

An Anonymous Statement From A Missionary in Iraq

Regarding Sean Feucht and Light A Candle

"I want to begin by saying that I once looked up to Sean Feucht. His vision, worship, prayer, and bold mission work among the nations, deeply resonated with my own sense of calling. His music and books like *Fire and Fragrance* stirred my heart and filled me with faith to live a radical, surrendered life.

When I first traveled to Iraq in 2016, I met members of his team. Though I was never officially part of Light A Candle, I developed friendships with the people working on the ground and came to know many of them. I later encountered Sean personally when he came to speak at a missions conference I attended. He shared powerful stories: miraculous food multiplication, blind eyes opened, large crowds coming to Christ. These testimonies were electrifying. But what I didn't realize at the time was that none of it was true.

Shortly afterwards I traveled to Iraq with some others whom were present at the same conference and heard the same stories told by Sean. When we met up with the Light A Candle team and recounted these stories to members of Sean's team, their reactions stunned me. They confirmed that none of the miracles he described had happened. Not even remotely. What he claimed were exaggerations or outright fabrications.

They said they themselves weren't even surprised by this because it wasn't an isolated incident. I learned that Sean had a pattern of fabricating stories to stir emotional responses, drive donor engagement, and build a public persona as a globe-trotting revivalist. In 2016, he flew into Iraq with a guitar, pressured a local to drive him to the ISIS front lines, took photos, sang briefly, then left. He later crafted a story that portrayed him as instrumental in shifting a battlefield through worship. Meanwhile, during a highly sensitive prayer meeting involving Muslim-background believers and Israelis—where many was at significant risk—he took unauthorized photos and posted them online, compromising security and exposing people to real danger.

The deeper I got involved in missions work in Iraq, the more I learned.

I met other Light a Candle team members who were emotionally and spiritually exhausted from working under Sean's leadership. One man told me directly: *"I feel like I'm prostituting the gospel for Sean's social media likes."* They described being pressured to take photos during times of ministry in refugee camps. Instead of being able to connect with these people on a deep level, they were pressured to capture content for Sean/LAC social media. These weren't ministry moments. They were marketing campaigns.

One situation involving the Yazidi people nearly got multiple Christian NGOs shut down in Iraq. A Light A Candle team filmed themselves doing "spiritual warfare" prayers inside a Yazidi temple and posted it online. The video went viral for all the wrong reasons. The Iraqi government launched an investigation. Ministries lost ground. Persecuted believers were scattered. Some Bible translators quit translating a Bible in Shingali (language of Yazidis that didn't have the Bible yet) because they feared for their lives. All because of Sean pressuring for reckless use of social media and total disregard for security or cultural wisdom.

In another situation, Sean promised to blur the face of a local believer in a documentary. He didn't. When confronted, he ignored the concerns and pushed to get the film on Netflix, putting

lives at risk for the sake of visibility and reach. When he was confronted, Matthew 18 was practiced. His response? Silence, blocking, and more gaslighting.

Multiple waves of Light A Candle leaders have now come and gone. Many were good people, faithful, godly, sincere, but they were manipulated, misled, and in many cases, spiritually abused. Many now serve elsewhere in the Middle East. None of them want anything to do with Sean Feucht again.

Today, Light A Candle is effectively blacklisted among the network of Christian workers here. Sean has tried to mend relationships through intermediaries but refuses to meet directly with leaders who have asked for honest, biblical confrontation. He continues to operate with political influence and self-appointment, recently delivering a personal letter from Donald Trump to the President of Kurdistan as though he were a legitimate Christian Nationalist ambassador.

I've held back from speaking for years. But watching this cycle repeat, more spiritual abuse, more gaslighting, more lying and exaggerating, more danger to the very people we're supposed to be protecting, has made it impossible to remain silent.

I have not personally suffered abuse from Sean, but I have watched far too many faithful brothers and sisters walk away devastated by his leadership. I have witnessed deception, arrogance, and reckless disregard for truth, safety, and the gospel itself. Sean is not a safe leader. He is a manipulator, a fabricator, and a danger to any honest, Spirit-led missions effort. If you feel called to the nations, I encourage you, go. Obey the Lord with boldness and humility. But do not do it under Sean Feucht or Light A Candle. The cost is too high and Sean's fruit is corrupt.

I am making this statement publicly because I believe the truth matters and because many are still being harmed."