

## **Viewpoint of a Young Toronto Sister - February 22, 2007**

*This is written by a young sister among us. Grant her the grace by reading this as she intended without distortion.*

I cannot fight any more on legal or spiritual grounds. I am in over my head. I had begun to compose a comment responding to all of Lordsarmy's [*Editor: an extremely biased blogger whose one-sided rants has made him the laughing stock of the more serious, balanced seekers of the Lord*] responses to my comment, but I doubt this will be of any use at all. The only thing left to me, I think, is my own viewpoint.

Those brothers who have been the target of such ugly accusations are pillars of the church. They bear the brunt of the attacks. As a young person, I am continually grateful to them for their role in protecting us and nurturing our spiritual growth. Without their support and attention, I am not sure how many young people my age would still be around. After all, if they had not realized that the young people needed another source of nourishment, I would still be sitting in video trainings, poking fun at the spiritual jargon and receiving less than nothing - receiving, in fact, a deep-seated inability to enter into Witness Lee's writings. I was allowed to outgrow my contempt for all green-bound books, and I am now interested in pursuing the very truths I used to avoid with such ingenuity. How did I get here? How did I grow from someone spiritually small enough to be repulsed by the unattractive trappings of a video training, to someone with real interest in pursuing Witness Lee's writings? The answer is simple; I grew. I grew thanks to nothing from Anaheim, thanks to no help from the "blended brothers"; I grew because the elders saw something worthwhile in the Mountaintop and Ignite conferences, and allowed us young people to attend year after year. I grew because these conferences conveyed to me one earth-shattering truth: *God is interesting*. The elders paid the price of my growth in the controversy that followed.

And then the young people started a whole new controversy by forming a praise band which used drums and electrical guitars. I was saddened by the outrage voiced by people all over North America at the very thought of these practices. I was saddened, but not swayed. I couldn't be, you see, because through my involvement I discovered a whole new earth-shattering truth, and all the disapproval in the world could not tear me away from the realization that I could be useful to God. There was a way to reflect God out to people, and enable them to reflect him back to me. I knew what was being said [*the criticism*] and I almost wished we could stop, so that everyone would stop being mad at us, but we simply couldn't. How could we? Every time we led worship, we saw people being softened, people being excited, people being inspired to worship God in a way they hadn't thought was possible, and neither had we. How could we stop? People could write whatever they wanted, but they couldn't ruin our delight in helping people reach God. I grew, we all grew, and the elders paid the price for it in the controversy that followed.

It is the young people who have been the catalyst for this conflict, I think. I know things have been building up for many years, but to me it seems as if we are the "spark that set the whole thing on fire" - or the "straw that broke the camel's back," to present a choice of similes. Perhaps tension would have continued mounting for a

few more years if our various practices had not become unacceptable to LSM; if we had not revealed our predilection for "gimmicks".

Every step of the way, the Toronto elders protected the young people and our serving ones. They have shielded us from the bitter disapproval of LSM, and permitted us to continue growing. What has LSM done for most of the young people here? Nothing at all. What steps did you people ever take to nurture the growth of most of the young people? None. All you did was provide electronic condemnation - anonymous, at that. What interest has Anaheim ever shown in those who meet on Saturday nights [*Toronto's young people*], that it should feel the need to bring us into the "fold" now?

For this reason, I stand with my elders. They have paid the price for my growth and the growth of the young people, demonstrating in this their heart for the whole church, and thus have earned my trust. It is very possible that I am wrong. If so, this is the error I prefer to make. I would rather put my faith in the elders who have taken such care for us, and be proven wrong, than throw my lot in with a "pack of spiritually calcified snipers" and discover that they have no intention of changing their tune; that, just as everyone suspected, they have no heart for nurturing the church, only for molding it