

The situation of the **Christians in China**

We have the privilege to welcome [pastor Liu](#), the leader of 58 million believers of the house church movement Sinim Fellowship, during the Pentecostal Conference in Nidda.

According to statistics dated January 2000, the 104 million Chinese Christians are grouped as follows:

Three-selves patriotic front	15 Millions
House churches (underground)	75 Millions
Independent church of Wenzhou	2 Millions
Three-selves patriotic front Catholics	4 Millions
Catholic house church	8 Millions

Out of a total population of approx. 1,35 billions the share of the Christians amounts to 7 to 8% accordingly.

SURVEY OF NUMBERS

House churches (altogether 75 millions)

1. Born Again Family 23 Millions
2. Local Church Family (Watchman Nee movement, Little Flock, Gospel Church)
15 Millions
3. Ling An Family (Pentecostals and Charismatics) 20 Millions

The house church movement consisting of these three branches with 58 million believers is called Sinim Fellowship and is directed by pastor Liu.

4. Independent church movements 17 Millions

Reasons why the house churches do not want to be registered under the Three-selves-movement:

The foundation of this official church in 1950 served the purpose to control the church and to prevent it's growth. This was newly defined in 1991 in two documents:

Document 6/1991 (Control of the Christians) and 19/1991 (Hindrance of the growth of the Christian population).

Following restrictions are valid:

- Children under 18 years have no access.
- All activities outside of the church houses are forbidden.
- Communication between the individual churches and pastors is forbidden.
- Preaching about the holy ghost, the return of Jesus, the revelation etc. is forbidden. This also applies to the Bible seminar Nanjing: Bible oriented students are forced to leave the school, for liberal theology is being taught (quotation of the leader of the Bible seminar), for example the Bible does not consist of words of God only, but rather also of Satan's words; Jesus has not risen from the dead; not those who believe in Jesus are Christians, but rather those with good character and good deeds, these reach heaven („I was naked and you have clothed me...“); man can overcome everything and the kingdom of God is entrusted to human hands (quotation of bishop Tin, head of the Three-selves patriotic front).
- The restrictions concern also finances: all money that goes at an official church must be passed on to the Central Office. This way not only churches, but rather also mosques, historical monuments, tourist arrangements etc. are being financed. A larger part of the money flows into private pockets or is used for gifts and trips to foreign countries by politicians.

RESULT: The official church is used by the government for the fight against the church.

THE POSITION OF THE HOUSE CHURCHES

The house churches take the following position with regard to the official church:

- We recognize fully and entirely our political authorities.
- We are not ready to carry the cross (restrictions and compromises) of the Three-selves-movement.
- We are not ready to subordinate ourselves to a church authority which has nothing to do with Christianity.
- We will never engage in fight against members of the Three-selves-movement. We respect them as fellow Christians. We disagree however with the organization.
- There are semi-official churches that withdrew from the organization, however are not connected to the house church movement. We do have partnership with them.

Vision of the Sinim Fellowship for the 21st century, given in January 2000 after a two-week's meeting and three-day's fasting of 18 head leaders.

1. We want to fulfil Jesus' commission jointly.
2. The foundation of our faith and life is the revelation of Jesus.
3. We want to stay on the way of the cross, without paying attention to world and politics.
4. We want to maintain close relations with each other whereby each movement retains it's identity.
5. Increased common praying and fasting of the individual leaders. Training and sending out co-workers jointly.
6. We want to keep the model of the house church, in order to invest the entire power into proclaiming the Gospel. Church buildings do not have priority in our mission (Eph 3:20-21; Jes 66:6-7).

Latest news report about persecuted Christians in China:

INMATE PASTOR OF AN UNDERGROUND CHURCH „PUT IN CHAINS“

Josephine Ma, 19 April 2000, South China Morning Post

Li Dexian, pastor of an underground church in Guangzhou (China) for ten years, is chained since his arrest past Tuesday in the prison at hands and feet so that he cannot stand up. Because he has a spine problem, we are in worried very much his health condition could be affected although the fetters are being removed also repeatedly.

According to police statements, Mr. Li is being handled unusually harsh for punishment of his stubborn preaching. The duration of the custody will amount to 15 days.

Mr. Li was in custody in November for 15 days already and has been arrested since then again and again and usually released the following day.

The 48-year-old pastor was warned, he could be sent to a work camp if he would continue to preach. He refuses to have his church registered, one of the largest underground churches in Guangzhou.

[Mehr über Pastor Liu](#)

Design: [Prof. K. Blecken](#), © January 2000

Translation: [K. Blecken](#)

Above is a copy of the website of AVC (also named Nehemia), translated by a Professor Klaus Blecken as their Ex-Webmaster, telling about the Sinim Fellowship and their top Leader, pastor Liu, Yun, the heavenly man. Following is the original, printed edition in German:

CHINA

Zur Situation der Christen in China

Wir haben das Vorrecht, Pastor Liu, den Leiter der 58 Millionen Gläubigen der Hauskirchenbewegung Sinim-Fellowship während der Pfingstkonferenz in Nidda unter uns zu haben.

Nach einer Statistik vom Januar 2000 verteilen sich die 104 Millionen chinesischer Christen wie folgt:

Drei-Selbst Patriotische Front	15 Millionen
Hausgemeinde (Untergrund)	75 Millionen
Unabhängige Gemeinde Wenzhou	2 Millionen
Drei-Selbst Patriotische Front Katholiken	4 Millionen
Katholische Hausgemeinde	8 Millionen

Bei einer Gesamtbevölkerung von ca. 1,35 Milliarden beträgt der Anteil der Christen entsprechend 7 bis 8 %.

ZAHLEN-ÜBERSICHT

Hausgemeinden (insgesamt 75 Millionen)

- Born Again Family 23 Millionen
- Local Church Family (Watchman Nee Bewegung, Little Flock, Gospel Church) 15 Millionen
- Ling An Family (Pfingstler und Charismatiker) 20 Millionen

Die aus diesen drei Strömungen bestehende Hausgemeindebewegung mit 58 Mio. Gläubigen nennt sich Sinim-Fellowship und steht unter der Leitung von Pastor Liu.

- Unabhängige Gemeindebewegungen 17 Millionen

Gründe, weshalb sich die Hauskirchen nicht unter der Drei-Selbst-Bewegung registrieren lassen wollen:

Die Gründung dieser offiziellen Kirche 1950 diente der

Kulturdenkmäler, touristische Einrichtungen etc. finanziert. Ein großer Teil des Geldes fließt in private Taschen oder wird für Geschenke und Auslandsreisen von Politikern verwendet.

FAZIT: Die offizielle Kirche wird von der Regierung zur Bekämpfung der Kirche benutzt.

DIE POSITION DER HAUSKIRCHEN

Die Hauskirchen beziehen folgende

der Hausgemeindebewegung angeschlossen sind. Mit ihnen haben wir Gemeinschaft.

Vision der Sinim-Fellowship für das 21. Jahrhundert, entstanden im Januar 2000 nach einem zweiwöchigen Treffen und dreitägigen Fasten von 18 Hauptleitern.

- Wir wollen gemeinsam den Auftrag Jesu tun.

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