

From 8 brothers & sisters who serve the Church in Toronto young people
October 29th, 2006

To our beloved elders,

We feel compelled to write to you because we are deeply grieved by the letter of quarantine issued against Brother Titus Chu. We are young and relatively inexperienced in the church life, but we love the church in Toronto and we – along with the young people we serve – have had many precious experiences of learning under our brother.

The purpose of this letter is to communicate our experience of the ministry of our brother Titus Chu, largely over the course of the past five years. In this time we have witnessed radical change in the work of the Lord in the young people in Toronto. The young people of today are more engaged, more committed and more inspired to follow the Lord than any other group of young people we have witnessed throughout our lives in the church life. This we owe to the Lord's mercy, through the care and ministry of brother Titus Chu. We feel that Brother Chu is an integral part of the Lord's work in our city both through his direct care for the local coworkers and college-age saints, and through his indirect effect on the local young people.

The English-speaking ten-month labour of 2003 marked a directional shift in the Lord's work among us. Many of the young people's serving ones (Jason Maurier, Justin Nadeau, Jeffrey Martin, Faith Tomes) participated in this labour. During the year, Brother Chu spent much time caring for the labourers from Toronto and charging us to invest ourselves fully in our local church. The majority of us had not served the young people prior to the labour, but as a response to Brother Chu's challenge to serve 20 people each, we began to aggressively knit ourselves together with the young people. The concept of serving the young people was hereby revolutionized in Toronto: we were charged to be serving ones who sacrificed all to raise up young people who would go to the ends of the earth – or their classroom – to tell all about the miraculous salvation available through Jesus Christ. Brother Chu's sharing of the Word during this time began to form the very foundation of our own sharing to the young people. His pattern of expounding the Bible is still used among us, and to great effect. Brother Chu allowed us the freedom to explore the Word and to re-evaluate our practices in light of the Truth. He emphasized the necessity of a proper grounding in the Word, by reading the whole Bible through daily reading schedules. He also encouraged us to dive into the ministries of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee, even to the extent of recommending that we primarily focus on the Life Studies for our expounding of the Word. We were encouraged to read every book of the Bible ten times, to memorize the crucial epistles, to pray for at least half an hour each day and to be immersed in the gospel weekly. He inspired us to give ourselves fully to the Church and instilled in us a profound respect for the local elders that has not waned.

Brother Chu's annual college training is a source of encouragement, exhortation, and enlightenment for the college-aged in Toronto. We flock to Montreal every August to be rebuked for our second-generation arrogance, to be perfected in our speaking and to be inspired to servanthood. During these times, we are encouraged to be strong in spirit and challenged to be active for the Lord's testimony. Brother Chu feels free to rebuke us liberally for our shortcomings. Although he does so in love, it is clear that his goal is not to raise up a generation of loyal followers, but to raise up a generation who will be useful to the Master. His desire is not for us to appreciate himself, but for us to have a deeper realization and feeling for the situation of the Lord's testimony on the earth today. We are never encouraged to invest ourselves in his personal ministry, but to invest our whole selves in the gospel for the increase of the local Church, and also in care for the ones close to us. He

challenges us to cultivate a heart for our own locality in which the Lord has specifically placed us. When Brother Chu ministers to the college-aged, he cares specifically for the saints present, rather than for the outline he has prepared. He takes careful measures to ensure that his teachings are applicable, that we may experience them in life. He has little care for outward form or appearance, but seeks to cultivate the Lord's work within each person. Brother Chu's College Trainings have resulted in an increase of time, energy and prayer invested in the church here in Toronto.

An integral aspect of Brother Chu's ministry is his care for individuals. Months after the 2003-2004 labour had ended, he contacted four of us college-aged brothers in Toronto who had participated in the 10-month labour. Over a meal, he reminded us of the Christ that we had received during our time together, and of the desperate need for us to use our training in the Word to be active in the church in Toronto. He cautioned us of the tragedy of being lukewarm churchgoers, and exhorted us to give ourselves freely to the Church and to pray desperately to know the Lord's will here in Toronto. A direct result of this interaction was the first young people's "Infuse" event in April 2005, during which many young people were brought to sincere worship of the Lord, and re-consecrated their lives to Him. The second Infuse event in June 2005 resulted in many salvations as well as the greatest number of English-speaking unbelievers attending a gospel meeting in Toronto that we have ever witnessed personally. The third Infuse event took place in June 2006 and the result was the salvation of an entire Caucasian family. At that event, over 50 gospel friends were present. These Infuse events have not only been opportunities for salvation and consecration, but opportunities for young people to serve the Lord. They have learned to offer their own talents and gifts in service to the Lord, for the gospel. Over the past four years, we have seen a consistent pattern of positive growth among our young people, and this we attribute to the Lord's mercy. Brother Chu and the coworkers raised up by him have shepherded, encouraged, and in turn raised us up to serve.

As much as Brother Chu's words have affected us through trainings and conferences, his very character also speaks for the Lord. His enduring attitude of servanthood contrasts starkly to any example we would find in society today. His very person is a reminder to us of what it is to be completely poured out for the Lord. At his age and with all he has accomplished for the Lord, none would argue should he choose to temper his ministry in his final years. However, as a servant he recognizes that his only use is in service to his Master, and this he chooses to continue with fervency despite exhaustion and even rejection. Brother Chu inspires us to count each day for our Master. We are strongly affected by his willingness to invest himself in all saints. Regardless of how young, nervous, or unconsecrated one may be, Brother Chu always deems one worthy of being perfected for the Lord. It may be Brother Chu's humility that is most humbling to us. His humble attitude towards himself, towards his mentors and towards those who despise him is a rarity. He does not make a practice of bringing to our attention his own trials and accomplishments for the purpose of building himself up. He speaks of Brother Lee with utmost respect. Moreover, Brother Chu never stirs us up against those who oppose him personally, but always encourages us to love our brothers. In ministering to us he does not impose on us his own practices. He allows us the freedom to pursue the Lord through whatever means are helpful to us. He does not always enjoy our practices, such as the style of our music, and he does not hesitate to question them, but when he sees the Spirit moving in the young people he allows us to continue, much as he may be criticized on our behalf. Above all else, Brother Chu instills in us his deep understanding that throughout all trials and tribulation, there is no higher purpose, no greater joy, than to be a servant of the Lord. Although Brother Chu will not be with us forever, we pray that this truth remains in our hearts throughout our lifetime of serving our Lord.

Locally, Brother Chu's ministry is reflected in those of his coworkers and our beloved fulltime serving ones, Brothers Ian Brinksman, Del Martin and Nigel Tomes. The care of these coworkers has resulted in a very positive and organic pattern of serving among the young people in Toronto. Having been cared for by Brother Chu, his coworkers have been able to raise up the local college-age, many of whom have committed to serve the high school and junior high age groups. A number of high schoolers have begun to serve the ones in junior high. Recently, even some of the junior high ones have expressed interest in serving at the grade 6 meetings. This is evidence of the young people's realization of their purpose in the Lord's work. Most of them do not attend the young people's meetings simply for personal enjoyment, but because they are interested in serving others. We see evidence of this in their commitment to and ownership of their church life. This has resulted in a radical shift in the way the young people view their gospel meetings. Rather than simply attending, they now prepare for, plan, and share the gospel to their own friends. At the young people's Saturday night meetings, we have consistently observed the attendance of new unbelievers every week, who are usually friends of our young people. We have seen junior high saints invite up to eight friends at a time to attend gospel meetings. Each one of these gospel meetings, since 2004, has resulted in new salvations!

From a young girl in grade six to a seasoned full-time coworker and all those in between, we have all received life-changing shepherding from our direct or indirect contact with Brother Chu. To quarantine this brother would not only be to remove a single man from the Lord's work in Toronto, but to remove the shepherd of at least 100 committed and pursuing young saints in this city.

We are not followers of Brother Chu, and we do not seek to defend him. We do not exalt our brother, but we treasure him as a gift to the Body and a spiritual father. Due to his faithful service we are prepared to be poured out for the church in Toronto, and we pray that his ministering to us would be allowed to continue.

We would like to express our appreciation of your consideration of our letter.

The topics discussed above were fellowshipped and prayed over by the following young people's serving ones in Toronto:

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