

## THE “ONE PUBLICATION” CAMPAIGN

“One publication” is a contentious issue in the Lord’s recovery. Claims have been made that the “*intrinsic sense of life and spiritual discernment*” within the saints in the Lord’s recovery requires “one publication.” For example, it has been asserted that “*it is apparent to all the saints everywhere*” that the messages of the “blended co-workers” produce the “*same taste as has been enjoyed by all the churches since Brother Nee’s time.*” (***Publication Work in the Lord’s Recovery***, pp. 5-6). Thus the saints’ “taste for life” is used to justify the ministry of the “blended co-workers.” On the other hand, it is argued that the saints’ “taste” condemns the ministry of other brothers. One ministering brother was told, “*there is a flavor and an atmosphere produced by your ministry that **many, many saints cannot agree with.***” According to the writers, it is self-evident that this brother’s ministry has problems because “*that is what the saints feel and taste.*”

Such assertions are based upon subjective evaluations of the saints’ “*sense of life.*” Who determines what “*all the saints everywhere*” feel? Moreover, that “sense of life” itself depends upon the believer’s knowledge which influences what they “*feel and taste.*” The Greek word for conscience, *suneidesis*, means “with (*sun*) knowledge (*oida*),” indicating a person’s spiritual sense is affected by their knowledge. In the present context, we suggest that the “feeling of the saints” concerning one publication has not arisen in a vacuum. Rather, it is influenced by what they have been taught concerning this matter. Here we document the systematic teaching concerning “one publication,” which has occurred in messages at LSM trainings and conferences since 2002. These messages, published in ***The Ministry*** magazine, have been reinforced by additional LSM publications on this topic distributed at the LSM 2004 Winter, and 2005 Summer trainings.

### 1. Adding “One Publication” to the “Seven ones” in Ephesians 4?

The practice of “one publication” has been promoted by the “blended co-workers” in recent years. Indeed, there has been something of a “crusade” to persuade people of this viewpoint. In terms of spoken messages, this campaign became evident in 2002 with Brother James Lee’s speaking at the LSM Thanksgiving conference in San Diego, November 2002. In his spoken message, James Lee went so far as to suggest that “**one publication**” should be added to the seven “ones” in Ephesians 4. To our knowledge this word, heard by many at the conference and through web-cast, has never been retracted. It does not appear in the published version [see ***The Ministry***, vol. 7, no. 2, March 2003, p. 101]. In retrospect, this seems to have been the “trial balloon,” launching the “one publication” campaign.

### 2. Different Views of “One Publication” -- “*somebody is not holding the Head.*”

Subsequently Brother Ron Kangas addressed this topic in the 2004 LSM Summer Training. He said, “***Many are governed by Brother Lee’s word, which follows Brother Nee’s word, concerning the principle (not the organizational structure) of having one publication work. Others may honestly have a different view. What should we do? We are not here to fight, to argue, or to debate. Let us identify the real issue behind all the differences that arise – somebody is not holding the Head.***” [RK. ***The Ministry***, v.8, no.7, p. 183, emphasis added.]

This is a strong, dogmatic statement – any difference in viewpoint indicates “***somebody is not holding the Head.***” The obvious implication concerning publications is that those who disagree with “one publication” are condemned for “*not holding the Head.*”

We contend that many saints would interpret Brother Ron's word in this way. It appears that the podium was used to denigrate those who honestly hold a divergent view on this topic.

### 3. "One Publication – *“Not a matter of biblical or non-biblical”*

Later, at the 2004 LSM Winter Training, Brother Minoru Chen touched on this topic. He said, "... whenever we have many different publication works, it means that there are many trumpet sounds. These many different trumpet sounds cause the army of God to be confused. **It is not a matter of right or wrong, biblical or non-biblical...**" [*The Ministry*, vol. 9, No. 1, Jan. 2005, p. 186]. Elsewhere we have pointed out the contrast between this statement and Watchman Nee's famous utterance: "**The Bible is our only standard. We are not afraid to preach the pure Word of the Bible, even if men oppose; but if it is not the Word of the Bible, we could never agree even if everyone approved of it.**" If the Bible is our only standard, **it does indeed matter** if "one publication" is biblical or non-biblical.

### 4. "One Publication – *“Not a matter of freedom of speech”*

Brother Minoru Chen went on to criticize the idea that "one publication" could be related to the freedom of speech, "*One strong characteristic of this country is the freedom of speech, which means the freedom of opinion ...However, the Lord's Body is the place with the least freedom.*" [*The Ministry*, vol. 9, No. 1, Jan. 2005, p. 186]. We are aware that "freedom of speech" was strongly argued in the co-workers' meeting in Phoenix, AZ (February 2003), by some senior and respected brothers who disagreed with the "one publication" policy. In this instance the "blended co-workers" used their "monopoly of the podium" to promote their own views and depreciate alternative perspectives sincerely expressed by others.

### 5. Another Publication – *“Like Saul setting up a monument for himself”*

Further examples include the speaking of "DT" at the International Training for Elders in Anaheim CA. April 10-12, 2005. "*To do a work within the work, to carry out another ministry within the one ministry, is a very serious matter. Suppose a brother decides to set up his own publishing house in order to send out his messages to the recovery and to develop his own ministry. This will cause trouble. This is like Saul setting up a monument for himself. This is serious.*" [DT, *The Ministry*, v. 9, no. 6, June 2005, p. 152]. This word appears to condemn anyone who publishes his own material as a "Saul," one who is rebellious, seeking his own kingdom and is rejected by God.

Brother "DT" then went on to say "*Please understand that this is simply an illustration and is not directed at anyone in particular.*" However, we would ask, are the saints that naïve? Wouldn't some entertain the thought that this **might** be directed at someone in particular? Might not some saints endeavour to "connect the dots"? This "illustration," which stigmatizes others as "Saul," could potentially apply to only a few brothers in the recovery. Surely it was applied by some saints to those particular brothers. After receiving these teachings, are we surprised if saints question publications which do not bear the LSM logo? Again, the power of the podium was used to disparage others and sow seeds of suspicion among the saints.

These are merely some examples of the "one publication" teaching documented in published messages of the "blended co-workers." We could elaborate at length based upon

other Wednesday-night and conference messages. Moreover, the impact of these spoken and printed messages is enhanced by their being re-spoken as “prophesies” in many local church meetings. We note that these messages were given prior to the release of the document “**Publication Work in the Lord’s Recovery**,” (June 30, 2005). Hence these teachings were given while “one publication” was still an item of fellowship among the co-workers.

### **The “One Publication” Campaign has sown Seeds of Suspicion**

Evidently there has been a crusade from the platform, beginning Nov. 2002, to indoctrinate the saints in the Lord’s recovery with the “one publication” teaching. Simultaneously the podium was being employed to deprecate alternative viewpoints on this topic. “One publication” has been systematically taught to the saints over an extended period. At the same time “seeds of suspicion” were sown, via suggestions that producing “another publication” was “*to do a work within the work,*” “*not holding the Head,*” “*to carry out another ministry within the one ministry,*” and to “*cause the army of God to be confused,*” etc. Are we surprised if the saint’s “taste” and “sense of life” are affected?

Inevitably these seeds have sprouted and produced fruit. Fruit is manifested in (what is now termed) “**protests of the sense of life**” within the saints against “other publications.” Fruit is also evident in “**problems**” perceived by co-workers in various places. The “blended co-workers” now claim that they are merely responding to the “feelings of the saints.” They assert --- “*that is what the saints feel and taste.*” However, we would counter that these feelings --“*protests of the sense of life*”-- **are not independent** of the campaign promoting “one publication” conducted by the “blended co-workers.” **The power of the podium, the printing press, the web-cast and the practice of prophesying have all been utilized to propagate the “one publication” doctrine, deprecate alternative views and prejudice the saints against the ministry and publications of Brother Titus Chu, Brother Yu-Lan Dong and others.**

### **Is it really the Saints?**

Now, after waging a “successful campaign,” the claim is made that it is “**the saints**” – “*Even if the blended brothers ...endorse[d]... [Brother X’s] good intentions, the saints could not ignore... the protests of the sense of life within themselves.*” It is said this situation cannot be rectified by “*a few comments made from the platform.*” We agree. The present situation is the result of **many** comments from the platform; in fact there has been a **systematic campaign from the podium and in print** for over 3 years. Certainly the cumulative effects of that crusade cannot be reversed with a “*few comments... from the platform*”! We suggest that the source of both the “*protests*” and the “*problems*” is described in the statement: “*If we ... insist on anything other than the common faith, the oneness will surely be damaged, and divisions will occur.*” (Benson Phillips, Preface to, ***Speciality, Generality & Practicality of the Church-life***)

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**NOTE:** This article contains some quotes from unpublished documents. Perhaps a precedent for this practice is found in the document, **Publication Work in the Lord’s Recovery**, which quotes from unpublished documents: “*Brother Lee said, “...I am the continuation of Brother Nee; I would like to have a continuation of me, and this needs a corporation...The Living Stream corporation will continue this ministry.” (from unpublished notes ...)*” **Publication Work in the Lord’s Recovery, (p. 5)**