



# Pastor Zhang Rongliang

## China

Amongst the many Christians in detention in China at this time, Pastor Zhang Rongliang is a figure of particular concern. Pastor Zhang is the leader of the China for Christ Church, which is estimated to have about ten million members. He is one of the most prominent house church leaders in China and has been featured in TIME and Newsweek magazines. He was arrested on 1st December 2004 in Xuhai village, Zhengzhou in Henan Province. The arrest was followed by other raids in the area and on other churches. His family all fled into hiding. Pastor Zhang, who is 53, suffers from serious diabetes, and there are particular concerns for his welfare and safety. He had been wanted for his religious activities for many years and has already spent twelve years in prison for his faith, during five separate detentions. According to a report received, it appeared he was being held incommunicado in the Jinshui area in Zhengzhou. A recent report suggests that Pastor Zhang had a court hearing on 1st June, although this appears to have dealt only with preliminary matters and there is no further information available through current sources.

During a brief period of freedom, Pastor Zhang wrote these words in the foreword to the book *the Heavenly Man*, 'Yun and I worked together for many years until we were arrested

Through our international network of missions, Release International serves persecuted Christians in 30 countries around the world by supporting pastors and Christian prisoners, and their families; supplying Christian literature and Bibles; and working for justice.

Please see [www.releaseinternational.org](http://www.releaseinternational.org) for more information.

© Release International 2006 Tel: 01689 823491

**EMAIL ALERT**  
**for prayer & action**

**JANUARY 2006**



*in Nanyang. In the prison we were put in separate cells, but we cried out along the prison corridors, hoping our voices would be heard as a source of encouragement to each other. We tried to slip notes to strengthen each other in the faith'.*

## PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ Pray for Pastor Zhang's health, that God would strengthen his body and bring healing when and where it is needed.
- ▶ Pray for his family, that they would be kept safe and know God's presence.
- ▶ Pray for his release, that we would have cause to rejoice together with his family and with the house churches in China.
- ▶ Pray for God to intervene in a powerful way to see Pastor Zhang restored to his role as Pastor and leader in the China for Christ Church.

*'But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him'*

**release** INTERNATIONAL  
  
THE VOICE OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

In the case of Pastor Zhang Rongliang we do not know the exact location where he is being held. We still believe however, that it is entirely appropriate and helpful to write to the authorities on his behalf.

**Please write a short, polite letter to the following asking for the release of Pastor Zhang Rongliang.**

Sample letter to Government officials

I respectfully request your attention to the case of Pastor Zhang Rongliang, who is currently being held incommunicado in the Jinshui area in Zhengzhou. Pastor Zhang is a much loved and respected leader of the China for Christ Church and is known to thousands of Christians around the world.

I respectfully ask on behalf of Christians in China and indeed worldwide, for your government to release Pastor Zhang Rongliang, so that he might freely practise his religion in accordance with, The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Please do not mention RI when you write.**

Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom  
Mr. ZHA Peixin, Ambassador,  
Chinese Embassy to the United Kingdom,  
49-51 Portland Place,  
London,  
W1N 4JL  
England  
Fax: 020 7636 2981 / 5578  
(Salutation: Your Excellency)

Mr HU Jintao  
President  
People's Republic of China  
The State Council General Office  
Yongneixijie  
Beijing 100017  
People's Republic of China  
(Salutation: Your Excellency)

LI Zhaoxing  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China  
Waijiaobu  
2 Chaoyangmen Nandajie  
Beijing 100701  
People's Republic of China  
Fax: 00 86 10 6596 1109 / 2660  
E-mail: [webmaster@fmprc.gov.cn](mailto:webmaster@fmprc.gov.cn)  
(Salutation: Your Excellency)