

## **Great Lakes Brothers' Second Letter to 21 "Blended Co-workers"**

September 24, 2005

Dear brothers,

A group of elders and co-workers from the Great Lakes area wrote a letter to you on June 12, 2005. In that letter a request was made for a time of fellowship according to the principle in Acts 15. More than three months have now transpired, and you have not responded to either the request for fellowship or to the letter.

Brother Titus informed us of your August 25<sup>th</sup> reply to his June 17<sup>th</sup> letter, in which you stressed that you "do not and never did...have a problem with the churches and the saints in the Midwest area per se." We find this hard to believe, because some of you brothers have used the podium and other venues to criticize the churches we serve and some of their activities. These criticisms have been both direct and indirect. Due to these criticisms, our loving saints visiting other churches are questioned, challenged, and treated with suspicion. This is damaging to the churches we serve and to the oneness of the Body.

In our consideration of the current situation, we have specific concerns. We find it difficult to reconcile your assumed leadership and direction for the churches with the vision and commitment from the Lord that we have received through our Brothers Nee and Lee.

Since Brother Lee's departure, you have been strongly emphasizing the matter of one ministry. We find that your emphasis has confused some to the saints because you have not clearly distinguished between (1) the one New Testament ministry, (2) the different ministries that make up this one ministry (e.g., the ministries of Peter, Paul and John), (3) the personal ministries of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee, (4) ministries committed by the Lord to other workers and saints, and (5) Living Stream Ministry.

It is our observation that this emphasis on one ministry has led some of the saints and even some entire churches to subject themselves to the Living Stream Ministry publisher (LSM) and to those referred to as "blended brothers." We believe this is not according to the Scriptures. Furthermore, this has resulted in turmoil and division. We are troubled by the elevation of LSM above Brother Lee's statement that LSM serves only a Levitical role - a business office that is limited to publishing and distributing both Watchman Nee's and Witness Lee's books, tapes, etc.

We are concerned that while you are teaching one flow, you may be producing conformity; as you are stressing oneness, you may be producing only uniformity in outward practices; while you are emphasizing fellowship, you may be just exercising control; and as you are speaking about the organic Body, you may be actually establishing a global organization.

As we have stated in our previous letter, 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 us for our spiritual growth and supply. We strongly object to your assertion that Titus' ministry is "in a way of rivalry to the general ministry in the Lord's recovery" (p. 2 of your June 4<sup>th</sup> letter). We received Brother Titus' ministry as part of the New Testament ministry.

We are aware that Brother Titus has requested a time for thorough, face-to-face fellowship with you. Until now such fellowship has not occurred. Moreover, as stated above, you have not responded to our request for fellowship.

Dear brothers, we hope that our request for further fellowship to address these concerns will be quickly answered.

[Signed by 77 brothers serving the Great Lakes area churches]