

Heavenly Man's Prophetic Vision Fulfilled That Chinese Spread Gospel in 10/40 Window

Liu Zhenying, better known as Brother Yun, is driven by one goal: fulfill the vision God gave him at 16 years old to preach the gospel. Because of that vision, Brother Yun played an instrumental role in developing China's network of house churches in the 1980s and '90s.

"The heavenly man"—as Brother Yun has been affectionately called—is well-acquainted with suffering for Jesus' sake. He has been in jail three times for his faith (his testimony is that he simply walked out of prison and all the doors opened) and was even exiled from China. But he is also well-acquainted with the power of God. Brother Yun is more passionate than ever to see the church bring the gospel to all races and all nations, especially Israel.

Charisma has written about Brother Yun several times. In fact, he appeared on *Charisma's* cover in 2007. In our cover story about him, we take an in-depth look at Brother Yun's life and ministry; the imprisonments, torture and false accusations he has endured; and his supernatural escape from a high-security prison. [Click here](#) to read the entire article, and if you haven't done so already, [click here](#) to subscribe to the magazine.

While at Heidi Baker's Live to Love conference in Orlando, Florida, God allowed me to interview Brother Yun. I could hear the passion in his voice as he shared the vision God gave him to fulfill the Great Commission.

"I was called by the Lord when I was 16, and He had given me a very clear vision to preach the gospel to the West and the South," Brother Yun told me with the help of an interpreter.

He also told me that more people need to pray for the church in China. Lately, as the Chinese government has lessened its religious persecution, the church has let its hunger for God and spreading the gospel weaken.

“First thing, we need a lot of prayers for the church in China so we can also resurrect that sense of urgency to bring the gospel back to Jerusalem, to have that sense of mission and that sense of fear—but not in a scary way but rather a reverence for the Lord,” he says.

Brother Yun is a steadfast proponent of the Back to Jerusalem movement, which started in the late 1940s when mainland Chinese house churches felt burdened to preach the gospel and establish Christian fellowships between China and Jerusalem. Believers from these churches started traveling on foot from Eastern China toward the West, preaching as they went. But as they approached the Western border of China, the Cultural Revolution started (Mao Zedong’s communist takeover), and they were accused of being revolutionaries. They were sentenced to jail, where some stayed as long as 30-40 years. Sadly, some even died there.

“For the sake of this vision, I was imprisoned for a third time in China, but by the grace of the Lord, He has brought me out of prison again,” Brother Yun says. “After I came out of prison for the third time, I heard the Lord telling me, ‘Your time in China is up. I’m taking you out of China to another country. I’ll be taking you to a foreign land, where all the faces will look different and they will speak a different language, but do not be afraid.’”

And God is fulfilling that prophetic word. Now, Brother Yun’s followers are spreading the gospel not only in Western countries but also in Muslim and Buddhist countries. Believers are preaching throughout the 10/40 window—and each country with its own challenges.

“China has its own cross to carry,” Brother Yun says. “But outside of China, there’s a different cross. The crosses might be slightly different, but the weight of the cross is the same.”

But he points out that in order to fulfill the vision God gave him, the church must rise up and take advantage of its power in Christ.

“I firmly believe our Lord is a resurrected God, just as Paul said,” Brother Yun says. “He became flesh and was buried and was resurrected. And that same power has been given to us to trample on our enemy. I firmly believe God will establish his church in the darkest places of the world, and no power in hell, or no political power, no dark forces can overcome the power of Christ.”

I couldn’t agree more. I hope every Christian will soon understand the Holy Spirit’s power as Brother Yun does. Be sure to listen to my entire interview with Brother Yun below, and share this article today with another brother or sister in need of encouragement and inspiration.

‘We Are Living in a Golden Age of Satanic Coming-of-Age Tales’

Netflix debuted its trailer for *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* on Thursday, teasing viewers with glimpses at Baphomet, demonic rituals, pentagrams, spells and more.

“We are living in a golden age of Satanic coming-of-age

tales,” Katie Rife of the AV Club writes.

The poster for the series, released Wednesday, gives the titular character horns as the Satanic icon Baphomet hovers behind her.

Netflix says *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* imagines the origin and adventures of Sabrina the Teenage Witch as a dark coming-of-age story that traffics in horror, the occult and, of course, witchcraft. Tonally in the vein of *Rosemary’s Baby* and *The Exorcist*, this adaptation finds Sabrina wrestling to reconcile her dual nature—half-witch, half-mortal—while standing against the evil forces that threaten her, her family and the daylight world humans inhabit.

“The *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* trailer certainly looks like the creepy, supernatural drama those close to the production have promised fans,” ScreenRant reports. “Much of the trailer is made up of quick-cut scenes, showcasing various settings around town, including the Spellman Mortuary and Cerberus Books. Further, the trailer teases the 16th birthday of Sabrina, which marks an important time in a young witch’s life. But the celebrations aren’t all fun and games, with multiple shots of various rituals and the demon that appears behind Sabrina in the show’s poster.”

While some Christians quibbled with the first series, which was more hokey than horror, the new adaptation proves there is nothing to joke about with witchcraft.

According to Refinery 29:

In The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina, Salem is a nondescript black cat without the ability to speak. But Salem’s not actually a cat at all. He’s Sabrina’s familiar—a goblin trapped in the body of a cat, dedicated to protecting and helping Sabrina.

The new Zelda Spellman is a nascent fashion icon, a Satan-worshipping queen, and absolutely terrifying—in the best way possible. Otto is an Australian actor best known for her stint as Eowyn in The Lord of the Rings movies.

At high school, Sabrina has to contend with Mary Wardell. And in the witch world, she has to deal with Father Blackwood, a dogmatic and vindictive high priest.

Sabrina lives with Zelda, Hilda and Ambrose, her charming, rule-breaking pansexual cousin on perpetual house arrest. This is Perdomo's first onscreen role, but after Sabrina, you know it won't be his last.

Blatant satanism on television could be a reflection on the culture's larger recent obsession with the occult.

President Donald Trump's election drew witches out of the woodwork to cast spells during pagan holidays, and Spirit-filled pastors immediately recognized the demonic forces attacking the administration.

Even secular sources have reported on culture's growing obsession with darkness.

Aimee Lutkin writes for *Marie Clare*:

Donald Trump and his cabinet of evangelical, right-wing billionaires have been enacting their anti-woman agenda on both a national and international stage for nearly two years, reinstating the global gag rule on abortion, continuing their attacks on Planned Parenthood and demonstrating on every front their contempt for women and children. ...

In just a few short years, under these conditions, the pop culture witch has grown far more hostile. She's no longer here to cleanse auras and bow to the moon. As writer Lindy West joked in her New York Times op-ed, "Yes, this is a witch hunt. I'm a witch and I'm hunting you."

This Big Mood is already felt in Charmed, a show you'd expect to be goofy, nostalgic fun. We see witch Mel Vera get accused of being too angry, of alienating everyone around her by being obsessed with her mother's death. Later, her newly discovered sister Maty Vaughn smashes a beer bottle with her telekinetic powers after an outburst, anger coursing through her as much as magic. The youngest sister, Maddie Vera, kicks a monster in the body of a man across the room.

Though the development teams for these spinoffs and reboots are likely juggling the demands of advertisers, a possessive fanbase and what you can legally show on TV, it's telling that the witches we're being offered now are consumed with rage. It's a dark world, and they're fighting back with their dark arts. Ding, dong, the witch lives.

As much as Satan may think he's gaining ground, though, God's kingdom continues to explode.

Multiple revivals are breaking out across the country with thousands of salvations and miracles among them.

James tells us to resist the devil and he will flee, so maybe don't indulge in pop culture's latest obsession.

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.

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."

CHARISMA is the only magazine dedicated to reporting on what the Holy Spirit is doing in the lives of believers around the world. If you are thirsty for more of God's presence and His Holy Spirit, subscribe to CHARISMA and join a family of believers that choose to live life in the Spirit. [CLICK HERE](#) for a special offer.

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 years 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. {eoa}

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

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.

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.

"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."

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.

Anne Graham Lotz: ‘You Want to Be Prepared Before the Hurricane’

Anne Graham Lotz and others in the Carolinas are already experiencing the punishing outer bands of Hurricane Florence. But the popular evangelist also faces what she calls her own “personal hurricane”: a recent diagnosis of breast cancer. In this interview with WRAL (Raleigh, North Carolina) she shares words of prophetic encouragement for all those in the path of personal storms.

Terrorism Expert Brigitte

Gabriel Issues Urgent Warning Ahead of Midterm Elections—Especially for Christians

Terrorism expert Brigitte Gabriel says the upcoming midterm elections are critical for America's survival.

“God looked upon America with grace and said, OK, I'll give you one more chance to straighten up. One more chance!’ And, thank God we have somebody like President Trump in office who has the backbone and the courage to say what most people are afraid to say, including the majority of our Republicans in Congress right now.”

Gabriel, whose latest book, *Rise*, came out on 9/11, says believers especially must show up to vote their values.

“These midterm elections, especially the Christians, I'm talking to all you Christians watching right now, you need to show up, and you need to exercise your voice because God changes the world using you as instruments of change,” Gabriel says. “It's not enough to pray, they have to go out and vote their principles and their values.”

Spirit-Filled Pastor Breaks Down the Real Reason Jesus

Came to Earth in Exclusive 'Finger of God 2' Clip

In this new clip from the upcoming film, *Finger of God 2*, pastor Chad Norris from Bridgeway Church in Greenville, South Carolina, talks about the real reason Jesus came to earth: because the Father wants His kids back.

You can see this new film at one of its many tour locations around the U.S. or watch an exclusive online event on Oct. 6 (the film will be available for 24 hours). All information on the tour, the Sneak Peek event or even how to bring the film to your church is available at .

The film will be released worldwide on Dec. 4.

Warning: Bittersweet Times Ahead

Joseph prepared for seven years of famine during the seven years of prosperity (Gen. 41:47-49, 53-57). And so there is a time of preparation we've been in now for some time. The disciplinary judgments of the Lord have been delayed and held back from on our nation as the praying remnant who are exercising their spiritual authority take their place.

I heard one minister call this the ministry of divine authority. In the times of Elijah, we see this ministry in manifestation in the spirit and power of Elijah as he stood on Mount Carmel and contested with the false prophets of Baal. The fire fell and consumed the sacrifice along with the wood,

stones, dust and even the water. This mighty manifestation caused the people to fall on their faces and declare the Lord as God.

“Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, ‘The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!’” (1 Kings 18:39b)

We also see this divine authority exercised in the days of Moses as he stretched forth his rod and the Red Sea swallowed up and drowned the Egyptian armies. The results of this ministry are noted in Exodus 14:31:

“When Israel saw the great power which the Lord used upon the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.”

This type of authority administered in the spirit and power of Elijah will be seen again. Its purpose is always redemptive—to bring forth true repentance and cause the hearts of the people to turn to the Lord.

We are in the infantile stages of the release of the spirit and power of Elijah where true servants of God exercise this great authority. This will include a worldwide company of men and women who have been summoned by the Lord to be His messengers, and their ministry will be similar to that of John the Baptist.

“He will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:16-17).

In the times of Moses and Elijah, great severity was necessary to turn the hearts of the people back to the Lord. Often people quote the Scripture in Romans 2:4, properly stating that it is the goodness or kindness of the Lord that leads to

repentance, but when the Lord's goodness does not lead to repentance then He is forced to move us into the realm of His severity.

"Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God—severity toward those who fell, but goodness toward you, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off" (Rom. 11:22).

If people would stop taking Romans 2:4 out of context, they would see that the passage is not just focusing on the goodness of God, but also on His severity. It's in contrast to understanding His severity that we come to greatly appreciate His goodness and not take it for granted. People love to quote this verse, but how often do you hear them quote the verses before and after it? Do people realize this verse is sandwiched between verses about the judgment and wrath of God?

Do you think, O man, who judges those who do such things, and who does the same thing, that you will escape the judgment of God? Do you despise the riches of His goodness, tolerance, and patience, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

But because of your hardness and impenitent heart, you are storing up treasures of wrath against yourself on the day of wrath when the righteous judgment of God will be revealed. ...

But to those who are contentious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation, and wrath, will be tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man who does evil, to the Jew first, and then to the Gentile (Rom. 2:3-5, 8-9).

The danger of God's judgment and wrath needs to be made known, or people will never realize how good, kind and patient He is. God's goodness is truly manifested toward the disobedient when He graciously allows them more space and time to repent in

spite of their rebellion against Him. Lovingly warning others about God's wrath and severity does not mean you are not focusing on the goodness and kindness of God. God's wrath is good, because it is just, and fair, for it reveals His holiness.

Too many people have taken the Lord's goodness to further their pleasurable, worldly and even sinful lifestyles. Therefore, for the sake of their salvation and perseverance of their souls the Lord has to administer His severity.

And so we will see both the manifestation of the goodness and severity of the Lord side by side in the days ahead. Bittersweet times are upon us. We will choose our own medicine. These things will come with great cost and great loss to many as well as great glory and victory to others.

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.