

The church in Ambato (Ecuador) , December 2004
To all the coworkers and the churches in the Lord's recovery
Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

On October 1st we sent a letter to all the churches in the Lord's recovery in which we stated our position concerning the accusations of rebellion and division put forth against the church in Ambato; to this day, such accusations have not been substantiated according to the teaching of the apostles and the divine revelation, even though brothers Salomon Ma, Dong Yu Lan and Elsio Almeida have come personally to our locality.

As brothers who take the lead, we affirm that we are standing on the unique ground of oneness of the church and know that the ground of our oneness is not a particular practice nor any worker, but the locality; therefore, before the Lord we make the following declarations:

1. The church was not invited to participate in the conference in Santo Domingo, making manifest that such attitude [of excluding us] was indeed divisive; we were even excluded from the list of the churches in Ecuador. We were surprised that Jorge Navas personally visited some brothers in our locality, which we found out later by word of these same brothers, because if a worker visits a locality he should first have fellowship with the responsible brothers before carrying out any labor there. Why were the invitations [to the conference] made to those brothers secretly?
2. We do not agree with the words said in the conference in Santo Domingo, where it was stated that brother Dong bought the meeting hall of the church and that the responsible brothers now want to possess it, claiming that the brothers are rebellious and ambitious; so we declare:
 - a. That brother Dong gave as an offering one half of the land.
 - b. The other half of the land was given as an offering by a brother in the locality.
 - c. The hall was built through the offerings of the brothers in the locality.
3. We were greatly surprised to find out that brother Dong visited the city of Ambato to give a conference in a Christian group called "Bread of Life". Why did he not seek fellowship with the church? This meeting was attended by approximately 10 brothers that meet in the locality, as well as by some brothers that belong to that Christian group and brothers from other localities that accompanied brother Dong. After the conference, brother Dong had fellowship with the brothers that attended from the locality and with those that accompanied him, and said that he had begotten the church in this locality and that now a miniscule group of brothers, called responsible brothers, had rejected him; therefore, there was no longer authority in the church, he did not recognize anymore the responsible brothers and he stated that now the church in this locality had become a local sect. Thus, these 10 brothers are now the local church and they can begin breaking bread from that week onward in the house of sister Mariana Navas (mother of Jorge Navas), who lives in front of the meeting hall.
4. We absolutely repudiate such words and intentions, because they are contrary to the teaching of the apostles, negatively affecting and damaging the fellowship of the Body of Christ and the Lord's testimony in this city. We believe that the work is for uniting and serving the churches. In one city there can only be one church established on the unique ground of the locality. The apostles are servants of all and masters of none; all the labor that the workers carry out must be for the church and in fellowship with the church, and must not be done in an isolated way nor to raise up another meeting, thereby causing division.
5. We must also note the factious work that brother Jorge Navas and brother Ernesto Oñate, coworkers of brother Dong, are doing not only in this locality [but also in others] by visiting the brothers house to house and rejecting the delegated authority of the church; we do not agree with this.
6. Even though brother Salomón Ma visited us, he did not substantiate the accusations of division and rebellion made previously against our locality; rather he openly announced to the localities that they should not receive us, prohibiting any type of fellowship, thus causing real division.

7. With the presence of brother Dong in this city, and by the fact that he did not seek fellowship with the church in this locality, we did not receive any clarification of this matter.
8. Finally, neither did the visit of brother Elsio Almeida bring any clarification; on the contrary, his visit brought more affliction and suffering to the church given his intention to take out of the service two leading brothers, Fernando Mendieta and Guillermo Padilla, who were established publicly by brother Salomon Ma in a service meeting in Santo Domingo, and he gave the reason that brother Salomon had made a mistake in appointing them.
9. All these facts bring out a great question: When brothers Rodrigo López and Waldemar Quintero were expelled from the service for expressing the desire to blend with the brothers from North America, brothers Fernando Mendieta and Guillermo Padilla were established as responsible brothers in the locality; then, why is there now the intention to expel these two brothers and a proposal made to make brother Rodrigo Lopez a coworker of brother Dong?
10. We do not agree with the personal visit made by brother Elsio to the house of brother Rodrigo López at 6:00 a.m., since a meeting had already been coordinated to take place at 7:00 a.m. that same day. In this visit Elsio proposed to Rodrigo that there should be a new beginning, and for this it was necessary to expel from the service these two aforementioned brothers, and that Elsio would request the immediate presence of Salomon to carry this out; Elsio also proposed making Rodrigo a coworker of brother Dong and that he would visit Brazil for some time. All of this was openly manifested by brother Rodrigo in the fellowship we had that day, in which were present, in addition to the responsible brothers of the locality, brothers Elsio Almeida, Jorge Navas, Edison López and Jimmy Collantes.
11. Since there was no clarification concerning the letter written by the church with the visit of brothers Elsio and Salomón, we hope that, if the Lord allows a personal meeting with brother Dong, we can clarify in a definitive way the decision we manifested in the October 1st letter and that the accusations against us can also be substantiated.
12. For this reason we appeal to the coworkers that take the lead in the Lord's recovery, that you would consider our need, because the church in our locality is part of the universal Body of Christ, so that the desire of brother Lee would be carried out, which we believe is also the Lord's desire, that there would not only be local churches, but the blending of these local churches in order to have the reality of the Body of Christ. We believe that the Body of Christ, to which we belong, is not national, regional nor continental, but universal. We long to have this reality.
13. By the Lord's mercy, we have seen the ministry of the age and we only want to be connected to it by receiving the present speaking of the Lord. As brothers that take the lead in this locality, and who will give an account to the Lord for the flock that He has entrusted to us, we want to give continuation to the ministry of the age until the Lord's heart desire is satisfied. Our desire is that there would be traffic and fellowship among the churches and the saints, hoping that our decision as a church would be respected. Remembering the principle established in the Lord's Word, we affirm these points of truth and wish that they be respected, which is what we are fighting for, unto the benefit of His recovery in our locality.

In Christ

Responsible brothers
Guillermo Padilla
Rodrigo López
Fernando Mendieta
Rodrigo Escudero
Luis Chango
Enrique Valencia