

June 10, 2014

Dear Brothers:

Attached is a translation of an announcement that will be released in Chinese along with Congressman Joe Pitts' statement in the *Congressional Record*. Per the co-workers' fellowship in Philadelphia, we are making this announcement available to the churches now and will formally release it to a major Chinese newspaper in North America, *World Journal*. The publication dates for the editions in various cities in the United States and Canada are listed below. Please announce this to the churches in your area and to the Chinese-speaking saints in particular. In addition, the statement will appear in the weekend edition of *World Journal* now scheduled for publication on June 22.

On May 28, a highly publicized murder took place in China, and Chinese government agencies quickly linked the case to the Almighty God cult (AGC). At the same time, reports in official government news outlets identified Witness Lee as the head of "the Shouters," which they refer to as one of the top evil cults in China. The government also said that the AGC is an "offshoot" of the so-called Shouters. China's official Anti-Cult Association has now reported that Living Stream Ministry, Taiwan Gospel Book Room and the Hong Kong Bible Research and Education Centre are the centers of Witness Lee's cultic movement. This most recent government listing of cults also associates Watchman Nee with the start of "the Shouters." As far as we are aware, this is the first time this accusation has been made publicly.

This *Congressional Record* announcement comes at a very crucial time. New believers in the Lord's recovery may be affected by news of the murder case being linked to groups the Chinese government associates with our ministry.

Please continue to pray for the DCP work to clear the names of Brothers Nee and Lee from any connection to evil cults in the Chinese-speaking world so that the ministry may be made available to all of God's people.

Below are the publication dates for the announcement in *World Journal*:

Boston - 6/13 (Fri.)	Vancouver - 6/14 (Sat.)
San Francisco 6/13 (Fri.)	New York – 6/15 (Sun.)
Atlanta - 6/14 (Sat.)	Washington D.C. – 6/15 (Sun.)
Chicago - 6/14 (Sat.)	Hawaii – 6/21 (Sat.)
Philadelphia - 6/14 (Sat.)	Las Vegas – 6/21 (Sat.)
Seattle - 6/14 (Sat.)	Los Angeles - 6/21 (Sat.)
Texas (all of) - 6/14 (Sat.)	San Diego – 6/21 (Sat.)
Toronto - 6/14 (Sat.)	

The two-page announcement will be published in the weekend edition of *World Journal* in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Toronto, and Vancouver on June 22, 2014.

DCP Serving Ones

Enclosure 1: Announcement to appear in World Journal.

Enclosure 2: Congressional Record statement by Congressman Pitts (right-hand column in enclosure 1)

Enclosure 3: Press Release in English (left-hand column in enclosure 1)

美國國會議員表彰華人基督教教師

倪柝聲、李常受

肯定兩人對基督教的卓越貢獻 呼籲中國政府正視其海外傑出表現

2014年4月29日，美國資深國會議員Joseph Pitts先生在眾議院發表一份聲明，列入國會紀錄，表彰華人神學佈道家李常受先生對全球基督教所作的貢獻。Joseph Pitts認為，倪柝聲的事蹟在西方世界已廣為人知，美國國會議員Chris Smith也於四年前發表聲明，表彰倪柝聲的貢獻；然而西方世界對於將倪的職事和出版事業帶出中國，並在海外發揚光大的李常受先生所知不多，因此特於國會發文表揚這位忠信神僕的卓越貢獻。

李常受（1905-1997），山東煙台人，自1925年開始與倪有書信來往，1932年起與倪柝聲一同工作，為其最親密同工之一。1949年政局改變之際，倪力請李移居海外，將工作帶至台灣及遠東各地，建立經營台灣福音書房。李常受將倪、李兩人的職事帶到台灣、菲律賓、印尼、馬來西亞、新加坡、日本、韓國、紐西蘭和澳洲等地，並於六十年代初，在洛杉磯設立水流職事站，將兩人的職事帶到英語世界，和南美、歐洲、非洲等地。今天在倪柝聲、李常受兩人職事帶領下的地方教會超過四千處，信徒人數達四十萬。李常受帶領翻譯的聖經新譯本《聖經恢復本》，由台灣福音書房和水流職事站出版成英文、中文、西班牙文、韓文、俄文、日文、葡萄牙文、泰文、法文等多種語文，成為第一本由華人主譯，具有國際水準的研讀版聖經。

早在2009年，李常受的事蹟就受到中華民國（台灣）政府的重視，由國史館採訪其歷史，出版成《基督與召會：李常受先生行誼訪談錄》一書，表揚其在宗教界的不朽功業。書中表示：「我們吁衡全局，均以為李常受先生（Witness Lee, 1905-1997年；基於學術的超然性，以下直稱本名），足堪首選。常受自身在信仰上之純正與身體力行，及其所耕耘之召會（assembly），當是現今歷史不能輕忽的。」（31頁）

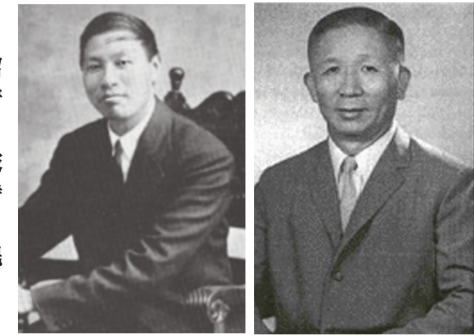
該書肯定李常受和其帶領之教會，對社會、國家的貢獻：「宗教力量之偉大，不僅可以陶冶、變化信徒個人的氣質與命運，亦可深深影響提升社會、國家乃至全人類的進步與發展。常受在台灣沒有呼風喚雨的知名度與煽動力，卻默默的薰陶周邊國民的氣質（由教徒素質，而擴及其影響力到周邊人群，潛移默化雖不易察覺，卻功不可沒），影響範圍隨歲月越發加深加廣，茲已邁向世界，這是個不引人注意的寧靜奇蹟。」（34頁）

這個寧靜奇蹟同時發生在世界上的許多地方，當然也包括中國。儘管在中國，凡珍貴倪、李職事者，總是最受嚴厲的逼迫，但仍有近兩百萬信徒，在外界誤解下，默默為國家社會效力。為此Joseph Pitts先生呼籲中國政府，不要用政治的眼光來看倪柝聲、李常受，而該以二人為華人之光，正視其在海外的傑出表現，藉此機會提升中國在國際社會間的形象與聲譽。

近日因全能神派成員在山東東人致死的案件，邪教問題再度引起輿論關注。一些媒體在以訛傳訛的情形下，將地方召會和李常受的出版單位水流職事站、台灣福音書房，以及香港聖經研習中心，與中國官方列為邪教的呼喊派連上關係，對李常受的職事作出不實的污蔑。

對此我們提出三點聲明：

- 一，李常受的職事和聖地方召會，與呼喊派或其他中國政府點名的邪教團體無任何關係。
- 二，地方召會嚴厲斥責此等破壞社會秩序的暴力事件，支持政府依法取締此類不法份子。
- 三，地方召會的信徒本於公民之責，將繼續致力安定人心，為和諧社會共同努力。



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倪柝聲與李常受

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS
(賓州眾議員)

議長先生，四年前本人所景仰的同仁新澤西州的史密斯先生（Chris Smith）曾於此處發言，喚起對二十世紀最偉大的基督徒之一——知名的華人聖經教師及教會創建者倪柝聲，應有的重視。今天，本人要進而向倪柝聲最親密的同工李常受致敬，使倪氏動人的故事得顯其全貌。倪、李二人自1932年起即在中國共事，孜孜不倦為主工作，直至1949年毛澤東旗下共產黨紅軍佔領中國為止。今天，由於倪柝聲多部著述，如《正常的基督徒生活》、《坐、行、站》等，已成為基督教界經典之作，倪氏生平也堪稱廣為人知。倪於1972年在中國勞改農場裏殉道，其感人的一生至此臻於最高境界。

李常受的事蹟雖然較為西方人士所知，其重要性其實不相上下。倪李二人在中國同工時，雖以倪為翹楚，但其後乃是李在倪的指示下，將他們所作主工帶出中國，使其得以在海外存續，且發揚光大，甚至擴展及於華語世界之外。1949年共產黨即將取得中國之際，倪柝聲力請李常受移居海外，在台灣繼續開展，甚而及於遠東各地。李常受臨危受命，此後的發展不僅證實倪氏眼光之獨到（倪不久即下監，二人職事所興起的教會也被迫轉往地下），也證明二人信息與職事向海外發展的潛力。

李常受的職事旋即在台灣勢如破竹，領成千上萬人歸向耶穌基督而得救，並開始以簡樸且合乎新約之教會的方式聚集，與在中國的弟兄們先前二十年內所作的一樣。今天在台灣有兩百多處這樣的地方教會，信徒人數逾二十萬。同樣的故事也發生在遠東和大洋洲，在菲律賓、印尼、馬來西亞、新加坡、日本、韓國、紐西蘭和澳洲等地均有教會興起。

李常受的工作並未侷限於亞洲。他於1962年來北到北美，在洛杉磯開始畫畫並設立水流職事站，出版倪柝聲和李常受的著作，以英語及其他五十多種語言發行。李常受的著述繼續強調「基督作生命」，並強調神的心意是在神子民合一的基礎上，而非種族或文化差異上，「建造祂的教會」。這正是他師承倪柝聲所學之道。自六〇年代初起，地方教會在李氏的職事下，於北美、南美、歐洲和非洲皆有顯著擴展。目前在各大洲聚集者，共有超過四十萬處教會，信徒人數達四十萬，其中包括在俄國和俄語世界的兩百處教會和數千位信徒。

在中國大陸，儘管中國政府經常以嚴厲手段打壓且公開逼迫，「暗中」跟隨倪、李職事的信徒人數仍持續增加。證諸歷史，中國教會成員中，凡珍貴倪、李職事者，總是最受嚴厲逼迫。成千信徒徒遭牢獄之苦，被打者無數，甚至殉道者也為數眾多。據估計，今天在中國，從倪、李職

事得著屬靈滋養和供應的，有近兩百萬信徒，數千處地方教會。

近日西方世界略聞，有兩個省份的基督徒因持有聖經恢復本——一本由水流職事站和台灣福音書房（李氏在台灣所設之出版單位）出版的研讀本聖經，而遭監禁。今天，倪柝聲仍被標為「危險的反革命份子」，李常受也被官方列為「邪教頭目」。二人的著作在中國乃屬禁閱。不幸的是，倪柝聲死於中國勞改農場，而不知其生平和職事對全世界有如此深遠的影響。同樣不幸的是，李常受於1997年離世，而他的名字和職事在其家鄉，竟一直遭受公然、惡意的污蔑。

諷刺的是，中國近來雖於社會諸多方面在世界舞台扮演重要角色，卻未能抓住此明顯時機，進一步改善其國際社會間的形象。中國非但不該疏毀兩位忠信神僕的名聲，反該將倪、李視為華人之光；二人所得之道及其對群羊的帶領與政治無涉，而其傑出的影響卻已超越華語世界。

議長先生，本人今日呼籲中國政府釋放所有因單純相信基督而被囚的人，並放棄那打壓和污蔑倪、李二人聲譽的全國性運動。他們二人實為那將赦恩、赦罪與和平之道帶給世人之救主的勇敢跟隨者，但願中國政府轉而與我們一同稱揚倪柝聲和李常受對全世界信徒所作的貢獻。

（此譯文並非出自美國官方或PITTS眾議員辦公室）

更多資訊：中文 localchurchopenletter.org 及 witnessleeteaching.com
英文 ism.org 及 an-open-letter.org

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House of Representatives

WATCHMAN NEE AND WITNESS
LEE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, a little over four years ago my esteemed colleague from New Jersey, the honorable CHRIS SMITH, rose in this chamber to bring due attention to one of the great Christians of the twentieth century—the noted Chinese teacher and church-planter, Watchman Nee. Today, I rise to complete the circle on this compelling story by honoring Watchman Nee's closest co-worker, Witness Lee. Together they labored tirelessly in China from 1932 until the conquest of mainland China by the Communist Red Army under Mao Tse Tung in 1949. Today, the story of Watchman Nee is somewhat well known, given his numerous writings that have become Christian classics, such as *The Normal Christian Life* and *Sit, Walk, Stand*. Capping his inspirational biography was his martyrdom in a Chinese labor farm in 1972.

Witness Lee's story is less known in the West but is in no way less significant. Although Nee was the clear leader when they labored together in China, it was left to Witness Lee, to preserve and continue their work outside of China and to spread it far beyond the Chinese-speaking world. When it became apparent in 1949 that the Communists would prevail in China, Watchman Nee insisted that Witness Lee emigrate to carry on their work in Taiwan and throughout the Far East. Lee agreed. Subsequent developments not only validated Nee's insight (he was imprisoned shortly thereafter, and the churches raised up under his and Lee's ministry were forced underground), but also confirmed that their message and ministry had the potential to reach far beyond China.

Almost immediately Lee's ministry began to have a profound impact in Taiwan. Tens of thousands turned to Jesus Christ for their salvation and began congregating in simple, New Testament churches, as their Chinese brethren had done in China during the previous two decades. Today, there are more than 200 such local churches in Taiwan with more than 200,000 believers. It is a similar story in the Far East and Australasia, with churches established in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Australia.

Witness Lee did not confine his work to Asia. In 1962 he came to North America and began to minister from Los Angeles, where he established Living Stream Ministry, the publisher of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee in English and over fifty other languages. Witness Lee's speaking and writing continued to emphasize "Christ as life" and God's desire to "build His church" on the basis of the oneness of God's people, rather than on any ethnic or cultural differences. This was the same message that he had learned from his spiritual mentor, Watchman Nee. Since the early 1960s the spread of the local churches under Lee's ministry throughout the North and South America, Europe, and Africa has been remarkable. There are more than 4,000 churches and 400,000 believers meeting on every inhabited continent, including 200 churches and several thousand believers in Russia and the Russian-speaking world.

Inside mainland China the number of "hidden" believers following the ministry of Nee and Lee has continued to grow despite the Chinese government's often extreme measures to suppress and openly persecute them. Historically, members of the churches in China who appreciate the ministry of Nee and Lee have been among the most harshly persecuted. Thousands have been imprisoned, countless beaten, and many even martyred. It is estimated today that there may be two million believers and thousands of local churches in China that draw their spiritual nourishment and supply from the ministry of Nee and Lee.

Recently, reports have reached the West that Christian believers in two provinces have been imprisoned merely for possessing copies of the Recovery Version, a study Bible published by Living Stream Ministry and Taiwan Gospel Book Room, the publishing entity Lee established in Taiwan. Today Watchman Nee is still labeled as a "dangerous counterrevolutionary," and Witness Lee is officially branded as a "cult leader." The writings of both men are banned in China. It is tragic that Watchman Nee died in a Chinese prison farm, totally unaware of how profoundly his life and ministry would impact the entire world. It is a similar tragedy that Witness Lee died in 1997 with such a blatant, gross distortion hanging over his name and his ministry in his homeland.

It is ironic that at a time when China is taking such a prominent role on the world stage in so many areas of society, it is missing an obvious opportunity to further improve its reputation with in the international community. Rather than slander the names of two faithful men of God, China should take national pride that two of its own, neither of whom were political in either their message or their leadership of the flock, have had extraordinary impact far beyond the Chinese-speaking world.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Chinese government today to release all those being held simply because of their faith in Christ and to abandon this national campaign to discredit and distort the record of two brave followers of the One who came with the message of salvation, forgiveness and peace, and instead, to celebrate with us the contributions of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee to believers the world over.

**A United States Congressman Honors Chinese Christian Teachers
Watchman Nee and Witness Lee
Affirms their outstanding contribution to Christianity
Calls on the Chinese government to recognize their extraordinary accomplishments
far beyond China**

On April 29, 2014, Mr. Joe Pitts, a senior member of the United States Congress, entered a statement in the Congressional Record honoring the contribution of the Chinese theologian and evangelist Witness Lee to Christianity all over the globe. Joe Pitts noted that Watchman Nee's story and accomplishments have been well-known in the Western world and his contribution was acknowledged four years ago through another member of the United States Congress, Chris Smith. However, Witness Lee, who continued Nee's ministry and publications outside of China and spread it overseas, was less known. Therefore, Joe Pitts entered a statement into the Congressional Record in order to honor the outstanding contribution of this faithful servant of God.

Born in Yantai, Shandong Province, Witness Lee (1905-1997), a close co-worker of Watchman Nee, began to correspond with Nee in 1925 and then began to labor together with him in 1932. When it became apparent in 1949 that the political situation was about to change in China, Watchman Nee insisted that Witness Lee emigrate to carry out their work in Taiwan and throughout the Far East and to establish the Taiwan Gospel Book Room. Witness Lee brought their ministry to Taiwan, and from there spread it to the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Korea, and Australasia. In the early 1960s, he established Living Stream Ministry in Los Angeles, through which the ministry was brought to the English-speaking world as well as to South America, Europe, and Africa. Today the number of local churches under the leading of Lee's ministry exceeds 4000 with more than 400,000 believers. A new Bible translation, the Holy Bible Recovery Version, was translated under the leadership of Witness Lee. It has been published by Taiwan Gospel Book Room and Living Stream Ministry into many languages, including English, Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Russian, Japanese, Portuguese, Thai, and French. It is the first study Bible produced mainly by a native-born Chinese that meets the international standard.

As early as in 2009, Witness Lee's story had already received the attention of the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan). Academia Historica, the official agency documenting the country's history, researched Witness Lee and published their findings in a book entitled, *Christ and the Church—a Collection of Interviews concerning Mr. Li Changshou*, to commemorate and highlight his accomplishments in the field of religion. The book says, "After surveying the entire field, we felt that Witness Lee (1905-1997) was our top choice. Witness Lee was proper in his faith and practiced what he preached. The assembly that he labored for is a group that cannot be dismissed lightly by history" (p. 31 in the Chinese edition).

The book also confirms the contributions Witness Lee and the churches under his leading make to the society and the country, “The power of religion is great; it can not only cultivate and change the character and destiny of an individual but also uplift and deeply influence the progress and development of a society, a country, and even all of humanity. Even though Witness Lee did not possess the fame or influence of the movers and shakers in Taiwan, he quietly labored to nurture and cultivate the virtues of those around him. His influence began with uplifting the virtues of the believers in his group and spread imperceptibly to all the other people around them. Still, the contribution to the country was real and significant. The longer the history of the local churches becomes, the more Witness Lee’s influence spreads, even, as it has now, to the whole world. This is a quiet miracle that did not draw the attention of men” (p. 34 in the Chinese edition).

This quiet miracle has been happening simultaneously in many places around the world, which of course includes China. Even though members of the churches in China who appreciate the ministry of Nee and Lee have been among the most harshly persecuted, it is estimated that there may be two million believers who are quiet contributors to the society and to the country of China despite the misunderstandings they have sustained. For this reason Joe Pitts called upon the Chinese government not to view Watchman Nee and Witness Lee from a political perspective and instead grasp the obvious opportunity to further improve its image and reputation in the international community by taking national pride in the two of its own, who have had extraordinary impact far beyond the Chinese-speaking world.

Recently, due to a fatal beating in Shandong by members of the Almighty God cult, various media raised the public’s concern over the matter of cults. Some media outlets again repeated baseless and erroneous assertions linking the local churches, Witness Lee’s publication entities—Living Stream Ministry and Taiwan Gospel Book Room—and the Hong Kong Bible Research and Education Centre with the Shouters (which is identified by the Chinese government as a cult) and slandering the ministry of Witness Lee with untruths. We would herewith make three clarifications with regard to this matter: one, neither the ministry of Witness Lee nor the local churches have anything to do with the Shouters or any other group identified by the Chinese government as a cult; two, the local churches strongly condemn any violent activities that harm the order in society, and they support government efforts to address such unlawful elements according to Chinese law; and three, believers in the local churches, in fulfilling their duty as citizens, will continue to endeavor to live in peace with all men and to join in the effort to produce a harmonious society.