

# Asia Harvest



Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe! (Joel 3:13)

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## Henan Province (PART TWO)

Special Issue on the Present Crisis in China

# ***From the Front Lines***

## **Special Issue on the Present Crisis in China**

***“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”***

*Ephesians 5:11*

In our last newsletter we commenced a series of articles on the Church in Henan Province, China. In Part One, we told you the history of how the Gospel was first brought to Henan and started to take root. We also wrote about the intense suffering the Church went through during the 1960s and ‘70s, yet bold men such as Brother Xu Yongze decided to stand up for the Lord and proclaim His Word anyway.

This issue was meant to record testimonies of some of the remarkable miracles experienced by the Henan house churches, and how the Church in Henan has grown in leaps and bounds, so that today it numbers in the millions.

Information received from China on April 20th, however, changed our plans. The issue on miracles will have to wait until our next newsletter.

To begin with, we received reports that the entire leadership of the China Gospel Fellowship house church network, based in Tanghe County in southern Henan, had been arrested by the police. This would have been terrible news, but as things became clearer over the following days, we received news that was even worse. The 35 leaders had not been arrested by the police, but kidnapped by a wicked Satanic cult called the Eastern Lightning!

**Thirty three of the top leaders of the China Gospel Fellowship are now confirmed kidnapped.** Two managed to escape.

We started to receive calls from concerned Christians around the world, asking, “What is this Eastern Lightning? What do they believe? What is going to happen?”

In response, we wrote an article giving background information on both the China Gospel Fellowship and the Eastern Lightning cult. In this newsletter we present a condensed version of our report. You may have already received this report from us by email, but we realize that the great majority of people who receive our newsletters are not on our email list, and for most this information will be brand new.

**The reason we have written about this subject is so that you, your family, and your church WILL PRAY EARNESTLY for our brothers and sisters in China who are presently facing the most inhumane torture imaginable.**

At the conclusion of this report we present an opportunity should you want to practically help this situation. We believe the best way to expose dark deeds is to walk in the light, and to steadfastly continue in God’s work.

God bless you, and may the Lord be with His little flock in China!

## The China Gospel Fellowship

The China Gospel Fellowship (CGF) was founded in Tanghe County, southern Henan Province, but spread rapidly until they now have churches in every part of China. The movement is also widely known as the 'Tanghe Church' after its founding location.

The CGF contains at least six million believers. They have a strong emphasis on work among China's unreached minority groups. Because of their highly organized structure and their uncompromising zeal for the spread of the Gospel, the CGF has been severely persecuted by the Chinese authorities over the past several years. Dozens of their members are languishing in prison as you read this.

In the late-1990s the Director of China's Bureau of Religious Affairs, Ye Xiaowen (who is an avowed atheist!), condemned the China Gospel Fellowship as an 'evil cult'. This decision was based on the fact that they refuse to submit to the control of the government, rather than any cultic beliefs or practices. In fact, the CGF are one of the strongest fundamental conservative, evangelical Bible-based house church networks in all of China.

The CGF are one of the six major house church networks that we work with in China. We print Bibles for them, help support and train some of their workers. The movement is led by brother Shen Yiping, who was released from prison in late 2000, and by his nephew Shen Xianfeng.

Shen Xianfeng is partially disabled due to a childhood accident and gets around with the use of crutches. A few years ago, during an interrogation, police officers beat Shen with his own crutches!

## What Happened on April 19

On the evening of April 19th, all the top leaders of the China Gospel Fellowship suddenly went missing. None of them could be reached by telephone. The immediate thought was that they had all been arrested by the authorities. Gradually, the facts about what had happened started to filter through.

About a year ago, a lady introduced some Singaporeans to one of the major leaders of the China Gospel Fellowship, starting the relationship. The Singaporeans identified themselves with a respected Bible School based in Singapore. The CGF leader made some investigations about the school, and when he received good reports he trusted the Singaporeans from that time on.

Earlier this year the CGF was informed that some famous professors from the Singapore school were coming to China to give them leadership training. Because the CGF leaders are being hunted by the government, for security reasons it was decided to split their leaders into six different groups, to go to six different locations for training. The Singaporeans promised to cover all travel and accommodation expenses, and to conduct their training in a safe environment. What the church leaders didn't know was that the Singaporeans were not even Christians, but members of a wicked cult called Eastern Lightning.

On April 19th each group of house church leaders went to the meetings. It is known that at one location, the organizers greeted the leaders and immediately requested they hand over their mobile phones for safe keeping (thus removing their ability to communicate outside of the room). When

some of the brothers refused to cooperate, the Eastern Lightning beat them to get their phones. This was the first the believers knew they were in trouble.

One sister asked to go outside to use the toilet, and managed to escape. **Praise God for this!** If she hadn't escaped nobody would have any idea what had happened to these house church leaders. They would have simply vanished without a trace, which was the intention of the cult. When they discovered the sister had escaped, the Eastern Lightning went to her home. Not finding her there, they beat up her parents before leaving. This sister said the leaders were already being severely tortured by the time she got away.

She went to the police and told them what had happened. Together they rushed back to the meeting place, but by the time they arrived the room was deserted, with no trace of where the house church leaders had been taken.

It is clear from past experiences that the Eastern Lightning always separate Christians and spread them in different locations to be brainwashed and beaten individually. By now, it is likely the 33 Christians are scattered in 33 different places. Two have managed to escape.

The China Gospel Fellowship (CGF) is organized at a national level with what they call the Chai Hui (missionary sending agency) level underneath. To qualify as a Chai Hui, a region must have at least 30,000 baptized believers, and a certain number of trained leaders and training centers. By last year, there were 22 such Chai Hui's throughout China in the CGF. **It's believed the cult has kidnapped EVERY ONE of these top leaders.**

At the time of writing this newsletter we have learned that one of kidnapped pastors was very vocal in witnessing to his captors, and wouldn't stop praying loudly to the Lord. Despite being threatened he wouldn't stop, so the Eastern Lightning cut his tongue out.

This kidnapping has shaken all house church

believers across China. They have been fighting with infiltration from the Eastern Lightning for more than 10 years, but never before has there been such a coordinated attack launched against house church leadership.

Chinese Church leaders throughout the country believe they have entered spiritual warfare at its highest level. This action by the Eastern Lightning has roused them not only to pray for the release of these 33 leaders, but to mount a revolution to completely destroy the Eastern Lightning once and for all. They see this as a spiritual fight and are determined to win at all costs. Unprecedented levels of prayer and communication are taking place between believers from different groups.

Thousands of believers inside China are fasting and praying around the clock for God's intervention.

**They invite you to join them.**



## The Eastern Lightning Cult

**"The satanic cult 'Eastern Lightning' is one of the most evil and deceitful cults I have ever seen in China. They are positively sheep in wolves' clothing; they attack Jesus Christ, twist and defraud the Bible, destroy families and lives, causing great hurt and destruction to Christians who have been bought by the precious blood of the Saviour! They are devils dressed as ministers of light, workers of Satan, and false prophets after the ways of Balaam. May the Lord have mercy upon the elect that they may be able to discern, to reject all lies and the deceitful words from Satan. May our brethren be on the alert! May the deceived quickly repent and return!"**

- Pastor Pang K.H.,  
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

A few years ago I had the privilege of speaking to house church leaders in a meeting in China. I noticed one young lady in her early 20s who was attending the meeting. During the meal times and breaks she hobbled around the room, painfully dragging her crippled right leg behind her. Her face was gaunt, void of the expressions of deep joy that permeated the faces of the other Christians in the meeting.

At the end of the day's training the brother who organized the meeting asked my coworker and I if we would pray for some of the leaders. Of course we agreed, and the very first believer to come up to us was the partially-crippled young woman. Thinking she was seeking prayer for her injuries, I asked, "What happened to your leg?" She immediately looked down at the floor as tears welled up in her eyes.

"Pastor," she quietly explained, "Several months ago I was deceived into joining the Eastern Lightning cult. When I realized they didn't believe the Bible and weren't believers in Jesus I tried to leave, but they wouldn't let me go. To prevent my escape they severely beat my legs with an iron bar. With the help of another Christian sister I was finally able to flee, but the Eastern Lightning have sent agents to find and murder me. My left leg is almost back to normal now, but my right leg is badly damaged and it gives me great pain."

After taking a deep breath she continued, "Please pray for me, not only that God would restore my leg but also my mind. The cult brainwashed and tortured me for weeks. I am still struggling to regain God's peace in my life that I had previously. Please also pray the Lord would hide me from those who wish to take my life."

Eastern Lightning, or *Dongfang Shandian* in Chinese, was founded by Zhao Weishan in Acheng City, Heilongjiang Province, in 1989. Zhao started a new group which he called 'Church of the Everlasting Fountain.' He began to call himself "Powerful Lord."

They grew rapidly, printing tens of thousands of booklets and tracts outlining their views. By 1991, when the group was declared illegal and their printing press was shut down, they already had thousands of followers.

Zhao and his leading coworkers fled from the authorities in Heilongjiang and restarted their activities in Henan Province. In 1993 Zhao changed the name of the cult to "Real God" and said he had received divine revelation on the verse "**For as lightning that comes the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.**" (Matthew 24:27). This is how they came to be commonly known as the "Eastern Lightning," or "Lightning from the East."



Zhao sent his main leaders throughout Henan Province, spreading their influence among thousands. Many of the deceived who joined their group were illiterate rural house church members, who had little Bible training and so were susceptible to the cult's influence. They also targeted educated university students who have an unstable grounding in the Bible.

Eastern Lightning (EL) quickly spread to most parts of China. It has grown with remarkable speed, and is today believed to number in the millions of members.

Instead of trying to convert unbelievers to their group, the EL appears to have decided it is better to deceive existing Christians. They don't mind targeting nominal believers, but their chief goal is to attack church leaders and those with the most influence. Their methods have included financial inducement, beatings and torture, sexual entrapment, and brainwashing.

In recent years the EL are believed to have won over leading Communist Party figures in various localities. After indoctrinating them and being sure of their allegiance, the cult then persuades the officials to use their influence to protect cult members, and to create ways for the group to multiply.

### ***What the Eastern Lightning Believe***

EL theology appears to evolve year by year, but it can be broken down into three or four main categories. This information is taken from one of the cult's own books.

**The Female Messiah** : The cult believes God has appeared in three different eras throughout history, using different names. The first era was the **Age of the Law**, when God's name was Jehovah.

Next was the **Age of Grace**, when the EL

believe "God changed His name to Jesus. They deny the deity of Christ, stating that 'Jesus is a created being.'"

The **Third Age** is the present "age of the Kingdom," and God has changed His name yet again, this time to "Lightning." In this Age, the cult claims there is "only judgment and punishment, without any grace." This age is superior to the others. Only those who believe in the female messiah of the Third Age can be saved. They blasphemously say "the words spoken by Jesus are worthless."

The Eastern Lightning twists Scripture to "prove" that Jesus Christ has already returned, as a 30-year-old plain-looking Chinese woman living in Henan Province! They claim Christ already returned "as a thief in the night" in 1990, and entered the churches of China with great power. Ironically, the identity and location of the cult's new messiah is unknown. It seems this woman named Lightning is only a fictional character rather than an actual person alive in China today.

**Attacks on the Bible:** Like all cults, the EL refuses to accept the authority of the Bible, and attack it at every opportunity. They claim "no one is qualified to study Scripture. No one can understand that book. All who follow the female Christ must throw aside the Bible."

Now that we have read about some of the beliefs of the Eastern Lightning, you may be wondering how they have managed to convince so many Chinese Christians to join them. Surely most believers in China are not so Biblically illiterate to be sucked into this obvious trap?

The EL themselves discovered that the great majority of Christians would not join their movement and could easily see through their deception, so around 1996 they launched a new phase. They turned to violence to convert believers to their ways.

## *The Eastern Lightning Handbook*

One of the books written by the EL is an “insider handbook,” instructing members how to ruin a church, gather information, win the trust of leaders, convert pastors, and even how to bring an entire congregation under the influence of EL. Here is a summary of direct quotes from the handbook:

1. Spying is making use of various connections and methods to gain access to the inner workings of churches, winning their trust and confidence, and understanding their structure and plans.
2. Do not speak in such a way as to make others suspicious of you. Be sober and normal, leaving a good impression. Let proper and orderly patterns govern your speech, sleeping, and eating. Be well mannered, dress neatly and normally...
3. You must have some basic knowledge of the Bible. Take special note on what Jesus said in the New Testament, the epistles of Paul, and passages in Revelation concerning saving grace.
4. Do **not** spy out liberal denominations.... **You should spy out the following: Those who believe in Jesus, pray to Jesus, who thirst for God's revelation; Real believers who truly love God,** those with no serious physical disability and a sane mind.
5. How to get the most out of spying: (a) You must try your best not to let people know you are lying, even as we for the sake of our work speak not the truth. (b) During your first few times in a new church speak little and ask many questions. (c) Say what they want to hear. Be sincere in prayer, mention some moving, sad things, and ask for more blessings for their families and the church. (d) For those sheep more selfish, or those with families, observe their behavior and make use of their

weak points to maintain contact. For example, oblige people if they want to take you as their mentor or confidant. (e) Some believe crying is important in churches, so you should also cry with sadness and bitterness, thus moving their hearts and winning their trust. (f) Some churches believe a Christian should be outwardly suffering, or persecuted. Therefore you should act with a greater degree of seriousness in order to satisfy such people. (g) Do not, at anytime, preach during this spy stage. Only share some personal experiences or short testimonies, so that people have a good impression of you.

6. Bridge building occurs after you have laid a good network of contacts. You will then be able to change people's perspectives, picking on ideas or thoughts which will easily disrupt God's work, changing them one by one. In other words, the work of bridge building is to introduce your new teachings that will spark in them “interest,” “appetite,” and “a heart of desire.”

## *Violence*

Thousands of Christians across China have been physically beaten, tortured, or poisoned by the EL. Hundreds of believers are missing. Although most of those missing may have ended up changing sides and joining the cult, there are dozens of known deaths caused by the brutality of the EL.

Let's read the words of just one house church pastor as he tells what happened when his church was targeted by the cult:

“I know not a few brethren who have fallen victim to violence at the hands of the EL. In this phase, the cult will first try to trick the victim. They will call them as though they are a family member, invite them to pray, etc. After the victim is tricked and brought somewhere else, the EL turns violent. Nearly all of them carry a cudgel, which they use to

hit the victim's vital parts, such as their four limbs and/or his head, until he becomes unconscious. Then the believer is taken to a prearranged place where the EL indoctrinate him with the teachings of the cult. If the subject refuses to accept the teachings, they will turn to more violent methods. Friends tell me of such cruel methods as cutting off an ear, breaking legs, and there was even an old sister who had her neck broken because she would not accept the teachings of the cult or their "lady Jesus."

"During this violent phase one of my father's colleagues was deceived into going with them, and acid was thrown at him. Another colleague of mine had his water poisoned. My aunt's neighbor was poisoned to death. These are accounts of which I personally know. The victims are always church members who are more influential."

### ***Sexual and Monetary Enticement***

Taking advantage of house church Christians' financial hardship, the EL has offered extraordinary sums of money to church leaders if they will convert. Nanyang County in southwest Henan Province is one of the centers of China's revival. Elders of the Nanyang Church were offered 150,000 RMB (more than US\$ 18,000) to join the EL, plus the promise of two or three mistresses. This amount of money is more than some rural farmers in China can make in their whole lifetime. By appealing to these two basic sinful desires of mankind, greed and lust, the faith of some has been shipwrecked.

Often after kidnapping victims, the EL employs sexual temptation in a bid to destroy the reputations of their victims. Not all Christian leaders fall into sexual sin of course, but this does not seem to stop the EL. They

have been known to drug their victims, and then take video and photographs of the drugged brother with a naked EL woman. The cult then feels they "own" a pastor for life, even if they are unable to convert him. If he ever attempts to enter a leadership role in the church again, the EL invariably slip into the church, and wait for an opportune time to spread rumors of the pastor's immorality, backed with photographic "evidence."

### ***The Testimony of a House Church Sister***

Following is a condensed testimony from a house church sister in northwest China who was kidnapped by the EL two years ago. It would be bad enough if this was an isolated incident, but unfortunately this sister's experience is representative of hundreds of others throughout China....

"Nine months before my nightmare commenced, a man came to our house church claiming he wanted to know the true God. Of course, we could not turn him away so we told him the Gospel. He responded warmly and seemed, over the months, to grow in the grace of God and knowledge of His Word. He always asked questions that new believers should ask, was baptized, and gained our confidence. We are still shocked to find that all along this "brother" was a spy sent from the EL to destroy us.

In March 2000 he approached us saying, 'I've just returned from Lanzhou (Gansu Province) where my brother lives. There are hundreds of people there who are in the dark. They have never heard of the way, the truth, or the light. They are as I was before God opened my eyes. I've never been trained to preach or teach, so I beg you to please go and speak to them. Bring them out of the darkness!'



Let them know and understand the truth and fundamentals of the Gospel.'

We could not refuse such a call. We became excited, threw away all caution, and started planning our trip. After all, this was a brother who had been in our church for nine months. He had shown much humility and zeal for God's Word. With much sweet talk and flattery he deceived not only us, but the whole church. It was difficult to see through his lies at the time, but looking back, it is still unbelievable that we could be so deceived all along. May the Lord forgive us our stupidity and immaturity!

After arriving we were told it would be far better if we would split, the two men staying in Lanzhou and the two women going to Xian, so that our efforts could be maximized.

This was how the EL successfully split the brethren. Later, using similar methods, the two brothers in Lanzhou and the two sisters who went to Xian were convinced to split again.

The two men in Lanzhou were subjected to horrible torture, beatings and constant round-the-clock brainwashing and sexual entrapment. Although neither brother gave in to fornication, they were given "medicine" for their painful injuries. This medicine made one brother even more ill, and he was unable to sleep. He lost his perspective and willpower. His mind was in a state of utter confusion. A woman was taken to his room, where they photographed him in his semi-conscious state with her, to be later used as "proof" of his sexual immorality.

I was taken to Weinan, then to Tongguan, moving constantly. In my first meeting I was asked to teach. The congregation (all EL members) unfailingly praised my sermon, saying things like, "Your sermon was the best we have ever heard, please come to our village to preach."

On the fourth day I was preaching when two men in the congregation made a scene. They were specially chosen by the EL to act as though they were demon possessed. They shouted, "Don't listen to her!" They rolled around on the

ground, hit people, and broke things. I was totally convinced these men were truly possessed. Seeing people possessed by a demon naturally attracted the attention of the congregation. They pleaded with me to cast the demons out. When I tried to pray over them in Jesus' Name, these "possessed" people retaliated, holding me down, sitting on top of me, and beating me. The more I tried to cast out the devils the more possessed they seemed to become.

One of the men mocked me, "Why do you still pray in Jesus' Name? Don't you know Jesus' Name became useless long ago?" The congregation also mocked me, asking "Is Jesus' name really powerless? Why can't you cast out these demons?"

The next day an Eastern Lightning leading "brother" named Wang Enguang came to the meeting. When the two "demon possessed" men saw him they immediately fled to a corner of the room, tried to hide under a table, and shouted, "The Light! It is glaring! I'm afraid!" After some coughing they became calm, and the demons were presumed to have been cast out. The congregation all said with one voice, "Hallelujah! This is the truth!"

I felt humiliated and defeated, while "preacher Wang" took center stage and explained the teachings of the Eastern Lightning. He quoted many verses from the Bible and systematically explained what they believe step by step. Then the members of the congregation took turns speaking, trying to convince me of my erroneous belief in Jesus. My heart became confused, worn down from lack of sleep and constant pressure. Every night they removed my shoes and clothing, so that I wouldn't be able to escape. In addition, there was always one person watching me as I slept. I was never allowed out of the house. If I needed to go to the toilet I was given a pail to use. Slowly they were brainwashing me.

At first, I didn't contemplate escape because of the isolation of where I was being held, and because I had no money. But one day I realized all freedom had been robbed from me and I had to do something before it was too late. God helped me slip away through the hills and I begged my way onto one bus after another until I finally reached Tongguan and Xian. In the end I was able to call my brother in law who asked a friend to give me a train fare back home. When I finally saw the faces of my brethren, I wept uncontrollably."

This dear sister's pastor concludes this terrible story....

"Of the four, she was the last to escape. She had been away for about five months. When she reached home, she didn't look human. She believed she was going to die, and had written two wills, one to her family and one to the church. In her will to the church she wrote **"Dear fellow workers, no matter when, no matter where, coworkers must not separate."**

We all wept when we read her words.

She had been brainwashed so that her mind was in a state of total confusion. She couldn't pray for months. Even one month after her escape, this sister still didn't believe the incident with the two demon-possessed men had been an act, so convincing was their performance.

Many of us fasted and prayed all night for her, asking her to repeat prayers line by line, renouncing the cult and its false teachings.... Thank God, for He listened to our prayers, and this sister shined a little brighter each day.

How can we combat this wicked threat to the Church of Jesus Christ in China? First, we must communicate better. We can never, without prayer and confirmation, promise to go somewhere for speaking engagements. When we travel we must never go alone. The worst thing to happen because of the Eastern Lightning is that the brethren have now lost mutual trust. We do not know if one of the members of our

own congregations is an EL spy, nor can we tell if pastors and leaders from other churches are still walking rightly with God or have come under the EL's influence."

### ***Christians, Don't Lose Heart!***

As we write this newsletter, just days after the kidnapping of 33 house church leaders by the EL, emotions are still running high. It is always grievous and deeply painful when a part of the Body of Christ suffers. This whole situation should remind Christians of a few basic facts:

(a) We are truly combatants in a fierce war. Satan is a very real foe, determined to do whatever is necessary to destroy the Church that is purchased by the precious, spotless Blood of Jesus Christ. Unable to injure God, Satan lashes out at God's children. Because of the false theology that pervades many Western churches (belief that if we live for God, only good things and blessings will result in our lives), many Western believers feel confused when they hear of Christians suffering such vile treatment at the hands of evil men. Such thinking is contrary to Scripture and inconsistent with the experiences of millions of Christians down through the centuries, who lived wholeheartedly for God yet were **"stoned; they were sawn in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated – the world was not worthy of them."** (Hebrews 11:37-38)

(b) Christians around the world should immerse ourselves daily in the Word of God, thereby enriching our fellowship with the living God and helping protect us from deceptive doctrines. If anything, the incredibly sly tactics of the Eastern Lightning remind us that **"such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ."**

***And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.... Their end will be what their actions deserve.*** (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

The Bible warns us to be on guard because ***"...in latter times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons"*** (1 Timothy 4:1).

There is always a Satanic spiritual root behind all twisting and perverting of the Scriptures. The EL have a worldwide vision. They have already opened offices and operate printing presses in New York, Toronto, and San Francisco in North America, have a rapidly growing influence in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and other Southeast Asian nations.

(c) We need to understand that Jesus has already conquered Satan. His final defeat is completely sealed. Jesus has already ***"disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."*** (Colossians 2:15). Although the end result of our battle is already certain, there are many trials and struggles for each Christian to conquer here and now. God wants us to fight a good fight, and also to rest in the fact that the Lord was, is, and always will be the victor in the battle against Satan. ***"Do not be afraid, I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One: I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."*** (Revelation 1:17-18)

(d) We should not lose heart. God knows exactly what has gone on, has seen the pain of His children in China, and will not be mocked forever. He is not only a mighty God, but the Almighty God. He is not just a King, but the King of Kings! Call on Him to show His mighty power. Pray as Moses prayed, ***"Rise up O Lord! May your enemies be scattered; may your foes flee before you."*** (Numbers 10:15)

(e) Understand if God's children are suffering today it is for a reason that one day will be completely clear. I'm reminded of past

suffering in China, and the fruit it brought forth in the Chinese Church.

In 1900 more than 30,000 Christians in China, including over 200 Western missionaries, were butchered during the Boxer Rebellion. Countless thousands of Christians drew great strength from these martyrs, who set a shining ***"example of patience in the face of suffering."*** (James 5:10). One young Christian man who was inspired by the martyrs of 1900 was Wang Mingdao, who was interestingly born at the very time of the carnage in 1900. One year later, in 1901, the mighty evangelist John Sung was born, and in 1903 Watchman Nee entered this world. All three learned from the example of the 30,000 Christians killed in 1900. In turn, all three great leaders of the Chinese Church suffered much for their faith.

Wang Mingdao, later known as the Father of the House Churches, was subjected to more than 20 years in prison for the Name of Jesus Christ. Watchman Nee was in prison 25 years, having his tongue cut off because he refused to stop praying and testifying. Thousands, and now millions, of Chinese believers have been inspired by these men's courageous example in the face of extreme suffering.

The past 25 years have seen countless thousands of brave Gospel warriors raised up by God in China. They have been beaten, humiliated, raped, slandered, maimed and killed. The result is an active Church in China now more numerous and fervent than anywhere else in the world. It came at a great price for those believers who spilled their blood on China's soil so that the light and the integrity of the Gospel would be maintained for the next generation.

Now we hear horrific stories of Christians being kidnapped, brainwashed and tortured at the hands of a Satanic cult. The Church has once again been driven to its knees, throwing itself on God and God only for its sustenance. If such conditions continue and

the Lord tarries, what will the size of the Church in China be 20 or 25 years from now? 300 million? 400 million? Pray that one day the believers from the China Gospel Fellowship who are being brutalized even as you read these words, will say with the Apostle Paul ***“Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”*** (2 Corinthians 4:17)

### ***Please Pray!***

■ Pray God’s Name would be glorified in China, and in the house churches, and that through all of this Jesus’ Name would be lifted up and exalted, drawing all men to Himself.

■ Plead with God to protect the 33 leaders of the China Gospel Fellowship currently being held by the cult in unknown locations. Pray He will reveal their whereabouts, and help them **escape from the snare of the fowler.** (see Psalm 91:3)

■ Pray against the demonic filth of the Eastern Lightning cult. Ask God to bind the dark forces that control it, and to lose its captives. Ask God to be with the Chinese leaders as He was with Jeremiah, who was able to say, ***“The Lord is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten.”*** (Jeremiah 20:11)

■ Ask God to comfort the families of those who have been kidnapped. Pray they will experience the near presence and love of the Lord over this time. Pray practical help such as food and money will reach them.

■ Pray more Bibles and teaching books would be available to house church Christians in China, and systematic training would help the Christians be stronger in the faith and not as susceptible to being deceived by cults like the Eastern Lightning.

■ Pray the Church in China will learn and grow through this experience, and that God will use it to sharpen His people to be more effective witnesses of His death and resurrection.

### ***How Can You Help?***

Already many people have contacted us, asking how they can practically help the believers in China. In response to this present crisis our coworkers inside China and Asia Harvest have launched a new project to help counteract the influence of the Eastern Lightning among the house churches.

Last year a Chinese pastor wrote a book exposing the lies, deception and practices of the Eastern Lightning. The book includes almost 100 pages of testimonies from believers across China who have fallen prey to the cult, before God graciously allowed them to be restored.

It was already planned to publish this brother’s book soon, but the present crisis had made it an immediate priority. **We plan to print and distribute 200,000 of these books inside China.** We believe this will make a significant positive impact, helping prevent thousands becoming victims of the Eastern Lightning. **Each book costs just 5 RMB (60 U.S. cents) to print.** We guarantee that 100% of money received for this project will be used directly to print and distribute these books.

We don’t want to make a big issue about this project, but simply want to give an opportunity to those people who feel the Lord leading them to help be involved financially with the printing of these books. If you would like to help, please send your check along with the filled out Response form in this newsletter, or if you prefer you can go to our website and donate with a credit card.

## ASIAN WORKERS FUND

### *Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

*Because of your prayers and partnership we are currently able to support 100 Asian evangelists for a 12-month period.*

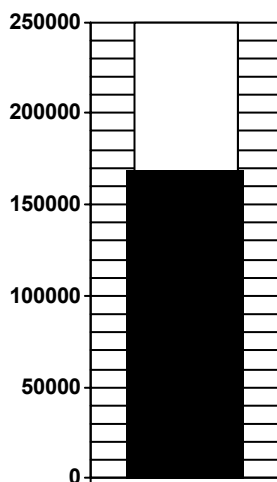
Asian churches give their tithes and offerings, but the economy of many places is so poor that here is little or nothing left for “big” expenses such as sending an evangelist or a missionary to an unreached area. In other cases the church may have enough just to send the worker to the field, but is unable to support them once they are there.

In China some house church evangelists have even sold their own blood at the hospital, receiving just a few cents as payment. They then buy a few meals with this money, giving them enough strength to continue to preach the Gospel for another week or two. These servants of the Lord have given their whole lives to the Gospel. We are in contact with thousands of workers who need support.

The **Asian Workers Fund** assists workers who are doing strategic ministry in Asia. Please pray about whether you, your family, home fellowship or church could help support one or more of these workers with help of **\$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to the workers in need.** A prayer card will be sent to every supporter of this project, with information about your worker to help you remember to pray for him or her.

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

### *Helping Equip China's Christians with God's Word*



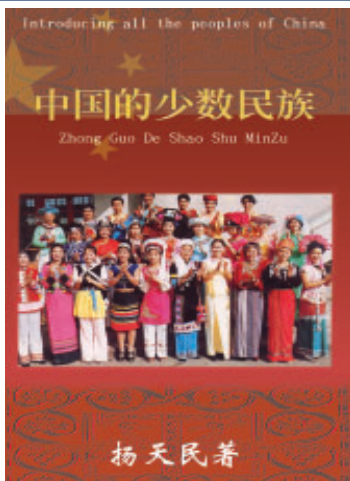
**Current Total: 168,411  
Chinese Bibles Printed  
Cost: US\$2.00 per Bible**

Although a limited number of Bibles are now permitted to be printed inside China, they are not enough to meet the need. Because of the tremendous growth rate of the church in China (some say 30,000 new believers each day), there is a serious lack of Bibles. Millions of Christians are still without God's Word. We are partnering with six large house church networks in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for the church. These Bibles are distributed to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning throughout the world's largest nation. **100% of your gifts go directly to printing Bibles. Each Bible costs just US\$ 2.00 to print and deliver.**



## OPERATION CHINA

*Printing 200,000 books for the Chinese Church*



**GOAL:** 200,000 books for the  
Chinese house churches  
**CURRENT TOTAL:** 84,066  
**COST:** \$1.20 per book

We have had a great response to our project to print 200,000 Chinese-language copies of our book on China's minority groups for the house church networks of China. The books will help mobilize hundreds of Chinese believers to reach all 490 tribes and people groups in China. Costing just US\$ 1.20 for a 500-page book, we have so far received enough finances to print more than 84,000 books. Thank you and please continue to pray that God would provide the full amount needed.

## CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

*Supporting pastors now crippled by persecution and torture*

*Because of your prayers and generous support we are currently able to support **417** living martyrs every month.*

In China, Christians are regularly beaten, tortured, and even killed because they love Jesus. One report states there are presently 4,014 house church Christians in prison labor camps, and 23,686 under arrest. 129 have been murdered by the authorities.

Last year house church leaders in China gave us details of about 1,000 Christians leaders who are now permanently crippled or maimed as a result of the torture they received at the hands of the police. Many of their stories are absolutely horrific, yet they remain faithful to the Lord. The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of their injuries. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Please pray about whether you, your family, home fellowship or church could help support one or more of these living martyrs with help of **\$25 per month each. 100% of your gifts go directly to the workers.** A prayer card will be sent to everyone who regularly supports this project, with information about your worker to help you remember to pray.

