

Description of The Disciples Sect (Mentuhui)

“The Disciples were founded by Ji Sanbao, a poor peasant, who was born in 1937. He was baptized only when he was 40 years old in 1977 and set up his own house church and began itinerant evangelism. In 1989 he set up his own cult organization ordaining ‘Twelve Disciples’ in southern Shaanxi. They allegedly practice faith healing to the exclusion of using medicine. By 1989 Ji was proclaiming himself to be a second Christ. By 1995 the cult had spread to 12 provinces and had 500,000 members in central and west China alone.”

“Mr. Wu informs us: After the relevant authorities had cracked down on the Disciples they turned the focus of their evangelistic attention to converting youth and children as well as educated people and cadres. They let it be known they would give a prize of 50 RMB for every Party cadre converted; 100 RMB for every rural district cadre or policeman; and 1000 RMB for every county-level cadre. In their Preparations for Work in 1997 which they disseminated in January 1997, they clearly laid down: ‘In developing new work our target must be lower-level Party members and cadres under the Evil One’s control. For every one of these converted, we win over part of the masses and overthrow part of the government’s control at the grass-roots.’ The Disciples also proclaim to children, ‘You can get through without studying’ and ‘Communist education is useless.’ This causes many pupils to withdraw from school when they are converted. Just in one city in ‘Q’ province more than 1,800 children and youth joined the Disciples. One primary school there originally had 200 or more pupils, but after being affected by the Disciples in 1998-99, two-thirds of the children joined the cult and only seventy were left at the school.”¹

¹ Tony Lambert, ed., “Chinese Cults Target Youth,” OMF (April/May 2006), http://www.omf.org/omf/us/resources__1/newsletters/china_insight_newsletter/china_insight_newsletter_archive/china_insight_2006_2009/april_may_2006; Internet. Lambert interacts with Wu Dongsheng’s *Xiejiao de Mimi—Dangdai Zhongguo Xiejiao Juhui Jizhi Yanjiu* (translated as *Cult Secrets—Research into the Mechanisms and Meetings of Cults in Modern China*). The publisher is Social Sciences Academic Press (ISBN Number: 7-80190-457-5/D). Wu Dongsheng is a researcher at Nanjing University who in 1989 joined the Research Center for Grassroots Society.