

Open Letter to the Saints in the church in Toronto from brothers Steve Pritchard and Jonathan P'ng

March 3rd, 2007

Dear brothers and sisters of the Church in Toronto

As elders, our hearts' desire is to serve the Lord by serving the saints to build up the testimony of our Lord here in Toronto. As Directors of the Corporation of the Church of the Torontonians, we are bound by law to act in the best interests of the Corporation. As both elders and directors, we feel compelled to write this open letter to all the saints. Our reason for this letter is to share with the saints some of the recent events happening among us:

- (1) The Church in Toronto is under attack. A powerful organization with deep pockets and strong influence has marshalled their resources to launch an offensive against the church. This is a fight that was initiated by that organization. We have been forced to take a stand not because we are strong, but because it relates to principles of truth. We have to fight back to defend the church from unreasonable men who do not understand the meaning of fellowship. By this we mean that LSM co-workers and their supporters, together with the collusion of saints from within Toronto, have sought to destabilize the Church in Toronto and develop the conditions for a takeover. They have done this by attempting to discredit and undermine the elders in Toronto over the past few months and even years. They have been coming to the GTA without prior fellowship with the elders, and have been holding meetings and speaking against the elders, under the guise of holding 'vital living' trainings. They have launched an Internet offensive by directly publishing (or at least implicitly condoning) articles critical of the elders such as those at www.AfaithfulWord.com, (a website affiliated with LSM,) and the Lord's Army website on www.xanga.com. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that the published and spoken statements by the LSM co-workers contain serious (and seemingly deliberate) errors and misrepresentations of fact. In times like these, we have to stand together while looking to the Lord as our Shield and Defender.
- (2) We are at a critical crossroads in our church history. At the annual business meeting on March 4, 2007, the voting members (both existing members and those presented for approval by the existing members) of the Corporation have an important responsibility and decision. It is not a vote for popularity or personalities. It is rather to determine and confirm the direction of the Church in Toronto for the foreseeable future.

OPTION ONE: The members can decide that the Church should be fully subject to the "blended co-workers," carrying out their directives and wholly adopting their "LSM program." They can do this by nominating and

voting for a set of directors who are “one with the blended co-workers”, and aligned with LSM with all that it entails.

OPTION TWO: The members can endorse the set of directors (elders) nominated by the Toronto eldership. By doing so they give the Toronto eldership a “vote of confidence,” providing a mandate for the Church to maintain its present direction as a genuine local church, taking *‘the Bible as our unique standard,’* answering to the Lord and led by the local eldership. In this case, the Church will continue to be served by the current “full-timers” (subject to the elders’ oversight). The Church will also maintain fellowship with other genuine local churches, both nearby and further away. These points correspond to core biblical principles taught by W. Nee and W. Lee.

We call on all the members to stand with the Lord, with the Bible, with the Truth and with the Church.

- (3) All means have been used to stop or frustrate this business meeting. False rumours have been spread about us on the Internet, through e-mails, and whispering campaigns. The latest salvo was a motion for an injunction filed by David Wang, Ron MacVicar, David Chao, Anne Chao and Pat Auclair against Stephen Pritchard, Jonathan P’ng and THE CHURCH OF THE TORONTONIANS. The motion sought to prohibit us “from directly or indirectly presenting a motion or holding a vote to recommend or accept new voting members” unless we follow their procedures. The motion also sought costs on a substantial indemnity basis. David and Ron in their open letter (25 February, 2007) to the saints in Toronto say that they are praying that the will of God be done. We have also been praying that the will of God be done. God our Father, the Righteous Judge, has apparently heard all our prayers and through the earthly judicial system has rendered a verdict. Yesterday, Justice Himel, a judge at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice heard the arguments on both sides, was not persuaded by the arguments of David, Ron and the others (the applicants), denied their motion for an injunction and awarded costs to us. In order to obtain the injunction, the applicants had to satisfy a three-part legal “test”. Justice Himel ruled that the applicants failed on the first part of the test, which has a low threshold. The applicants did not establish that there was a serious issue to be tried. The applicants also failed on the second and third parts of the test.

The court ruling made it clear that we as directors were clearly acting within our jurisdiction in admitting new members.

Throughout this turmoil we have felt the peace of the Lord. Though the outward situation at times appears stormy with strong winds and tossing waves, the Lord is assuring us not to fear because He is with us “in the boat”. In due time the boat

will reach the other side where land is (stability). We see the light at the end of the tunnel. We also see a glorious future for the Church in Toronto where the saints have the freedom to follow the Spirit, to grow in life and exercise their gifts, and gain the Lord. We will have more fellowship with you saints about this after the business meeting when the sky is clearer.

We also feel that we need to address briefly in point form the accusations of David Wang and Ron MacVicar in their open letter. These are given below.

The Plot to bring the church under LSM Control

- On November 1st, 2006 brothers Ron and David met with lawyers (despite early denials) along with brother Minoru Chen to see how to handle the elders' refusal to go along with the warning letter quarantining Titus Chu, Nigel Tomes & others.
- In their own writings they admit there is similarities between what happened in Vancouver in the early 90's and what is happening here in the past few months. See the article 'Vancouver Maneuver' for more details.
- The following statements were made by brother Minoru Chen at a (so-called) 'Shepherds Fellowship' meeting. These points were given me from notes taken by brother Benny Law of Mississauga. It should be understood that some of the language is in 'code' and we have added the uncoded explanation in *italics*.
 - Ø He cited Leviticus 14 as God's ordination of how to deal with leprosy (corporate sin) in a house (*meaning the Church*. Note: We disagree with this on the grounds that only the Lord has the authority to remove a lampstand (Rev 2:5)).
 - Ø Both **Toronto** and Montreal were named, as well as London, Ontario.
 - Ø He said, The problem has to be brought to the priest (Christ and the **co-workers**).
 - Ø **"In some cases, the whole house has to be torn down and rebuilt."** (*Indicating a local Church may be "terminated"- see below*)
 - Ø **We "Need a new beginning in Eastern Canada. Don't just fix the old things."**
 - Ø New stones are being raised up under the ministry's leading. (*The 'old stones' are removed. This is related to workers etc being "kicked out"*)
 - Ø Need to do a lot of replastering.
 - Ø Eastern Canada is leading (in the new plastering); even the U.S. is behind.
 - Ø **"Some churches may need to be terminated."** (*"Toronto"*)
 - Ø Full-time workers are here to support.
- David Wang was leaking confidential information about the board discussions and seeking direction (via E-mail) from Anaheim, California during a recess in a board of directors meeting. These are documents we obtained during the recent court proceedings and indicate they are quite willing to take direction from Anaheim and treat it as the head quarters. *See Email One.*
- A week later James Kuan, (the Defense and Confirmation Project (DCP) legal counsel in California,) in a letter about events in Toronto to other brothers from Anaheim stated "we now have some major decisions we need to make going forward ...". *See Email Two.*

Answers to Accusations Regarding Steps Taken to Curtail Turmoil

- Historically we have video taped certain meetings of the church. Since an ugly display by the saints in H1E1 on October 22nd, 2006 which was fortuitously being taped as a ministry meeting we felt to continue with taping the ministry meetings and

other meetings. Since that time there has been no ugly displays and limited spoken criticism of the elders and co-workers.

- Saints are welcome to visit their relatives here without the elders' permission.
- All the elders are equal in standing before the Lord. However due to their stand and collusion with LSM, we have found it very difficult to have full fellowship with brothers Ron and David regarding the direction of the church.
- They have mistaken our counsel for threats. See my email to sister Ria.
- The accusation that Steve and Jonathan manipulated the feelings of a young sister about going to the FTTA is denied by all those present during the entire fellowship. Even when contacted by those present and asked to retract, brother Ron refused to correct the record. They are therefore now unrighteously and knowingly circulating false statements about us.
- The reasons for rejection of the video training has been documented elsewhere.
- The saints meeting in Hall 1 without clear fellowship with the elders invited many others from other halls to participate in review meeting of the then recent video training. This caused unrest among some saints. When asked to produce a list of attendees it was refused. Brother Robin felt to monitor the situation because saints he served were being affected.
- In the best interests of the corporation (church) brothers Ron and David were relieved of their offices, as Secretary & President. David Wang has continued as a director. The fact that this week they caused the church to spend an estimated \$20,000 to respond to a motion they brought before the courts leaves no doubt in our minds that this was a prudent decision.

Let us all pray that the church can be a strong testimony to the Lord in a way that glorifies Him.

Your brothers in Christ,

Steve Pritchard and Jonathan P'ng

The links referred to in this letter are at
<http://www.thechurchintoronto.ca/cit/r/news/load.home?p=Letter7303>