

Joint Letter from Believers of North Baixiang Town Christian Church to Relevant Departments

April 24, 2009

Leqing Municipal People's Court, Leqing Municipal Public Security Bureau, Leqing Municipal People's Procuratorate:

Driven by the spirit of the 17th CPC National Congress and the third plenary session of the 17th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and in order to deeply implement the scientific concept of development and build a harmonious society and carry out the consistent policies in religious belief, the church should develop in step with the times and join in the efforts of building a harmonious society and inherit and promote the excellent tradition of the church.

However, for a long time, Fu Rentao, Xiang Renhui and Lin Enbao from our Baixiang Church have made a large number of concoctions and have told lies and distorted facts in various ways to the relevant government departments. They have accused and thrown mud at some innocent believers. They have manipulated to exalt themselves above the church and brought wrongful charges to people in an attempt to obtain the trust of the local police station and the town's government leaders through cheating, so that they can achieve the goal of taking over the power at the church, and sow discord between the government and the believers.

Between March 2001, when the last church committee was in power, and December 14, 2008, a new church committee came into being in Baixiang Church without a democratic election by the entire congregation. Fu Rentao, Xiang Renhui, Lin Enbao and others began to quarrel in various meetings and used conflicts to prevent an election. As the church needed to change the venue for its activities in 2007, it once planned the work for the change of administrative members. Due to poor health, Zheng Yongsheng, the person in overall charge of the church, handed over the work for the change of administration to Fu Rentao. Without the approval of Zheng Yongsheng, the person in overall charge of the church, and without a decision made by a congress of core holy order co-workers and believers, he changed the names of several co-workers and believers and submitted a list of new church committee members to the city's CCC/TSPM. This practice violates Article 15 of "Several Regulations on Organizing and Managing Christian Churches in Wenzhou Municipality" which states: In organizing members at a church's site, the church itself should propose a list of suggested names. After the consultation by CCC/TSPM, a list of formal candidates shall be proposed. The final members shall be chosen by the congress of believers at the church or through an election-style consultation in a conference of representatives. This practice also violates Article 25 of the "Regulations on Religious Affairs of Zhejiang Province" that states: "...shall be elected by the clergymen and believers of the site through democratic consultation." Whereas, the CCC/TSPM of the city accepted the case without learning in detail the actual situation at the church, and without heeding to the strong protests from the co-workers and believers at the church. Under this situation, they sent people in early January of 2008 to seize the donation money and let Zhang Zhensheng take care of it. They disposed of the original practice room of the orchestra. They drove out the church's band and built another one of their own. For the past two years, Lin Enbao and others have grabbed the right to dispatch flyers for Sunday service in the district church to prevent some co-workers in our church from delivering sermons in the church.

As for the election in December 2008 that produced the current administration, we obtained beforehand the approval from 11 co-workers and believers out of 16 who were in the previous

administration's discussion section and reported the details of the election to the relevant authorities. We also founded an election team, and decided the specific date for the election was to be December 14 (Sunday Holy Communion), and we had signatures from 692 believers. On the election day, Fu Rentao, Lin Enbao, Xiang Renhui tried their best to boycott the election. They grabbed the microphone, hid it somewhere, pulled the microphone wire and even cut off the electricity. They told lies during the election. Fearful for safety issues, the government department sent about a hundred police officers and cadres. After the election, the otherwise normal gatherings were always disrupted. Every time, they got on the platform to disrupt the gathering and used rude cusswords on us brothers and sisters. A co-worker named Yang Zhiyi even kicked a brother in the "private parts" with the knee of his right leg when the brother was least aware of it on the platform. They changed the donation box, sabotaged on many occasions the audio equipment, and cut the electricity wire that caused a short which almost killed somebody in electrocution.

After the gathering on March 1, 2009 was over, Brother Huang Lemin went to the Holy Temple on the third floor to get a bag. On the patio between the second floor and the third floor, Huang Lemin met Yang Huaxi and the two people got into an altercation. Yang Huaxi hit Huang Lemin with his fist in the area of the nose bridge (causing fracture in the left bone of Lemin's nose bridge and his eyeglasses to fall to the floor). Lai Zhishen, Chen Jiaohai and Liu Rihua happened to be going down from the fourth floor. Instead of trying to separate them, Lai Zhishen, Chen Jiaohai and Liu Rihua pinned Huang Lemin and punched him in the head and face. As a result of this, Lemin's mouth and nose were full of blood. Huang Lemin was pinned by them at the corner of a wall and there was no way for him to resist, let alone attacking Yang Huaxi. When Lemin's mother arrived at the scene after hearing the news and saw this, she was so scared that she cried for help. Three brothers and two middle-aged sisters from the church were trying to stop the fight at the scene, but they were not able to stop Yang Huaxi and other people from attacking Lemin. Now, Yang Huaxi brought a false charge against Lemin and claimed that Lemin injured him. Baixiang Police Station believed the false accusations of Yang Huaxi and other people without investigating the facts and placed the injured Huang Lemin under criminal detention on suspicion of "intentional injury."

Contrary to people's expectations, the injured victim is suspected of "intentional injury!" A kindhearted and innocent citizen is jailed on wrongful charges! We hope leaders from the relevant departments come to our church and conduct a detailed investigation and achieve an understanding of the case. We also hope Leqing Municipal Public Security Bureau and Baixiang Township Police Station base themselves on facts and regard the law as the legitimate criteria and enforce the law impartially!

Sincerely,
Some believers in North Baixiang Town Christian Church

Appendix: Signatures of the believers.