

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Greetings! I am Alimjan Yimit's wife, Gülnur. Alimjan, by God's sovereign grace met the Lord, receiving Jesus as his savior in 1995 and becoming one of the very few Christians among Xinjiang's 12 million Muslim-background Uyghurs. In September 2007, the Kashgar, Xinjiang Ministry of Ethnic and Religious Affairs issued a notice accusing Alimjan of spreading Christianity in the Kashgar area. On January 11, 2008 he was arrested by the Kashgar Public Security Bureau (police). He remained incarcerated and his case left up in the air for almost two years until on November 25, 2009, the Kashgar Intermediate Court harshly sentenced him on a made-up charge to 15 years in prison and 5 years deprivation of his political rights.

I have been greatly moved by brothers and sisters who after hearing of Alimjan's arrest have been urgently interceding in prayer. Thank you so much for continually offering such sincere prayer for Alimjan and our family all through these last two years. It is this that has sustained Alimjan and our family's strength and enabled us to miraculously keep walking to this day.

During these trying two years, we have suffered much. All through to December 2009, our hearts were left hanging and our nerves continually kept on edge. Many times during that period I felt helpless, weak to the point of not being able to lift myself off the floor, but the Lord through Romans 5:2-5 spoke to me:

"Through our Lord Jesus Christ we have confidently entered into this new relationship of grace, and here we take our stand, in happy certainty of the glorious things he has for us in the future. This doesn't mean, of course, that we have only a hope of future joys - we can be full of joy here and now even in our trials and troubles. Taken in the right spirit these very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character, and a character of this sort produces a steady hope, a hope that will never disappoint us. Already we have some experience of the love of God flooding through our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us."

I believe it is all through the Lord hearing the prayers of each brother and sister that He has given me a new strength and faith allowing me to continue to lean on Him and be made even more resolute and courageous.

All we have been through these two years Alimjan has been in jail has been like nothing ever experienced in over ten years of being a believer, but we have also learned lessons in the midst of it. Even though I knew well, since believing in Jesus, the Lord's teaching,

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it," and (Matthew 16:24), *"If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.."* (Matthew 7:13, 14)

I had always felt or could even say had been slightly blinded by a life of happiness, harmony, and love in the presence of the Lord.

After these things happened, it was not just once that in tears I asked God, "Aren't you most pleased with this kind of a family? Why do you want to separate us? Even two years is still not enough, you want to add 13 more years?" Every night I can hear my oldest son pray this way, "Lord Jesus, you said if only two or three are gathered in prayer, you will answer their prayer, but there are now so many people praying together for Daddy and he still can't come back."

He also says to me, "When this happened to Daddy, I was on my winter school break, now the third winter break is almost here. How can he not come back? The time has been too long." When my husband was taken away, my youngest son was only one year and five months old. He had just learned to say "daddy". Now he can already speak fluently in very good Uyghur and Chinese, but when he cries "Daddy" there is no one there to answer.

Now, Alim's case is already at the appeal stage. This judgment will be the final verdict. It has been with expectant hearts that I and my children have passed these last two years. I have watched them hold on to the hope day and night that their daddy can soon return home. As a mother, I really do not want to see that look of disappointment on their faces again.

Dear brothers and sisters, I earnestly hope you will once again -- for Alimjan, for our family -- offer up your most fervent prayers and move the hand of God to change this present situation. Finally, my hope is that all brothers and sisters who see this letter will by whatever means possible spread its message to even more brothers and sisters so that even more people can know and pray for us. At this time, I would like to thank all of you who have followed this case from the beginning and prayed for us through it. To all who sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ,

Grace be with you,

Gülnur
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