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Wei Yongqiang Faces Trial in China for Teaching Children Sunday School

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Organising minors to engage in activities that disrupt public order."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Four Christians from an unregistered house church in Kaili City, Guizhou Province, are now facing trial in China on charges that supporters say criminalise ordinary church life - including teaching children in Sunday school. Wei Yongqiang, He Jinbao, Long Jian and Cheng Yongbing were detained in March 2026, formally arrested in May, and their case has now been transferred to court, according to reports published on 12 and 13 November. The charges include fraud, illegal gatherings and "organising minors to engage in activities that disrupt public order."

Behind those formal charges sits a quieter story. On 12 November, the four men's wives - Jiang Na, Tian Meiling, Zhang Caiwei and Xiang Meiling - put their names to a joint prayer letter, asking for public attention and for their husbands' legal rights to be protected. Their letter is the human centre of a case in which defence lawyers still cannot obtain copies of the case files, even though Chinese law permits it.

The four men were first detained on 18 March 2026, initially under administrative detention before the case moved to criminal detention. Two months later, in May, they were formally arrested.

For months their families waited with little public news, untill the case reached the court stage in November and the details finally surfaced in reports by ChinaAid and others. The church they belong to is unregistered, meeting outside the state-approved system - a choice that leaves its members exposed to exactly this kind of prosecution.

Wei Yongqiang Trial: The Charges Against The Four Kaili Christians

The charges read like a list of everyday church activity dressed up as crime. Fraud, illegal gatherings, and organising minors in activities said to disrupt public order - the last of these, supporters say, is a direct reference to Sunday school classes for children.

Teaching the Gospel to children, holding a small class in a living room, gathering to pray: these are the acts at the heart of the case. ChinaAid, which reported the story on 13 November, says the prosecution treats ordinary worship as something to be punished.

The Sunday school link is what makes this case stand out, even in a country where house churches face pressure every week. Most prosecutions of unregistered Christians in China focus on the adults - pastors, elders, organisers.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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