

The sad news of the trial of three of our pastors has just reached us through a missionary of a sister denomination. Their trial was held recently. Preparations for the trial took two months or more. One pastor was brought home from Nanking for the occasion. He had been in Nanking in the hospital being treated for T.B. and had just undergone an operation. The churches of all denominations had been "taught" what to do for weeks. On Sunday, before the trial began on Monday, men were sent to each church to announce what was to be done. The one who went to her church was a member of the Baptist Church and business manager of our school. He harangued at length about how the church was now to be cleansed. He said that the foreign imperialists had gone but these running dogs had carried on their evil work. The pastors were not under arrest until the trial started on Monday at 8:00 a.m. and lasted until 3:00 p.m. Each church had to send a certain number and then there were outsiders. Hundreds were present. After entering the building no one was allowed to leave until the trial was over. The three pastors were made to kneel on the platform. The trial was to have lasted three days but they decided to go until 6:00 p.m. the second day and thus finish up. Her pastor was required to go, but became violently ill with headache and nausea after the first day and was in bed the second day. One hundred and forty four people accused them. Most of whom were church members. The wife of the one (who so bitterly announced the trial) went up on the platform and accused one of the pastors of refusing to give them aid when their child was sick and thereby caused its death. After she had said all of this she slapped him. They were slapped, kicked, and many accusers spit in their faces. Many times the guards stopped their cruelty. One pastor fainted and they then allowed him to sit. They were given no chance to speak for themselves except to say "guilty", or "not guilty". One of the pastors of her mission said that tears were streaming down their cheeks. The next Sunday after their trial only sixteen people were present at our church which usually had hundreds. Questionnaires have been sent to pastors and church leaders since the trial asking such questions as (1) Do you approve of the trial that has been held? (2) Would you welcome one in your church? These questions must be answered. Her pastor plead, "Do ask our fellow U.S. Christians to pray for us." She has no hope whatever that these men will be spared. When the people were asked what should be done with them, the cry went up, "Kill, Kill." But they said they would hand down a decision later since it is such an important case. Imprisonment will soon spell death for the older two at least.

We are crying to the Lord for two more pastors near there who are to be tried within a week or so. Not only for them but for the Christians who will either be forced or tempted to accuse them. They force pastors and workers from the whole convention to come to the trials. She says that it is apparent that many accuse them through spite and that the devil seems to get into complete control as the trials proceed.

The following are notes of general news of conditions in her mission and concerning herself.

She has been in prison twice, first for two days and the second time for thirty nine days. In the latter case snow was on the ground one foot deep. She and three others were in a shed room 6' X 8' that had been used for a kitchen. The snow blew in under the eaves and covered their quilts. They had about two pints of water a day for all of them. A little was used for washing. The first to wash, washed his face, the others their hands, so they had a face washing every fourth day. They could scarcely sleep at night because of the torture of prisoners in rooms near them. Her permit to leave

was given her about four months after her last imprisonment and then taken from her three hours before she would have boarded the train. They said she was detained for further investigation but no one ever came to question her. She was kept seven weeks longer. She knew that the son of one of their pastors went to three different police stations to accuse her on the day she was to leave. His father had died of cancer and he claimed that it was due to trouble that she had given him.

In every school or institution there are spies. In their Bible School there are one or two. They pray that it will not be able to open this fall. Both teachers and students are required to take the indoctrination courses.

Truck loads are taken out at night and executed secretly and it is never reported, others are sent to labor camps. The Principal of the "Holy Virtue Middle School" was imprisoned over two years ago and for nine months nothing has been heard of him -- a fine Christian man.

Our large compound is occupied by the Russians.

Her home is occupied by military while she was put into a small room on the compound. Two different soldiers came secretly to her house at different times, telling her they are Christians and begging for prayer. They said others are Christians too but can't do anything. Even in all church schools no Bibles are allowed and no two people can pray together. It is a crime.

HURON
SIBCO
WIDIG
ADIG

Trials & Persecution
of Christians in
Kaifeng by Communists.