



This biographical supplement accompanies the preceding *ChinaAid\* Prayer Requests for the Persecuted Guide*.

\*ChinaAid is an international non-profit Christian human rights organization committed to promoting religious freedom and the rule of law in China.



For more biographies or to write to some of these persecuted Christians go to <http://www.chinaaid.org/p/write-letters.html>.

**Alimujiang Yimiti**, a Uyghur Christian house church leader, was criminally detained on Jan. 12, 2008, for “inciting separatism” and “unlawfully providing state secrets to overseas organizations” and formally arrested on Feb. 20. The detainment followed an accusation of “engaging in illegal religious infiltration activities in Kashgar, spreading Christianity among the Uyghurs, and distributing religious propaganda materials to increase the number of Christians” by the Kashgar Municipal Commission of Ethics and Religious Affairs on Sept. 13, 2007. Alimujiang’s first lawyer was turned away, and it wasn’t until April 18, 2008, that a lawyer was able to meet with him. He was tried in secret on May 27, 2008; his family, including his wife and two sons, was barred from attending. At the trial, it was concluded that there was insufficient evidence to convict Alimujiang of divulging state secrets, causing the case to be turned back over to the Kashgar police for further investigation. Alimujiang was again charged with “unlawfully providing state secrets to overseas organizations” on July 11, 2009, after more than a year in detention with no formal verdict. The separatism charge was dropped without explanation. On July 28, 2009, the Kashgar Intermediate People’s Court conducted a second secret trial, once again barring Alimujiang’s family from attending. The hearing was left without a verdict, and Alimujiang was finally convicted and sentenced to a 15-year prison term on Aug. 6, 2009. Alimujiang’s wife and lawyer didn’t learn of the trial until October 2009, and it wasn’t until December 2009 that they learned Alimujiang’s sentence. On Sept. 12, 2008, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention declared that Alimujiang’s detention was arbitrary and based solely on his “religious faith and religious activities.” Alimujiang was born on June 10, 1973, in Hami, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. In 1995, he converted to Christianity from Islam. For more information, visit [freealim.com](http://freealim.com).

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**Pastor John Cao** served as a missionary in Myanmar’s Wa State, transforming the lives of more than 2,000 impoverished minority children by building 16 schools and worked to fight poverty in the region. Chinese officials knew that he repeatedly crossed the border between China and Myanmar because of his work and allowed him to do so for three years. However, on March 5, 2017, authorities in China’s Yunnan province intercepted Cao and his colleague, Jing Ruxia, and placed them in prison on illegal border crossing charges, despite the fact that they had never had trouble before. Later, they changed Cao’s charge to “organizing illegal border crossings,” and he was sentenced to seven years in prison in March 2018. Cao is married to an American citizen, Jamie Powell, and is a legal resident of North Carolina. When faced with the option of obtaining American citizenship, he chose not to so as to better be able to serve the persecuted Chinese church. Those observing Cao’s case believe that his imprisonment does not come from the violation of any border law, but rather arose from China’s ongoing campaign to suppress the Chinese church.

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**Hu Shigen**, a pro-democracy activist and renowned church elder, currently waits out a seven-and-a-half year sentence on falsified charges of “subversion of state power.” Following his graduation from China’s elite Peking University, Hu took a professorial position within the capital. In the wake of the notorious Tiananmen Square crackdown, when the Communist Party massacred groups of pro-democracy students and advocates who had converged in front of an ancient royal palace to call for political reform, Hu joined a fledgling political movement. When China tried to stifle news of the violence, Hu helped plan to disseminate fliers on the tragedy’s third anniversary and served 16 years in prison for leading a so-called “counterrevolutionary ring.” Following his incarceration, he led several underground churches and served as an elder. Hu vanished during a nationwide crackdown on human rights defenders on July 9, 2015. On Jan. 8, 2016, his family received an arrest notice stating that authorities suspected him of “subversion of state power.” Using a picture of his baptism as evidence of his supposed guilt, a court convicted him and sentenced him to seven-and-a-half years in prison on Aug. 3, 2016.

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**Pastor Zhang Shaojie**, of Nanle County Christian Church in China’s central Henan, is currently serving a 12-year prison term for “gathering a crowd to disrupt the public order” and a fabricated fraud charge. He was initially detained on Nov. 16, 2013, when authorities asked to meet with him at his church. Instead, authorities bound Zhang, who served as the local head of the China Christian Council and Three-Self Patriotic Movement, and took him into custody. Authorities detained more than 20 church members, spanning from the day before Zhang’s detention to several days after his detention. The cause of the persecution is said to be a land dispute between the Nanle County government and the church, about which the church sent several groups to Beijing to petition higher authorities there after being unsatisfied with the outcome at the local level. Heavy persecution of the church continued well into the summer of 2014. On July 4, 2014, Zhang was sentenced to 12 years in prison for his charges despite his lawyers’ arguments, which included the fact that police had essentially kidnapped the alleged victim of Zhang’s fraud case. On Aug. 21, the Puyang Intermediate People’s Court rejected Zhang’s final appeal, leaving him with almost no chance of justice. His lawyers’ had repeatedly asked for a different court to hear the appeal due to the clear corruption of the Puyang Intermediate People’s Court to no avail. Zhang was 49 years old at the time of his detention.

**Writing Campaign** – People are encouraged to write letters to prisoners of conscience to provide encouragement and send a signal to prison officials that there are people all over the world who are invested in the safety and well-being of these unjustly imprisoned Chinese citizens. (In some cases, these letters have improved the treatment of these prisoners—go to <http://www.chinaaid.org/p/write-letters.html> to get full biographies and addresses to write prisoners.)