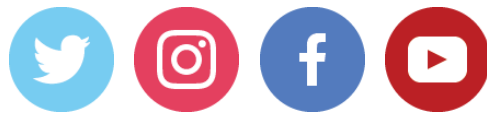




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Release Women Email - September 2020

Hello Friend

For I know whom I have believed

The last few months have certainly been a challenge to us all in different ways with continuing 'lockdown' restrictions, the changes to what we can or can't do and how many people we can meet up with. Many have had to face separation and self-isolation to protect others from the virus. Some have had to face the pain of the loss of family members. In addition, many of us have had to get used to not meeting together for worship as part of a local church or fellowship on Sundays. Challenging though these times are, it is possible that they may have given us just a small insight into the lives of some of our persecuted brothers and sisters.

One sister to remember especially at this time is Jiang Rong, wife of Pastor Wang Yi the founder of Early Rain Covenant Church, China. Jiang Rong and her husband (pictured) were both arrested in December 2018, along with about 100 other church members. Their church, in Chengdu, Sichuan, was forcibly closed. Jiang Rong and many of the church members arrested at the time have been released from detention, but they are monitored constantly. For most, formal court trials await at unspecified dates that only the authorities know.



Jiang Rong's husband though remains imprisoned. He was charged with 'inciting subversion of state power' and 'illegal business operations.' In December 2019 he was convicted of those crimes, fined, and sentenced to nine years in prison. A former law professor, Pastor Wang Yi has been vocal in calling on the state to uphold religious liberties.

Since the crackdown, some Early Rain church members have been sent back to their hometowns and banned from Chengdu. Others have lost their jobs or been evicted. Some of those who have been released say they were abused and deprived of food and water.

Since her release from prison on bail, Jiang Rong has remained under house arrest, with her young son Joshua, with little or no freedom of movement. It is reported that Joshua is being taken daily by police car to a Communist Party school of 're-education' – known as brainwashing. Jiang Rong is said to be considerably distressed by her isolation from family and friends and her brothers and sisters in Christ.

You can read Pastor Wang Yi's prisoner profile on our website [here](#) and our latest [Voice](#) magazine reports on how your generous giving has helped support other pastors in China, especially during the pandemic.

It may be difficult to see God's hand at work in Jiang Rong's situation. But as we pray for Jiang Rong, for her husband Pastor Wang Yi and their son Joshua, let's remember what the apostle Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy, when Paul himself was a prisoner:

'That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.'

2 Timothy 1:12

Blessings,

Release Women Team

Please CLICK on the red button if you prayed.

I prayed!