

March 4, 2007

Dear Saints in Toronto,

We recently sent an open letter to you concerning dangers that we see the church in Toronto facing. It is a fact that at this time our proper standing as the church is being threatened by division. We must speak up. We have tried to maintain our fellowship with the other elders, but it is a fact that they have excluded and rejected us from their circle.

Yesterday, a letter that purports to be the response of the Toronto “Eldership” (sic) to our open letter and a letter from brother Bob Duncan were put out. We are sorrowful to see that these two writings are so full of contentions of words and incorrect statements. In responding our spirit and our heart have no feeling to debate, but we would point out some facts from which we hope that you can understand the nature of the danger we face together.

The letter they recently posted claims to be written on “behalf of the Eldership” (sic) in Toronto. This is of course not a true statement. It is an example demonstrating that some of the elders here are usurping the eldership and formed a party, since an eldership must include all of the elders. As Watchman Nee and Witness Lee both taught, the plurality of elders in a locality is a safeguard to keep the church from error. The greatest error is to break the oneness of the Spirit and to form a party with others based on opinions. The oneness of the Body of Christ should be expressed in the oneness in the eldership. For this oneness, the elders must pray and fellowship until all are headed up out of their opinions and preferences and into the one Head, Christ.

Brother Bob Duncan has stated that there is a “functional eldership” in Toronto which we are not part of. Yet he also agrees that we are “elders.” This again demonstrates that these brothers have formed a party (Gal. 5:20; 1 Cor. 11:19) within the eldership, which Bob has called the “functional eldership.”

David Wang is accused by the brothers of denying the local aspect of the church and of subscribing to “one worldwide church” (their words). Dear saints, this is a false witness. We believe in and firmly adhere to the local administration of the church. We also know that the local church is an expression of and owes its existence to “the church, which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all” (Eph. 1:22-23). Dear saints, please do not doubt our word or allow your view of us to be so easily corrupted.

Together with Living Stream Ministry and the co-workers, we are accused of many misdeeds. Brothers, we beg you to consider our testimony. There is no plot, no campaign by LSM or the co-workers to control any church. This is a fact. Fellowship in the Body is not control. However, fellowship and blending in the Body has been termed “invasion” by some who jealously desire their own separate and independent work within and among the local churches. Fellowship universally among the churches is not an invasion, it is fellowship. Although some would make such charges and even perhaps cause you to feel

alarm or fear, we and leading brothers all over the earth can and do assure you that LSM and the co-workers are purely for the churches' benefit.

What is a fact is that the "blending" of the co-workers internationally is not organizational but very living in the Spirit. What is "blending"? To blend requires the brothers to go through the cross by the Spirit, to stop their self-will and their personal works and to drop their opinions and their preferences in order to join together through much and thorough prayer and fellowship for the expression of the Triune God on the earth (Gen. 1:26; John 17).

This is the same blending that, if it could be found among the elders in the eldership in Toronto, would model the oneness in the Triune God and give the saints a living pattern to follow so that the church could be led into harmony. Instead, the flavour of fleshly debate, false accusations against LSM, and slander against co-workers flow out of our fellow elders. This condition in the church should signal a strong caution in those who know His Word not to readily believe accusations against the brothers (Rev. 12:10).

Because it has so much to do with the history and heritage of the church in Toronto we would correct our brothers' misstating of facts when they claim that the church in Vancouver was taken over in the early 1990's and that this is now being "replicated" in Toronto. The facts are at www.afaithfulword.org/articles/TorontoIntro.html. Our fellow elders may assume you have not or wish that you do not read these articles and the source materials that bear some of their names. Those materials show the facts concerning the deviation of the elders who are now usurping both the eldership and the Board of "The Church of the Torontonians."

Concerning all such matters as covered in this letter, Witness Lee has written:

"The biggest problem the unique problem, is not knowing the Body and not caring for the Body. If we care for the Body and are concerned for the Body, there will be no problem."

"We are here for the Body. Without the backing of the Body, without the backing of the recovery, we have no way to practice the local churches."

"If we practice the local church life and neglect the view of the Body, our local church becomes a local sect."

"The recovery is for the Body, not for any individual or merely for any individual local church."

"If we are going to do something, we have to consider how the Body, the recovery, will react. The problems are all due to the lack of seeing the Body and of caring for the Body. We all need to come back to the truth, and to practice the truth is to take care of the Body."

We commend our brother's words and this letter to the saints for your prayerful consideration and ask you also to read the attached letter. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Your brothers in Christ,

Ron MacVicar

David Wang