

Statement from Early Rain Covenant Church - Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China

Update – June 15, 2026, 10:05 AM

“The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.” (Proverbs 17:3)

At approximately 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 14, 2026, Early Rain Covenant Church’s in-person worship gathering in Jiangyou City was suddenly surrounded and raided by local government authorities. At least 60 to 70 government personnel—including officers from the Domestic Security Protection Unit, police, SWAT teams, the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Bureau, and local township officials—stormed the venue and forcibly took control of the gathering.

Around 1:00 p.m., attendees began being taken away in groups. According to church co-workers, a total of 33 believers were detained. One brother was separately taken to a local police station and was not returned to the main detention site until after 3:00 p.m. The remaining 32 believers were forced onto several police buses and transported to Jiangyou City’s centralized registration center/detention facility.

Meanwhile, dozens of elderly church members, sisters, and parents with children were held inside the hall from noon onward. Government officials demanded that attendees sign a written statement (a “guarantee letter”) before being allowed to leave. However, officials refused to disclose the contents of the statement until individuals agreed to sign it. Because most believers refused to sign, they were never shown the document. Faced with pressure to sign an unknown statement, the congregation chose to remain peacefully and steadfastly in the hall until after 6:00 p.m. During this time, one seeker and several members who wished to leave earlier signed and were released. Finally, around 6:00 p.m., after undergoing a second detailed registration of personal information, the remaining believers were gradually permitted to leave.

At approximately 7:00 p.m., most brothers, sisters, and children safely boarded buses and returned to Chengdu. Some believers, accompanied by their children, went directly to the Jiangyou detention center and waited anxiously outside its high walls and gates.

Between 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., the believers who had been interrogated at the detention center were released one after another. By the end of the evening, all had been released except Elder Yan Hong and Elder Wu Wuqing, who remained in custody. As the released believers emerged from behind the detention center walls, they gathered closely together, offering prayers of thanksgiving and entrusting one another to God’s care. In the early hours of the morning, they accompanied one another on the journey back to Chengdu.

We thank the Lord for using this trial once again to bear witness to the Christian faith before many who have not yet heard the Gospel. Though the world may regard such experiences as shameful, we count them as an honor and a privilege.

Please join us in prayer for the following:

#### 1. Thanksgiving for God's Raising Up of Servants in the Church

We thank the Lord that through this large gathering He granted us the opportunity to elect church officers, adding two new elders and one assistant deacon to our leadership. Lord, You continue to refine, call, and raise up servants within this suffering church. This is clear evidence of Your grace toward this congregation, and we praise You for it.

#### 2. Pray for the Detained Elders and Frightened Children

Please pray that the Lord would protect Elder Yan Hong and Elder Wu Wuqing, who remain in detention. May He grant them extraordinary strength and fill them with the Holy Spirit, enabling them to boldly proclaim the Kingdom of God even while imprisoned, just as Paul did (Acts 28:31).

Pray also that the Lord would comfort and heal those who were frightened during the raid, especially the children who cried amid the chaos and confusion.

#### 3. Pray for Faith That Overcomes Fear

May the Lord enable us to trust deeply in His love whenever we face attacks from the enemy, overcoming our natural fears through His heavenly power:

“Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear.” (Psalm 27:3)

#### 4. Pray for the Scattered Flock in the Wilderness

May the Lord continue to guide and sustain His scattered sheep as they journey through the wilderness. Grant us perseverance, faith, patience, and hope as we wait upon Him.

We firmly believe that the Great Shepherd Himself will seek out His sheep and lead His faithful people into rich and abundant pastures (Ezekiel 34:14).

#### 5. Pray for the Souls of This Land and Those in Authority

May the Lord break up the hardness of this land, show mercy to the many souls of this generation who remain in ignorance, and awaken the consciences of those who carry out persecution.

May the Church become a refuge amid a society marked by division and brokenness. May this nation receive the true blessing of justice and peace through the Gospel.

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you be secure.” (Psalm 122:6)

May all of God’s people in this generation, refined through the wilderness of His testing, become living witnesses to the advancement of His Word and the flourishing of the Gospel.

Amen.

Early Rain Covenant Church, Chengdu

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