

THE CHURCH IN VANCOUVER

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August 13, 1992

To the Elders and Co-Workers of the Churches in
North York, Toronto, and Scarborough
c / o The Church in North York
671 Sheppard Ave., E.
North York, Ontario

Dear Brothers:

Thank you for your letter dated August 5, 1992. We are very sorry to hear of what has been happening in Toronto.

First, we would point out that the only time we received any direct fellowship from you leading brothers was through Allen Jones when he was in Vancouver a few months ago. We did, however, receive the other side of the picture from different sources. We are very concerned and believe that what has happened could have been prevented if there was fellowship and mediation from the very beginning.

We respect the decision that you brothers have made, but until we have a full and clear picture of the situation, we cannot heed your request. Concerning the matter of not receiving certain brothers, we have some reservations as this is a problem and division in a specific locality. Just because one church has decided not to receive certain brothers, should all churches also not receive these brothers? We have not yet seen any truth in the bible to justify such action.

According to the bible, we cannot receive those who commit the six immoral sins mentioned in 1 Cor. 5, or those who deny the doctrine of the person of the Lord Jesus as seen in 2 John. These two points are also clearly seen in the publications of Brother Nee and Brother Lee (cf. Chapter 3 of *Further Talk On The Church Life*, by Watchman Nee, and Point 6, "The Condition for Discommunication" of Chapter 2, Part 2, "The Fellowship of the Church", from *Church Testimony and Ground*, by Witness Lee, "教會的見證與立場" not sure if there is English translation).

However, we have not seen the matter of shunning those who cause division (although we certainly do not agree with division). Division and the Lord's Table is mentioned in 1 Cor. 11, but only a warning is given, not a refusal of participation in the church meetings.

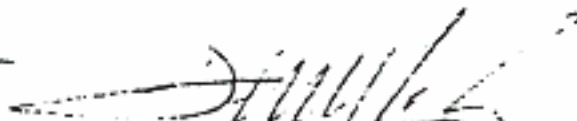
Brothers, we have no intention to debate doctrine with you, but desire that we can mutually respect one another. We sincerely hope that we would not fall into the condition of the Brethren in the last century - to repeat the history of rejecting, dividing, and not receiving one another. We do hope that any brother with problems could be fully restored through fellowship and love.

Brother Chia and his family will stop over in Toronto, August 19, on their way to Brazil. They will be staying with his sister-in-law Eunice Chao. He sincerely hopes to fellowship with all brothers who are open for fellowship.

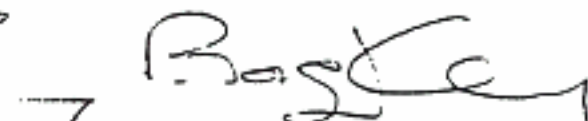
Your brothers in Christ,



T.K. Chia



David Wong



Borchyi Chang