

**Declaration of Chinese Christians
On the 20th Anniversary of the June 4 Incident
(Tiananmen Square Incident)**

We are a group of Chinese Christians. We have received the great love of God's salvation, and are called out to follow the sacred commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

It is precisely this love that makes it impossible for us to forget the tragedy occurred on June 4, 1989. A handful of people in power in China mobilized the army and conducted a massacre of the people who were demonstrating peacefully. This was an open display to both God and man the viciousness and hypocrisy of a tyrannical political system, and the deepest sin and darkness of man. Until now, the truth of this tragedy is still covered up by design of the government. Many victims continue to suffer from repression. For the past 20 years, Chinese people continue to live in lies constructed by an authoritarian structure, and the result is that this part of Chinese history is distorted or even completely forgotten by young Chinese people.

No matter how much wealth has been accumulated and how vibrant the economy has been in the past 20 years, the memory of the June 4 tragedy, the related suppression, and the oblivion towards the atrocities all continue to repress and distort the soul of Chinese people. An illustration of the life of depraved souls is the apathy, indifference and numbness to morality, the rampant corruption of government officials, the rapid escalation of social disparity, all of which are closely related to the bloodshed 20 years ago. The acts of the government in covering up the truth with lies, and our complacency and acquiescence to such acts have had serious consequences. The most painful consequence is that we have cultivated a generation of young people born after the June 4 Incident, the majority of whom, like most of us, ignores moral values such as integrity, courage, charity and justice. How direful!

We cannot go on like this! We cannot remain silent any longer! We must speak out as God commands Christians to do—as the voice crying out for justice.

We give our most respectful salute to those who, for the past 20 years, continued to seek the truth and justice and made various efforts and contribution towards these goals. We also express our deepest sympathy for the “Parents of Tiananmen Square”—family members of victims who were killed in the June 4 incident, and for those who continue to suffer political and legal repression.

We believe the significance of the June 4 Incident as an ugly symbol of political sin is not merely an indication to Chinese people that a better socio-political structure is necessary. It is also an indication to us that all social ideologies developed on the basis of sinful human nature and temporal worldly values are imperfect, that none of these are able to carry the significance and value of life. No matter how good some ideologies may seem, if they are built merely on the basis of human nature with total disregard to God, they are glittering like gold but are, in fact, rotten to the core—the immeasurable and painful price paid by Chinese people, in our search for racial strength over the past 100 years or more is glaring evidence.

Among us, who have become Christians, are intellectuals originally from China. Our paths in search of the Faith, in most cases, are closely related, in one way or the other, to the June 4 bloodshed. On the one hand, the suffering inflicted on our race and nation by the Incident awakened our sense of social justice as intellectuals; it showed us the sins of tyranny and shattered our dream of a utopia on earth. On the other hand, this tragedy rocked our souls and led us to see that we are not entirely innocent bystanders of the sins and tragedy. All too often, all sufferings at social level are attributed to a rotten political system; however, to trace these problems to their roots, they can all be traced to the sinful nature of human beings. In terms of this sinful nature, we are not fundamentally

different from the decision-makers, commanders, or transactors of the massacre. We give thanks to God, for although all human beings are sinners, we specifically received the amazing grace of God and through confession of our sins, repentance, and receiving Jesus as Lord, we have become sons and daughters of the Living God.

We believe Christianity not only signifies receiving personal salvation, it also signifies the belief that God's love and righteousness preside over the history of humanity. By God's grace and Truth, Christians not only take on the mission to preach the gospel, we also take on the socio-cultural mission to love our neighbors as ourselves, to live as the salt and light of the world, and to administer this land. We believe every aspect of our life belongs to and is presided over by God and should thus be filled with the sanctity, righteousness, love and mercy of God. We believe it is the unshirkable social responsibility of Christians of every era and every race to adhere to the truth of the Bible, to espouse and promote righteousness, care for the weak, reprimand sin, and to forgive enemies.

Particularly, we come forward to God to repent our sins with a broken and contrite heart. We as Christians, and some of us even offered ourselves to God as pastors, strictly segregated the sacred and the secular as a result of biased theological standpoint, and consequently, we imprisoned ourselves in a self-righteous state that segregates worldly sufferings and sin. Because of weakness, numb conscience, and fear some of us stay away from the political suffering of our fellow countrymen. We dare not live out righteousness and mercy. We dare not reach out to those innocent people who are imprisoned. We dare not condemn sins in a world of darkness. In the end, we become Christian hypocrites as we silently endorse the acts of injustice which, in turn, encouraged the perpetrators of such acts.

At the 20th anniversary of the June 4 Incident, we wish to reflect with a repentant heart, and we yearn to make this appeal to all Chinese Christian churches around the globe: We sincerely urge all Chinese Christian churches, within China and overseas, to pray for the salvation of lost souls in our home country, for social justice and for the future of our race during the period May 12, 2009—the commemoration of the Sichuan Earthquake and June 4—the commemoration of the June 4 bloodshed. We urge that churches make May 12 and June 4 “Pray for China” days and hold special prayer meetings throughout the period.

We believe that only on the basis that truth is revealed and justice is done, does reconciliation become meaningful. Accordingly, we appeal to all Chinese Christians around the globe to:

- I. Confess our sins and ask for God’s forgiveness for our weakness, indifference, hypocrisy, deceitfulness, oblivion and silence in the face of the June 4 atrocities.
- II. Seek to reveal the truth of the June 4 Incident by:
 1. Telling our families, colleagues, friends, clients what we know, and as far as we can, candidly stating our Christian standpoint in this matter.
 2. Showing concern and offering help to those individuals or groups around us who are repressed and distressed as a result of the June 4 Incident.
- III. Pray for the repentance of those in authority currently as well as those at the time of the Incident. On the one hand, we respect the power of the governing authority, because the power that be is ordained of God. On the other hand, since the power comes from God, those with governing authority are accountable to God. Therefore, we urge the government to

take the following steps for justice to prevail and for social reconciliation be made possible:

1. Face history truthfully and make public the truth.
2. Confess the sins and correct the wrongs; investigate and find the ultimate perpetrators.
3. Commemorate victims of the June 4 bloodshed; compensate and provide care for families of the victims.
4. Give the exiles of the June 4 Incident, the rights to go back to China freely.

May the glory of showing righteousness go to the omnipotent God and may the earthly peace and harmony go to the people who delight in Him.

(All Christians are invited to join in as signatory to this declaration by inserting hereunder your name in alphabetical order, your salutation and your place of residence)

签署人-First Group of Signatories (将定期按姓氏笔画排序):

王怡 传道人 (中国)

王保罗 牧师 (美国)

王志勇 牧师 (美国)

王传祥 神学生 (台湾)

王得奎 传道人 (中国)

牛书庆 传道人 (中国)

卢维溢 牧师 (加拿大)

卢迦勒 神学生 (台湾)

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吕存良 传道人（中国）
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刘孀莹 神学生（台湾）
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杨建利 博士（美国）
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赵享恩 牧师（美国）
张伯笠 牧师（美国）
张前进 传道（美国）
张 敏 传道人/记者（美国）
张 健 传道（法国）
张明选 传道人（中国）
张旭初 传道人（中国）
张慧敏 神学生（新加坡）
陈国瑄 博士（加拿大）
陈锦华 牧师（加拿大）
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陈信铭 牧师（美国）
陈佐人 牧师（美国）
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