately, an insidious power grab has been underway in our nation's capital for many years and it has inflicted great damage upon our constitutional republic. Unelected bureaucrats, activist judges and the ever-expanding scope, reach and invasion of the federal government into the lives of all Americans has far surpassed what our Founders ever intended.*

*Thankfully, the drafters of our Constitution built in safeguards to restore the size of government to its proper limits through amendments as outlined in Article V of the U.S. Constitution. Of the two paths an amendment can travel, all 27 have thus far been initiated in Congress. A Convention of States is the second path, which doesn't allow a rewriting of the Constitution as some have suggested, but rather allows the state legislatures to propose needed amendments to restrain the federal government when Congress fails to act.*

*The genius of our Founding Fathers is on full display in the Convention of the States Article V process, which empowers We the People at a local level to continue preserving and protecting the fundamental rights of every individual and keeping America's limited government in check. Thirty-four states must call a convention to order and already 12 have passed the petition. A Convention of the States can and should be called.*

*This Constitution Day, Monday, Sept. 17, in recognition of*

*the 231st anniversary of the adoption of one of the world's greatest and most influential documents ever drafted, we encourage every American to visit and add your name to a growing list of citizens calling for a return of federal power back to the states. Let us raise our collective voices and challenge the entrenched powers in Washington by finally, and for the first time, calling for a Convention of the States." {eoa}*

**Dr. James Dobson** is a celebrated Christian leader, author and psychologist. He is the founder and president of Family Talk and the James Dobson Family Institute, a nonprofit organization that produces his daily radio program, "Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk."

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## **Prophecy: I Am Ordering Your Steps to a Breakthrough Showdown**

I heard the Lord say: "I am ordering the steps of the hungry to the eye-opening experience. I am ordering the steps of the righteous to the purposes and plans I've called them to. I am ordering those who are not content to stay in the place they are, to the place that I've called them to come.

"I am inviting you to come higher. I am inviting you to go deeper. I am inviting you to press a little more, press a little more, press a little more because there are obstacles that are in your path," says God, "but I am ordering your steps to the place where you will come to a showdown with that which has prevented you from your breakthrough. I am ordering

you to that place where you will face down the giants that defy you, and you will overcome them," says God. "Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord.

"I am opening your eyes even now, and I'm causing you to see your enemies with pity and with mercy. I'm opening our eyes right now, and I am causing you to see yourself as you really are in Christ. I am opening your eyes right now. It's an eye-opening encounter, even now, right now, in this place. Open your spiritual eyes and see Me and know Me for who I really am. Because I am the conqueror of all conquerors. There is nothing that can stand in defiance of My will.

"I am making a way for you to come to that place of the showdown, to come to that place of overcoming, to come to that place where you will make the enemy bow, in My name. I am ordering your steps to that place of encounter where you will see Me differently than you've ever seen Me before. You will see Me as the captain of the hosts. You will see Me as your provider in the midst of a famine. You will see Me as the one who loves your soul unconditionally and who will hold on to you through every storm, and who will be there for you in every instant, whatever season you are walking in.

"I am shaking up your paradigm of who I am and who you are in Me. I am shaking and stirring your perception of who the enemy is and who he is not. For some of you have seen the enemy as greater than, bigger than, stronger than. But you need to see Me as all of that and more. I am greater than. I am bigger than. I am stronger than and I am on the inside of you. So open your eyes and take another look. Open your eyes, and I will remove the scales that have caused you to see in part, to know in part and to walk in partial blindness."

"I am bringing you to that place of an eye-opening encounter, and you will see the big picture. You will see far out ahead. You will have a vision for the future, the vision that I have for you. It's a vision of a future of a hub of success, of

prosperity, of healing, of victory. My vision for you is awesome.

“So, open your eyes and be willing to see past where you are standing now, and be willing to see two, three, four, five yards ahead, a hundred meters ahead. Be willing to see out in the distance and don’t let the obstacles that you see in your path sway you any longer. Don’t let the obstacles that are in your path sway you from pressing on, pressing in, pressing through, because when you press, I am pressing with you.”

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## **Holy Spirit Teaches Orthodox Jewish Woman How to Pray to Jesus**

A few months ago, my good friend, Ido (a new believer at our congregation) had to give a speech in the framework of a course he was taking. During his speech, he decided to share about the process of deliverance he had experienced at Tiferet Yeshua. Even though he did not mention the name of Yeshua, it was clear that there would be people from the audience who would ask him for more details at the end of his speech.

Noa, who was visibly Orthodox, approached Ido after his lecture and began asking him questions about the congregation and what he meant by “deliverance.” Ido joyfully told her about his faith in Yeshua and invited her to come to the congregation.

### **First Time in Tiferet Yeshua**

Noa came to the congregation and loved learning about Yeshua.

She loved the praise and worship—it is so different than the repetitive liturgical singing in the synagogue, where every aspect of the service is dictated by a strict, traditional format. Slowly, Noa began to understand that faith in Yeshua was not a “foreign import” but, rather, a faith that is firmly rooted in Judaism, that all of the first believers were Jews and our faith is based on the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament—a book also written by Jews.

## **Discipleship**

Noa began a discipleship course I lead that delves into the fundamentals of faith in Yeshua, such as Yeshua’s sacrifice, repentance, Messianic prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures, the importance of studying the Word of God and, finally, the importance of water immersion.

Interestingly, Ido joined some of the lessons and even took part in discipling Noa. Although he is a relatively new believer, it is clear that Ido has a gift for evangelism and discipleship. For me, it was a very special experience to see a man who just recently became a disciple himself, lead someone to faith in Yeshua and begin discipling them.

## **First Prayer from the Heart**

It is important to understand that for religious Jews, praying means reciting prayers written in the prayer book called the *Siddur*. In Orthodox Judaism, prayer is central and important, but there is no such thing as simply talking and communing with God through prayer. Every prayer in Orthodox Judaism is written out in a prescribed format, determining when and what one should pray throughout the day.

Religious girls are exempt from some of the mandatory prayers that observant men must pray throughout the day. However, every morning when Noa woke up, she would recite the prayer “Modeh Ani,” a prayer thanking God for waking up in peace. After each meal Noa would pray “Tifilat Mezuman,” thanking God

for food. There are many more prescribed, mandatory prayers in Judaism, some of which are profoundly beautiful, but none of which come from a personal, spontaneous heart-cry to God.

At Tiferet Yeshua, Noa was exposed to a different type of prayer, one that she had never experienced before. Noa loved how we prayed in the congregation, but she did not succeed, at first, in praying spontaneously. However, all that changed during one of our services. Toward the end of the sermon that day, the entire congregation divided into small groups in order to pray about a number of topics—and also to pray for one other. Noa was in one of the groups and really enjoyed hearing the spontaneous, personal prayers that people in her group prayed. When her turn came, she simply opened her mouth and, for the first time in her life, began to pray directly from a heart overflowing with love. She was overjoyed that God had given her the ability to pray a personal prayer from her heart.

Praise God! One more Israeli knows how to petition heaven!

## **Baptism**

Last week, we went to the Jordan River near Tiberias, where Noa would be immersed in water. She was so excited about this special day. Ido came with us, along with two cars full of witnesses. It was important that Ido immerse Noa with me because he was the one who led her to Yeshua. We explained to Noa that at the time of baptism, we identify with the death of Yeshua, signifying the death of the old man, with all his lusts and sinful desires. And, as soon as we come out of the water, we identify with the resurrection of Yeshua from the dead (Rom, 6: 6) and begin to live, by the power of the Holy Spirit, a new life (Rom. 6:4).

Noa proclaimed that she was dedicating her life to the Messiah of Israel, Yeshua. She thanked God for her new salvation and went into the water. It was a powerful and holy moment, and

there was a strong presence of the Holy Spirit at the time of her immersion. God filled us with joy, which was a sign to us of how happy He was that this “daughter of Zion” had made a decision to follow His ways. We sang and prayed together and returned all the way to Tel Aviv with great joy and peace in our hearts. {eoa}

**Moti Cohen** is an Israeli believer and serves as the assistant pastor at Tiferet Yeshua in Tel Aviv. He is also on the leadership of Katzir, Israel’s national Messianic youth ministry.

*This article originally appeared at .*

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## **Prophet Foretold Massive Storms Surging From the Atlantic in 1973**

**This prophecy was given by Franklin Hall in 1973.**

While meditating and waiting on the Lord on the small resort Island of Guernsey, between the hours of 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., one morning, the Holy Spirit began speaking to the author’s heart. The author was in deep thought concerning the death and struggle of mankind in relationship to the destructive elements. The Lord revealed that the Atlantic Ocean table lands are under affliction, full of dormant, troublesome, dangerous, catastrophic, slumbering upheavals, almost ready to break forth upon many cities in many countries along the Atlantic coasts.

This is to come about unawares to those not informed. Many

prophets and non-prophets, along with scientists, have predicted much trouble off the coast of California, and the author agrees mostly with them. There will be a lot of oncoming storms in the Pacific Ocean and along the coast of California. However, there is a lot more trouble coming. Some may not be aware of even more upheavals, eruptions and dangers that will come forth from another huge body of water called the Atlantic Ocean! This ocean is now under attack.

The vast areas will be the gigantic and crucial region of turbulent, oncoming storms of destruction coming forth from the wide areas of the great Atlantic Ocean. Its impact will be such that it will touch with disaster almost everything this great body of water borders, and reach with its ever-increasing tidal waves—waves that in the future will bring about towering mountainous walls of death and devastation undreamed of.

This will come forth by the ever-increasing whirlwinds along with underground disruptions. This tremendous body of water that will be disturbed under many thousands of miles may bring havoc to multitudes.

Man's labors and the cities of mankind will be destroyed along the coasts in many countries, especially those within range of this great monster of sea water that will lash out relentlessly, seemingly out of control, in many directions. Whirlwinds, volcanoes, major earthquakes and even other unknown or unnamed, violent earth disturbances will be prevalent. It will seem like all hell and all the elements will be turned loose. This body of water, to the earth, will be like a man trying to vomit from a stomach full of indigestible food. This big ocean will be in a spasmodic turbulent condition, bringing havoc and destruction to all unclothed with power, inhabitants along most of its borders. Likewise, major destruction will come to the work of man's hands.

This big sea will bring a sea of devastation. The unbalancing of the earth on its axis will also be a contributing cause. The earth will wobble like a drunk man. The ever-rising Atlantic will especially splash in every direction as the water in a saucer will splash everywhere when shaken. (Isaiah, the prophet, reveals these facts in carefully worded details in Chapter 24.)

Through the big part of this huge body of water to the smaller, narrower areas, will the big splash and trouble extend, lessening as the Atlantic reaches into smaller narrower land areas. Unseen underground activities will rise and come forth to frighten mankind with great fear.

All clothed with power, fully baptized, will be spared wherever they may be. Thanks be to Jesus. These folk will not have fear of any nature. Multitudes of others will have their hearts fail for fear. Fear, a relative of unbelief, will also bring death to many. ...

Here are what oceanographers and scientists have to say: the earth is warming up. We are rapidly coming forth from the ice age. Glaciers are receding, and in many places on the North American continent there are no more glaciers. ... Glaciers have melted. The polar ice, too, is rapidly melting. All of this water drains into streams, rivers and on into the oceans. Oceans are, therefore, rising. Most of the melted polar ice especially in north regions, find its way into the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic Ocean is therefore rising to an unprecedented height.

Written on the Channel Island of Guernsey off the coast of France. For years I, Franklin Hall, have been doing research concerning many prophecies. The sure word of prophecy indicates terrible destructive storms of catastrophe will hit the earth again. It is projected for these last days. It will also come upon the sleeping church as a snare or trap. (See Luke 21.) One purpose of our around-the-world crusades was for

praying and fasting over different areas of our earth home.

Since a time of trouble, destruction and catastrophes are coming to both the inhabitants of the earth and also to the planet itself, as it, likewise, came to both the inhabitants and to the planet in Noah's time, I earnestly sought the Lord concerning some of the incidents that will come about in the not too distant future. Genesis 6:13 (KJV): "And God said unto Noah, The end of all [unbelievers'] flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence [and rioting] through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

Sometimes the sure word of prophecy is so plain that it is difficult for man to accept and believe it. Jesus spoke in crystal-clear words, prophecies for this day, which in similarity reveal the same circumstances in which another gigantic earth-storm upheaval will come about, bringing tremendous wholesale death to mankind. Jesus said, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be... And knew not until the flood came, and took them (by death) all away; so shall also the coming of the son of man be" (Matthew 24:37, 39).

Unlike Christ's first coming, His next real appearance will be brought about by a brilliance. A tremendous light and brightness of glory will come forth so intensely that the unbelievers and wicked will be consumed by the power thereof. Even part-way believers .. will be scorched (See the Word of God here).

The brilliance against the saints who have not received the fullness of the Holy Ghost and fire blessings, who have not become acclimated to the adjustment of same, will leave these as the foolish or unwise virgins. The no-oil saints will not be able to withstand the substance of Christ's light. We become acclimated to Him by full baptism.

Jesus does not want these events to sneak upon those who have

not accepted the complete baptism of the Holy Spirit. ... Jesus brings direct proof that if we properly and carefully serve Him in fullness of purpose and deed, we may be wise and aware of these very events which are herewith presented, given prayerfully to sincere, believing readers. Jesus Christ projected these thought-provoking, intelligent warnings: "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your arts be overcharged with surfeiting, [the failure to live the fasted life and so on] and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34). This refers to the coming, last days, great destruction, similar to the day of the storm destruction that came about in Noah's time. We who have the covering of protective power are not to be in the dark concerning these things. We few shall just as certainly be saved from all danger and harm as the few believing folk saved in Noah's day.

Oceanographers, scientists, the prophetic Word of God, the anointed revelation and ministers clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit bear witness today to major disruption of the elements; these will bring catastrophic changes to the world. Please notice that science, the Bible and the Holy Spirit all point strongly toward the coming storms of floods that will require a supernatural ark of safety for man's survival on the face of the earth. {eoa}

*The prophecy continues in Atlantic Ocean Storms Destroying Many Cities by Franklin Hall.*

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**Tortured**

**Evangelist**

# Supernaturally Escapes High-Security Prison by Simply Walking Out

Liu Zhenying fell to the floor convulsing, his frail body coursing with electricity. Prison guards, electric-shock batons in hand, stepped back unashamedly as he lost consciousness.

Inside Nanyang Prison, located in China's Henan Province, 25-year-old Liu was beginning the 75th day of his fast from both food and water. Although he was 5 feet 5 inches, he weighed less than 70 pounds and had to be carried to a room where officials had arranged for his family to see him. The Public Security Bureau (PSB), China's secret police, was hoping Liu's wife and mother would convince him to renounce his "superstitious" beliefs and reveal the identities and locations of his unregistered house-church contacts.

When Liu regained consciousness, his head was in his mother's lap. She was sobbing. His young wife and sister peered at him in horror. He was an unsightly pile of skin and bones, covered in crusty blood and filth. His ears were shriveled like raisins, and portions of his scalp were exposed because the prison guards had ripped his hair out.

Only a birthmark convinced Liu's mother that the man she was holding was her son. Soon they were all crying. Liu broke his fast by sharing communion with his family. Then he cried, "I will see you all in heaven!"

That was April 7, 1984. Liu believed he would soon die for the Lord in that prison, but God had other plans. He was released four years later but imprisoned and tortured twice more before escaping China in 1997.

Today, Liu Zhenying, 49, is known to Christians around the world as Brother Yun (pronounced "Yoon"), a name Chinese believers gave him to protect his identity. Thousands have been inspired by his account of supernatural intervention and miraculous survival, which he detailed in his autobiography, *The Heavenly Man* (Piquant Editions and Monarch Books).

Co-authored by Paul Hattaway, the book has been translated into 33 languages and has sold more than 800,000 copies. In 2003, it won the United Kingdom's Christian Booksellers' Book of the Year Award.

But more than being a testimony of one man's spiritual journey, *The Heavenly Man* offers a glimpse inside the Chinese underground house-church movement, a Christian community that is poised to reach the world with the gospel.

### **China's Christian Awakening**

Although the numbers vary, observers estimate between 100 million and 130 million Christians live in China, an indication that nearly 10 percent of the nation's 1.3 billion people may be believers.

Protestant missionary work to South Asia began exactly 200 years ago when Robert Morrison landed in Macao in 1807. The Scottish missionary eventually translated the Bible into Chinese from his base in the coastal city of Guangzhou. Later, missionaries such as Hudson Taylor, who founded the China Inland Mission in 1865, carried the gospel into interior provinces such as Henan.

There were roughly 1 million Christians living in China when Mao Zedong's community army took over in 1949. But Mao's regime looked to turn back the tide. "The first thing Mao did was expel all missionaries, throw pastors in prison or labor camps where most of them died, destroy church buildings and burn Bibles," Yun says. "By the 1970s, it was said the only Bibles left in China were in history museums in Beijing."

Yet when Mao's bloody Cultural Revolution ended with his death in 1976, an underground Christian movement erupted. It was around this time that a proselytizing 17-year-old Yun first became a wanted criminal in China, having led 2,000 people to Christ in his native Henan Province during his first year as a Christian.

He says his zeal came from his mother, a poor and backslidden woman who, while caring for her cancer-stricken husband and near suicide herself, tearfully turned back to God one night in 1974. The prodigal gathered her five children (Yun was the fourth of five) and told them Jesus would save them. They prayed all night for their father, and he was healed. Yun says God then told him to be His witness "to the south and the west."

The young evangelist continued to preach despite the constant threat of arrest. Even after Mao's brutal reign ended, Chinese authorities continued to persecute Christians. In 1983 after a secret house-church meeting in a village, PSB officers arrested Yun.

As he was being kicked and dragged through the snow, Yun feigned insanity to warn other believers to run, shouting, "I am a heavenly man! I live in Gospel Village! My father's name is Abundant Blessing! My mother's name is Faith, Hope and Love!"

One of several Christians to be arrested that night, Yun spent four years in Nanyang Prison. There he rejected numerous enticements to join the government-sanctioned Three-Self Church, as do most Christians in China. Members of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement or the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association face legal restrictions on core Christian practices, including evangelism, youth outreach and home groups.

Because Yun refused to conform, prison officials resorted to

beatings and electric shocks in an attempt to penetrate his house-church connections. "They wanted me to reveal names of co-workers and meeting places," Yun told *Charisma*. "With thick needles they squeezed acids under my nails, and I fainted from the pain. I woke up and told them nothing."

Unlike many Western teachers who equate Christianity with comfort and abundance, Yun preaches a gospel that emphasizes suffering and ruin. He sees affliction as a way to commune with God.

"I did not really suffer for Jesus while in prison—I was with Jesus," he writes in his book. "The ones who really suffer are those who never experience God's presence."

Revivalist Rolland Baker—who with his wife, Heidi, ministers among the poorest of Africa—says Yun's life is one "so totally captured by [Jesus] that no imaginable hardship or persecution can stop him from being more than a conqueror."

Yun says there was a time when he allowed ministry "to become an idol." After being released from Nanyang Prison in 1988, Yun says he temporarily lost sight of God and became overzealous and obstinate. He ministered around China at a breakneck pace, ignoring his wife's pleas to slow down.

Yun later admitted that he had forgotten his "first love." Of his second imprisonment in 1991, he says, "The Lord graciously allowed me to rest in Him behind bars."

Released in 1993, Yun says he soon developed a burden to see unity among China's house churches, a passion he shared with his mentor, Peter Xu Yongze, who at that time led China's large house church, the Born Again Movement.

The unity movement, later named Sinim Fellowship, spread so quickly that by early 1997 word of it reached the office of high-level communist officials in Beijing. Subsequently, the PSB raided a clandestine Sinim meeting in Henan's provincial

capital of Zhengzhou.

Trying to avoid arrest, Yun leaped from the second-floor window but fractured his leg. He was met on the ground by the PSB, who beat him and issued electric shocks. Sharing a wall between their cells, Yun and Xu, who also was arrested during the raid, were tortured for several days at Zhengzhou's Number One Maximum Security Prison. Yun's legs were beaten with clubs to rule out an escape attempt.

Yun says torture taught him an important lesson: "Even though God did not speak a word to me, no matter how much I cried; even though God didn't immediately set me free from the pain and terror; I have come to understand that He was there."

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After six weeks on the prison's third floor, Brother Yun believed God wanted him to escape. So on the morning of May 5, 1997, after his wife in a vision that morning told him to "open the iron door" and after Zu whispered to him that the time had come, Yun asked the guard for permission to use the bathroom.

Although he barely could stand on his battered legs, when the iron door opened, Yun says he suddenly was able to walk on his own, which he did, right past the first guard. On the stairwell he says he grabbed a broom to pretend he was tidying up the place, then proceeded past the second guard, who looked straight through him. Praying with every step, Yun says he reached ground level and found the third iron door open as well. Stepping onto the courtyard and into broad daylight, Yun thought he would be shot in the back at any moment.

But amazingly, when he reached the prison's main gate, it was open too. He walked onto the busy Zhengzhou streets and a taxi pulled up. The driver asked, "Where to?"

### **Controlling the Uncontrollable**

Yun later learned that no one had ever escaped from Zhengzhou Prison. The facility has since closed, and Yun's breakout is considered an unsolved mystery.

Today Chinese authorities continue to hunt down unregistered Christians. In parts of the Henan countryside, signs offer rewards of up to 50,000 renminbi, or roughly \$6,400—a fortune for working-class Chinese—to anyone who reports Christian meetings.

Yet clandestine worship services continue. When *Charisma* visited one such meeting in Henan Province in December, 200 leaders, most of them young women, sat crammed in a second-story room of an old industrial building where they listened to a minister from the West. Four believers positioned themselves in the hall to watch for the PSB. The preaching lasted for hours. At dusk, the windows were shaded and overhead lights came on.

Because meetings like this one are hundreds of miles away from Beijing and Shanghai—Westernized cities often visited by tourists—crackdowns are routine. In Henan last year, 174 Christians were arrested, more than in any other province, China Aid Association reported.

Human rights experts say a Chinese law called the Regulation on Religious Affairs—which the government-monitored *China Daily* newspaper heralded in 2005 as "a significant step forward in the protection of Chinese citizens' religious freedom"—actually helps facilitate heavier house-church crackdowns. "The situation is not getting any better," Amnesty International's Mark Allison told *USA Today* that year. The new law is "more an attempt to control religious groups than to

loosen restrictions," he said.

"There's no question that the absolute biggest threat to the [Chinese] Communist Party is Christianity," says China missionary Daniel Powers (not his real name), a former U.S. Marine sniper. He says the rise of the government-backed Three-Self Church is China's way of "controlling something they can't control."

In this same area of Henan last summer, Zhang Rongliang, leader of the 10 million-strong China for Christ Church, was sentenced to seven years in prison after the PSB went house-to-house in his Zhengzhou village, confiscating Christian material they believed linked him to Western organizations.

The leader who replaced Zhang is in hiding and told *Charisma* he feared Zhang was being tortured and that treatment for his diabetes was being withheld.

During the 1980s, Brother Yun ministered several times with Zhang. They once hid from the PSB huddled together all night in a field under freezing rain. They were also at the same meeting on the night Yun was arrested in 1983 and sent to Nanyang Prison.

"In prison we were put in separate cells," Zhang says in Yun's autobiography. "But we cried out along the prison corridors, hoping our voices would [encourage] each other."

Like other house-church leaders, Yun went into hiding after his 1997 escape from Zhengzhou Prison. A few months later, Yun and his wife, Deling, believed God was saying Yun needed to leave China and seek political asylum in Germany. Deling and their two children, Isaac and Yilin, could follow later.

With nowhere safe to hide in Henan—and after frightened hosts in Hubei Province asked him to leave—Yun and his family took refuge with Christians 400 miles away in the coastal province of Shandong. "We all cried and prayed in the Beijing hotel

room the night before he flew out," a member of the Shangdong family who drove Yun to Beijing airport in September 1997 told *Charisma*. "He was about to use a false passport ... so we prayed for protection."

Airport officials laughed at the glaring discrepancy between Yun's appearance and the passport photo, but cleared him to board Air China's nonstop flight to Frankfurt. After in-depth investigations in Germany, Yun received a high-level refugee status and began sharing his testimony in churches.

Yet Yun continued to face opposition. Two years after fleeing to Germany, he learned that a Hong Kong-based ministry leader was accusing him of exploiting Western churches for financial gain.

"In hindsight, this was an ideal time to observe Yun's life, as he ministered under this tremendous cloak of accusation," says Dale Hiscock, executive director of AsiaLink Ministries. "Not once did I ever hear one negative comment from Yun. He knew he was under attack and simply trusted God."

After Yun responded to the accusations, the controversy began to quiet. But several months later, Yun faced the kind of persecution he had always known in China. While he was in Myanmar in 2001, trying to help his family escape to Germany, Yun was arrested, tortured and beaten for seven months in a squalid Yangon prison.

With parasitic worms visibly crawling beneath his skin, Yun sought to share the gospel with other inmates, and many made decisions for Christ. He says it was God's will for him to be "a seed buried in that prison"—where in a cesspool of disease and unimaginable pain revival began breaking out.

His seven-year prison sentence was reduced to seven months and seven days—roughly the time it takes for a seed of wheat to sprout, Yun says. After his release in September 2001 from his final imprisonment to date, Yun once again faced accusation

from fellow Christians.

Led by a Germany-based Vietnamese-Chinese businessman who helped in Yun's 1997 escape from China by giving him a passport, several Chinese church leaders issued an open letter denouncing Yun as a fraud. The group claimed his testimony of supernatural intervention was false, that he exaggerated his influence among China's house churches and that he was exploiting Western Christians.

"I have been challenged many times with his," Yun told *Charisma*, his eyes welling with tears. "But when I'm before the Lord in prayer, the Lord has never allowed me to say anything negative. I have just been blessing them, each one of them, in the name of Jesus."

Hattaway says a group of Chinese house-church leaders investigated the charges against Yun and found his story reliable. Other Christian leaders also have publicly come to Yun's defense.

"I've known Yun very well since the early 1980s," Dennis Balcombe, senior pastor at Revival Christian Church in Hong Kong for almost 40 years, says in an open letter posted at Asia Harvest's website. "I have seen closely his ministry and traveled with him on many occasions [while he was still in] China. He has my total support as a man of God with high integrity, who has in the past and is presently making a great contribution to the kingdom of God."

Bob Fu, president of China Aid Association and a former Chinese prisoner himself, told *Charisma*: "I think Yun is a genuine servant of God who is very sincere and full of passion for the gospel."

Persecution has made Yun "even more fervent and fiery for Jesus," evangelist Reinhard Bonnke told *Charisma*. "I am sure that he will be among the Lord's anointed of the next generation, who build the kingdom of God in the toughest

places on earth. I appreciate and honor this great servant of God.”

## **Back to Jerusalem**

Today in his ministry worldwide, Yun clings to the calling he received as a teen, to be a witness for the Lord “to the south and the west.” But Yun senses that beyond just sharing his testimony, he also carries a burden.

While still in China, Yun had a powerful encounter in 1995 with Simon Zhao. It was at a meeting where Yun sang an old Chinese hymn, a death-defying anthem to preach the gospel westward, “marking toward Jerusalem.” Through tears, Zhao told Yun he had written the song 50 before.

During the 1940s, Zhao had led a mission called the Northwest Spiritual Movement. The group had its roots in Shandong Province, where a Christians clan called the Jesus Family lived by the slogan “Sacrifice, Abandonment, Poverty, Suffering, Death.”

The vision for both groups was to move the gospel into the regions of western China and beyond. By 1949, Zhao and his missionary band were arrested in a remote area of China. For his radical faith, Zhao endured beatings in a communist labor camp for nearly 40 years.

Yun promised Zhao that he would help carry on that missionary vision, which is today known as Back to Jerusalem. The campaign aims to spread the gospel from China to every Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim nation across the 10/40 Window, a region from West Africa to East Asia.

Yun believes many of China’s Christians, refined in the fires of persecution, are now ready to lose their lives in reach the lost. “I feel very strongly that the time has already come for the church in China to bring the gospel back to Jerusalem,” says Yun, who like others believes the Back to Jerusalem

vision could be the “last leg” of fulfilling the Great Commission.

“The greatest change will come in the Middle East not when more soldiers go there to die. It will take messengers of Jesus Christ proclaiming the gospel. When they start to die, real change will take place.”

Pelle Karlsson, president of Back to Jerusalem Inc, an organization with which Yun is affiliated, believes Yun’s testimony is “an alarm clock to the church in the West, off and sleeping. It calls the church back to that deeper level of commitment—to take the cross for real.”

Ironically it was China that for centuries was thought to be sleeping. Napoleon Bonaparte, the French emperor who was conquering Europe while missionary Robert Morrison was sailing for China, once said: “Let China sleep. For when she wakes, she will shake the world.”

Many would say it is a prophecy now being fulfilled in China’s powerful economy. But others believe a spiritual force is emerging in China—an underground church poised to evangelize the world. “The vision the Lord has given the Chinese church is to bring Jesus to every people group—from the Great Wall of China to the Eastern Wall of Jerusalem,” Yun says.

It may not be the kind of awakening Napoleon once envisioned. But today, in clandestine house churches across China, a revival generation is stirring.

**Paul Steen Ghiringhelli** *is the former assistant news editor of Charisma. He traveled to China in Nov. 2006 to report this story.*

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# How Will Graham Prepared to Play His Grandfather, Billy Graham, in 'Unbroken'

Will Graham, grandson of famed evangelist Billy Graham, stepped in front of the cameras in *Unbroken: Path to Redemption* to play a crucial part in the life story of Louis Zamperini, Olympic runner and prisoner of war.

The film, a "spiritual sequel" to the 2014 *Unbroken*, was directed by Harold Cronk (*God's Not Dead*, *God Bless the Broken Road*), produced by Matt Baer and executive produced by Luke Zamperini, son of the main character.

Zamperini, played in the film by Samuel Hunt, battled alcoholism and post-traumatic stress disorder after returning to the states following his time in a Japanese prison camp, but eventually turned his life to Christ at a Billy Graham tent crusade.

"I'm grateful to have a chance to play my granddad and to tell the bigger story of how God changed Louie and Cynthia's (lives)," Graham said.

Graham, who is quick to point out that he's "not an actor," studied his grandfather's sermons, which he said often were as quick as a "machine gun," with the evangelist rarely taking a breath.

"He went eight weeks, preached every day, and twice on Sunday, and so I didn't get to listen to all those sermons, but I try to pick out the few that were meaningful to Louis," he said. "Actually, we used his sermon as my script in the movie."

Luke Zamperini, whose character appears as an infant in the film, never knew his father before his conversion, but jokes

that he saw flashes of his anger when he was disciplined. He's grateful for the chance to continue telling his father's story, specifically his transformation.

"I'm disappointed that we couldn't tell the whole story in the first [film] but elated that we're able to tell it in *Unbroken: Path to Redemption*," he said. "Because this was the right team to tell this part of the story to focus on his struggles with PTSD and being able to overcome that through faith in Christ at the preaching of Will's grandfather."

*Unbroken: Path to Redemption* releases Friday from Universal 1440 Entertainment, The WTA Group and Pure Flix Entertainment.

To see an exclusive interview with Graham and Zamperini, watch the video. {eoa}

**DeWayne Hamby** is a communications specialist and longtime journalist covering faith-based music, entertainment, books and the retail industry. He is also the editor of the White Wing Messenger, director of communications for the Church of God of Prophecy, and author of the book *Gratitude Adjustment*. Connect with him at or on Twitter, @dewaynehamby.

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## Family Christian Relaunches as Digital Platform

Family Christian will relaunch as a digital platform through a merger announced this week by the Giving Company.

The merger puts Family Christian under the same umbrella as iDisciple, Christian Cinema and .

The global faith and family media network will serve the 90

million faith-oriented families in the U.S. and millions more around the world, according to a release. The Giving Company has also formed iDisciple Publishing, a division that will release premium nonfiction books with an exciting range of authors serving the Christian community.

CEO David Henriksen spoke with Charisma News about the merger:

**How did you decide on these particular brands to come under one umbrella?** Family Christian and iDisciple have been together for many years. The customers for Family Christian historically have been interested in Christian movies along with music and Bibles. Adding Christian Cinema and Dove provided compelling premium content for existing audiences.

**What benefits do the individual brands get by coming together?** There are some operational efficiencies that come with bringing multiple brands together into a single operation: IT, sales, customer service, accounting and so on. But the main benefit is the immediate opportunity to have an expanded audience to serve. The users of the individual brands are responding well to the other content sources.

**Why relaunch Family Christian in this way?** What happened to the stores was really unfortunate for everyone involved. We believe we understand this audience well, at least the eCommerce and digital users, and want to continue to meet their needs. Working with publishers, authors, music labels, and movie studios—our intention is to provide them a great digital experience that includes content and eCommerce.

**How will these brands share content?** There will be some minimal content sharing, but most content will be exclusive to each brand. The TVOD platform is Christian Cinema, the devotional platform is iDisciple, the women and family site is Family Christian and the movie reviews are on . But—there are always opportunities to allow each audience to access common content that is relevant and compelling for all. Devotionals,

movies reviews and sermons are examples.

**Why merge these brands?** We have a better opportunity to give. Giving is in our name because we want to be ferocious givers of life-changing content to digital consumers around the world. We also enhance our scale which will allow us to achieve our mission of supporting charities that serve the marginalized around the world as well.

**How can people sign up?** Currently, users sign up with the individual brands. In the future, we will introduce a Giving Membership that allows access to premium content for all properties from a single sign-up.

**What will it cost them?** Cost varies by brand due to the diversity of each brand's product. content is entirely free as will be Family Christian once it relaunches. iDisciple has both a free version and a \$ premium version. Christian Cinema is a digital on-demand transactional platform that allows user to rent or buy digital movies, where rental and purchases prices can vary.

**What Scriptures have influenced this process?** Everyone who is part of Giving Company has a passion for giving. We are guided by Acts 20:35 (NIV) which states " In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

**How have you prayed about this merger?** As a company, we pray together every morning at 9 a.m. We are constantly seeking wisdom and guidance for all of our activities. We also pray for our team and we are so fortunate to have added Suzy Sammons, Bobby Downes, Jared Geesey, Debbie Korte, Peter Pallock and Doug Weiss to our organization.

**What has the Holy Spirit told you about the merger?** The Holy Spirit has told us to not fear. We have gone from a company with one product (iDisciple) and one channel (Family

Christian) to a global media company with multiple brands and businesses. It is new and fresh to everyone but our team is so aligned around our mission that we are excited about the future plans the Lord has for us and our business partners.

**How can people get a Giving Membership?** Giving Membership will launch in October 2018 as a replacement to the current iDisciple Premium subscription and will initially be available only through iDisciple. Throughout 2019 we plan to expand the Giving Membership to encompass all the brands but also allow users to sign-up at the brand level or at .

Please go to to see everything that we have become and have to offer!

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## **Bill Johnson: The Only Source of True Biblical Structure**

Bill Johnson says that all structure in the Bible is supposed to come out of romance. He says relationship and grace are necessary to keep Christianity's complex structures in order. Watch to hear Johnson explain why.

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## **Carter Conlon Exclusive: Why Your Prayers May Not Yield**

# Results

Prayer isn't just another box to be checked off at the end of the day for Pastor Carter Conlon. It's his entire ministry—and lifestyle.

His radio broadcast "It's Time to Pray" reaches the nations with quick, 60-second devotionals, and if believers put his words into practice, his upcoming book by the same name could shift the spiritual atmosphere.

Conlon is the pastor of Times Square Church on Broadway in the heart of New York City. David Wilkerson started TSC, and Carter became pastor in 1994.

"I believe just as Esther was prodded by Mordecai to approach the throne of the king for the sake of her people, I'm hoping that this book, *It's Time to Pray*, is going to prod many people to go back to the throne of God to find, as the Scriptures say, grace and strength to help in this present time of need," Conlon tells Charisma. "I believe that the lives of many people are now hanging in the balance, spiritually speaking, and if we will start to pray again, as the people of God, we can know a spiritual awakening again in America. It really is a very short window the Lord has set before us."

His book, set to release on Nov. 6 with Charisma House, addresses the who, what, when, where, why and how about prayer.

[CLICK HERE TO PREORDER THE BOOK](#)

Where may Christians miss the mark, he says, isn't that they don't pray, but that their prayer is self-focused.

"Realistically, we've reached out as a nation for the Holy Spirit for all the wrong reasons," Conlon says.

“The spirit of the Lord was upon him for those reasons. There was a clear reason why God’s Spirit was upon the physical man Jesus Christ. Then he said to us, ‘As the father has sent me, now I send you.’ In other words, the calling on my life and yours is no different than His. Now obviously, we’re not the Savior. Don’t misunderstand me. But the calling is the same. The calling is to the oppressed, the addicted, the marginalized, the afflicted, the spiritually blind, the hopeless, the captivated and certainly to God.”

He continues: “So the question that comes to mind is, are we willing to be the church again? Are we going to get back to our identity? Are we going to figure out what our purpose is? Are we going to have the guts to take a look at ourselves and say do we really look like the church in the book of Acts, or have we become something else? What are we as a people? What goes on in our conventions? What’s our focus when we need to worship together? Are we just into this constant goofiness, or are we really going to go with God and do the work he’s called us to do on the earth? You can understand I’m passionate about this because I’ve lived it, I’ve seen it, I’ve walked in it, I’ve tasted in it.”

For people who pray and don’t see results, Conlon says they may not understand the power behind their prayers.

He believes this is something the modern church has lost. In Acts 2, Conlon says the early church was prepared to die as soon as they stepped out of the upper room.

They refused to live in seclusion or self-preservation. Instead, they acted in power. Their prayers were not self-focused, like much of what Christians ask of the Lord in the modern church.

“Today, we look for the power, but if we don’t understand the purpose of the power of God, then we just end up seeking this sensory delusion, from one place to another to another,”

Conlon says. "It's not leading us to the work of God that he wants to do through us on earth. Then we just end up seeking another experience and another experience and another experience. My observations over the years are those experiences become more and more and more absurd as time goes on, because it's not leading to the reason for why we're seeking that power."

In his personal life, Conlon says he is praying for the Lord to open his eyes to the cry of his city and to give him the ability to respond.

"'Would you help me, Lord, to put a trumpet to my lips and call your church back to prayer? Would you give me the grace, O God, to live the kind of a life that makes a difference for somebody else?'" Conlon will pray. 'Deliver me from self-focus and from any pursuit of You that's not really related to Your kingdom.'

"That is the cry of my heart every day, all day. It's not just in the morning when I get alone with God, but it's throughout the day I find myself praying again, 'Lord, just have mercy on this generation and use my life somehow to make a difference for these people. There's just so many who need help, and they need hope now.'"

Amen.

*This article was composed from an interview with Carter Conlon for the October edition of Charisma magazine. Click here to SUBSCRIBE to Charisma.*

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# David Wilkerson's Spiritual Heir Warns Believers Against Falling for This Delusion

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