

A LETTER TO THE SPANISH-SPEAKING CHURCHES
IN THE LORD'S RECOVERY

August 1, 1997

Dear saints,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The undersigned, being elders or co-workers in the United States and Brazil, some of whom were in the recent elders' and co-workers conference in Anaheim, California, on April 8-10, 1997, unequivocally and in one accord state the following crucial matters. May this letter please the Holy Spirit, the pneumatic Head of the Body, as well as its recipients—the saints, elders and co-workers in all the Spanish-speaking churches in the Lord's recovery around the globe. Amen.

By the grace of God, the co-workers were able to open up to one to another in a sincere and loving atmosphere when they met to have fellowship. In order to provide a harmonious condition so that the churches in the Americas could go on as one man, all those who were in the meeting agreed that a public letter to the saints was necessary. We trust that the readers will receive these points in the spirit, with a sober mind and much prayer, since they have been written with no other purpose but that of keeping the oneness of the Spirit for the building up of universal Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem as the final goal of God's economy.

1. Concerning the matters pointed out in a recent letter dated March 23, 1997, which was sent to the responsible brothers of the Spanish-speaking churches of Central America, North America and South America, we agree that among the co-workers who serve in the Lord's recovery around the earth for the carrying out of the oneness universally and the one accord locally, there should not be any criticisms or competition, whether it be among the saints, the churches or the workers. No co-worker should criticize any other co-worker, and no church or group of churches should compete with any other church or group of churches.

We specifically regret the inclusion of affirmations in the letter mentioned above, which wrongly accused some of the U.S. co-workers of spreading a negative attitude among the Spanish-speaking saints toward the churches in South America. We want to retract our names from these affirmations and apologize for any confusion or damage that these have caused.

We want to declare again to the saints in the Lord's recovery that we want to live in the mingled spirit and crucify the flesh. We do not want to do anything that could stumble any saints or churches around the whole globe. We agree that with regard to any question we may have in the future we should first seek fellowship and resolve the matter with those involved according to the biblical principle established in Mathew 18 and Acts 15.

2. In the light of the present burden in the ministry and the up-to-date practice in the Lord's recovery, we feel that there is an urgent need to increase the blending among the co-workers around the globe. This means that we will take the initiative to submit to one another in order to be harmonized, blended, adjusted, intermingled and tempered to eliminate the flesh with its divisive elements and to be brought into the reality of the Body

of Christ. We agree to not separate or isolate ourselves from one another but to have fellowship frequently as much as possible in order to benefit the Lord's work.

We regret our failure of both the U.S. and Brazil co-workers in not seeking the fellowship aggressively as well as the opportunity to blend, which indirectly has given unnecessary ground for misunderstanding and mistrust. In addition, we also regret any lack of consideration in managing the relationship between the co-workers and the work among the churches. That carelessness shows a deficiency in the all-inclusive care that should be given to all the churches in the Body of Christ.

3. We agree that there is only one work in the Lord's recovery. Therefore, we, the co-workers from different countries, will not separate ourselves from one another by emphasizing work regions. All the services of the saints related to the work in the Lord's recovery, in particular that of the co-workers, should be according to the unique apostle's teaching in the unique ministry of the New Testament for the propagation of the one testimony for the building up of the one Body of Christ to consummate the unique New Jerusalem. We reject the exaltation of any particular work in any place, to promote our own work, to draw people to our country, to measure others according to our standard, to separate ourselves and others from the Body, to convince others that our way is better, or to do or say anything that will damage the Lord's recovery. However, we should be open that when the Lord blesses His Body in certain place the same blessing should reach the whole Body. We vow to fight to keep the oneness of the Spirit and the good order in the Body and to always conduct ourselves and labor in a manner worthy of Lord's calling in order to carry out the unique testimony of the Body of Christ.

In particular, even though we recognize that there is the geographical aspect of the work in the Lord's recovery, we realize that there is only one work in the Lord's recovery and only one group of workers who remains constantly in coordination with one another and move by serving together in a blended way for the building up of the Body of Christ. In this way, the regional distinctions and local flavors that often are the beginning of separation in the Body would be diluted and even disappear. Even though this way is problematic and inconvenient for the natural man, it will keep the recovery against any private work in the common work of the recovery. We make a vow to not repeat the pattern of degraded Christianity, even our own tragic history of turmoil and rebellion in the recovery. We agree to persevere together to eliminate any tendency to do different works among us in order to keep the testimony of the Body of Christ.

Although the churches may be separated geographically; we agree that such regions should not divide the churches. In fact, there should not be any emphasis on "regions". Rather, our emphasis should be on the Body of Christ. In Paul's time the churches in the Gentile world had a lovely and sweet fellowship with one another. This shows how the co-workers should do the same unique work universally for the unique Body and how the churches should care for one another in a fellowship of mutual interest. All the local churches should be free and even encouraged to seek fellowship with those from other areas, countries or even continents. Such a divine traffic kills the germs of division and makes the recovery healthy and prevailing. What a glory to the Lord and a shame to Satan that all the churches not only are in the same spirit but also in the same steps, speaking and practicing the same thing!

4. We agree that there should be only one publishing work in the Lord's recovery and in the whole earth, that is, the one that publishes and distributes the writings of Brothers Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. We believe that these brothers are special gifts given by the ascended Head to the Body in this age to open up the intrinsic significance of the divine revelation, to complete the interpretation of the Scriptures, to minister the unsearchable riches of Christ to God's chosen, to take the lead in the recovery through their speaking, and to perfect the saints through their ministry to build up the overcoming part of the Body of Christ for the preparation of the Bride. In order to avoid concerns and unnecessary questions among the churches, we agree that today no other publications should appear to compete with, or even worse, replace the books of these two servants of the Lord.

However, we recognize that conditions and needs vary in different places, and that in a particular district there is sometimes the need for different kinds of literature (beside those published by Living Stream Ministry or its branches) to minister life and truth to the saints and to support the gospel, young people and children works, etc. Nevertheless, we agree not to promote any of these additional materials outside the geographical areas for which they were printed. Furthermore, we agree not to sell them to the saints in other places unless they specifically request them.

Finally, it is our sincere desire that the content of this letter may be made known to as many as possible. We pray that no one would misunderstand or wrongly apply these points as we are not ignorant of the enemy's schemes, the goal of which are to destroy the Body of Christ. May all the co-workers together with those who take the lead and the saints in all the churches could be joined in one spirit and striving with one soul to do the same work, the work of the Triune God, which is to make us His chosen, regenerated, renewed, sanctified, transformed, conformed, and glorified people of the New Jerusalem. This is the highest peak of the living and working of the apostles as revealed in the New Testament—to live and work out the New Jerusalem. May this also be our only living and work.

To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever. The grace of our Lord be with your spirit. Amen.

Your brothers and servants,

Co-workers from the United States

Francis Ball	Sterling Byassee	Joe Davis
Minoru Chen	Colley Joseph	Gary Kaiser
Benjamin Chen		

Ron Kangas

Ed Marks

Suey Liu

Benson Phillips

Dan Towle

Andrew Yu

Co-workers from Brazil

Dong Yu Lan

Peter Dong

Andrew Dong

Ezra Ma

Ma Tien Min

Fernando Monte Serrat

Laerte Salvador

Co-workers from Taiwan

Livingstone Lee

Lin Horng

Samuel Liu

Paul Wu