

A Timeline of Witness Lee's Life

- 1807 *Robert Morrison, the first Protestant missionary, arrives in China*
- 1899 *M.E. Barber moves to Foochow as a missionary*
- 1900 *The Boxer Rebellion to rid China of "foreign devils" begins; 32,000 Christians killed; Lee's mother hides her Christian books and escapes to the mountains to survive*
- 1905 5 August: Witness Lee is born near Chefoo, China to Lee Kuo Chung and Lee Sun Lian Chi; grows up in a poor, Christian family, the 6th of 7 children; attends Sunday school in the Southern Baptist church
- 1920 Studies writings of Confucius and Mencius; at 15 begins to despise Christianity, stops attending the Baptist church; loves soccer and Chinese operas
- 1922 *Watchman Nee establishes the first local church, in Foochow*
- 1923 Father, a farmer, dies in Changchun, Manchuria
- 1925 Pastor Yu's visits; begins meeting with the Chinese Independent Church (February)
25 April: saved through Peace Wang's preaching on Satan's usurpation in the world (Exodus 1); walking home, devotes his life to the Lord to preach the gospel from village to village, "even if I must live on tree roots and drink from mountain brooks"
Summer: reads the Bible in 2 months; discovers Nee's writings in a local Christian paper; subscribes to Nee's magazine *The Christian* (1st issue published in Nov); begins correspondence with Nee about his Bible questions
- 1925-26 Attends junior college run by American Presbyterians (1.5 years); studies English, writes thesis on imperialism, graduates; works as an accountant in large, foreign firm
- 1925-32 Begins meeting with the Brethren (Newton branch) to study the Bible, 7 times a week for 7.5 years; mainly typology and prophecy
- 1927 Delivers first spoken message, in the Chinese Independent Church; at end of year, elected to be a board member, but declines and leaves the denominations
- 1928 Marries first wife, Yung-hsiang; they have 8 children together
- 1930 *M.E. Barber dies (February); Nee's library has grown to 3,000+ Christian classics*
Baptized with the Brethren
- 1931 August: convicted by the Lord that, despite his knowledge, he is cold, dead, and fruitless; prays on a mountain by his house every morning for 7 months to be revived
- 1932 July: Nee visits Chefoo to give a conference at Lee's invitation; first meeting with Nee; Lee is profoundly affected; leaves the Brethren; raises up a local church in Chefoo, increases from 11-100 in first year; regularly speaks 4 messages per week
- 1933 August: leaves job to preach full time after a "tremendous struggle" for 21 days; Nee writes him a letter from a ship in the Mediterranean asking him to consider this very thing, postmarked August 17; "this letter became a turning point in my life"

- October: visits Nee in Shanghai for 4 months; Nee gives him Darby's *Synopsis of the Books of the Bible* and Alford's *New Testament for English Readers*, helps him know church history and the Lord in the way of life, asks him "What is patience?"; Lee preaches on John 16:8-11 with Nee listening behind the door
- 1934 Moves to Shanghai to begin working with Nee; sees the "one flow" in Acts
- 1937-45 *Japan invades China (July 1937); Second Sino-Japanese War begins*
- 1937 October: returns to Chefoo to move his family from the war zone; temporarily trapped there in Japanese-occupied territory
- 1938 Preaches in various places in northern China; a sister gives him a large sum of money to go to the U.S.; Lee has no intention to go; she tells him to save it for when he does
- 1939-40 Has a vision of the Body of Christ at Nee's Shanghai conference (August); Nee tells Lee "we have the blueprint" (April); doesn't see or hear from Nee for 6 years after this
- 1942 December: 100 day revival in Chefoo from practicing Nee's blueprint— "the whole Body serving," "the practicality of the church life," one-on-one shepherding
- 1942-48 *Nee forced to stop his ministry for 6 years*
- 1943 May: imprisoned, tortured, interrogated for a month by Japanese Army on political suspicion; spiritual dream of "a broad highway, a rising sun, and a boundless horizon"; "the real story started from that dream"
- 1944-46 October: escapes to Tsingtao to recover from tuberculosis developed from imprisonment; has a vision of the tree of life, new central focus of his ministry (age 40)
- 1945 April: mother dies in Chefoo
- 1946-48 October: reunites with Nee in Shanghai; works to recover Nee's ministry (March 1948)
- 1949 May: sent out of China by Nee so that their vision and work will survive; lives with family of 10 in 280 sf Japanese-style house; experiences depression and insomnia
August: starts the work in Taiwan; prevailing gospel preaching
Mao Zedong forms the People's Republic of China (October)
- 1950 February: last meeting with Nee; they work together for 1.5 months in Hong Kong
- 1950s Spends 4 months per year ministering in the Philippines; raises up 100 churches
- 1952-72 *Nee is imprisoned by the Communist party until his death (May 30, 1972)*
- 1952 Officially assumes the ministry of the word from Nee; begins to hold comprehensive trainings on truth, life, the church, and the gospel; "the best training was in 1953": a 16 week training that included *The Experience of Life* and *The Knowledge of Life*
- 1955 Churches in Taiwan grow from 400 to 40,000 in first 5 years
- 1955 / 57 T. Austin-Sparks visits Taiwan twice; on second visit, disagreement over the church
- 1958 April-October: round the world trip to observe state of Christianity; first visit to U.S.; wife needs serious medical treatment in NYC (July); visits T. Austin-Sparks in London
- 1959 24 April: wife dies from a liver illness

- 1960 February: marries second wife, Pao-ye; second trip to U.S.
- 1961 Writes 85 hymns in Chinese in 2 months
- 1962 Moves to the U.S.; December: prays with two brothers from 8:30-noon for 21 days for the Lord's move in the U.S.; first major conference in the U.S. last 10 days of the year in a house living room: *The All-Inclusive Christ*; "during that conference, the Lord's work exploded"; begins traveling around the country to speak
- 1963-64 Writes 200 hymns in English
- 1965 Establishes Living Stream Ministry
- 1965-70 Elden Hall era; pray-reading and calling on the Lord take off; "in spirit, on the ground"
- 1970-73 Launches strategic migrations across the U.S. to spread the church life to 10 cities
- 1974-95 Begins 21 year study of the Bible called *Life-Study* in Anaheim: Genesis (April) and Romans (December); 100-day preparation for 10-day trainings, 3 messages per day
- 1977 Opposition from Christian Research Institute and Spiritual Counterfeits Project
- 1980-85 Lawsuits over libel
- 1984 Shares *God's New Testament Economy*: "the consummation of what the Lord has shown us in His recovery"; returns to Taiwan to study "God-ordained way" to meet and serve (October); finishes *Life-Study* of the New Testament with Acts (December)
- 1985 Publishes the New Testament Recovery version with footnotes; revised 1991
- 1986 / 88 Establishes full-time training centers in Taiwan and U.S.; door-knocking; 40,000 people baptized
- 1989 Culminates study on God-ordained way in *The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today*
- 1991 Sends workers to Russia for the gospel after Soviet Union collapses; 65 churches planted by 1997
- 1992 Begins speaking on "the vital groups" as the way to carry out the God-ordained way
- 1994 February: writes new hymn, "What Miracle! What Mystery!"; begins speaking on "the high peak of the divine revelation" and "the new revival"; August: begins "crystallization-study" of the Bible with Romans
- 1995 July: finishes *Life-Study* of the Old Testament with Song of Songs
- 1997 February: last public conference
9 June: dies (age 91) in Anaheim
- 1999 Text only edition of Holy Bible Recovery Version is published
- 2003 Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes is published
- 2004-18 *The Collected Works of Witness Lee* are published (138 volumes)