

**"The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress."**

~ Psalm 46:11 ESV

## INDIA: Christian Teen Severely Injured in Acid Attack

Sources: International Christian Concern, Christian Post

Nitish Kumar, 16, a resident of northern India's Bihar state, was attacked with acid in late August, leaving him with burns covering 60 percent of his body. According to the victim's sister, Raja Davabi, the incident happened at 6:30 a.m. as he left the house to go to the market.

With the help of a local pastor, Nitish was rushed to a nearby clinic where he was treated and then, due to the severity of his injuries, sent to a specialized burn unit located in the city of Patna. The motives behind the attack are not officially known. However, members of the Christian community believe it is the work of anti-Christian activists in the village, since Nitish and his brother Sanjith are active in the local church and conduct daily prayer gatherings. The teen's family came to faith in Christ two years ago.



A local pastor stated, on condition of anonymity, that "there has been increased anti-Christian sentiment, and attacks against Christians in the district are increasing." For more information on the persecution of Christians in India, go to our [country report](#).

***Lift up Nitish in your prayers, asking God to bring about quick and complete healing for this injured Christian teen. Please also pray for his concerned family and friends, as they now must deal with the horrific nature of this attack. May those responsible for this crime be brought to justice and, through the Lord's abounding mercy, come to realize the seriousness of what they have done, experience sincere repentance of their sins, and ultimately surrender their lives to Christ. Finally, intercede on behalf of the ongoing ministry of the small church in this village, praying that it will be mightily used to bless all the members of the village community, even in the midst of the heightened anti-Christian sentiment.***

## CHINA: Community Members Pressured to Reject Christians

Sources: ChinaAid, Radio Free Asia



Taken at Zhang Fan's wedding  
Photo: WeChat via ChinaAid

Two separate incidents that recently took place in Chengdu, the capital of the Chinese province of Sichuan, demonstrate the effectiveness of the Chinese Communist Party authorities in dividing communities to bring about harassment of Christians and, in particular, members of the Early Rain Covenant Church (ERCC). The first incident involved the wedding of a congregation member from the church.

Zhang Fan's wedding was planned to take place on August 28th. In preparation of her wedding, she reserved a venue for the celebration event. However, prior to the scheduled date, she was contacted by the owner, who simply told her that she would need to find a new location. She then signed a lease with a different wedding venue, but police officers went to the venue's owner and harassed him until he

cancelled the contract. A third location encountered similar treatment, and Zhang ultimately had to arrange for the ceremony to be held in her small home. Despite the limited space in Zhang's house, which resulted in many guests not being permitted to attend in person, the celebration was described as "peaceful, moving, majestic and memorable."

The other incident involved several other members of the ERCC who rented apartments in the Jiaoda Garden community of Chengdu's Wuhou district. On the evening of September 1st, the Christians were approached by individuals claiming to be homeowners in the community, along with police and security agents, who ordered the renters to move out of their apartments within three days. The opposing individuals emphatically stated during the encounter: "On behalf of all homeowners of the community, we want to tell you that Christians are not welcomed here."

The following day, Sister Shu Qiong was returning to her home when officers stopped her at the gate of the community. They asked if she was a Christian. After responding to their question, the resident was refused entry into the community and told that Christianity was not allowed there. Another fellow congregation member, Li Ying, was charged with "obstruction of law enforcement" when he questioned the motives of the officers who stopped him. Thankfully, he was released that evening after several Christians went to the police station to provide him food.

The previous week's *Persecution & Prayer Alert* included a report on yet another incident of harassment against members of the ERCC, which the Communist authorities consider a cult ([read more](#)). For additional reports on cases of persecution in China, including those outlining the numerous challenges facing members of the ERCC church, go to our [country report](#).

***Pray that God will provide for the housing needs of the displaced church members. Despite the ongoing pressure they are receiving from Communist government officials, may they serve as vibrant testimonies of God's grace to the community members around them – including the officials who are carefully monitoring their lives. While we praise God for the joy of Christian marriage, as experienced by Zhang and her husband, pray that this newly wedded couple will have a renewed sense of God's presence with them. May He bless their relationships with loved ones, especially those who weren't able to attend the ceremony due to the housing limitations, by giving them future opportunities to gather together in celebration of their marriage.***

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## REPORT UPDATE

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### **BELARUS: Evicted Church Warned to Stop Parking Lot Meetings**

Source: Forum18

Since purchasing a former cowshed in 2002 and converting it into a church building, the New Life Church in Minsk, Belarus, has faced opposition from government agencies. After years of court battles, officials accompanied by bailiffs forcefully entered the place of worship on February 17th, 2021, evicting church members from the building. For more information on the eviction, including a video clip, go to [this report](#).

Since the congregation no longer had a building in which to meet, the members immediately began gathering in the church's adjacent parking lot; something they have been doing for more than six months – even throughout the cold winter season. However, government officials are now warning Pastor Goncharenko that such meetings must cease or he will face prosecution. The sentence for organizing and participating in illegal meetings can be up to four years of imprisonment. Despite the warnings, the pastor insists that the church will continue to meet.



Pastor Goncharenko preaching outside.  
Photo: YouTube / New Life Church

Letters to the church allege that neighbouring residents have complained about noise from the outdoor meetings. However, the church states that they have only received a concern once, after which they immediately turned down the volume of their speakers. In consideration, they have also adjusted their meeting times to take place around midday to ensure that the surrounding neighbourhood is awake. Although the city has offered the New Life Church two alternate places to rent, one building is too small to accommodate the large size of the growing church, and the other is too expensive and a considerable distance away.

***Please pray that Pastor Goncharenko and the other leaders of the New Life Church will be granted wisdom and guidance as they seek ways in which they can honour the Lord and minister in the community. Ultimately, may these believers' interactions with the authorities demonstrate the love and grace of God. Pray for His blessings upon this growing church, providing them with the resources required to teach and disciple their congregants while reaching out to other community members in Minsk with the message of the Gospel.***

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