

CHINA

UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATION

China is home to a large and diverse Christian population, but believers live under extensive government oversight. Churches and religious activity are closely monitored, and Christians can face increasing pressure when their faith falls outside government-approved structures.

Government surveillance reaches into many areas of everyday life. Churches can face registration requirements, cameras and digital monitoring, while pastors and believers may be questioned about their activities. Churches are also pressured to conform to Communist Party expectations, including restrictions involving crosses, Christian holidays, and religious teaching.

Ministry to children and teenagers is particularly restricted. Those under 18 are generally prohibited from participating in organized religious activities, making discipleship of the next generation especially challenging. Christians who are identified by authorities can also experience questioning, lost employment opportunities, or social isolation.

Yet the Church continues. Believers gather in homes, share Bibles, disciple young people, and find creative ways to tell others about Jesus. Rather than eliminating Christian faith, increased pressure has often required believers to become quieter, more relational, and more creative in how they live it out.

CHINA

FACTS & CONTEXT

#17 — World Watch List

China ranks among the most difficult places in the world to follow Jesus, with government surveillance and restrictions affecting both registered and unregistered churches.

65,000 Young People Reached

Nearly 65,000 children and teenagers are currently being reached through home groups, camps, celebrations, and other ministry programs supported by an ICR partner.

13,000+ Came to Faith

More than 13,000 children and teenagers came to faith through this ministry during the past year alone.

Ministry to Children Is Restricted

Government regulations significantly restrict churches from providing religious education and organized Christian activities to those under 18.

Surveillance Is Widespread

Digital monitoring and surveillance allow authorities to watch churches, gatherings, leaders, and individual believers. This can make even ordinary Christian activities risky.

Following Jesus Can Affect Everyday Life

Christians who come to the attention of authorities may face questioning, difficulty finding employment, or social isolation in addition to restrictions on their ministry.

CHINA

YUE'S STORY

Faith Under Pressure

Yue* owns a shoe store in China.

Children regularly stop by her shop, giving Yue opportunities to build relationships with them. As those relationships grow, she carefully finds ways to tell them about Jesus.

One day, Yue gave a child a gospel brochure.

The child took it home, where the mother discovered it. Instead of simply throwing it away, she reported Yue to the authorities.

Police brought Yue in for questioning. She was interrogated about what she had done and forced to sign a statement promising that she would no longer teach children about Jesus.

For Yue, the warning was serious.

Another arrest could result in her being placed on a government blacklist, potentially affecting many areas of her life. The consequences could reach far beyond her ministry and restrict her ability to live and work normally.

But Yue was not intimidated into abandoning her faith.

She continues to minister and share Jesus—only now she does so even more carefully.

Yue's story illustrates what persecution can look like in China. There may not be a dramatic act of violence. Instead, there is the constant knowledge that conversations can be reported, activities can be monitored, and openly sharing your faith can affect your future.

Yet believers like Yue continue finding ways to make Jesus known.

Name changed for security.

CHINA



WHAT THE CHURCH IS DOING

Chinese believers continue adapting to an environment where traditional church ministry can be difficult. Homes, relationships, camps, small gatherings, and personal conversations have become important places for discipleship and evangelism.

ICR partners are especially focused on reaching children and young people. Nearly 65,000 children and teenagers are being reached through home groups, camps, celebrations, and other programs, with more than 13,000 coming to faith during the past year.

Partners also help provide Bibles and Christian resources. In communities where Scripture can be difficult to access, getting a Bible into someone's hands gives believers the opportunity to read God's Word for themselves and share it with others.

Training and practical resources help local Christian leaders continue serving their communities despite restrictions and increased government scrutiny.

CHINA



WAYS TO SUPPORT

PROVIDE GOD'S WORD

Help place Bibles and Christian resources into the hands of young people, families, and believers who want to grow in their faith.

REACH YOUNG PEOPLE

Help children and teenagers participate in camps, home groups, and other opportunities where they can hear the gospel and be discipled.

EQUIP LOCAL LEADERS

Help provide training, travel, and ministry resources for Christian leaders serving churches and believers across China.

CHINA

PRAYER

Father, we lift up the Church in China. Give believers wisdom and courage as they follow Jesus under pressure and surveillance. Strengthen pastors and ministry leaders, protect those reaching children and young people, and open new doors for Your Word to be shared. Give courage to believers like Yue who faithfully make Jesus known. May those who watch and oppose the Church encounter Jesus themselves, and may Your Church continue to grow in faith and boldness. Amen.