

## **Lightning from the East:**

**Sep/Oct 2001**

**by Tony Lambert**

Wherever one travels in China, Christian leaders talk about the devastating effects of the cult Lightning from the East. Not only has this cult spread throughout China (especially in rural areas) but now it is active overseas. Not so long ago we were alerted about cult members placing their tracts on the windshields of cars parked outside Chinese churches in California during Sunday services! The cult now has centers in New York and Toronto, and an active website.

### **LFE's Basic Teachings**

According to Lightning from the East (hereafter called LFE) God has revealed himself to mankind in three distinct dispensations:

- 1) the era of Law (Jehovah)
- 2) the era of Grace (Jesus)
- 3) the era of the Kingdom (the female Messiah).

“Jesus came in the flesh to work among people after Jehovah’s work. His work was based on Jehovah’s work, but is not the whole part but one part. It was a new wave. In the same way, God still continues his work in the next age after Jesus’ work because God’s management is developing all the time. The old age passes and the new age will take its place. God becomes flesh this time, a second time after Jesus’ work. The Word become flesh this time is not separated from the last time, but it is the third step of the work after the Law era and the Grace era. God’s character, work-style, place of work and his name will change. No wonder it is difficult for people to accept God’s work in the new era. At the end, God has come in the flesh again and brought the Kingdom Era and finished the Grace Era. All those who receive God in the flesh come again can be received into the Kingdom Era. Jesus came into the world to do much work. But he only finished the work of salvation as a sacrifice and did not sweep away people’s corrupt nature at all. In order to save people out of Satan’s control completely, God not only bears away people’s sins through Jesus as a sacrifice but also does a greater work to sweep away people’s corruption. So after their sins are forgiven, God comes back again in the flesh to lead people into the new era and starts the judgement. These words bring people into the higher state. All those who obey him will enjoy a higher truth and greater blessings. If people still stay in the Grace Era they can never put off their corrupted nature or know God’s true nature. If you always live under rich grace but do not have the path of life to make you know and enjoy God then you don’t really know God. Such belief is wretched. When you read our book and experience every step of the work in the Kingdom Era, you’ll feel that only now can you see God face to face, hear his voice and appreciate his wisdom in his work.”

(LFE Website)

In this basic introduction to the teaching of the cult the full “revelation” of the “truth” of the female Messiah is only hinted at. This is consistent with the cult’s underhand activity in infiltrating orthodox evangelical house churches, and only gradually leading gullible Christians astray after lulling their suspicions. In fact, LFE originated in Henan in 1990 when a woman surnamed Deng set herself up as the “female Christ,” “Christ returned in the flesh” and “the Christ of the end-times.” She made much (mis)use of Matthew 24:27 which states: “For as the lightning cometh out of the east and shines even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.” She claims to be that “lightning,” and that her words will spread from East to West. After just a decade she claims to have several million followers.

## **LFE Propaganda**

*The Voice of God in China (Shen Zai Zhongguo de Fasheng)* is a small booklet being distributed in North America. The “female Messiah” speaks in the first person, pretending to be God, as follows:

“I will do a work among the Gentiles, the universe will see in a flash my glory...

“Let everyone use the Light as strength that my name be further glorified, spreading to the people, making them realize that I came to earth long ago, bringing the glory of Israel to the east, because my glory cometh from the east...

“Therefore in these last days my name will change again—not Jehovah, nor Jesus nor the Messiah. I shall be called the almighty, omnipotent God and I shall use this name to end all ages. I was once called Jehovah, and also Messiah, and even called Jesus, but today I am no longer the Jehovah or Jesus you know; I am returned in these end times—the God who will end the ages...

“I am God, worshiped by people long ago. I am full of glory, the omnipotent one! Let the world come to my throne, see my glory, hear my voice, see my works, this is my whole will, my last plan, the climax and my purpose all along; let a multitude worship, a multitude of mouths confess, a multitude of people believe, a multitude of citizens return and serve!”

## **A Secret Handbook**

The utterly satanic nature of this cult is confirmed by the contents of an “insider” handbook which trains sect members how to infiltrate and destroy gospel churches from the inside. Orthodox evangelical house churches are deliberately targeted, as are the most spiritual house-church leaders. The first chapter of this book is entitled “Spying” which is divided up into the following sections:

- 1) “Spying is using different connections and differing methods to gain access to the inner working of churches; it is to make better connections, winning their trust...
- 2) “Don’t put other people off—be a normal person and leave a good impression. Be well-mannered, dress neatly and normally...
- 3) “You must have some basic knowledge of the Bible, especially what Jesus said in the New Testament, as well as the epistles of Paul and passages in Revelation concerning saving grace...
- 4) “Know something of the denomination’s methods of indoctrination.
- 5) “Do not spy on these denominations:
  - i) Three Self church
  - ii) Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Buddhists, Taoists, Muslims, Established King, New Testament Church, etc
- 6) “You should spy on:
  - i) Those who believe in Jesus, pray to Jesus and thirst after God’s revelation.
  - ii) Real believers, who truly love God, with no physically serious impairment and with a sane mind...
- 7) “How to be successful at spying:
  - i) As many denominations oppose bearing false witness, we should try our best not to let people know we

are lying, although for the sake of our work we do not speak the truth.

ii) During the first few times in a new church, speak less and ask more questions to try and understand the situation and what kind of experiences they emphasize...

iii) Take advantage of the situation and say what they want to hear:

a) Be sincere in prayer, mentioning some sad things, asking for more blessings for their families and church;

b) We can make use of the weak points of those sheep who are selfish, e.g.:

Some people will take you as their mentor. Oblige them.

Some believe crying is important [Note: The New Birth house-churches]. So we should cry with more sadness and bitterness, thus moving their hearts and winning their trust.

Some believe we should suffer outwardly and be persecuted. So we should act so and with a greater degree of seriousness to satisfy them.

Do not at this stage preach. Just speak of personal experiences and give short testimonies to give them a good impression, to fulfill your role of a spy and establish good contacts.

8) "How to remove suspicion while spying:

When necessary weep or kneel in prayer, speak sincerely and cry as though from the heart, and not faked.

9) "Unique points of different denominations:

i) Those saved by faith [LFE includes evangelicals in this category]. They mainly keep to the teaching regarding grace as found in the book of Romans. Apart from the Bible, which they regard as the most important, they read books by Wang Mingdao and booklets from Hong Kong broadcasting stations. They frequently read the following verses: Romans 4:3-13; John 3:16; Romans 10:9-11, Acts 2:21, John 5:24."

[There follow sections on the Shouters, Three Categories of Servants Sect, Lingling church, Jesus Family, etc.]

## **A Brief Critique**

LFE is a satanic cult particularly targeting evangelical house churches which it seeks to infiltrate and take over or destroy. The leader is an egotistical maniac who claims to be Christ—and therefore according to Scripture a false prophet(ess) and an anti-christ. Jesus Himself warned that in the Last Days there would be many such:

"At that time if anyone says to you 'Look, here is the Christ' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time." (Matthew 24:23-25)

LFE teachings attack the heart of the gospel because they regard the Bible as out of date, and the Lord Jesus Christ as belonging to a former dispensation which has been replaced. Christ's work on the cross is denied, as it failed, according to LFE, to take away the believer's sin. God's grace in Jesus is also disparaged. It has been replaced by the judgement of the "Kingdom Era." This fearful heresy is no minor aberration but a dagger-blow at the heart of the gospel. The fact that house-church evangelicals are particularly targeted is confirmation that LFE is Satan's masterpiece for the subversion of the house

churches, just as “theological construction” is meant to subvert the gospel in the Three Self churches. In both these ways, the gospel of grace is under strong attack in China.

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## **Darkness Visible: Lightning from the East”**

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**by Tony Lambert**

*In this issue we present further evidence of the evil nature of the “Lightning from the East” cult (hereafter referred to as LFE). Some of our readers may wonder why we continue to publish material on this subject. We noted with interest that Time magazine recently carried a long article on this cult (quite a long time after we first drew the attention of our readers to it!). If a major secular magazine is taking note of LFE, then it seems reasonable to study the phenomenon in detail. In fact, there is mounting evidence from China that this cult has become a nationwide menace.*

*We have seen a detailed report of the infiltration of existing Christian churches in China by LFE originally written by a house-church Christian leader in Shandong. The following report has been edited, with some incidental details omitted (for reasons of lack of space) but otherwise is as received. The details are alarming and show the classic symptoms of a cult: distortion and denial of the Bible, lies, deceit, brain-washing, sexual temptations and physical ill-treatment.*

In February 2000 we had a co-workers conference and then I went traveling for three months. LFE had already been branded a cult by the law so we had grown complacent. The way they infiltrated churches was roughly the same everywhere. First the LFE cult member would claim he was from another cult such as “Sanbanpuren” [Three Grades of Servant] or “Erliangliang” [Two Grams of Rice] saying he did not know the Bible. Unable to leave him in error the brethren would happily accept him, care for him and enthusiastically teach him the truth. Thus the cult member was brought into the church with no qualms. He would then proceed to the next step of “Spying and being a Bridge.” He would act like an obedient sheep for a long time, learning hymns, praying — even in Jesus’ name. But it was all an act. He would take special note of whom were the leaders and important workers in the church, as well as any grudges. He would look out for zealous Christians such as those who came early to service, took notes etc. He would even read books by Wang Mingdao, Watchman Nee, Samuel Lamb etc.

These “moles” also spy out the financial status of the leaders (there is a How to attack Church Leaders in their secret handbook.) After spying, they begin to “bridge-build,” trying to get Christians to “change perspective” and feed them the teachings of LFE. This took a longer time: the undercover cultist in our church spent about nine months in preparation.

After I had left to preach, the cult leader approached the remaining leader saying that he had just returned from Lanzhou where there were hundreds of people in darkness. He said, “I plead with you to go to them and let them know the gospel.” The church became excited and threw away all caution. He chose four people (two brothers and two sisters) to go with him.

When they reached Lanzhou there were three people to welcome them — two “brothers” from Lanzhou and one “brother” from Xi’an — (in reality they were all LFE members.) The “brother” from Xi’an said: “The Lord gave me a vision that there will be two female disciples who will come to revive the church in Xi’an.” Another “brother” called Paul said to one of our brothers: “This is the fourth time we have met as I have seen you three times before in visions. The Lord spoke to me telling me you are one who really loves God. I have been patiently awaiting your arrival for you to preach here, just like Paul who had a vision of the Macedonians.” To an undiscerning Christian such words can make him careless. Man’s carnal nature is

pitiful, always hoping for acknowledgement of past achievements for praise. At this point the person from Xi'an said: "You only care for your own congregations. The lost in Xi'an are even more plentiful! What is more we were brought here by a vision. As there are four of you why don't two of you stay here [in Lanzhou] while the other two follow me [to Xi'an]?" Our four workers objected: "We do not put too much trust in visions. We should pray about it." The Xi'an "brother" replied, "I will respect your decision. We shall all pray. I will pray that God will move your hearts." We can see these liars are professionals as the two Lanzhou "brothers" then improved upon the act, adding: "Our need is great as well. We are also rather selfish, wanting a bigger piece of the pie as we are not willing to let them split up." One side argued that "it was we who invited them" while the other complained "we were brought here by a vision." It was a perfect plan!

The argument extended into mealtime during which an "elder" from Paul's church entered. He announced: "I am brought here by visions and revelations." Our two brethren immediately responded: "Sorry, we do not put too much trust in visions." The elder then backed down saying he would not say any more. But later he said: "I cannot deny the working of the Spirit. I have seen this vision for two nights. I saw a person in white robes who rebuked me: 'Why do you obstruct the work? You prevent my two female disciples from going to Xi'an.'" When Paul outlined our discussion, the elder exclaimed: "Praise the Lord! No wonder I was so restless at home. Brother Paul, there should be no more obstruction. We may not understand, but the Lord does. Look, even a brother from Xi'an is here!" Our brethren were finally convinced and decided to split up. So this was their first success in splitting up the brethren. Later, using the same methods, the two brothers who stayed in Lanzhou and the two sisters who went to Xi'an were convinced to split up again.

One of the brothers who went to Lanzhou was asked to preach (it was said there were hundreds coming) but in the end there were only five, who, of course, were members of LFE. After his sermon there was a rapture of praise and they delayed their meal to ask him to continue to preach. After speaking for two days they told him they had a "brother" who went away in search of the truth for two years, but had now returned. "Would you like to hear what he has to preach?" So this new preacher began, saying: "It does not matter whether it is charismatic or if it is LFE — we should take a look to see which is best. As long as we pursue God there will be no error." He then explained the three LFE dispensations — of Law, Grace and the Kingdom. A few days later our brother was left alone in the house with a female LFE member. She said: "I've seen you before in a vision..." (The same tactic as before, but cruder.) "I was wearing my swimming costume, swimming, when a large crocodile chased me. I shouted for help. Just at this moment, you appeared and took me to safety. I have always wanted to see you, my gracious saviour! Brother, are you tired? May I wash your feet?" This was a temptation of the flesh but our Lord was merciful to our brother, and he refused. But later the LFE preacher accused the brother of bringing the sin of fornication among them. He asked: "Who leads your church?" In reality he already knew that it was I who was the person who had brought them up in the faith. He announced: "So it was he that was teaching you all this while, it was he who imparted this evil spirit of fornication! Your preachers have uncountable wives." They pretended to take it hard, threatening to put him on the train to get rid of him. He was led to hear more of the brainwashing teachings of LFE and his mind ended in a state of complete confusion.

Now our two sisters were welcomed by two women in Xi'an. One used the same trick of "visions" to split them up. After separating they never saw each other for four months. One sister was asked to preach and the LFE members all praised her. On the fourth day while she was preaching two members made a scene to act as though they were possessed by devils, rolling on the ground. This lasted two weeks and looked extremely realistic. Our sister tried in Jesus' name, laying hands on them, to cast out the devils. But they retaliated, sitting on her and beating her. One of them maniacally mocked her: "You still pray in Jesus' name? Jesus' name became useless long ago." The LFE congregation also mocked her. They then managed to take more than 1,000RMB from her supposedly to send these two to a mental institute. She was not allowed to report the matter to the police. Then a preacher from Zhejiang called Wang Enguang

came in. The two women immediately fled into the corner, hid under a table, shouting: "The Light! It's glaring! I'm so afraid..." After some coughing they stiffened, and the devils were presumed cast out. "Preacher Wang" then took the opportunity to explain the teachings of LFE.

Their methods of indoctrination are systematic, with much reference to the Bible. The sister was now confined, and having taken away all her money there was no escape. Every night they removed her shoes and clothing, and people kept watch while she slept. She was never allowed out of the house. The second way after "breaking the escape" was "changing perspective" (actually, brainwashing). This sister reached such a stage she actually wanted to tell her family about LFE. The other sister stood firm, especially after they mentioned the "female Christ," but she was so confused she was unable to think. The third way was through "sexual desire." Every night two other girls slept beside her and in the middle of the night one would shout verses from the Bible. On another day, one woman claimed she saw a vision of a scroll on which was written "Ruth chapter 3 verse 7" (when Ruth slept at the feet of Boaz). "Tell Sister X to do the same, this is My will." The purpose was to tell our sister to go in to Wang Enguang and hide under his blanket. One day she was left alone with him and he hugged her forcefully but she resisted. Wang then said, "Why are you still so conservative? I must use the love of Christ to warm your pained heart." Protected by the Lord, she resisted. The other sister, encountering a similar fate, was hugged and kissed forcefully four times, though she was less courteous returning two slaps. Finally, God helped her to escape to Dongguan and Xi'an. She could not get any clothes when she was escaping and had trouble begging for money, crying continuously in the street. When she finally saw us her tears could not be quenched. Of the four, she was the last to escape; she was away about five months. When she got home she did not look human.

After these people returned, they were unable to pray. LFE forbade them from praying in Jesus' name, for even in prayer there was always someone beside them eavesdropping. They were only allowed to shout the name of the "omnipotent one." Surrounded by cultists they were made to swear an oath. If they broke it they were told they would be cursed or have a car accident. When one returning sister was asked to pray with us she could not utter Jesus' name as she was reminded of the "possessed" people. She was so afraid, tears ran down her cheeks. So we fasted and prayed for her. The fact that LFE forbids the use of Jesus' name shows they are afraid of it. Many of us spent the whole night fasting and praying while I led her in prayer. We prayed that "from this day onwards I will have nothing to do with LFE." Then she cried as she was afraid the curses would be fulfilled and she would become mad. Finally, I led her to pray in Jesus' name which she did with great difficulty. It was a bit like a new believer's prayer of commitment. After which, we all prayed for her. God heard our prayers and now she is brighter every day.

We have other co-workers who were trapped by LFE and never came back. One, invited to Anhui, switched sides and is now working for them. Another brother who initially really loved God and was under our guidance for a long time, also changed sides. He continuously phoned me asking me to join LFE. He managed to get a sister called Han from another church who was lost for 18 days. We later found out she was confined in a cave in Gong County. Her experience was roughly the same and she came back bruised and beaten so badly she could not get out of bed. In Jinan and Hangzhou I know of some co-workers including old friends who had been serving God a long time, who were trapped by LFE. Two in Lanzhou escaped while a third was freed with help from the police. The situation in Xinjiang is the same. In Puchen near Xi'an there is a sister who was missing for 20 days. Her family paid 200RMB a day to rent a car to travel everywhere to find her. She was finally found, but had already succumbed to the indoctrination of LFE.

We must PRAY in earnest with more zeal that the enemy's attacks be stopped. PRAY that our brothers and sisters still in LFE's clutches will be released. PRAY we will be preserved. PRAY the Lord will remove the evil spirit working in LFE, and will blind their eyes and confuse their plans, all to show His power. We are weak, and only by the Spirit can we fight and stand against LFE, a cult from the depths of Satan. Let all Christians

be warned.

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