

Bob Fu Interview by Andrew Boyd 18mins

March 2018

Cue:

Gathering storm for persecuted Christians in China

A leading campaigner is warning of a gathering storm for persecuted Christians in China. Bob Fu, a partner of Release International which supports the persecuted church, says the harassment of Christians has risen dramatically under President Xi Jinping, and is set to worsen now Xi has been declared president for life.

New restrictions on religious freedom came into force in February, intended to contain the 'overheated' spread of Christianity in China. And those rules are already biting hard.

Bob Fu, who has advised several US Presidents on China, gave his warning in London. Speaking at the event *Christian Persecution in China*, he described the impact of the current clampdown on the Church to Andrew Boyd...

In: 'The current crackdown against...'

Out: ...thank you, Andrew'

Dur: 18mins 28secs

Back Anno: Release International partner Bob Fu, speaking there to Andrew Boyd

Outline of interview

0 – 2m 40s

Impact of current crackdown

- Worse since end of Cultural Revolution
- Dramatic increase in numbers persecuted
- In 2017, 220,000 Chinese Christians harassed – four times that of the previous year
- 3,700 Christians detained
- Only tip of the iceberg, most cases go unreported
- Several hundreds sentenced
- Now cracking down on prayer meetings
- Many forbidden from attending church, including under 18s
- No exaggeration – cases are verified

2m 40s – 3m 47s

Luoning County crackdown

- First day of regulations, government teams searched homes
- Confiscated Christian symbols
- Tore down Christian murals
- Replaced with President Xi's portrait
- Not since the Cultural Revolution

3m 47s – 4m 40s

President Xi president for life – prospect for Christians?

- He has shown extreme hostility towards Christians
- Prepare for major storm for the church
- Already happening

4m 40s – 6m 07s

Form of Emperor worship?

- Some Buddhists are declaring him reincarnation of Buddha
- We are created to worship
- Some are almost idolising President Xi

6m 07s – 7m 02s

Impact on ordinary Christians?

- Officials moved into home to prevent prayer meeting

7m 02s - 10m 01s

Why does China regard Christians as enemies of the state?

- Regime is controlling by nature
- Christians loyal to God
- But Chinese Christians are model citizens
- Spiritual warfare
- All about control, Christians worship higher authority
- Matter of absolute control
- Christians would rather suffer persecution than surrender their faith

10m 01s – 10m 42s

China claims foreign influence in the church

- Just an excuse to justify the crackdown
- Missionaries kicked out in 1955

10m 42s – 12m 18s

Rapid growth of Christianity in China

- Communist party scared of Christian revival
- Internal document justified cross removal to 'contain overheated growth of Christianity'
- Scared of growth of Christianity

12m 18s – 13m 24s

Clampdown on lawyers representing poor and opposed to cross removals

- Chinese war against the lawyers
- More than 500 rounded up
- Several still missing, including Gao Zhisheng
- Tortured

13m 24s – 14m 27s

Does the Communist Party consider itself above the law?

- The party wants to control everything
- That is now written into the party's constitution
- Law is subject to will of the party and president

14m 27s – 15m 19s

Prospects for persecution over next ten years?

- Unregistered churches totally outlawed
- Revival in church
- Purification of church

15m 19s - 16m 12s

Do you fear for your own safety?

- Sometimes, but cared for in US
- God is sovereign and protects
- Need to trust God

16m 12s – 17m 47s

How should Christians pray for church in China?

- Stand firm on true gospel
- Proclaim it, even in prison and labour camps
- Pray for persecutors, including President Xi
- For God to restrain them, and save them
- Chinese Christians are praying for the West
- Concerned about decline of church in the West

17m 47s – 18m 27s

How should we pray for Bob Fu?

- Health
- Work for persecuted without intimidation
- Pray for family, including three children
- Pray for staff of ChinaAid