

Concerning the Identity of Publications

By

The Concerned Brothers

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Since we established the www.concernedbrothers.com web site in 2005, many people wanted to know our identity. Some indicated that they understood the need to use a generic name for this web site and some of the articles. Others attempted to discredit this web site because we use the generic name -- the "concerned brothers." We are fully prepared to use our real names if there is a genuine desire for open fellowship from the "blended co-workers" who published the booklet titled "***Publication Work in the Lord's Recovery***" (by the blended co-workers in the Lord's recovery, June 30, 2005, Living Stream Ministry). Yet, may we first ask: Who exactly are the "blended co-workers"? How many brothers are included in this generic term? The real names of those authors have never been disclosed to the saints. Viewed in this context, we consider our use of the designation, "concerned brothers," a fair and equal basis to address the issues created by the "blended co-workers." To those who attempt to discredit us because of the lack of real names in some of our articles, we would like to point out their double standard in that they did not demand the same thing from the "blended co-workers." In the following, we examine the implications of the "blended co-workers" not using their real names for such an important publication "***Publication Work in the Lord's Recovery***."

The booklet "***Publication Work in the Lord's Recovery***" contains the following important points: Based on some unpublished personal notes of Brother Witness Lee's speaking in an LSM meeting taken by an anonymous note-taker: "*My burden is for the recovery based on the interpretation of Brother Nee and me. 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,*" According to this document, "***Publication Work in the Lord's Recovery***," Brother Lee has placed the direction of the LSM Corporation for the continuation and publication of his ministry in the hands of a group of blended brothers. Also, the author(s) of "***Publication Work in the Lord's Recovery***" charge all the saints and the churches in the recovery to be under the constraint of one publication. As a result, the saints and the churches are forced to take sides on a practice that is not part of the seven "ones" in Ephesians 4 and not in the Bible. This has created great problems and even divisions among the churches.

It is both shocking and disappointing to see the author(s) of this booklet, who are supposed to be the leader(s) of the recovery and who therefore should maintain a very high standard of integrity, base their claim to continue Brother Lee's ministry on some unpublished personal meeting notes recorded by an anonymous note-taker. The meaning imputed to these personal meeting notes, as evidenced in the booklet, has little ground in Biblical truth. May we ask: how can an organization, the LSM, continue Brother Lee's personal, spiritual ministry after his death? If Brother Lee intended something as

important as described in the booklet, wouldn't he call a meeting of all senior co-workers in the recovery and fellowship his plan with a solid basis in the truth, so that there would be no confusion in the future? Moreover, wouldn't the note-taker release these important meeting notes to all senior co-workers and leading brothers immediately after Brother Lee's departure? We find it highly questionable that Brother Lee would have said something so important and yet allow it to be handled in such a casual or even careless way. Hence, it is reasonable to ask whether those personal notes might not be fully accurate or might have been taken out of the context. Why is it that there was no mention concerning the identity of the note-taker, the purpose of the meeting, the context of Brother's Lee speaking, and the persons who attended the meeting? To make such substantial claims, yet have them based on something so untrustworthy, can hardly meet the standard of ethics of any human society, let alone the high standard of morality of Christians – the children of light.

Further, some have questioned whether the anonymous note-taker is also one of the “blended co-workers.” If this is the case – that both a major writer of the booklet, “***Publication Work...***” and the anonymous note-taker are the same person – is it possible perhaps that this person might have (inadvertently perhaps) inserted his personal interpretation of Brother Lee's words and convinced other brothers to agree with him to publish this booklet? If this is the case, this booklet's publication was primarily driven by one person based on his personal interpretation of Brother Lee's words in a private meeting! Hence, the disclosure of the name of the anonymous note-taker is of vital importance for the saints to discern the true motive behind the booklet “***Publication Work in the Lord's Recovery.***”

This booklet, “***Publication Work in the Lord's Recovery***” was posted on the web site www.lsm.org and has reached not only the churches in the recovery, but also Christianity at large and the world in general. Yet the exact identity(ies) of the author(s), the “blended co-workers”, and the anonymous note-taker have never been made known to the saints. The Living Stream Ministry has set a precedent to publish an important document authored by anonymous people, containing statements based on some anonymous, untrustworthy personal notes, and posted it in its web site! The author(s) of “***Publication Work in the Lord's Recovery***” has (have) hidden their identity (identities) behind the nebulous and ambiguous designation, “the blended co-workers in the Lord's Recovery” without disclosing their individual signature(s) or identity(ies).

Up to this time, it is unclear whether this document, “***Publication Work...***” was written by one person, a few persons or a larger group of people. Who exactly are these mysterious “blended co-workers”? There is a legitimate concern that this document was published without the full endorsements or signatures of other “blended co-workers.” It is highly questionable whether all the “blended co-workers” would sign their names to a document that contains a key argument with no credible basis. A similar statement, concerning hidden identities, applies to the letter issued by “the Co-workers in S California,” dated September, 27, 2005. Who exactly are the “Co-workers in S California”?

Since the above booklet on one publication was published, many problems and divisions have occurred among the saints and the churches in the recovery. The repeated requests made by senior co-workers and leading brothers for an “Acts 15”-style conference with the “blended brothers” to resolve the above issues among the churches were repeatedly ignored. Further, in October, 2005, the email network for fellowship (fellowship@coworkers.net) was unilaterally terminated by someone. This essentially cut off an important channel for feedback and fellowship among the co-workers in the recovery. The “concerned brothers” felt compelled to establish their web site to address those issues and problems through fellowship in a public forum. In the absence of a proper channel of fellowship, this web site has provided a means for responses to the above booklet and related documents to reach a population of the same scope as the original documents to which they respond. If any readers demand to know the identities of the sponsors of the concernedbrothers web site, they should also demand to know the identity(ies) of the author(s) of the above booklet and letter.

Finally, in his last open ministering of his life in 1997, Brother Witness Lee made a striking, solemn and heartfelt confession as a conclusion of his ministry: *“We have much to learn concerning receiving people according to God and according to His Son. Because of our negligence in this matter in the past, we have offended the Body of Christ and many brothers and sisters in the Lord. For this reason, I had a deep repentance before the Lord Brothers and sisters. I hope that we can see our past mistakes...”* (Witness Lee, *The Experience of God’s Organic Salvation Equaling Reigning...*, Chp. 6). Brother Lee was speaking in Chinese and his genuine repentance can be better expressed in the following literal translation of his words: *“(Concerning the matter of receiving people according to God), we co-workers in every place need to learn, the responsible ones in every place need to learn, the brothers and sisters in every place need to learn....too many and too many things caused us to learn, we all made mistakes on this matter in the past. I myself testify: I confess that, for this matter and before the Lord, I had a painful repentance, I am really sorry toward the Body of Christ, really sorry toward the brothers and sisters among us, even the people in the denominations, also really sorry toward them...”*

An exclusive spirit has been demonstrated by the “blended co-workers,” in imposing the practice of one publication on all the saints and churches in the recovery and causing the churches not to accept those who do not side with them on an issue – one publication -- that is not even in the Bible. Such exclusivity is totally against this solemn and heartfelt charge from Brother Lee whom the “blended co-workers” declare they closely follow. The “blended co-workers” have ignored this important final charge of Brother Lee at the end of his ministry. Yet they claim that Brother Lee has placed the direction of his personal ministry in their hands based on some unpublished notes from a private meeting recorded by an anonymous note-taker. This reminds us of the Biblical account when, on the way to Jerusalem, the Lord repeatedly told the disciples about the crucial matter of His impending crucifixion in Jerusalem. Yet the disciples disregarded it while they argued about who would be the greatest among them. However, the disciples transcended their fleshly rivalry after the Lord’s resurrection as illustrated in their gospel-preaching in one accord on the day of Pentecost. Applying this account to our present situation, can

we anticipate the same thing from the “blended co-workers” who claim to be the leaders of the Lord’s recovery today? Can we at least expect the “blended co-workers” to disclose their names to the saints whom they claimed to lead?

Can we all learn from our mistakes, take heed to Brother Lee’s final important charge and follow the clear words in the Bible? Can we accept all the children of God according to God, instead of according to some practice of a man, such as one publication? Wouldn’t this be an application of Brother Lee’s final public speaking? The same Brother Lee, who himself has repented for his mistakes of not receiving the saints according to God?

May we all follow the Lord and His Words and may His mercy be with us.