

October 26, 2007

Dear brothers,

I would like to present you with a brief personal testimony of the facts preceding the present situation of Brother Dong Yu Lan's work in Brazil.

In June/July of 1976, Brother Dong Yu Lan guided a group of 20 brothers and sisters from Brazil to the United States, in order to introduce the Lord's recovery and the unique ministry to us. I was in that group. In that trip, we visited 10 local churches, culminating with the Revelation Training, in Anaheim. Brother Dong introduced us to this wonderful ministry of the age, that conquered our admiration and respect, because of the deep biblical knowledge and the living testimony of a rich church life.

From that time on, we in Brazil started to be spiritually nourished by means of the conferences, trainings and publications of the ministry. All the supply enjoyed by the churches in Brazil that, at that time, were a little more than twenty churches, came from the ministry of the age. We used to eat the Life-studies and there was always a good number of saints from Brazil coming to the semi-annual trainings in USA, seeking after spiritual nourishment.

Right away we started to translate and publish in Portuguese the Life-studies, booklets, and books of the ministry. It was for this purpose that the publishing room in Brazil, Editora Árvore da Vida (formerly Fonte da Vida), was created. Those books by W. Nee and W. Lee are the main factor of the propagation of the churches in Brazil and other countries in South America.

By that time, it was Brothers Chang Wu Chen, and Samuel Cheng (Cheng Pao Shu) who released conferences in Brazil. In 1977, because of an urgent need, Brother Dong was forced to give some messages in a conference in the city of Belo Horizonte, together with Brother Samuel Ma (Ma Shou Tao). From that time on Brother Dong started to give conferences throughout Brazil as well as in other South-American countries.

In the beginning Brother Dong humbly sought diligently the words of Brother Lee, attending the trainings, listening to the tapes of the trainings, and conferences, and seeking to convey those words in the different conferences he gave in South-America. In his testimonies, he used to say that he didn't go to Brazil to do a work, because was not a Christian worker, but just a business man. During that initial period, Brother Dong used to encourage the saints in Brazil to go to the semi-annual trainings in USA, for them to receive the word of the ministry and to be blended with the saints from other countries. As the years went by, specially from 1986, Brother Dong little by little, began to deviate from the ministry. Brother Dong began to say that the South-Americans have no capacity to understand the high teachings of Brother Lee, and that he had to digest and transmit those teaching in a lower level for the saints to understand. This is how Brother Dong explained his practice to "filter" the words of the ministry, depriving the saints from the healthy food that produces the building up of the Body of Christ. From that time on, Brother Dong stopped encouraging the saints from Brazil and from other countries in South America to go to the trainings and conferences in the USA, sending only a few co-workers each time. From that same time also, he began to select which publications should be translated into Portuguese, choosing only those books that would support what he was doing and speaking. He also began to publish his own books (today there are more books in Portuguese by Dong Yu Lan than those books by Brothers Nee and Lee, published by Editora Árvore da Vida). And, from about ten years ago, he stopped

encouraging the churches to have the video-training, under the allegation that teachings different from his could cause confusion to the saints. Thus, the isolation of the churches in South America from the fellowship and the teaching of the apostles, and from the fellowship with the other local churches on the earth increased even more.

Although in the beginning Brother Dong used to say that he was not a worker, that he didn't know how to speak and how to work, and that he went to Brazil as a businessman, today he preaches that he was sent by Brother Lee to do the work in South America. This claim is used to strengthen his authority as the "apostle" in South America. I have seen a considerable change in his person, in his acts, and in his discourse over the years.

When Brother Lee started to speak about the "high peak", Brother Dong began to criticize the teaching that "God became a man for man to become God" a number of times in our service meetings. He has never taught this to the saints in South America. Recently he has begun to speak about this matter, but only in the context of criticizing the blended co-workers' teaching, not to bring the saints into the God-man living. I have never heard from his mouth the expression "God-men", and I have never seen him using the Recovery Version. The only time I saw him holding a Recovery Version was during the ITERO in Brazil (2002). I never heard him read or quote any footnote in his messages or to encourage the saints to read or study the Recovery Version of the Gospels in Portuguese. He did encourage them to buy the Gospels when they first came out in 1999, but there was never even a second printing.

As for the Recovery Version of the New Testament, from 1999 when the Gospels were published to 2006 the only additional book translated and ready to be published in Portuguese was the Recovery Version of Acts. After the publication of the Recovery Version of the New Testament in Chinese and English, Portuguese was the first language to begin this translation project. After 18 years *Árvore da Vida* had only published the four Gospels in Portuguese, while during this same time the entire Recovery Version of the New Testament was published and distributed in ten other languages. During these years the saints in Brazil have been constantly asking for it. When the Living Stream decided to take back the management of the translation and publication of the Portuguese Recovery Version, I was invited to be part of the team of translators. However, one of Brother Dong's co-workers tried to convince me not to accept Living Stream's invitation. When I said that I would come, my coming was obstructed by their not providing the documents needed to get a US Visa in my passport. Just a few months ago Brother Dong told Brother Juracy Reis, a brother from the church in Uberlândia, that he does not want the Portuguese Recovery Version distributed in Brazil.

Brother Dong publishes his "Daily Food" (a clone of the Holy Word for Morning Revival, but with his own teachings). He does not allow and forbids the Holy Word for Morning Revival to be used in the churches in South America. The Daily Food is published in Portuguese, Spanish, and English, and it is distributed in all the countries of South America and in different countries of Africa and Europe.

He who presented and recommended to us the ministry of the age has now deviated from that ministry. He now forbids and prevents thousands of saints from hundreds of churches from being supplied with the apostles teaching to be built up into the unique universal Body of Christ to bring the Lord back.

I should also clarify three matters concerning which I have personal knowledge. First, after a Lord's table meeting in 1988 Brother Dong appointed 5 elders in the church

in São Paulo. Their names are: Pedro Dong, André Dong, Fernando Monte-Serrat, David Franco, and Renato Birolli. That act was witnessed by more than 400 brothers and sisters. In the middle of the 1990's, Brother Renato stopped coming to the meetings and eventually he moved to another city. He was replaced in this service by Brother Laerte Salvador. Following this, Pedro Dong and Andre Dong could not get the other three elders to agree with a number of things they were doing, things which the three elders considered unrighteous. Then, Pedro and Andre Dong called a service meeting without telling those three elders. In that private meeting, Pedro and Andre Dong announced to the serving brothers of the 17 districts of the church in São Paulo that those three were no longer responsible for the administration of the church. They also declared that they should no longer be allowed to minister the word in any of the meeting halls. Their speaking was so strong that the saints of the church in São Paulo stopped even greeting those three brothers and their wives. When the three brothers attempted to initiate fellowship with Pedro and Andre Dong, Pedro and Andre responded that they would only have fellowship with them if they first absolutely submitted themselves, without any restriction, to Brother Dong and to his ministry. This made it clear to us that the basis of their fellowship and their oneness is not Christ. They manifested their meeting as a "ministry church." They persecuted those who would not pledge to loyally and absolutely follow Brother Dong and his ministry.

Second, although Brother Dong is not an elder in the church in São Paulo, he is the President of the church according to the legal documentation accredited by the Government. His son, Pedro Dong, is the Vice-President. They have power to do whatever they want in the church and with the church's assets without the agreement of the other members of the Board or the saints.

Third, for many years Brother Dong has spoken publicly about a meeting that occurred in Brother Witness Lee's house in 1991 with Brother Lee, Brother Lee Tao Ching, from Paraguay, and himself. Brother Dong has often shared publicly that in that fellowship Brother Lee vindicated Brother Dong and his ministry in South America. Although I was in that meeting, receiving translation by Brother Dong's co-workers, the meeting was recorded and a transcript of the meeting is the best testimony to what Witness Lee actually said to Brother Dong at that time. There is one matter, however, which the transcript cannot reveal. Brother Lee had received a letter from brothers in Argentina that accused Brother Lee Tao Ching and exalted Brother Dong and his ministry in South America very much. Brother Lee repeatedly asked Brother Dong whether he had asked for or known beforehand about the letter. Brother Dong repeatedly told Brother Lee that he had known nothing of the letter. The fact is that Miguel Ma and I had gone to Argentina with Brother Dong and while we were with him there he instructed the brothers in Argentina to write this letter to Brother Lee. He told them what the letter should say and he said that, after they drafted the letter, they should bring it to Miguel Ma and myself for checking before they sent it to Brother Lee.

Anaheim, California, October 25, 2007

*Fernando Braga Monte-Serrat*