

**Dear pastors and brothers and sisters in Christ,
Peace be with you!**

I am Cui, Jin Young, and my English name is Rebecca. I am a Korean Christian and the wife of the pastor at Beijing Jia Quan Church (Whole Gospel Church). When I was 25, I married my husband, Pastor Zhou (legal name: Cui, XianFeng 崔献峰). We studied together in the United States, where he completed seminary and I earned a degree in church music. Our family returned to Beijing at the end of 2005, and in 2006 we founded Jia Quan Church.

For twenty years, our congregations grew steadily, despite the pressure and at times serious persecution, including the closure of several of our churches in various locations. Then, three years ago, police suddenly came into our church while I was teaching. They informed me that I would need to re-negotiate my visa, which was later denied for no given reason. I have since learned that I am blacklisted and cannot return, a tactic that authorities often use to pressure pastors into compliance. It was heartbreaking to be ripped from my family and church after seventeen years of ministry. Yet despite these hardships, by God's faithfulness, grace, and protection, the preachers and ministers of Jia Quan Church, including Pastor Zhou, were able to serve the local believers in relative peace. That changed a few weeks ago, on September 4, when I received a call telling me that my husband had been detained.

What happened on September 4

At 5:50 p.m. on September 4, 2026, about 50 brothers and sisters from our church were setting up a hotel conference room for the church's 20th anniversary celebration the next day, when suddenly they were surrounded by more than 100 police officers, including plainclothes officers. Everyone was required to give their state ID number, home address, and phone number, so that they could be called in for questioning later as part of the investigation before being sent home. However, Pastor Zhou, and seven other church members were detained.

A few days later, two of them were released, but two other church leaders were detained. As of now, Pastor Zhou and seven church co-workers are all being held in criminal detention on suspicion of fraud. Despite China's own constitution warranting religious freedoms, the government will not allow a church to register unless they give authorities full control. Therefore most churches throughout China remain unregistered and are considered illegal. Jia Quan Church is no exception and this is the basis for their fraud accusations. If the authorities can find evidence of their church taking up offerings, those detained could face imprisonment.

How to pray

I ask every pastor, brother, and sister who cares about this situation to pray earnestly for Pastor Zhou and the seven church co-workers.

1. **Health.** Please pray that God would protect the health of Pastor Zhou and the seven co-workers, so that they remain in good physical condition despite the harsh environment they are in. Please pray especially for those with chronic illnesses who did not have their medication with them, that in their eating and sleeping they would truly feel God's support and strength.

2. **God's presence.** Please pray that Emmanuel, God with us, would be with them at all times. When they face a cold and oppressive environment alone, may they feel the outpouring, the embrace, and the warmth of God's love. May the good and beautiful power of the Heavenly Father cover them and remove all the weariness, including that which has accumulated over many years of service, so that they are renewed in strength in the Lord's love.
3. **Spiritual strength.** Please pray that each day in the detention center, God would help them think more on His goodness and meditate on His Word, so that their strength is not spent and their spirits do not sink. May their hearts be full of strength, praising with joy and praying with hope.
4. **Their families.** Please pray that each family member would be held in God's hand and be able to hand their burdens to Jesus in their daily life. Please guard the hearts of their children who cannot see their fathers or mothers, and may brothers and sisters around them accompany and care for them attentively, so that they can get through this difficult time.
5. **Believers under threat.** Please pray for the brothers and sisters who are being sought out, threatened, and intimidated by the authorities. May God's perfect love fill them, and may He guard their hearts with the authority of Jesus Christ and remove all the oppression, fear, and mental pressure they feel. May they not be shaken, but be made strong and courageous, their lives refined and their faith deepened, as disciples of Christ.
6. **Legal defense.** Please pray that God Himself would prepare the best resources and defense lawyers for us, and guide every step of the defense ahead. May He open a way and work through it, so that Pastor Zhou and the seven co-workers may come out unharmed and in peace and be reunited with their families soon.
7. **The church across China.** Please pray that God would have mercy and work not only for Jia Quan Church, but also among the pastors and co-workers of churches across China who are suffering similar persecution. May God have great mercy on the Chinese people!

Finally, thank you, pastors, brothers, and sisters in the Lord, for taking time out of your busy lives to remember and pray for Pastor Zhou and the co-workers of Jia Quan Church. May the Heavenly Father richly remember and reward each one who intercedes.

In Christ, respectfully,

Cui, Jin Young

September 29, 2026