

Sunday, October 22, 2006

An Open Letter to the Blending Co-workers

Dear Brothers,

We the saints in Goshen, Indiana, have, as you suggested, carefully read the warning against our brother Titus Chu. After examining its charges, we have decided we must publicly respond as a church, since that is the method you brothers chose to initiate this quarantine.

First, allow us to give a little history of our relationship with Brother Titus. The origins of the church here began as a small meeting of four saints meeting in the home of Mark and Sherry Jordan. Titus Chu found out about our little gathering and came to visit us in 1983. He held a small conference around the Jordans' dinner table with about twelve present. He clearly saw something in our little group and encouraged us to go on positively in the Lord. The saints, growing slowly in number and in faith, began attending conferences, many of which Titus was the speaker. Over the years his speaking was a great source of life and light to us. Titus continued through the years to pay attention to our small church, inviting brothers to take part in leading ones' meetings and other special times. He fellowshiped concerns and spiritual matters directly with the brothers here. He always encouraged us to be one with Brother Lee's ministry. As the church grew, the saints came to acknowledge Brother Titus as one functioning as an apostle, shepherding the church here.

As you can see, Brother Titus is one we here know in life. The same cannot be said of the group of brothers who call themselves the "Blending Co-workers." With the exception of two or three "new" signatories, whose names appeared on this warning letter but not in previous correspondences from the Blending Co-workers, it is unlikely any of the signers would even be able to recognize a single saint from our locality. This would be true despite the fact that many of us have traveled many times to trainings and conferences where the Blending Co-workers appeared. It would be true despite the fact that the church here has for many years supported every major item that has come out of the labor of the S. California brothers both in spirit and financially.

With such a contrast of backdrops, it should be obvious that it is difficult for us to accept the negative words presented in this warning statement by these brothers who we really don't know. Still, we did read the words of the quarantine/warning letter carefully in a brothers' meeting and many others on their own. We did this in an attempt to not let subjective feelings interfere with our ability to receive something from the Lord. Our response: We find the charges baseless, unfair, and suspect in motive. We see nothing spoken against Titus' character, nothing spoken concerning heresy, only some charges that he is creating division and turmoil among the churches. We simply don't agree; Titus has not created turmoil. Rather, he simply stands for the same things he has always stood for: learning to take Christ as life, being grounded in the Word and the truth, building up the local churches.

We are not interested in addressing point by point your charges. As should be clear, we know Titus in life. However, there is one underlying, key issue which we would like to address: the One Publication policy. We oppose this policy as unscriptural. This can be easily seen in Luke's opening to his gospel:

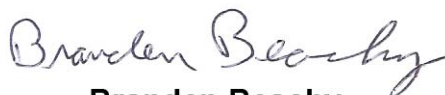
“Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, **it seemed fitting for me as well**, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, **to write it out for you** in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.” [Luke 1:1-4]

Here we clearly see a brother decided to write his own account of Jesus' life without any prompting from a higher authority other than God, without any publishing clearinghouse, but simply because “it seemed fitting for me as well...to write.” This is the scriptural approach to publication: letting those who have a burden write with no need for a clearinghouse approval, no censorship, and no control of how it is interpreted.

And so we come to this: we in Goshen want to go on record publicly that we as a church receive Titus warmly and will continue to do so. We will disseminate his work. We reject your quarantine and ask that you cease to include us in any communications of this nature. We would entreat you to not harass local saints here with this matter as it negatively impacts the local church here.

As a final note, we would like you to know that we wrote this letter without knowledge or guidance from anyone outside of our locality. It is entirely our local church's response.

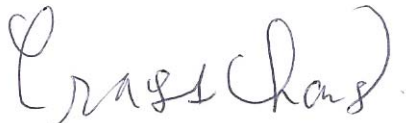
The church in Goshen, Indiana



Branden Beachy



Keith E. Miller



Craig Chang



David A. Walter



Mark Jordan

20+ other signatories