

October 19, 2006

Dear Brothers Solomon and Joao,

I was very grateful that you two brothers came to London to fellowship with us this past Tuesday evening. As I mentioned to you previously by email and in our meeting, I was disappointed and saddened that you had traveled extensively in Europe and established churches in Rome, Milan, Lisbon, and other places without having any fellowship with us at all. I was also saddened that you had waited for such a long time to begin fellowship with us.

As you put it, you had decided to postpone fellowship to a later date due to activities carried out by some brothers in South America. I then asked you if you had ever had any difficulty fellowshiping with me, and you admitted that you had not. This being the case, it was difficult to understand why you would then decide not to fellowship with us based on your perception of others' actions in another continent.

You confirmed your feeling that a Colombian brother whom I know very well and baptized into Christ was divisive and was then joined in his activities by senior co-workers in the Lord's recovery. Given the circumstances to which you referred, one could assume that you consider these senior co-workers to be divisive as well.

You also mentioned that two Brazilian brothers now living in London were also causing division in South America. Jim Batten testified to you that his impression of these two brothers, whom he meets with on a regular basis, is that they are both very positive brothers. I testified the same, although I do not know them as well as Jim does.

When I asked you about your accusing these three brothers of being divisive, your response was that you were not simply accusing them, but that you were stating a fact. You seemed surprised that we would not readily accept your evaluation of them as being divisive at face value even though we know these brothers personally and have the exact opposite impression of them.

You also stated that when Brothers Benson, Ed, and Albert visited with you and Brother Dong in Brazil a few months ago, Brother Benson was aware of your activities in Europe, and that he felt your activities were definitely according to the leading of the Spirit. I asked you if you informed him of your establishing these churches, and you said that you did.

Brothers, I may not have described your speaking word for word, and we had no desire to record our fellowship, but I believe this summation is pretty accurate. You and the other brothers who were present, Jim Batten, Tim Klimmek, Samuel Alexander, and Po-Yi Liu, can respond if I have misunderstood any of your speaking.

I told you that I believe Brother Dong's writings represent another publication work. You disagreed and asked me for evidence of Brother Lee's concerns relating to other publications encompassing Brother Dong's. I mentioned to you that at least one reference is in the Elders' Training which is available in Portuguese. This quote is from *Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life-pulse of the Lord's Present Move*, pp. 123-127.

“Some brothers who are with us do not use these truths when they teach and preach. They teach and preach what they feel is good, yet they do not realize how poor their messages are. Some brothers among us continually put out some publications. I was honest to tell them that there was no light and nothing new in what they put out. The points in our publications are full of life and light, but these brothers would not present them as they are. I could not understand why they have to change the messages we publish to present something in their own style and in their own way. There are no

new points of life or light in what they publish. Any life or light in their material is altogether adopted from this ministry. I have been observing this situation among us for years. I would like to see whether some younger brothers among us would be raised up by the Lord to speak something. If I could see this, I would praise the Lord. On the other hand, I have seen some who like to build up something around themselves.

The Lord has commissioned us with His recovery, and He has surely opened up the New Testament to reveal many dear and precious truths to us. What the Lord needs is for thousands of His dear saints who love Him, who live to Him, and who know nothing but His recovery to take one way. Regardless of whether the saints are from Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, England, Thailand, Indonesia, or the United States, we all bear the same burden, take the same way, and spread the same truths. We dispense the truths embodied in the “gold bar,” the Recovery Version. We have no other merchandise! If we would be like this, the entire earth will be taken!

It breaks my heart to see some practicing to have another ministry, using the material of the ministry.”

You said that this speaking by Brother Lee was prior to Brother Dong’s putting out his own publications. Even if this is so, brothers, I am unaware of any Living Stream Ministry publication subsequent to the Elders’ Training which mentions Brother Dong as being exempt from Brother Lee’s assessment here. I refer to the last few lines above:

“We dispense the truths embodied in the “gold bar,” the Recovery Version. We have no other merchandise! If we would be like this, the entire earth will be taken!

It breaks my heart to see some practicing to have another ministry, using the material of the ministry.”

In light of this primary burden of Brother Lee, it makes me want to ask how many books written by Brother Dong were published during the years the Portuguese Recovery Version remained uncompleted. It is also very clear, at least to me, that Brother Lee’s feeling that **“We have no other merchandise!”** should include publications coming from South America since Brazil was the first country he mentioned.

Regarding the establishing of churches in Europe by you, I refer you to a quote from *The Practice of the Church Life according to the God-ordained Way*, pp. 19-48:

“If the church in Anaheim declared that it was a local church, standing independent from and not caring for the other churches, the church in Anaheim would immediately become a local sect. A local church must be one with all the other churches in the Body.”

We were most surprised to learn of churches in Europe established by you, and only last Tuesday did I become aware of some of them. In correspondence from Alex Kemmer in August of last year, in response to one of my emails to him, Alex indicated that the saints living around Stuttgart had been having the table since April of 2003. My present understanding is that they have established an organization known as “the church of the Stuttgarians.”

In one of several emails to Alex, I had asked him for more fellowship before doing so many things, but he said they were doing things according to their experience in Brazil. I expressed my concern of the need to exercise caution due to the histories involving Stuttgart. I also mentioned the caution exercised by the Regensdorf brothers related to Zurich. Alex acknowledged my concern, but he said they would proceed as planned. I had no interest in controlling anything there. I simply felt there was a need for more fellowship. When there is little fellowship, confusion creeps in.

Brothers, surely you can understand my concern about the new churches, the publications, and the lack of fellowship in light of these few quotes from Brother Lee.

I hope the future will exhibit thorough fellowship from you with those of us who are laboring here under Brother Lee's direct and personal instruction; I hope that every attempt will be made by you to blend with all the other co-workers as personally requested by Brother Lee. Surely, at least one brother from Brazil could be present at each of the seven feasts. If cost is a factor, I would be more than happy to help with that. If your labor could be done according to the requests quoted from Brother Lee's writings in this email, then I believe we could go on in a sweet coordination. This would surely comfort many of the saints who have been confused and saddened by your recent activities.

Finally, brothers, we mentioned that the co-workers from throughout the earth want to coordinate in a blended way for the Lord's move in Europe much as was done when the Lord's recovery spread to Russia. We will keep you updated on developments to this end and hope you would labor with us according to the leading of the blending co-workers in the Lord's recovery.

Grace to you both,

Joe