

We Just Don't Get It!

by Kat Rowoldt

[This is the second article dealing the persecution of a fellow Christian brother here in Texas by the CCP.]



Eliel Rosa with Nehemiah School of Government, Julian Marley with China Aid, Jenny Cudd who coordinated the #WeAreBobFu event, Kat Rowoldt with ChristianReporterNews.com, and keynote speaker Rev. Dave Welch, President of Texas Pastor Council. This was post-event, fully wind-blown, after a very late lunch fellowship.

I headed back to Midland this past week to attend a #WeAreBobFu rally. I wasn't sure what to expect. It was anticipated the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) would make an appearance to expand their protest against Bob Fu. There was obvious concern for safety since Miles (Kwok) Guo has a bounty on Bob Fu's head. Surely, Bob would not be there since he is in protective custody, along with his family. All I really knew was the event was going to be held outside in an Amphitheater and Pastor Dave Welch was flying in from Houston to represent his organization which is standing with Bob.

Off to Midland I headed. The wind was blowing steadily at 40+ mph with gusts. Long before I reached Midland, its dust had met me on the highway. The sky was brown and the thought of standing in this mess for an hour, or two, was not very inviting, but I was looking forward to being there.

As always, I arrived early so I would have the best selection on where to set up my camera. I had visions of the camera lens being totally coated over with dust. The wind was so strong that tripods were being anchored down with blocks to hold them in place. You could tell the local media was used to this condition. I wasn't.

It was wonderful seeing Eliel Rosa and Jenny Cudd again. They had pulled together this event in about a week's time. Also arriving early was Pastor Getaneh Getaneh, my new friend from a couple of weeks ago. Everyone was busy setting things up and dealing with the wind. The sound crew were doing sound checks and the last of the chairs were being put into place. I decided to make a last stop at the restroom before the event would start.

As I was coming out to wash my hands, a woman with a large straw brimmed hat spoke to me. She too was busy washing her hands. She inquired if I was here for the event. I replied I was. She then informed me she had travelled from

Seattle, Washington to be here. She was Chinese. I welcomed her to Texas and hurried back out to my camera and things outside which I had asked Pastor Getaneh to watch while I stepped away. I immediately told him how wonderful it was that someone had travelled so far to come to this event. He agreed and wanted to meet her.

While everyone was busy focusing on what they needed to do to finish getting setup for the event, a bus load of Chinese people had apparently arrived and were now moving very freely around the area. My mind was racing to try to figure out who they were and what was going on. For all I knew, they could have been the CCP and I was somewhat on alert, curious, and uneasy.

They too had entered the area and were very busy. Many of them had cameras and were photographing everything. A few of them were carrying large US flags and a couple of flags from some country I could not identify. Then I noticed they had a red band tied on their arms. They came in with t-shirts on with oriental looking words on them, presumably Chinese. Next I realized they were unfolding a long black banner with a taped-on message. I could not read the top row as it was in what appeared to be Chinese, but the second row of wording said, *We Stand with Human Rights Activist Bob Fu*. Was this for real or a ploy to gain entrance into the event and mix themselves among the attendees?

I would later learn that even the event coordinators did not know initially who these unexpected guests were. They would turn out to be an amazing group of people who truly made the event memorable. The photo to the right was taken during the event setup. They also wore headbands which had Bob Fu's name on them which were handwritten. I had no clue who these people were or why they were there. I asked one of the men who elected to sit to my left who was with them videoing, what country the other flag represented. He informed me it was the flag of Taiwan, from the democratic region. That's the best I could understand.



Honestly, I was still uneasy. There were about 20 or so moving all around. My uneasiness came purely from the concern of the CCP infiltrating the event and I would have no clue as to who-was-who. At some point I realized they had not only positioned the banner at the front for a photo op with their guys, but they were planning on staying there during the event. Luckily where I had set up my camera and the angle to the stage, they would not be blocking my shot.

I noticed a huddle off to the side of the stage where the coordinators were going over the event with various attendees, maybe fellow pastors, and there was the lady from the restroom with them. Hmmm....

Eliel Rosa opened the event with his beautiful worship. A group of pastors were called onstage to be ready to pray as they were called upon. The event was opened in prayer and then my friend, Pastor Getaneh, had the honor of praying for Bob Fu and the persecuted church. Shortly thereafter a young man who I had noticed when he arrived was called to the mic. His name is Julian Marley who works with Bob Fu at China Aid. He had Bob Fu on the phone to greet everyone that was there. Bob thanked everyone for being there and to those who had travelled so far. He then began to introduce these special people, people who his organization helped escape the persecution in China.

He informed us that these people had driven 20-30 hours from all across the United States (Seattle, Los Angeles, New York City, Virginia) to show their support for Bob Fu. He also mentioned that not only his life and his family's life had been threatened, but Midland Mayor, Patrick Payton, is under threat as well. He stressed, "Don't take our freedom for granted."

Then he began to introduce a few of the people who had driven all those miles to be there. I do not have the correct spelling of their names, so please forgive my simplistic form of spelling. First, he mentioned Sister Dru. Her husband had been with Bob in Tiananmen Square. A tank had rolled over his legs and he is a double amputee. Another man was from Los Angeles and had something called Freedom Park. Then there was the lady I met in the restroom, Sister Jen Jane. She had cut short her trip to Hawaii and flew to Midland. She lives in Seattle.

Next he called out Sister Wa Yen, who had suffered two forced abortions in China. Pastor Paul who was imprisoned for years in China who drove in from Virginia, along with another brother-in-Christ who survived ten years in prison in China who came in from New York City.

My heart was so moved hearing the various stories and looking into the eyes of people who had endured so much more than I can even imagine. These people, when they heard what was happening to Bob Fu, knowing an event was being held to honor him, dropped their busy lives and came straight away to show their support for him and ChinaAid.org. They understand, like American's cannot, the importance of being ONE BODY IN CHRIST. As Bob said in his phone call, "if one part of the body suffers, the whole body suffers."

My head was spinning with thoughts, my heart was being pulled and realigned, and I knew for the first time in my life probably, how poorly we truly understand the cost, the price, the value of the freedoms we enjoy every moment of the day. That amphitheater which had a nice turnout for such a crazy windy day, should have had tens of thousands of people crowding in to

be there. Where were we? Where were the Christians to show their support? Where were the local pastors? Where WAS THE BODY OF CHRIST?

As the program continued and Rev. Dave Welch took the microphone, I kept seeing in my mind American Christians tossing change into an offering to tend to the mission fields abroad while they hurried out to lunch and their golf games. We have been so isolated from the harsh reality the rest of the world is living in, that we have totally lost touch with living the Christian life by Biblical standards.

Today there are more missionaries coming into America than we are sending aboard. We have been flying over the mission field for so many years to get to those 'exciting' mission fields abroad, that we have neglected our very own needs. America is no longer a Christian nation, at least not like it was when I was a child. Christianity has become a culture, social gathering, and not a lifestyle in America. Our lifestyle reflects the secular world, doesn't it? If this statement was not true, then the number of divorces in the church would not meet or exceed the number of those outside of the church. Those stats probably are true in-regards to abortion as well.

While I've never had an abortion, I've had divorces. I've been part of the social Christianity and gone through lots of the motions thereto. I've been on fire and I've been lukewarm. I've even been rebellious and hated God for a season in my life. Most of us can relate to that. For the last five years I've watched the horrors of what is happening in our country, educated myself about it, and prayed many a prayer in hopes of saving it from the direction it has been heading.

But that day, standing their looking into the eyes of these precious brothers and sisters in Christ, who were so impassioned to be there in Midland to show their support, knowing what that really means, I fell so short in so many ways. Just two weeks ago I had the honor of interviewing Bob Fu and Pastor Getaneh and heard their horrific stories of pain, torture, imprisonment because of their faith, and now witnessing these awesome people standing there in front of me.

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM are pleading with American Christians to WAKE UP. They know what our future will be if we do not protect our precious country with the founding documents which make it the most unique country this world has ever seen. They know, if it fails, there is nowhere else to go. They long for America to be saved more than we do. Yes, that's a truth. You do not see them out protesting, looting, and burning down the cities. Yet Americans are doing that. They love this country. We need to fall in love with this country like they love it. We need to love it like our forefathers did, who laid down their lives for this great land. People today, American Christians, have to stop loving their secular lifestyle more than love God.

May these new Americans inspire us to become the American Christians they are. May God help us learn how to be the Christians He can count on in His Body, to be there for one another. I hope to have the video from the event, and also the two very short interviews I did afterwards ready next week. One was Jen Jane from Seattle, and the other was Rev. Dave Welch.

Until next time....

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