

## The Saga of Aung Sang Suu Kyi

Audio Blog by Gregg Harris, President – FEBC

June 2009

The long sad saga of Aung Sang Suu Kyi has once again garnered international attention, with President Obama calling for her unconditional release. The Nobel Peace Prize winner has been the face of Myanmar's pro-democracy movement and the focus of a global campaign to free her. She has been under house arrest for 13 of the past 19 years -- a confinement the ruling military government has regularly extended.

The most recent circumstances surrounding her detention involve the bizarre case of a 53-year-old man from Missouri who swam 2 miles across the lake that borders her home to visit her. John Yettaw claims that God sent him to Myanmar to protect Suu Kyi because he had a dream that a terrorist group would assassinate her. The government regarded Mr. Yettaw's presence as a violation of Ms. Suu Kyi's terms of confinement.

In spite of these recent and highly unusual circumstances, Suu Kyi's basic predicament is not an isolated one. While it is common for political dissidents to be subject to so called "re-education camps", prisons and house arrest, this is also the fate of many Christians in countries where the Gospel is opposed. Around the world many believers are subjected to detention and house arrest. Praying for them and speaking out to our elected representatives are helpful ways of supporting our brothers and sisters in chains. These brave Christ followers are often greatly encouraged through the medium of Christian radio.

The following letter was sent to our ministry from a listener in Vietnam named Pastor Ma:

*"Dear Servants of the Lord, For the past 12 years, my wife, 10 children, and I have been under house arrest. We were banished to a small cabin in a deserted area... because I was the superintendent of the Southern Evangelical Church of Vietnam. In spite of our challenges, we have been greatly encouraged through your broadcasts. And though we must listen in secret, your broadcasts have kept our faith alive. All these years, I've told many people about your programs. I praise God because with your daily encouragement, my lengthy trial has not been in vain. By the grace of God, we have been able to bring 400 people to Christ! Since I'm not allowed to leave or contact anyone outside this area, I've secretly recruited a number of believers, old and new, to help me spread the word concerning your broadcasts. Eighteen people have dedicated their lives to serving the Lord in this capacity. We have also been able to raise money to buy radios for those who couldn't afford one. Several families in one neighborhood share a radio. Through this, many people listen to your broadcasts, and countless lives have been changed."*

This amazing report shows that while the Vietnamese government believed his confinement would prevent him from any further evangelizing, his home became a church where many flocked to learn about Christ. Around the world, there are millions of Christians being persecuted for their faith. Through their faithfulness, God's power, and often through international missionary radio, they are sustained and encouraged to follow their Lord Jesus Christ.

Gregg Harris, President

Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC)

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