

An Open Letter To Those Brothers Who Signed The October 1, 2006 “Quarantine Letter” Regarding Brother Titus Chu And Others, Named And Unnamed

Brothers:

We the elders and responsible brothers who serve the church in Akron, Ohio, received your letter of “warning” addressed to all the saints and all the churches, and we have prayerfully considered its contents in the light of the scriptures and of the facts as we know them. We have also done the same with the document produced by the Defense and Confirmation Project titled “Different Teachings and Dissenting Views of Titus Chu and Certain Co-workers.” Some of us also received a letter dated August 10, 2006 from brothers Liu Suey and Benson Phillips.

We have not been instructed by anyone, nor are we part of any coordinated effort to respond to your warning and accusations against our brother Titus and some other co-workers. The content of this letter is based solely on the fellowship and prayer of the signers.

First we would like to agree to a statement in the August 10 letter. Like you, we are grieved and saddened by the situation that is presently among us within the Lord’s recovery, and agree that this situation is not pleasing to the Lord. That is why in all of our letters to you, no matter what concerns or differences we expressed, we also asked for times of fellowship with you brothers that would include brother Titus, but you would not.

Brother Witness Lee’s book, *The Divine and Mystical Realm*, which you quote in your August 10 letter, states, “Blending means that we should **always** stop to fellowship with others” (p. 87). Brothers why have you refused to endeavor to keep the oneness through continued face-to-face fellowship? Titus is your brother, and we are your brothers. We do not understand why, if we as brothers are willing to fellowship with you about our genuine concerns, you would say, “we have already done that,” or, “what do we have to talk to brother Titus about?” Brother Lee’s book continues on page 87, “Learn to fellowship. Learn to be blended.” Brothers according to this quote we are all learners. Fellowship should not stop just because disagreements arise. Rather, such disagreement should have been all the more reason to continue fellowship, but you would not. Even if you consider us the weaker uncomely members according to 1 Corinthians 12:23-27, please remember that God has blended us together in the body specifically so that there would be no division among us and that the members would have the same care for one another (v. 25).

Instead of quoting and emphasizing Acts 20: 28-31a, Romans 16:17, and Titus 3:10-11, you could have quoted and emphasized Ephesians 4:1-7, or the many other positive verses in the Bible that apply to our situation. Brother Lee often said, “Don’t say ‘Brother Lee says.’ Rather say ‘the Bible says.’” We realize that his burden was to bring us into the essence, experience, and reality of what he was speaking, and that by coming to the Bible, the source of his speaking, it could become ours organically. Then it would not be something we follow in an outward, doctrinal, and dogmatic way without life or constitution. Do you think that we are not organically built together with one another in Christ? That we have no maturity in Christ? No revelation? No constitution? No love for one another? No understanding or love for the ministry of Witness Lee and Watchman Nee? Brothers, instead of sending correspondence back and forth, we would rather have taken the opportunity to stand, pray, and fellowship together for the sake of the Lord’s recovery and the saints, but you would not.

Some of you have questioned our relationship with brother Titus Chu. We are not subservient to Titus in an outward way as you suppose, but we must testify that, through our practical laboring and struggling together, the Lord has built us up. We have received both spiritual and practical help through our brother Titus concerning the Spirit, the Bible, and the Lord's recovery with all its riches. The Bible describes many loving, intimate, and profound spiritual relationships between the servants of the Lord and those they are serving. Could you be attempting to tear apart what God has put together?

It is obvious that you never had the intention to include brother Titus Chu as a fellow worker, but have instead persistently looked for reasons to defame him and discredit his portion, labor, and ministry before the Lord. Any efforts on your part have certainly not been up to the biblical standard of "being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3), but seem to simply have been a methodical process to bring about your predetermined intention to exclude brother Titus Chu and others. We totally disagree with your accusations and reasons for quarantining brother Titus Chu and certain other coworkers. There is no biblical reason to take such divisive action, other than what has been developed by you to achieve your ultimate goal.

You have encouraged us to not be neutral. We, as responsible ones in the church in Akron, therefore exercise our responsibility before the Lord to make the following declaration of our stand:

- We acknowledge the Bible as our unique stand and we will not make issues concerning differences related to non-essential truths.
- We acknowledge the headship of Christ and refuse to allow any particular teachings, practices or institutions to take His place.
- We will endeavor to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace with all genuine believers of Christ everywhere.
- We will warmly receive brother Titus Chu and his ministry along with all those who have a share in Christ's New Testament ministry.
- We will not accept anyone who insists on a teaching or practice which disrupts the local church life, or anyone who desires to harass or damage the saints from enjoying the Lord and being built up here as a genuine member of the Body of Christ.
- As stated in *The Beliefs and Practices of the Local Churches* (p.21, 22, published by LSM), "We testify that our hearts have been captured not by a teaching, nor by a practice, nor by a movement – we have been captured by a wonderful person, even by Christ Himself.... Along with the enjoyment of this unsearchable, all-inclusive Christ, we have the privilege of participating in the recovery of the practical church life."


In conclusion, we would like to quote the last two paragraphs of brother Titus Chu's letter which he sent to you before you issued your letter of quarantine.

You end your letter by calling on me to repent. Dear brothers, I would like to repent. In fact I feel that, given the present condition and direction of the recovery, we should all repent. May I ask you to join with me in a session of repentant prayer before the Lord for His mercy on us and His recovery?

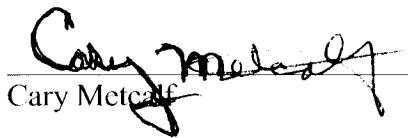
In closing let me say that I love you brothers and wish to strive together with you for the divine commitment the Lord has given me and many other brothers through our brothers Nee and Lee. I am thankful for your openness and the prayer you have had for me and for your desire to build up the entire Body. I certainly hope that praying together regularly will become our practice. I love you brothers in Christ and expect the same in return. I hope this will be our last letter like this. Rather, we can have face to face fellowship. We should intercede and pray together for one another and for all the local churches. May the Lord bless you.


November 12, 2006

Brothers in Christ,


Will Graphenreed


Joseph Kuo


Cary Metcalf


David Shields