

*(An English translation of the original letter in Chinese – emphasis added)*

Dear brother Paul – Peace to you in the Lord:

Thank the Lord for leading us to have many hours of mutual and open fellowship at the Asian Community Center [**note: equivalent English name of meeting place not verified**] in the afternoon of September 12<sup>th</sup>. You were able to fellowship openly with me about your concerns and worries of your heart. I also was able to fellowship in the Lord with you my apprehension, which I obtained from the Lord. This was indeed a sweet matter.

The two points of concerns and worries, which you mentioned in all sincerity in Christ, caused me to have much considerations and prayers in all aspects before the Lord. First of all, **you said there were some leading brothers in Southern California saying that you were doing another work; they even said that dear brother Andrew was also doing another work.** I was shocked and astonished with this matter. On one hand, why do we always have this incomprehensible rivalry in our midst? On the other hand, why are we so remiss in the teaching of the Bible? Because in the teaching of the New Testament, although there are many workers there is only one work; that is what brother Nee said the “work of the ministry”, and what brother Lee said as the “work of ministry”. There are many apostles; there are many prophets, and many evangelists, shepherds and teachers. They operate in different times and in different regions, but what they are doing is the one work, that is the work of ministry. This is what we are clearly taught in Ephesians 4:11. Brother Nee even emphasized that “when the Scriptures speak about the one work, it is not that all the apostles form themselves into one company and were placed under one central control, submitting to one central authority. But rather, Paul had those with him and Peter had his associates [**direct translation from the Chinese text**]”. (*Watchman Nee’s Collected Works*, The Normal Christian Church Life, Vol. 30, p. 128) They all did the same one work. They were in harmony, filling up one another’s lack, and completing one another in work.

We thank God. He also approved of Paul and Peter working simultaneously. When Paul wrote the books of First and Second Timothy (A.D. 65, 67) and the book of Titus (A.D. 65), it was also the time when Peter wrote the books of First and Second Peter (A.D. 64, 67). They spoke for the Lord at the same time. All their epistles are the divine revelation and also placed in the same one Bible. Moreover, what they were doing was the same one work. I worship God in Christ. In these 2000 years the Lord has raised up many servants as apostles, as prophets. They all are doing the same one work. All the more in Christ, I have such an unspeakable praise. The Lord had gained brothers Nee and Lee in this age. They became the spokespersons of the unique New Testament Ministry in this age. Together, along with Peter, Paul and all the spiritual servants gained by the Lord throughout history, they all did the work of the New Testament Ministry.

Dear brother, I fully understand how you are very much troubled within. This is because I came to know just recently, that the words which you have fellowshiped with me, you also have fellowshiped with another brother during the summer. I encourage you in love

– my beloved brother, be delivered from such disquiet. No matter what others will say about us, we are all the servants of the Lord; both we and our work are for the Lord. We desire only to be a servant who is joined, mingled, and incorporated with the Lord in the dispensing of the New Testament ministry. Many times in our experience, we may be misunderstood. But may all these cause us to live before the Lord even more.

I was also encouraged by what you said. You mentioned that you are not worried that I would leave the Lord's recovery. Because in spite of experiencing so many circumstances in these many years, I still remain in the Lord's recovery. For this word of encouragement, I sincerely thank the Lord and also thank you in Him. **You also indicated that you were concerned that it would result in the division between the English-speaking work and the Chinese-speaking work in the end.** I remembered at that time I told you that this was impossible. Now I would like to state the two reasons for my steadfastness. Firstly, brothers Nee and Lee taught us many times that the work is for the churches and the churches are not for the work. Secondly, although the co-workers may at times not understand one another and cannot fellowship with one another, they however cannot become the reason for the division of the church. Brothers Nee and Lee both taught us that every local church is responsible to the Head. The service of the co-workers not only help to build up every local church, but also help them to have much fellowship with the churches over the whole earth, testifying together the mystical organic Body of Christ. Brother Lee also wrote a hymn conveying this burden in hymn 824 in the hymnbook.

I myself, a small servant, constantly have this fear. I dread that I and some of those more manifested servants of the Lord in the local churches may make those local churches, which belong to the Lord, our resources and forget that we are for the local churches and belong to the local churches. May we who serve the Lord, would all have that kind of declaration as Paul's to the Corinthians: "Paul is yours. Apollos is yours. Cephas is yours. All are yours. But you are Christ's" (1 Cor. 3:22, 23). I hope that in the United States and in Taiwan, every local church is willing to receive the leading and help of the work. On the other hand, the consciences of the leading brothers everywhere all can testify and can also stand up to declare that brother Paul Wu is ours. Brother Benson Phillips is ours. Brother Andrew Yu is ours. Brother Titus Chu is also ours. All the servants who are manifested by the Lord are ours and we, hallelujah, are Christ's.

In all the local churches, I absolutely respect the value of the work. Without the work, how can the church be produced? Without the leading of the work, how can the church grow? Without the workers of the Lord, how can the local churches everywhere and the testimony as a whole multiply and increase? It is childish for a local church to declare independence! Similarly, it is fleshy for a local church to declare that they belong to a particular worker! May all the churches in Taiwan become the brightly shining golden lampstands under yours and the brothers' faithful service; allowing the Lord to be able to walk freely in the midst of all the golden lampstands. May we all not become the mediatorial class, but become the blessing to the local churches everywhere. When we meet the Lord, may we be like Paul, able to present every saint mature and full grown, and not merely producing a huge work. I believe this is the Lord's heart desire. Deep

within them, I believe this is also the hope of our beloved and respected brother Nee and brother Lee.

Finally, I will continue to remember you in the Lord, especially your health. For the sake of the Lord and the saints, I hope that you would treasure yourself. The last time I mentioned it on the telephone that, because of her health, sister Chu was temporarily resting in a saint's home in Taiwan. Thank the Lord! She has recovered very well and can return to the United States at the end of November. If her condition is stable, I still hope that she will dwell in the U.S. permanently. If she still must obtain the service of a sister in Taiwan, even as the doctor also suggested, I will fellowship with you again. I hope that you may be able to take care of her in the love of Christ. Also, please continue to pray for me in the Lord, so that I can peacefully and faithfully fulfill my ministry.

The brother who cares for you in Christ,

Titus

November 12, 2004

P.S. Because a brother recently told me these matters, which you had previously fellowshiped with me, I also sent a copy of this letter to him in order that together, we can obtain the encouragement and the help.