

10/29/2007

Dear brothers,

This is a report of events that transpired in Argentina in 2002 under the work of Brother Dong Yu Lan. I was personally involved in one of the incidents detailed below. I have become very familiar with the other events recounted here due to my relationship with Brother Eduardo Kalaidjian and my association with the churches in South America.

In 2002 the son-in-law of Brother Eduardo Kalaidjian (Brother Eduardo at that time was the national coworker in Argentina for Brother Dong) passed away in a tragic accident. Two young people from the church in Mendoza also died in the same accident. They were returning from a young people's conference in Buenos Aires. The brothers sent me to console Brother Eduardo and to stand with the church there. This was the reason for my trip to Argentina. When I called Eduardo, he asked me to come a week later, and by that time he had arranged some visits to other churches. While visiting some of the churches during the week of the trip, we discovered that an e-mail was sent to all the churches in Argentina, from a brother named Mario, a doctor, charging the churches not to receive me. I remember that it read: Do not receive Brother Walter Ortiz because he has another orientation and may cause confusion. Of course, Eduardo realized that this was not right, and he planned to let Brother Dong know about this matter so that he could correct it. He was expecting Brother Dong to correct the situation at the International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (ITERO) that was going to be held in Brazil that fall. When he got there, he was surprised that Brother Dong did not allow him to enter into the South American co-workers' meetings, alleging that Brother Eduardo was not one soul with him.

It is interesting to note that not only did Eduardo get cut off—after 23 years serving in Argentina as the national leading brother—but all the churches related to him were also cut off from the fellowship of Brother Dong. Those churches included Cordoba, Mendoza, and some in the North. Furthermore, when they heard this, other churches such as Matanza were so offended that they decided to terminate any relation with all the ministries—not only Arvore da Vida but also LSM. The church in Matanza even returned the hall that they were using and paying for, which was in the name of Brother Dong and/or his organization.

As this brief testimony illustrates, the work of Brother Dong and his co-workers has proven to be damaging both to dear saints personally and to entire churches. May the Lord have mercy on the ones who have endured this treatment so that they would not be stumbled and deterred from pressing on in their pursuit of Christ.

Your brother,
Walter Ortiz