

November 27, 2006

To the brothers bearing the responsibility for the New Testament ministry in the Lord's recovery in a blending way:

Dear brothers,

We would like to affirm that the church in Spokane was raised up through the ministry brought to us by brother Witness Lee. It is very clear to us that the Lord sent him to this country for the Lord's recovery, with the particular portion of establishing local churches so that there could be the reality of the Body of Christ, inclusive to all believers and yet distinctive from the system of today's Christianity. We further testify that over the years we have been nourished and strengthened again and again through the oracle of God as ministered by our brother. It would be most foolish to say that we have followed a man; rather it is the ministry of the New Testament with the healthy words of life that were and still are the oracle of God among us. Over many years of God's mercy and faithfulness, we have picked up the taste of God's economy—the taste of God being everything to us in Christ for the building up of His body, both universally and locally.

We are also thankful that since brother Lee went to be with the Lord, the riches he ministered to us have been and still are continuously being put into print. To those who were anxious concerning how to go on he gave the assurance not to worry since "it is all in the books." The Lord has also raised up a group of constituted brothers who are serving the churches in the ministry in a blending way. These brothers have been faithful to bring us the riches in these publications again and again, both in public and private exhortation. The testimony of our conscience is that they have no other interest and do not promote anything else. The taste of God's economy that we have enjoyed through the years is still being ministered to us by these brothers. Inasmuch as they are following the New Testament ministry, we will also follow their leading.

We also need to attest that the testimony of the Lord's recovery is intrinsically a matter of the oneness. If we lose this oneness—if we are even a little out of harmony—then practically speaking we are through with the Lord's recovery.

We are saddened that there have been some brothers, apparently prominent, who have trended toward promoting their own ministry and have either consciously or unconsciously brought in a factor of division. Their speaking not only is another sounding of the trumpet in the Lord's ministry but is also full of distortion and bias against those who are serving in the ministry in a blended way. We absolutely stand against this trend and against its current manifestation. That there would be a quarantine with respect to these brothers after extensive and repeated fellowship and entreaty is absolutely necessary and proper, if perhaps God may grant them repentance unto the full knowledge of the truth. May the Lord chase away every shadow of division and may the any seed of division be dug out.

May the Lord have mercy on us that we would all continue positively and steadfastly, walk soberly, grow with the growth of God, and care uniquely for His building work among us. May we all hasten the coming of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ for the church in Spokane,

Steve Teneff, Jim Clark, Jon Harms, Mike Sudlow