

Guaratinguetá, 5 de março de 2008.

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Esteemed Brother Dong

First I would like to introduce myself to you; my name is Raphael and I live in Guaratingueta, São Paulo. I have been in the recovery for 15 years.

Recently I heard that you were in Anaheim last month at the International Chinese Speaking Conference. This was very positive news to me. For years I have tried to enjoy the same fellowship of the Body through listening to the messages of the seven annual feasts and reading the LSM publications that come from those conferences and through being constituted with the heritage left by brothers Nee and Lee in form of books and taped messages. Within my measure I have tried to bring the brothers with whom I meet to also know and enjoy those same words.

In reality, this is the reason for my letter to you: I have been somewhat persecuted by some brothers that serve in the work in this region because of the fact that I am living by and propagating this ministry. It has gotten to the point that twice those brothers have come to Odair, with whom I have served for the last seven years in Guaratingueta, and required him to prohibit me from continuing to serve in the church (both times were reported to me by Odair himself). On the first occasion, in the first half of 2007, brothers Mauro Lopes from Caçapava, SP and Nelson Mattos from Campinas, SP, approached him and made this requirement which brother Odair did not accept or fulfill. The second time, at the end of 2007, brother Jorge Carvalho, from Volta Redonda, RJ, also approached him and required him to prohibit me from serving here, even saying that if I do not agree with this imposition, he himself, Jorge, will come personally and take me away (?) from the church. Although he could not support the imposition made by the work through these brothers, brother Odair came to me and told me that I could not share messages in the ministry meeting any longer (which I have been doing fortnightly for the last years) unless I would completely stop sharing from the messages spoken at the seven annual feasts.

I confess that the behavior of those brothers serving in work in this region scared me. Last week, there was a circumstance that astonished me -- for a few months the churches in Lorena, Cruzeiro, Silveiras and Queluz, all neighboring churches in Vale do Paraíba, have met every month for blending meetings. Just to clarify, those four churches are genuine churches in the Lord's recovery and were even raised up through the CEAPE and the work. In January of this year, I was invited by the saints in these cities to participate in those blending meetings. In scheduling the next meetings, it was suggested that for the month of March this meeting should be held in Guaratingueta.

When I communicated this to Odair, I was surprised that he told me that he needed to confirm this with the brothers from the work and to see if, "the brothers who come to these meetings were the same brothers that the work is contacting in those cities". This statement caught my attention -- if the work has contacts in those localities, shouldn't they be by or through the church that is already established in those cities? If the work is seeking to have new contacts in those cities, where will

they be introduced? Will it be in another group besides the churches that already exists in those localities? Part of this question was answered by an email that I received from brother Odair two days after I had approached him to speak about the meeting mentioned above, which I include below:

De: "Financeiro da Megabyte" financeiro@megabyte.com.br
Para: "Raphael Castro" castro.rt@uol.com.br
Data: Tue, 26 Feb 2008 19:41:18 -0300
Assunto: REUNIÃO
Subject: Meeting

Raphael, Jesus is our Lord. I talked with the brothers from the work about the meeting on March 9 and they do not know anything about it as you and the brothers from Lorena do not share in the ministry that the Lord has given to Brother Dong and his co-workers, do not enjoy the Daily Food, and do not participate in the conferences at the Estancia or the regional conferences about the spreading. What I mean is that IN PRACTICE WE ARE NOT ONE, we are not speaking the same language, so we cannot participate in this meeting as it will create confusion in the church because this fellowship is not directed by the ministry that we are enjoying. So it would be more proper if you do this meeting where all share what you are enjoying and living. This is our position. If you want to talk about it, I am available.

God bless you greatly

Odair.

When I read this email I came to the conclusion, that, because the brothers in the work stated that they are not aware of these blending meetings that have been going on for a few months, that the persons that the work has contacted are not the saints that meet with the churches in those cities. With this in view, I continue to ask myself what is the reason that the work makes contacts in a city and does not introduce them to the church that already exists there.

The email above makes it clear that, although the four churches receive a ministry which is received by many churches on the earth, because they do not closely follow your ministry the church in Guaratingueta cannot fellowship with them.

This stand makes the alignment with a ministry a factor of oneness for the churches in the Body and we know that this is wrong according to the Bible. Besides this, Brother Dong, your own participa-

tion in the last conference in Anaheim testifies that the ministry that those four churches are seeking to follow is positive. Why then should the work in this region oppose the blending of the churches that receive ministry 'X' with others aligned to the ministry 'Y'? I understand that both should be the same ministry, and believe that you will confirm my understanding.

For this reason, Brother Dong, I would like to ask you to help me in this matter, to tell the brothers who serve in the work in this region to stop any opposition to the churches or saints that want to enjoy the ministry with which you have declared yourself to be one,, or, on the contrary, if I understand you position wrongly concerning the ministry, please clarify to me exactly what your position is.

May the Lord advance in His recovery on all continents

In the fellowship of the Body

Raphael de Souza Castro
The Church in Guaratingueta