

Great Lakes Brothers' First Letter to 21 "Blended Co-workers"

June 12, 2005

Dear brothers,

We, the undersigned elders and co-workers, want to write a brief but sober response to the letter dated June 4, 2005 that you sent to our brother Titus, because some points that you address involve the churches we serve. The purpose of our writing is not to respond to your entire letter but to simply express our feelings on certain important matters of truth.

As you acknowledge in your letter, all the churches in our area deeply cherish and treasure our relationship with all the other churches on the earth, and we will continue to receive and seek out fellowship. Also, as you have mentioned, we have always loved and received the ministries of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee and view them as our fathers. We treasure our heritage that all the riches of Christ, both past and present, given by God to his lovers and seekers are ours to receive for our living and growth together with you all.

Our brother Titus has labored among us as a bond-slave of Christ, a pattern to us, and a faithful minister whom the Lord has given to us for our spiritual supply and growth. He has labored in the gospel, raising up churches, relating them with other churches throughout the world, and perfecting many saints to become functioning members in the Body of Christ. In addition, he has produced and raised up many workers who, as you mention in your letter, also love the ministries of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. They have helped many saints to grow and participate in the healthy church life.

Brother Titus has never labored to produce a hierarchical leadership that would determine the going on of these churches. Furthermore, he has never exercised his "influence" over the churches and workers to the extent that you have suggested. Therefore, he could never leave "the continuation of his previous work" – including "the churches under [his] ministry" – "to the fellowship of [your] coordinated oversight." We have never been lorded over by him. Rather, he has brought us to the enjoyment and embracing of Christ as our unique Head, and to the realization that he, as well as all the Lord's servants, are ours, and we are Christ's (1 Cor. 3:22-23).

Dear brothers, it is our sincere desire to continue with the churches according to truth. All the churches belong to God, Christ, and the saints (1 Cor. 11:16; 14:33; Rom. 16:16), not to any persons or ministry. As for the oneness, our testimony is that we already possess the oneness of the Spirit and desire to grow together with you all until we arrive at the oneness of the faith (Eph. 4:3, 13).

Brothers, because of the serious repercussions your letter will cause the churches that we serve, we request a time of fellowship with all the brothers who signed your letter, Brother Titus, and a representative number of brothers from among us. We feel that according to Acts 15 this is the way to resolve any difficulties that have arisen and persist.

Your brothers in Christ,

[Signed by 52 brothers serving the Great Lakes area churches]

Cc: Brother Titus Chu