

October 30, 2007

Dear brothers in the Lord's recovery,

Concerning the activities of the Brazilian workers in the Boca Raton, Florida, area, we want you to know that Emerson Diaz has been active here over the last two years or so. Emerson moved from Brazil to Miami and then to Boca Raton. He is contacting as many Portuguese and Spanish speaking saints as he can in the area and gathering them under his independent work. They refer to themselves as the 'church in Boca Raton' but are not in fellowship with the church that has been established here since the late 1990s. In fact, they ignore the church in Boca Raton and act as if it were not here. When saints come to Boca Raton from Brazil or other parts of South America, Emerson's work often receives them as if it was the church.

Cezar Menegucci, who has been working in the Boston, Massachusetts, area, is also active in Boca Raton. Cezar and Emerson have secured a rental property in Coconut Creek, FL. They will be joined soon by another Brazilian brother, [name redacted]. Together, under the direction of Dong Yu Lan's work, they are planning to hold a conference during the Thanksgiving weekend, the same time as the blending conference in Boston. They are also about to start a training center for local saints as well as for some young workers who are being sent from Brazil to work under the direction of Gustavo, Cezar and Emerson to raise up 'churches' in south Florida. All of this is being done without any fellowship with the church in Boca Raton or the churches elsewhere in Florida and is in rivalry with the general work among the local churches in Florida and beyond. It is entirely a promotion of the work of Dong Yu Lan and a rejection of the ministry of the age.

There is also a Brazilian work using Dong Yu Lan's publications in the Stuart/Port St. Lucie area under the leadership of Cezar and Emerson. They have recruited some who used to meet with the churches in Boca Raton, Miami and Orlando for this work, in each case without fellowship with the respective leading brothers of the churches.

Although the workers associated with Dong Yu Lan have not yet started a second Table meeting in Boca Raton, we understand that their intention is to do so at the end of their upcoming conference. Currently, rather than enjoy the Lord's Table with the church in Boca Raton, some of their followers from Boca Raton and nearby suburbs travel to Stuart, which is much further away, for the 'Table' there once a month.

Rumors have been spread by the Brazilian workers and those in Stuart against the church in Boca Raton to excuse their divisive work. It is falsely alleged that the Brazilians meet in Stuart because if they came to Boca Raton, the leading brothers here would turn them in to the immigration authorities. This unfounded rumor illustrates the things that are being said by Dong Yu Lan's workers concerning the saints and churches in Florida.

One positive brother from Brazil who meets with the church in Boca Raton, Levi Salvador, has also been the target of rumors. Some of the saints coming from Brazil, who are absorbed by the Brazilian work, are surprised when they learn that Levi meets with the church in Boca Raton and is pursuing the Lord Jesus. This is contrary to what they have been told. In some cases, they have been told that Levi only meets with the church in Boca Raton because the church pays his bills. This is untrue on two accounts. First, the

church in Boca Raton does not pay Levi's bills. Second, Levi meets with the church in Boca Raton because the church receives all believers based upon God's receiving (Romans 14:1-3) not upon national origin, ethnicity (Colossians 3:10) or any preference for a worker or that worker's ministry (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).

All things considered, the results of the work of Brother Dong's workers in Boca Raton and the surrounding area are confusion, division, the establishment of a competing work, and rumors and accusations against the established churches and saints in south Florida. Their upcoming conference, training and expected expansion of the Brazilian work can only be anticipated to make these things worse.

Your brothers in Boca Raton,

Tito Gutierrez and Levi Salvador

Note: At the time this letter was written, Dong Yu Lan's workers were actively endeavoring to establish a training center in Florida, and they had set up a second "table meeting" in the house of Emerson Diaz in Boca Raton during a visit by Helcio Almeida. Although reportedly this "table" occurred only one time and has been discontinued, it was initiated in the full knowledge that there was already a properly standing church in Boca Raton and those following Emerson Diaz continue to meet separately in his home.