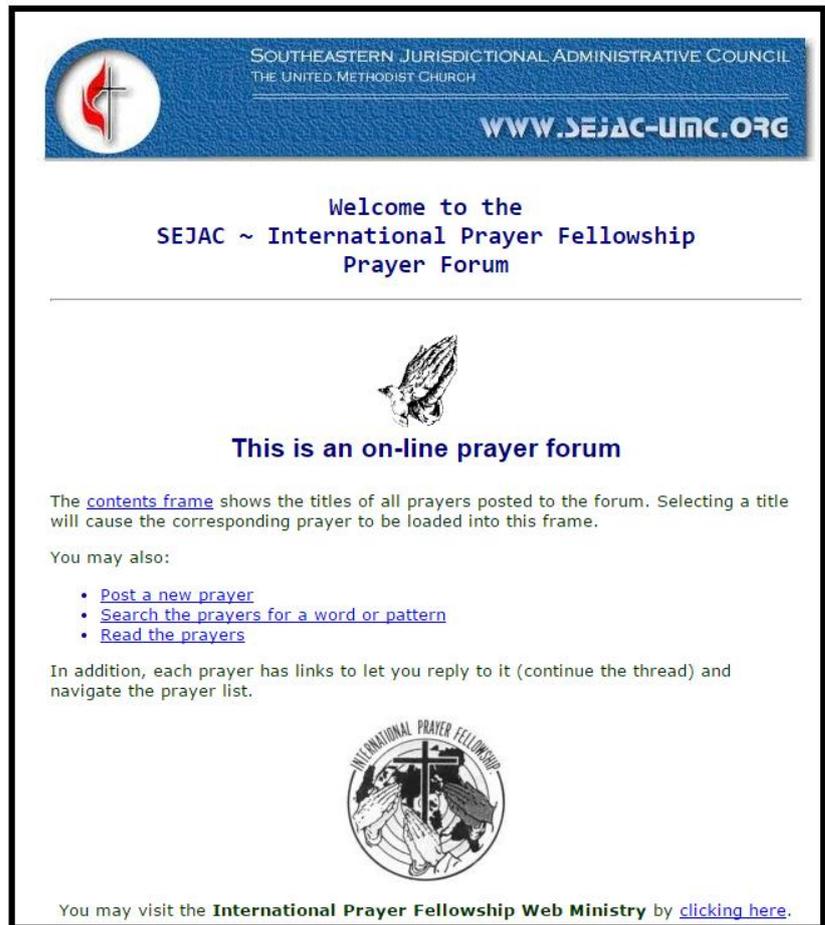


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Southeastern Jurisdictional Agencies.

SEJAC IPF Prayer Forum

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You may visit the [International Prayer Fellowship Web Ministry](#) by [clicking here](#).

## Praise and prayer requests for China

**From: Dave AuFrance, missionary to Hong Kong**

**Category: Petition**

**Date: 12/18/99**

**Time: 10:57:09 PM**

**Remote Name: 199.72.97.60**

### Comments

Sent by Buddy Gaines - **Summary on Brother Yun of China "The Heavenly Man"** Brother Yun is truly one of God's outstanding servants and leaders of the underground Church in China. His personal story is one of tragedy and triumph. He has suffered in indescribable ways at the hands of the Chinese authorities and has been arrested over 30 times. Yun has spent 7 years in prison, being beaten and tortured on nearly a daily basis.

He has stood true to the Lord and now after having ministered for 25 years has emerged as one of the foremost leaders of the underground Church of China. **Brother Yun heads up Ling An**, a House Church movement that reached one million believers in 1990 and now numbers many millions more. **He is also the Chairman of Sinim Fellowship, made up of four major groups** with an aggregate total in the tens of millions of believers:

The vision for **Sinim Fellowship began** with Brother Yun in 1996 when he felt led of the Lord to bring together the major house church movements of China for cooperative efforts in evangelistic outreach and to bring unity to the Church. **Syu Yung Dzai** who heads up the **Born Again Movement**, formerly called the Evangelicals, **was the next leader to come alongside Brother Yun.** In November 1996, the leaders decided upon the name Sinim for this fellowship. In February 1997, the first official meeting was held and at that time **Brother Yun was named Chairman with Syu Yung Dzai as Secretary.** In March 1997, at a meeting of Sinim Fellowship, the Security Police broke in to where they were meeting and arrested all the top leadership, a total of nine people.

Brother Yun miraculously escaped yet again, this time from one of China's highest security prisons when **he was able to simply walk out the prison gates** in May 1997. **He is in hiding today and continues to direct the work of Ling An and Sinim Fellowship.**

In November, the leaders of Sinim were fasting and praying for 3 days and decided to once again launch "The Gospel Months". Between December 1, 1999 and January 31, 2000, they are urging believers in China to win 3 people to the Lord and for leaders to win 5 people to the Lord. They expect 12-15 million believers to be active in personal evangelism during this two-month period and they expect millions to find new faith in Christ.

They are asking that we pray for them as they witness, that the Lord will be with them, protect them and mightily use their witness to bring many to the foot of the cross. However, we need to do more than pray, we need to stand with them and provide resources to help them this suffering church and help them reach China for Christ.

WorldServe has launched The China Project and invites the partnership of individuals, churches and ministries to join hands with "The Heavenly Man" and the underground Church in China. Our initial goal is to provide one million Bibles, printed and distributed inside China, and to help meet the pressing needs of the families of the pastors in prison.

### **THE HEAVENLY MAN - Personal History of Brother Yun of China - November 15, 1999**

It's hard to know where to begin. The story of "The Heavenly Man" is so **incredible.** He is a Chinese pastor by the name of Brother Yun. He has faced obstacles in his life of monumental proportions. Never have we heard such stories of suffering, starvation, beatings, imprisonment and torture. Truly, his faith has been refined by fire but the results have been even more monumental than the suffering. God's humble servant, chosen, anointed and obedient, after 25 years, has become one of **China's top house Church leaders.**

It all began when, at the age of 16, as a poor, uneducated farm boy in rural China, his life was turned upside down when his father became terminally ill. He promised this God he didn't know that if He answered his prayer and healed his father, "I will follow you and serve you." The very next day his father was healed and Yun immediately felt that he owed God his respect and commitment. From the beginning, his desire was to carry the grace of God to others. Yun began to question his mother, "Who is this Jesus? What words of Jesus have been left behind?" He asked his mother to go and try to find some old believers she knew in the past and find out if they had any written words of Jesus Christ.

His mother located a believer who used to be a deacon and she thought he must have a Bible hidden somewhere. Yun and his mother walked the six miles to this man's home and knocked

on the door. When the man opened the door, he looked out on a young boy in bare feet and tattered clothes. His mother explained their mission and asked if they could just see his Bible and perhaps copy some of the words so they could take them home and think about them. This was during the Cultural Revolution and no one was permitted to possess any book other than Mao's little Red Book. If anyone was found with any other book, it would be confiscated and the whole family taken before the village and beaten. No wonder this man didn't dare admit that he owned a Bible.

The man told Yun that the Bible is a Holy Book from heaven and if he wanted one he would have to ask heaven. He told Yun to go home and pray and ask Jesus for this book because it was His book. Space doesn't allow all the details, but after a 100 day fast, he saw God's power demonstrated once again as he received his "Heavenly Book" in a miraculous fashion.

Upon receiving his Bible, he dropped to his knees, weeping and promised God that he would always devour His word as a starving child would devour bread. In little more than one month, after memorizing the book of Matthew and the first 12 chapters of Acts, he received his call from the Lord to preach. He didn't even know what preaching was but he did know what obedience was.

The Lord took him to a village he had never visited and when he arrived he learned they had been praying and fasting for three days that someone would come with a "Heavenly Book". The whole village gathered around waiting for the message. Yun didn't know what to do. He was petrified of all the people. He scrunched his eyes shut and proceeded to quote the book of Matthew. They wanted more. He quoted Acts 1-12. They still wanted more. He said, "I've given you all I know. I'll go home and memorize more and come back". He did and the Lord gently led him and taught him in the coming days and before the end of his 17th year, he had led 2,000 people to the Lord.

He then embarked on a torturous and very difficult journey as he began an itinerant ministry. Daily he took up his cross and carried it. Over the next 25 years, he was arrested over 30 times and spent 7 years in prison. When he was arrested in 1984 and members of the Public Security Bureau were trying to get him to disclose his name and the names of those who were with him, all he would say is "I'm a heavenly man". From that day on Yun was known as the "Heavenly Man". He spent four years in prison and was beaten nearly daily and tortured indescribably. But God used his mighty witness to lead hundreds to the Lord in prison and the work outside continued to explode. **Eventually the underground house churches in his home city numbered 500,000 believers with 400,000 believers in other parts of China. It had become one of China's major house church movements under the name Ling An (Spirit and Grace).**

In 1996, God gave Brother Yun the vision to bring together the house churches of China for missions and evangelistic work. After much prayer and discussion, the leaders of three other major house church movements agreed to join and form Sinim Fellowship. In early 1997, Brother Yun was appointed Chairman of the Fellowship with an astounding aggregate membership of 50 million believers. At a meeting of the Sinim Fellowship in March 1997, the security police stormed in and arrested all the leaders. Yun jumped out a second floor window to escape and injured both legs. The authorities took the entire group to one of China's highest security prisons but Yun was the only one placed in solitary confinement. They told him he would never escape again and that he would die there. To ensure this, they crushed both bones in both legs above the ankle and his feet were attached only by flesh. As he could not walk, a

fellow Christian was assigned to carry him everywhere in prison, even to the bathroom and three floors down to the torture room.

This time in prison was very difficult as he was in incredible pain. He honestly admits that he complained to the Lord. He said, "Lord, it seems like not even you can do anything with this situation." One day, he began to cry and cry until his eyes were swollen. Suddenly, Yun clearly heard a voice say, "This is the time of your salvation." It was May 5, 1997. Miraculously, he stood to his feet completely healed. The Lord then literally opened the doors and gates of the prison and Yun simply walked away. As he was walking out, he thought of the verse in Revelation 3:8 that the Lord had given him before, "...I have put before you an open door which no one can shut..."

**Today Brother Yun is in hiding and continues to give leadership to Ling An and Sinim Fellowship** in spite of all the attempts by the Chinese authorities to find and arrest him. We asked Brother Yun what he and the leadership of the Chinese Church determine as their needs and priorities. Without hesitation, he said the number one need and their number one priority is for complete Bibles.

The Underground Church in China today, is very organized, structured and led by tested and tried men of integrity who have been in leadership for over 20 years. They report that one million people per month are putting their faith in Jesus Christ. Among other things, they pointed to the population of China being 1.2 billion plus people. Twelve million people per year is 1% of the population.

Last week when leaders of Sinim were fasting and praying for 3 days, they decided to once again launch "The Month of Gospel". Between December 1, 1999 and January 31, 2000, they are urging believers in China to win 3 people to the Lord and for leaders to win 5 people to the Lord. They expect 12-15 million believers to be active in personal evangelism during this two-month period and they expect millions to find new faith in Christ.

As you can appreciate their need for Bibles is enormous! But we are determined to make a difference in China! Our goal is to provide 1 million "Heavenly Books" (Complete Bibles) for new believers who have never before owned a Bible. They will be printed and distributed in China under the direction of the top leadership of the underground church. This will ensure the least risk possible and ensure the Bibles get to those in greatest need.

We are also constrained to help meet the pressing needs of the families of the pastors who are in prison. As well, we are helping with support for pastors, training, equipment and materials.

**What a privilege for us to join hands with "The Heavenly Man"** and our brothers and sisters in China. **We invite the Church in North America to join hands with us**, to provide and pray for the Church in China. We thank God for this wonderful opportunity to share the love and hope we have in Jesus Christ with the people of China.

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**Last changed: November 06, 2000**

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## Tragic fire

**From: Dave Aufrance, missionary in Hong Kong**

**Category: Intercession**

**Date: 12/12/00**

**Time: 11:52:22 AM**

**Remote Name: 63.50.52.229**

### Comments

Thanks to Don Worden, I pass along this information about the fire tragedy that I requested prayer for this morning. It was written by our church's General Superintendent. Dave

Fr. Dr. John P. Williams, Jr. General Supt., Evangelical Friends Church - Eastern Region

Early yesterday morning, a tragic fire took two precious lives at our Alum Creek Evangelical Friends Church parsonage. Pastor Tony and Laurie Watson lost their 9 year old son, David. In addition, a friend of their daughter Rachel, 10 year old Chadra Stapleton, also died.

We grieve with the Watson and Stapleton families and pray that they will experience the supernatural comfort and grace of our loving Lord. Both Wayne Evans (W. Area Supt.) and I were with the Watson family all day yesterday. Several leaders from our Alum Creek Church also ministered throughout the day to the Stapleton family.

Pastor Tony and Laurie are hospitalized and are being treated for smoke inhalation but are improving and may be released soon. Jonathan (19 months) is in Columbus Children's Hospital and is also being treated for smoke inhalation. I visited with him and prayed for this beautiful, blonde-headed little boy yesterday afternoon. Hospital staff said they were encouraged by his progress. The Watson's other children, Matthew (12), Rachel (10), Sarah (7) and Eliyah (3) are healthy and in the kind care of family friends.

Both Tony and Laurie's families are expected to arrive today to be with their loved ones and help with the children.

Our Evangelical Friends Churches across Eastern Region have responded rapidly with expressions of love, fervent prayer and offers of help, including options for near-term housing. We have established "love funds" to assist both the Watson and Stapleton families. Donations may be sent to EFC-ER at 5350 Broadmoor Cir, NW, Canton, OH, 44709 and designated for either or both families.

At this time, arrangements are pending for both children.

Please join us in praying that the mercy, love and healing power of Christ will be fully experienced during this time of extreme need.

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" (Matthew 19: 14)

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**Last changed: December 12, 2000**