

A New Step of Concernedbrothers.com Website

(November 16, 2007)

It has been two years since the Concernedbrothers.com website was established in October 2005. In these two years, we have posted about 140 articles that we received from all over the world. The cumulative number of hits to this website is approaching 100,000. We also received much valuable feedback from interested readers. This website has provided a platform for many saints to receive information about the truths and new developments related to the practice of church life of local churches.

In the past two years, the “blended/blending brothers”, who have operated through the Living Stream Ministry (LSM), have continued and intensified their promotion of “one unique ministry and minister of the age” that led to several new developments that significantly changed the church life of nearly all local churches. The following are the important new developments:

First, the blended/blending brothers issued a “Warning Letter” to all local churches at the International Training of Elders and Responsible Ones [ITERO] held in Whistler, Canada, on October 7, 2006. The main purpose of the warning letter is to quarantine Brother Titus Chu and some of his co-workers and charge all local churches to support such quarantine and not to be neutral. The blended/blending brothers immediately launched a global campaign to solicit support for the quarantine from local churches all over the world. They posted many letters supporting the quarantine with hundreds of signatures of elders and responsible brothers of local churches in www.afaithfulword.com, [www.AFW.com] although some signers were clearly neither elders nor responsible brothers. They also posted videos of Whistler and other denunciation meetings on the Internet. In addition, the blended/blending brothers continue to promote their quarantine through LSM-sponsored trainings and conferences. As a result, in many local churches, some LSM followers began to pressure their local churches to support the quarantine and follow LSM. In cases where the leading brothers did not comply with their request, some LSM-supporters took extraordinary actions such as displaying disrespect and undermining the church leaders, disrupting church meeting, forcefully taking over the young peoples’ service, yelling at the church leaders for their refusal to follow the blended/blending brothers, misrepresenting church leaders and signing their own letters supporting the quarantine, starting their own meetings and even filing lawsuits against their local church for the control of church property. In many cases there is abundant evidence supporting the view that LSM’s blending/blended brothers (or their delegates) were actively involved in campaigns by LSM-supporters to undermine and destabilize local churches which refused to comply with their quarantine decision. These include “trainings” by blended/blending brothers conducted in the immediate vicinity of such churches and behind-the-scenes campaigns to undermine the local leadership. DCP, an LSM-linked organization conducted an extensive Internet campaign on www.AFW.com. The contents of that website have been published in the form of a 28-book “attack pack” distributed free at LSM-sponsored trainings and conferences.

Second, in June of 2007, the multi-year, multi-million-dollar lawsuit of LSM’s litigation against Harvest House Publishers was defeated in a conclusive way: the US Supreme Court refused to hear LSM’s case. This libel case centered on a book entitled, *Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions*, written by John Ankerberg and John Weldon and published by Harvest House

Publishers. A short entry in the *Encyclopedia* focused on the local churches and Living Stream Ministry. In December 2001, LSM and approximately 100 local churches launched a 136 million dollar legal suit against Harvest House publishers and the authors, contending that the book was libelous and defamatory. This final ruling essentially rejected LSM's attempted vindication and allowed the stamp of the "cult label" to be applied freely to all local churches affiliated with LSM. This was a major defeat to the blended/blending brothers and LSM which damaged the local churches' reputation before the wider Christian public. This decisive loss in the US law courts should cause the local churches to re-consider their strategy of "appealing to Caesar" (the legal system) as a means to combat the "cult label," especially in the light of the Scriptural prohibition (1 Cor. 6). Thus far LSM and the blended/blending brothers have shown no inclination to reevaluate their stand regarding lawsuits.

The above developments and the many non-Christian behaviors of the blended/blending brothers and some of their followers caused us to ponder more about the root of the problems that many local churches are facing today. Two years ago when we established the Concernedbrothers.com website, we considered that the problems among the local churches were mainly caused by the misrepresentations of Brother Witness Lee's teachings by the blended/blending brothers. Now, two years later, by observing the persistent promotion of certain non-Biblical teachings by the blended/blending brothers who claimed to know Brother Lee's central burden and faithfully follow his teachings, and seeing some traces of those non-Biblical teachings in Brother Lee's printed messages, we are gradually led to the following realization: [Some of the non-Biblical teachings and practices of the blended/blending brothers might be in fact truthful reflections of Brother Lee's teachings, practices and beliefs, although some of them were not made known to the public when Brother Lee was alive.](#) This realization is alarming since the local churches have received Brother Witness Lee's teachings without any reservation for several decades and now we find out that some of those teachings might be non-Biblical. Thus, today, we are confronted with this real challenge: how can we practice a church life that is according to God and the Bible? We certainly do not want to throw away everything, since we know that many teachings and practices we received and experienced are precious, wonderful and life-giving and they are according to the truth. We don't want to "throw out the baby with the bath-water." What we should do is to sort out those non-Biblical teachings one by one and replace them with Biblical teachings.

With this realization, we now feel that we should endeavor to think outside-the-local-church-box, re-evaluate our accepted teachings and traditions in the light of Scripture and seek the truths about the practice of church life directly from the Bible and from God. We remind ourselves again that the Bible is our only standard. While we will continue to post articles about the subjects listed in our website's "Opening Word," at this time, we have decided to take a new step to solicit articles about the following new subject:

- **Reconsideration of Local Church Teachings, Traditions and Practices**

We encourage the saints to not only evaluate the teachings, traditions and practices of local churches, but also seek new light about the proper way to practice church life according to God and the Bible.

We want to emphasize that our new step does not compromise our great respect to Brother

Witness Lee. We are grateful for the many healthy and life-supplying teachings we received from the Lord through him. We have considered and continue to consider Brother Lee as one of the (although not the only) great servants used by the Lord in the 20th century to establish and supply many local churches all over the world. However, in dealing with the truths and God's will, we insist that the Bible is our only standard and all men's teachings must be carefully evaluated by the truths in the Bible.

Finally, we want to clarify that this website does not represent the majority view of any group of local churches or Christian workers. Articles posted on www.concernedbrothers.com do not represent the "official position or policy" of any local church, group of local churches or serving brothers. Rather, the posting of an article means that the contents are considered worthy of careful consideration by those saints seeking to testify for Christ as genuine local churches. The views expressed are those of the article's author(s). This website was established by a group of brothers who serve in various local churches and who felt strongly that an independent website was needed for the saints to learn about past and present events among the local churches and the Biblical truths about the practice of church life. We endeavor to maintain a high standard for all posted articles that are Biblical and helpful to the saints in the local churches.

We pray that the Lord will provide us new light and eventually a clearer vision about the proper way to practice the church life in the 21st century. May the Lord lead His churches in this heavenly race toward the goal He set out for us.

The Concerned Brothers (CB)