



## ***LOCKED UP FOR JESUS***

by **Bill Corum**

My friend, Timothy Chung, was sentenced to a labor camp in China for re-education through labor. His sentence was to be 3½ years. But he entered the camp in 1958 and was not released until 1979. After spending 21 years in prison for his faith in Jesus Christ, he was finally released and came to America. He ended up in Kansas City, MO, where I live. Timothy's life is a testimony for us all.

At the end of his 3½ year sentence, he was asked if he was ready to denounce this superstition of believing in Jesus and go home to be with his family. The only thing he was required to do was to say the words, "I do not believe in Jesus," and even if he didn't mean it he would be released. Timothy told the interrogating officer that as a Christian he was obligated to believe with his heart and confess with his mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The officer pounded his fists on the table and said he would not release him. Year after year (although never again given the opportunity to deny his faith), he was kept as a prisoner, and registered with an "unannounced life imprisonment." In the labor camp the prisoners were forced to work from 10 to 16 hours a day. Timothy labored in the rock quarry and the brick kiln. The living conditions were inhumane.

There were two thousand men in his labor camp. The beds in these prisons were made of hard dried mud, and then covered with straw. Each bed was 100 feet wide and slept 50 men to a bed. During the time of his incarceration there was a three year famine in China, from 1959 until 1962. During that time, ten million people died from starvation. Two thirds of the prisoners in the labor camps also died.

Because it was 1200 miles by train, Timothy's wife only visited him two times during his incarceration. One of those times was at the beginning of the famine and she brought him some rice. He said he was very hungry, but when she got there they were disappointed that the rice had spoiled on the two day train ride, so they had to throw it out. The next time she came was at the end of the famine and she helped nourish him back to health.

In 1979, a church in Waco, TX, began **fasting and praying** daily for him. Within a month he was released. I asked Timothy if he would be writing a book. He said he was not a writer. I suggested that we could get someone else to write it. He said, "I have never done anything for God. Only God has done things for me." Can you even imagine what it would be like to spend 21 years doing hard labor in a Chinese prison camp?

### **FROM BROTHER JOE:**

Brother Andrew (a renowned Bible smuggler) has written: *"I'm convinced that we are entering into what appears to be the cruelest period of history. More people will suffer for Christ's name than in any other generation. Christians who are not under such persecution must find a way to help our persecuted brothers and sisters. They need our presence, our encouragement, and our prayers."*

Our prayers are crucial. Our best prayers will move us into our best action. I close the day praying for my brothers and sisters in harms way. They are not just the "Timothy Chungs" of the world but also the men, women, boys and girls right here in America standing in the need of prayer. Some are struggling with physical, mental or emotional battles; others are in the midst of spiritual warfare.

**Saved to Serve the Savior,**

P.S. I was recently invited to accompany Bill Corum on one of his visits with Timothy Chung. It was truly a "mountaintop experience". Timothy is 96 years old and his spirit is strong.

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### What We Should Do According To The Scriptures

- \* Believe  
John 6:29
- \* Confess  
Matthew 10:32
- \* Repent  
Acts 3:19
- \* Be Baptized  
1 Peter 3:21
- \* Walk In The Light  
1 John 1:7
- \* Remain Faithful  
Revelation 2:10
- \* Tell Others  
Matthew 28:19