Guayaquil, Ecuador October 29, 2007

## Dear brothers,

The church in Guayaquil, Ecuador, has experienced an abuse of authority and subsequent division under the leadership of the co-workers of Brother Dong Yu Lan. We are burdened to recount the main points of this history below with the hope that the Lord would use our testimony to purify and strengthen His recovery.

- 1. Jorge Navas, the brother assigned by Brother Dong to be in charge of the work in Ecuador, visited the church in Guayaquil on Lord's Day, January 30, 2005. In a meeting previously agreed upon between the responsible brothers from the church in Guayaquil and the coworkers of the work in Ecuador, Navas asked us, the three brothers who take the lead in the church in Guayaquil, about our position regarding the ministry of Brother Dong and his orientation. We responded that there is only one unique ministry, the New Testament ministry, which has been faithfully opened up to us in the writings of Brothers Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. Navas proceeded to tell us that he respected our decision and that we could look for another place to meet. He told us that we were no longer responsible brothers and that the brothers named in Santo Domingo in February 2004 were now the responsible brothers of the church in Guayaquil. When Jorge Navas finished his speaking, we made a proposal to have more fellowship with the other four responsible brothers, but one of them (José Gómez) said, "There is nothing more to speak, so we are going to declare our decision to the church." In this way the four coworkers and the new responsible brothers finished the fellowship.
- 2. They declared the following after the bread-breaking meeting:
  - Valdemar Quintero, Rodrigo López, and Fernando Mendieta (responsible brothers in other localities in Ecuador) had rebelled and had caused division.
  - We were no longer the responsible brothers in Guayaquil because we did not receive Brother Dong's ministry or his orientation.
  - The saints were free to decide who they would follow.
  - The new responsible brothers were announced.
  - Manuel Burbano, one of Brother Dong's co-workers, said that no brothers should have fellowship with us. (See letter dated "Guayaquil, February 2, 2005.")
- 3. The brothers following Brother Dong traveled to the homes of the saints to tell them not to have fellowship with us. (See letter dated "Guayaquil, February 2, 2005.")
- 4. The speaking caused much confusion and division among the saints. The positive saints continued to meet together, while the ones following Brother Dong began a separate meeting. (See letter dated "Guayaquil, February 2, 2005.")
- 5. Jorge Navas and other brothers following Brother Dong wrote a letter stating that we who expressed our desire to follow the ministry of the age were to be "temporarily excluded from the fellowship of the church" because we manifested our "free will to separate from the spiritual orientation of brother Dong Yu Lan, the orientation that the church in

Guayaquil has followed since its beginning." The writers charged the saints to keep themselves "in subjection and fellowship with the brothers whom the Lord put to lead the church, maintaining fellowship with those that practice the church life under the leadership of the responsible brothers, national coworkers and coworkers for all of South America." The designations that follow the dissenting brothers' signatures (in charge of the work in Ecuador, co-worker in the work, and responsible in the church) testify of the unscriptural, hierarchical nature of Brother Dong's system of authority, which has caused much damage to the church. (See letter titled "Church in Guayaquil.")

We, the brothers in Guayaquil, affirm that the matters detailed above and in the attached documents are true and correct. We desire to follow the ministry of the age and to preserve the unique oneness of the Body of Christ expressed in all the local churches throughout the earth.

In Christ,

Stalyn Martine Responsables

José Bermeo

Luis Maldenádo