

A WORD OF AFFIRMATION, APOLOGY AND ASSURANCE  
TO ALL THE SAINTS AND CHURCHES IN THE LORD'S RECOVERY  
March 10, 2014

A Word of Affirmation

During the fellowship of the international co-workers prior to the International Chinese-speaking Conference in Anaheim in mid-February, there was much prayer and thorough fellowship concerning several important matters. The reality of the one accord among all the brothers, East and West, was very much with us. Due to some recent events that have been used by the enemy to cause confusion, all the brothers felt strongly that we should affirm the actual situation among us. First, the genuine oneness and sweet fellowship that the Lord has blessed us with over these past 17 years since the passing of Brother Lee continues among all the brothers. We also strongly affirm that not only are we one but that our work is one and that there is only one coordination, without separate regional territories or centers. Finally, the brothers all clearly affirmed the letter of fellowship and warning concerning Dong Yu Lan and his co-workers that was issued on April 4, 2009 (<http://afaithfulwitness.org/warnings/Co-workers.pdf>).

In early February of this year, Brother Dong and a number of his co-workers and other followers from Brazil visited Taiwan and attended a Lord's Day gathering of some churches in the greater Taipei area. Other saints from outside Taiwan were also present. During that meeting, Brother Dong and the ones with him were carelessly and without forethought acknowledged from the podium. A video of that event was inadvertently posted on the church in Taipei's website. The video was shortly removed, but the receiving of Brother Dong's group has already been utilized by Brother Dong's co-workers and followers to foster a false impression that the co-workers in Taiwan approve of the work and ministry of Dong Yu Lan. This is not the case. Rather, the co-workers in both the East and the West affirm the ongoing need for the letter of fellowship and warning issued in April 2009 concerning Brother Dong and his co-workers.

This entire episode has caused much concern, confusion, and even suffering among the saints, particularly those in South America who separated themselves from Brother Dong's work. Further, some are trying to use this incident to drive a wedge between the co-workers. They even contend that a schism has already taken place between the Far East and the West, seeking to convince some who have separated from Brother Dong to return to his ministry. These actions are divisive, and their contention of a schism has absolutely no basis in reality. We are one.

A Word of Apology

During the co-workers' fellowship, a brother from Taiwan took full responsibility for what happened in Taiwan and for the effects from the video that has now been widely circulated by Brother Dong's supporters. Motivated by a desire to restore an erring and offending brother, he had visited Brother Dong, who was physically weak and resting in

China. At that time Brother Dong asked whether some from Brazil could attend the upcoming conference. The hope of the brother from Taiwan was that if some of them came, they might be brought to a full repentance, turn away from the divisive teachings and practices that are detailed in the 2009 letter of warning, and be properly reconciled to the Body.

He apologized to the other co-workers that there was not adequate fellowship or consideration given to the feeling of the Body. For this and for the suffering caused to the saints and the churches, he offered a sincere apology. His attitude, humility, and heartfelt apology were very touching. In the atmosphere of that fellowship, there was abundant grace enabling all the brothers to turn their consideration toward mending those churches and saints who have been affected. The co-workers all stand together in this apology to the saints and the churches, especially to those in South America, and deeply regret the confusion and suffering resulting from this episode.

#### A Word of Assurance

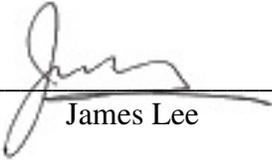
We desire to assure all the saints and churches that we will continue to address this matter in close fellowship with one another, seeking to counteract any misunderstanding or disquiet caused by recent events. While Satan always attempts to exploit our missteps, the Lord, in His wisdom, used this event to remind us all that our continual need and ultimate protection is to be balanced and adjusted through the Word of God and our fellowship and blending in the Body. Although the Bible admonishes us to seek to restore those who have fallen away and have deviated from the truth (Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20), it also instructs us to “mark those who cause division” and “after a first and second admonition, refuse” them (Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:10). Furthermore, the exercise of discipline in the churches is not a local matter but a Body matter, as Brother Lee showed us definitely in dealing with a similar situation (see *The Problems Causing the Turmoils in the Church Life*, pages 16-19, 28-29, and 32).

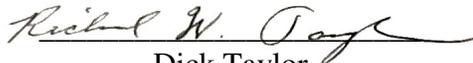
The April 2009 letter also conveys the heart of the brothers to see Brother Dong and his followers restored. It offers a clear way forward should they turn away from teachings that are contrary to the Bible, differing from God’s economy, as well as forsake their divisive work on multiple continents, and their efforts to cause a schism in the Body by sowing seeds of contention between the East and West.

Through this episode, the Lord has revealed our need of more fellowship and continued blending, particularly in matters that affect the Lord’s testimony and our oneness. Brother Lee left us with the practice of blending in prayer and fellowship as the way to take the Lord’s recovery on. We are even more committed to this way, not only so that problems of this nature can be prevented in the future, but even more so that the Lord’s recovery can go forward in one accord under His blessing.

On behalf of the co-workers in the Lord’s recovery:

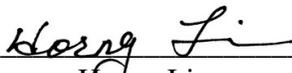
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James Lee

  
Dick Taylor

**ASIA:**

  
Simpson Chen

  
Horng Lin

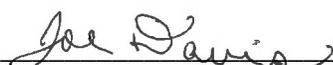
  
Alfredo Wu

  
Paul Wu

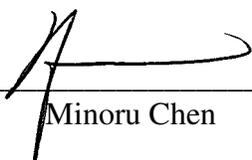
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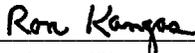
  
Ray Macnee

**EUROPE:**

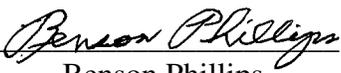
  
Joe Davis

**NORTH AMERICA:**

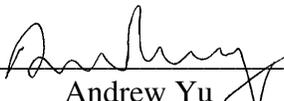
  
Minoru Chen

  
Ron Kangas

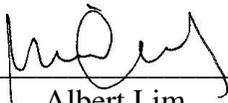
  
Ed Marks

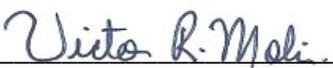
  
Benson Phillips

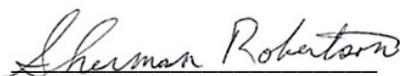
  
Chris Wilde

  
Andrew Yu

**SOUTH AMERICA:**

  
Albert Lim

  
Victor Molina

  
Sherman Robertson